Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OLIVER HODGE EDUCATION BUILDING: 2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD, ROOM 1-20 OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

June 23, 2011

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2011, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 9:25 a.m. on Wednesday, June 22, 2011.

The following were present:

Ms. Connie Holland, Chief Executive Secretary Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Administrative Assistant

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Janet Barresi, Chairperson of the Board

Mr. Lee Baxter, Lawton

Mr. Phil Lakin, Tulsa

Mrs. Betsy Mabry, Enid

Ms. Gayle Miles-Scott, Oklahoma City

Mr. Herb Rozell, Tahlequah

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Superintendent Barresi called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Holland called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

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

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

MARCH 22, 2011 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES APPROVED

Board Member Mabry motioned to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2011, special Board meeting. Board Member Rozell seconded the motion. The motion failed with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, abstain; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Mr. Lakin, abstain; General Baxter, abstain; Ms. Miles-Scott, abstain; and Senator Rozell, yes.

Ms. Lisa Endres, General Counsel, said at the time of the special meeting three Board members were present, and one of the three is no longer a Board member. Board members that cast an abstaining vote were not present at this special meeting. The special meeting was held to interview applicants for the General Counsel position and under the current situation the minutes will never be approved. Ms. Endres recommended, if the Board members who were present stipulate that the minutes were correct, vote to pass the minutes. In response to Board Member Rozell's question on the legality of voting to pass the minutes not changing the fact the meeting took place, she said it does not change the fact the meeting took place, however, if the accuracy of the minutes are not recorded for the posterity of the Board, they are not officially recorded and would not be part of the official minute record because they have not passed. A motion to vote the meeting took place and was an official Board meeting would be more satisfactory than having "no action" on the minutes.

Board Member Rozell said he did not understand why Ms. Endres thought there would be any different because it does not mean anything. When voting on minutes the vote only means 'yes' the meeting took place. It does not mean they are right, wrong or change anything. He asked if this was what Ms. Endres recommends to the Board.

Ms. Endres said the request is to pass the minutes, and did not agree when passing minutes it only means the meeting took place. Passing the minutes means the minutes are accurate and that what occurred in the meeting actually happened in that meeting.

Superintendent Barresi said she experienced a similar situation after joining the Commission of the Land Office and Board of Equalization. All members were new and members had to stipulate upon the review of Counsel the minutes were accurate in concert with the recording of the previous meeting and voted to pass the minutes.

Board Member Rozell said he did not have a problem with approving the minutes.

Board Member Lakin motioned to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2011, special Board meeting.

Superintendent Barresi said Ms. Endres has stipulated the minutes of the March 22, 2011, special meeting are a true reflection of the actual recording of the meeting.

Board Member Baxter seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Senator Rozell, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; General Baxter, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; and Ms. Foresee, yes.

MAY 26, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APPROVED

Superintendent Barresi said the May 26, 2011 Board meeting was a regular Board meeting and not a special meeting as indicated on the agenda.

Board Member Lakin motioned to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2011, regular Board meeting. Board Member Foresee seconded the motion. The motion failed with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, yes; Mrs. Mabry, abstain; Mr. Lakin, yes; General Baxter, abstain; Ms. Miles-Scott, abstain; and Senator Rozell, yes.

Ms. Endres said the current meeting minutes indicated there was a question with regard to the passage of minutes. A request has been made for an Attorney General's Opinion as to if a quorum requires three or four votes or a majority of the quorum. The current Administrative Rules require following Robert's Rules of Order which indicates the chairperson, who would be the fourth vote, does not vote unless there is a tie. The chairperson was present at the May 26, 2011, meeting and could be the fourth vote to pass the minutes. The Board has the option to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to allow the chairman to vote on something like this. Otherwise, there will only be three votes. Until the Attorney General's Opinion is given the other option is to once again stipulate.

Board Member Rozell said he did not think the Robert's Rules of Order can be changed and the Board is bound to the rule.

Board Member Lakin asked if the abstained votes could be changed to "no" votes?

Ms. Endres said Board members could change an abstain vote to a no vote; declare a tie, and Superintendent Barresi could vote to break the tie. Abstaining is not a vote, therefore there is no tie and asked Board Member Lakin if he wanted to make a motion to change the vote?

