

Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD
STATE BOARD ROOM, SUITE 1-20
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

March 16, 2020

The State Board of Education met in an emergency session at 4:01 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 11:35 a.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020.

The following were present:

Mr. Brad Clark, General Counsel
Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, Chairperson of the Board
Mr. Barry “Kurt” Bollenbach, Kingfisher
Mrs. Carlisha Williams Bradley, Tulsa
Mrs. Estela Hernandez, Oklahoma City
Mrs. Jennifer Monies, Oklahoma City

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City
Mr. William “Bill” Flanagan, Claremore

**CALL TO ORDER
AND
ROLL CALL**

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

Superintendent Hofmeister welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, OKLAHOMA
FLAG SALUTE, AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Superintendent Hofmeister led Board Members and all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, a salute to the Oklahoma Flag, and a moment of silence.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**Mandatory statewide cessation of operations for the public schools
of the State of Oklahoma or any other measures necessary due to
the Coronavirus/Covid-19 Global Pandemic –Approved**

Superintendent Hofmeister said the emergency meeting is to take action to avoid a situation involving of injury or imminent threat of injury to persons due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19, and the requirements for public notice of a special meeting would make such procedure impractical and increase the likelihood of injury. Therefore, we have called an emergency meeting.

The item for discussion is regarding the mandatory statewide cessation of operations for the public school and recommendation to consider closure, after spring break, beginning March 17 through April 6, and at that point have further evaluation and discussion about appropriate next steps. It is a dynamic situation, very fluid and it changes by the hour in which we must keep pace and committed with the developments. We will not hesitate to call for another emergency meeting if needed even though the regular meeting is scheduled next week.

This is not a simple decision that we bring this recommendation to you today. It will be challenging for many families. Nothing takes precedence over the health and well-being of our people. Nothing. There are hurdles as we as an agency will address so that schools can remain closed for as long as is needed to protect the health and wellbeing of our children, our students, and teachers who service them; all staff serving in school communities, their families, and broader communities across the state.

Brad Clark, General Counsel advised that the authority of the Superintendent and State Board of Education set forth on the agenda relates in multiple places to the supervision and direction of all public schools in the state of Oklahoma. The language on the agenda item of ‘cessation of operations’, March 17-April 6, would include all instructional activities and services, grading, extracurricular activities, staff development, trainings, conferences, however essential clerical and administrative activities such as business management, nutritional services, and maintenance may continue.

Superintendent Hofmeister said during the past weeks districts have been provided a variety of practical Q & A related to decisions made locally and it will be ongoing. Some information shared to them does not apply today and for that reason the frequently asked questions and guidance that will be given will be evolving with the situation as we seek to keep students safe, care of teachers, support staff, and find hurdles needing to be addressed and removed to make right decisions for students regarding their health and safety. Learning is secondary to this but learning is on our mind as well and we want to ensure learning continues.

Board members asked questions and discussed available learning resources, pending federal waiver requests child nutrition meals/availability, assessment, testing windows/flexibility, accountability; continuous school districts and community updates/support; cessation clarifications; OSDE leadership, support and operations; Governor Stitt support of school closures and collaborations

The recommended motion is to approve the Order for all accredited public schools to cease operations, effective March 17 until April 6. Cessation of operations to include all instructional services, grading and extracurricular activities, staff development, trainings or conferences, but essential clerical and administrative activities such as business management, nutrition services, and maintenance may continue.

Board member Hernandez moved to approve the mandatory statewide cessation of operations. Board member Williams Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Monies, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Ms. Hernandez; yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Monies moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 p.m. Board member Bollenbach seconded the motion. Board members unanimously agreed.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Joy Hofmeister, Chairperson of the Board

Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary