

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the**

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

**November 30, 2023**

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2023, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2023.

The following were present:

Mr. Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Dept. of  
Education(OSDE)

Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board

Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon

Mr. Donald Burdick, Tulsa

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

Mrs. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

**CALL TO ORDER  
ROLL CALL**

State Superintendent Ryan Walters called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Ms. Terrie Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

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

Superintendent Walters welcomed everyone to the meeting and led Board Members and all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, a salute to the Oklahoma Flag, and Prayer.

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Information from the State Superintendent**

**Draft administrative rules regarding addressing  
academic performance in accreditation status**

Superintendent Walters updated on OSDE initiatives that included successful launch of the Tutoring Program and participating school districts; religious freedom targeted by radical atheist groups; and proposed draft rules to address academic performance results and accreditation criteria and process.

**BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Minutes of the October 26, 2023, regular  
State Board of Education meeting - Approved**

Board member Quebedeaux moved to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2023, regular State Board of Education meeting. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Individuals signed up to address agenda item #5 included - Peggy Howe, Ashley Dailey, Garrett Colson, Kate Snoddy, Erica Watkins, Preston Bobo and Jennifer Wilkinson.

Individuals signed up to address items not on the agenda included Mike Howe, Lori Tuggle, and Sarah Osborne.

**CONSENT DOCKET - Approved**

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2023-2024 school year and other requests:

- (a) **Abbreviated School Day – OAC 210:35-29-2 and 210:35-3-46**  
Stilwell Public Schools, Adair County

**3 Years**

Beggs Public Schools, Okmulgee County

- (b) **Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs –  
70 O.S. § 1210.568**

**3 Years**

Peavine Public Schools, Adair County  
Banner Public Schools, Canadian County  
Norwood Public Schools, Cherokee County  
Talihina Public Schools, Latimer County  
Bethany Public Schools, Oklahoma County  
Beggs Public Schools, Okmulgee County  
Lowrey Public Schools, Cherokee County  
Brushy Public Schools, Cherokee County  
Alva Public Schools, Woods County

- (c) **Library Media Services – OAC 210:35-5-71 and 210:35-9-71**

Indiahoma Public Schools, Comanche County  
Grove Public Schools, Delaware County  
Lindsay Public Schools, Garvin County  
Whitebead Public Schools, Garvin County  
Nowata Public Schools, Nowata County  
Paden Public Schools, Okfuskee County  
Dewar Public Schools, Okmulgee County  
Bowring Public Schools, Osage County  
Wyandotte Public Schools, Ottawa County  
McAlester Public Schools, Pittsburg County  
Catoosa Public Schools, Rogers County  
Wagoner Public Schools, Wagoner County

**3 Years**

Zion Public Schools, Adair County  
Beaver Public Schools, Beaver County  
Lowery Public Schools, Cherokee County  
Vinita Public Schools, Craig County  
Wynnewood Public Schools, Garvin County  
Aline-Cleo Public Schools, Major County  
Crooked Oak Public Schools, Oklahoma County  
Schulter Public Schools, Okmulgee County  
Hominy Public Schools, Osage County  
Sasakwa Public Schools, Seminole County  
Keystone Public Schools, Tulsa County

- (d) **Library Media Specialist Certificate Exemption - 70 O.S. § 3-126**  
Amber-Pocasset Public Schools, Grady County

- (e) Request approval on exceptions to State Board of Education Teacher certification regulations to permit issuance of emergency (provisional) certificates –70 O.S. § 6-187

Board member Wesson moved to approve Consent Docket waiver requests Agenda item 6.(a) through (e). Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

## **ACCREDITATION STANDARDS**

### **Presentation from Tulsa Public School District, discussion, and possible action on the Tulsa Public School District accreditation status for the 2022-2023 school year**

Superintendent Walters advised board members to first have the Tulsa Public Schools' (TPS) monthly report and afterwards the OSDE presentation. He was appreciative TPS being open to receiving questions and comments.

Dr. Ebony Johnson-Interim Superintendent, Tulsa Public School District (TPS) and team members attending the meeting included Jorge Robles-Chief of Operations, Dr. Kathy Dodd-Chief of Strategy and Innovation, and Joe Jennings-Executive Director of Information and Analysis.