Board Member Lakin said he would not motion for anyone to change their vote, but if those three Board members who abstained would be willing to change their vote to no, then the Board can be in a tie situation and Superintendent Barresi could cast the tie vote. This is not a question of accuracy but a question of procedure.

Board Member Miles-Scott asked if the discussion regarding Board members changing their vote from an 'abstain' vote to a 'no' vote will be included in the minutes?

Ms. Endres said yes.

Board Member Foresee said to the best of her ability the minutes were accurate.

Board Member Mabry said she did not attend this meeting but would change her vote to 'no'.

The motion passed with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, yes; Mrs. Mabry, no; Mr. Lakin, yes; General Baxter, no; Ms. Miles-Scott, no; Senator Rozell, yes; and Superintendent Barresi, yes.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Barresi recognized Dr. Phyllis Hudecki, Secretary of Education.

Information from the State Superintendent

Superintendent Barresi said she and staff have spent a vast majority of time on developing the budget for the school activities and program fund. She thanked staff for the many hours of research and work, and finally getting the budget out to Board members yesterday. The fiscal staff must now work over the next month to develop numbers that will be sent out to school districts.

LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

Revocation of Teaching Certificate and Teacher Number of Samuel Lee Bellows Approved

Ms. Lisa Endres, General Counsel, presented a request to revoke the Oklahoma teaching certificate and teacher number 302968 issued to Mr. Samuel Lee Bellows. Mr. Bellows received a felony conviction of lewd molestation on May 3, 2011. He was notified of his right to appear before the Board or contest. Oklahoma law does not allow a teacher convicted of a felony to retain a certificate/number if the conviction occurred within the preceding ten-year period.

Mr. Bellows or his counsel were not present and had not returned the required affidavit contesting the revocation.

Board Member Miles-Scott motioned to approve the request and Board Member Mabry seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Senator Rozell, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; General Baxter, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; and Ms. Foresee, yes.

Revocation of Teaching Certificate and Teacher Number of John Everette Coley Approved

Ms. Endres presented a request to revoke the Oklahoma teaching certificate and teacher number 300812 issued to Mr. John Everette Coley. Mr. Coley received a felony conviction of lewd molestation on April 28, 2011. He was notified of his right to appear before the Board or contest. Oklahoma law does not allow a teacher convicted of a

felony to retain a certificate/number if the conviction occurred within the preceding tenyear period.

Mr. Coley or his counsel were not present and had not returned the required affidavit contesting the revocation.

Board Member Foresee motioned to approve the request and Board Member Mabry seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; General Baxter, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; and Senator Rozell, yes.

Revocation of Teaching Certificate and Teacher Number of Stephanie Diane Harris Approved

Ms. Endres presented a request to revoke the Oklahoma teaching certificate and teacher number 230314 issued to Ms. Stephanie Diane Harris. Ms. Harris received four felony convictions on March 16, 2011. She returned an affidavit voluntarily surrendering her teaching certificate and number, therefore, no vote by the Board is necessary.

Revocation of Teaching Certificate and Teacher Number of Alesia Faith McAfee Approved

Ms. Endres presented a request to revoke the Oklahoma teaching certificate and teacher number 401857 issued to Ms. Alesia Faith McAfee. Ms. McAfee received a felony conviction on May 21, 2010 with a five year suspended sentence. She was notified of her right to appear before the Board or contest. Oklahoma law does not allow a teacher convicted of a felony to retain a certificate/number if the conviction occurred within the preceding ten-year period.

Ms. McAfee or her counsel were not present and had not returned the required affidavit contesting the revocation.

Board Member Lakin motioned to approve the request. Board Member Baxter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; General Baxter, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; and Senator Rozell, yes.

Administrative Hearing/Appeal of Deborah Davis, Former Employee of Bell Public School, Adair County, Regarding the Department of Education November 10, 2010, Decision to Deny Severance Allowance Severance Allowance Approved

Ms. Endres presented a request to deny severance allowance to Mrs. Deborah Davis who requested and was granted an appeal due process hearing. Mrs. Davis was a former employee of Bell Public School which was mandatorily annexed to Belfonte and Stilwell School Districts on June 24, 2010, by the State Board of Education. Oklahoma statue allow severance benefit allowance for teachers who are affected by mandatory annexation. Mrs. Davis applied for the severance benefit allowance (employment assistance) due to the mandatory annexation. Former State Superintendent Sandy Garrett denied the severance benefit because Mrs. Davis voluntarily retired and submitted retirement documentation prior to the deadline to apply for severance. Mrs. Davis

appealed the decision through her legal counsel, Mr. Steve Novick, and requested a due process hearing to reconsider the decision denying her severance benefit allowance.