Dr. Johnson presented an update on the TPS academic corrective action, financial transparency, and continuous school board support. As required the TPSs CSI and MRI designated schools smart goal plans were provided to the OSDE, OSDE school improvement partners reviewed all school strategic plans, partners attended TPS meetings, reviewed data, student growth and TPS and OSDE partners continuous collaboration meeting required objectives.

Board members asked questions and discussed with Dr. Johnson and TPS team 2022-23 growth improvement reported on the OSDE state report card, implemented research-based data strategies and monitoring; collaboration and alignment of data measures to state standards; six (6) metrics on the state report card, actions and areas of improvement; achievement focus for all students and current assessment progress, challenges of chronic absenteeism/parent involvement; large multilingual learner population, challenges and needs addressed; postsecondary opportunities and growth, graduation readiness, weekly parental notifications, cohort monitoring and on-track status and long-term focus for ninth and tenth grade on-track with fundamental five courses; redesigned special education student instructional support and families; midyear MAP data assessment reveal school designations, 2021 versus 2023 designation improvements, specific targeted work to prepare students for April assessments, corrective action response in the measures and foresee better projections in 2024.

Mr. Robles updated on financial and fiscal transparency, internal controls recommendations implemented to strengthen processes, implemented conflict-of-interest policies, new procurement guidance and process, revised vendor set-up procedure, new fiscal reporting to school board, monthly updates; internal audit access, review, status, and staff trainings, and implementing fraud detection software; internal expenditures, controls, and process.

Dr. Johnson concluded that student needs are addressed in real-time, TPS team is results-oriented, and goal is to continue sharing the growth with data, ensure there are results and continuous focus on student outcomes aligned to the state report card. Transformational changes occurring this year are school personnel changes, conversations on providing best quality of learning for students and could mean school closures, and plans for an Office of Professional Responsibility to ensure sustained districtwide levels of physical/internal controls and ethical behavior.

Superintendent Walters thanked Dr. Johnson and TPS team for all their continued hard work and their importance to do it.

(Superintendent Walter called for a 10-minute recess at 11:18 a.m. and returned at 11:32 a.m.)

**Presentation from Department Staff and discussion  
on the Tulsa Public School District accreditation  
status for the 2022-2023 school year**

Todd Loftin, Chief Academic Officer, said he appreciated where TPS has been going and participation in community programs and looked forward to exploring more detailed items presented. Mr. Loftin reviewed the OSDE directives and TPS data provided, school support site visits/trainings of 44 schools, TPS goals and OSDE goal recommendations and concerns, action on goals by 2024-25 school year, and staff levels of science of reading trainings.

**Tulsa Public School District accreditation status  
for the 2022-2023 school year –**

**Board Order 2023 TPS 01 -Approved**

Board members discussed and asked questions regarding 18 F school sites, plan to move 12 school sites off F school list; 41% of TPS students were below basic performance levels, recommended achievable goal for 50 % of TPS students score basic or above on the assessment, and 5% minimum increase on the basic (proficient) or above (advanced) scores by end of school year; identify intervention needs, school closures/consolidations options; and target support to get to state average (65%) level.

Superintendent Walters proposed a Board Order TPS improvement outcomes and goals for 2023-2024 school year included:

1. At least 50% of TPS students must score basic or above on the 2024 OSTP ELA assessment or increase the amount of students who score basic or above by 5%.
2. All teachers and school administrators will be trained in an OSDE approved Science of Reading model; and
3. 12 of the 18 current MRI designated sites will not be redesignated.

Board member Burdick moved to approve Board Order 2023 TPS 01. Board member Wesson second the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

## **Board Order 2023 TPS 02 -Approved**

Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel, said the issue of internal controls goes beyond the question of embezzlement. Dr. Johnson also stated regarding financing is to make sure the money is going to where it is needed the most. It is important to review the finances, assure records are obtained and transparent, and systems are in place that assure funds are directed appropriately. All crimes may be avoided but if money is misdirected it will hinder the direction of the school. Academic goals have been discussed but unfortunately the OSDE finance and legal team meeting request has been pending since October 9, 2023, and rescheduled meetings are bumped, a week or two, for various reasons.

Mr. Cleveland advised a recommended action is needed to set a deadline for the first in-person OSDE/TPS team(s) meeting for financial review and overall improvement strategy.