Mr. Novick thanked Board members for the opportunity to present the reasons why Mrs. Deborah Davis should be awarded a severance allowance under the state statute. He sent a reply to the SDE memorandum directly to Board members via email and U.S. mail and hoped all had an opportunity to review the materials. Board members had received the paperwork materials for review.

Mr. Novick said he attended the March 2011 State Board meeting on a similar appeal and was advised, at that time, that the Hearing today was just a presentation to the Board and would not involve calling witnesses and taking testimony. Today, he was advised the procedure had changed and that witnesses could be called and cross examined. Mrs. Davis is prepared to speak before the Board on as a witness if necessary. Mr. Novick presented the basis of the appeal request as to why the severance allowance should be permitted, and the state statutes determining eligibility, mandates, and severance allowances. He referred Board members to the Memorandum of Fact and Law in Support of Appeal documentation and supporting exhibits.

Board Member Baxter asked if the argument was whether or not Mrs. Davis was offered employment? Being employed by the gaining school district was one of the conditions to be eligible to receive the severance payment but she was not employed by the district. Does it matter whether she was offered employment or talked about employment? Is not the litmus test the actual employment of the individual in this situation?

Mr. Novick said if there was a strict interpretation of the statute he would agree. When there is of legislation the governing body has authority to promulgate and adopt regulatory interpretations of the statutes that set out specific criteria consistent with the statutory language for how claims are to be handled. There are no State Board of Education regulations, and so we are left with the statute. Board Member Baxter makes a good point, because in reading the statute employment is the only requirement for eligibility. Whether Mrs. Davis turned down employment or did something to prevent her from being considered, may be a relevant fact, but not a relevant fact on her eligibility. Mr. Novick said when the plain language of a statute is clear then lawyers; courts and arbiters are not free to apply its perceptions or judgments about what the law should be or how it should be interpreted. If the language of the statute is plain and clear and represents the legislative intent, it should not be presumed there are things that do not appear within the four corners of the statute. Retirement is an earned benefit to teachers for years served.

Board Member Rozell informed the new Board members the Bell School District was in his district. He said Mrs. Davis was not responsible for the closing of the district, she just happened be teaching there. Due to the district's administrative problems there were no funds to keep the school open. The State Board of Education requested an audit of the district by the State Auditor and Inspector but to date the Board has not received the audit. Mrs. Davis was eligible for payment because each of the receiving schools Bell was annexed to received \$400,000 each to pay debts and teachers so that the taxpayers would not have pay. Therefore, he recommended Mrs. Davis receive the severance payment.

Ms. Endres asked Board Member Rozell if she could present her rebuttal on the State Board's position before the vote?

Board Member Rozell said yes but he did not know why a rebuttal was necessary.

Ms. Endres said the according to the statute severance pay is not an earned benefit to teachers for being a teacher but is employment assistance and not a retirement supplement. The Board made a decision in November 2010 to deny Mrs. Davis the benefit.

Board Member Miles-Scott said the Board voted to close the school and did not deny Mrs. Davis the benefit.

Ms. Endres said former Superintendent Garrett issued Mrs. Davis a ruling from the Department that indicated she was denied severance. We are defending the ruling the Department made in November 2010. Mrs. Davis applied for retirement before the deadline to apply for severance. Ms. Endres reviewed the state statutes, Mrs. Davis' affidavit, application time lines, Board options, and severance pay requirements.

Board Member Foresee said Mrs. Davis did seek employment before she retired because she interviewed with the receiving Belfonte school district prior to applying for retirement, is that correct?

Ms. Enders said we did not have the exact dates of the interview. Mr. Pinkerton, Superintendent, Belfonte Public School, was subpoenaed to appear today. He was interviewed and an affidavit for his signature was prepared, however, he did not sign the affidavit nor has he contacted the Department. When responding to the allegations we did not know if Mr. Novick's argument was if Mrs. Davis was mandatorily required to receive severance. Mr. Novick is now saying it is a discretionary issue. If Mrs. Davis had an opportunity for employment at