Board members discussed and asked questions concerning encumbrance report new and old descriptors, individual reimbursements, contracted services, commercial card services, miscellaneous or non-biddable expenditures, transparency categories, improvement changes and guidelines.

Mr. Cleveland requested proposed Board Order 2023 TPS 02 to support Superintendent Walters' effort toward improving outcomes include - 1. The TPS finance team shall schedule and complete an on-site visit from the State Department of Education finance team on or before December 8, 2023.

Board member Burdick moved to approve Board Order 2023 TPS 02. Board member Archer second the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Permission to provide College Board data for the Oklahoma State Board of Education to U.S. News & World Report implemented by Provisions of the 2013 Student data Accessibility, Transparency, and Accountability Act - Approved**

Mr. Cleveland said the College Board request to share data with the US News Report for the best high schools' report and confirmed the data does not release student information violating the Student Privacy Act.

Board member Burdick moved to grant permission to release the data. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

## **FINANCE**

### **Provided one-time FY2024 Severance Allowance Payment to former Employee of Greenville Public School District, which was not employed or paid severance by the receiving district. Annexations took place in FY2023 – Approved**

Renee McWaters, Program Manager, Office of State Aid, presented a recommendation request of severance payment to Gregory Raper, former Superintendent Greenville Public Schools. Greenville Public School District annexed to Marietta Public Schools on June 30, 2023. Mr. Raper applied for severance that included eleven (11) employees not employed nor paid severance by the receiving district. Payment request was held to review additional information not provided in the original severance application and reprocess the decreased amount \$21,498 due to the annexing district.

Board member Quebedeaux moved to approve the request to pay employee out of the School Consolidation Assistance Fund. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

## **LEGAL SERVICES**

### **Monthly report on complaints filed, and status thereof, regarding alleged violations of 70 O.S. § 24-157 and Administrative Code Rule 210:10-1-23, prohibiting race and sex discrimination**

Mr. Cleveland advised one complaint was received regarding a textbook at Union High School-Union Public Schools District, Tulsa. Notice was given to the school of the allegation violation of the critical race theory rules and are working to obtain a copy of the textbook to review.

### **Permanent Rule Adoption**

Mr. Cleveland advised board members on the following proposed Alternative Education draft rule, definitions, procedure, funding, and process.

- (1) Title 210. Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Chapter 35. Standards for Accreditation of Elementary, Middle Level, Secondary and Career and Technology Schools  
Subchapter 29. Alternative Education Academies, Programs, and Schools  
**210:35-29-2 Definitions [AMENDED]**  
**210:35-29-8 Requirements for alternative education programs [AMENDED]**  
**210:35-29-9 Requirements for incentive amount for participating in a cooperative agreement [NEW]**

Board member Quebedeaux moved to approve the permanent rule. Board member Lepak moved seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**Revise the 20i application to retain Cara S. Nicklas  
of McAlister, McAlister & Nicklas as Counsel  
for the State Board - Approved**

Mr. Cleveland presented an addendum to the previous application form to retain State Board General Counsel outlining the required SBE position to retain outside board counsel.

Board member Burdick moved to approve the revised 20i application contract addendum to retain Cara Nicklas as General Counsel to the State Board of Education. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**Retain First Liberty Institute and Spencer Fan LLP for  
pending litigation: No. MA-121694 in Oklahoma Supreme Court**

**Resolve into Executive Session  
pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (7), (8) for the  
purpose of consulting with counsel on pending litigation  
listed in Agenda item 10(d)**

Mr. Cleveland recommended to convene into Executive Session of the possible executive sessions listed for 10(d).

Board member Wesson moved to convene into Executive Session at 12:32 p.m. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**Return to Open Session**

Board member Burdick moved to return to Open Session at 12:47 p.m. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

No decisions were made on the matters discussed in the Executive Session. Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel, Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary, and Representatives of First Liberty Institute and Spencer Fame LLP remained in the Executive Session.

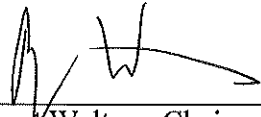
Board member Wesson moved to approve First Liberty Institute firm contract. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board member Burdick moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 p.m. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

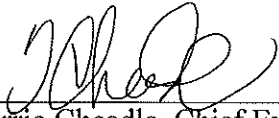


December 21, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



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Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board



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Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary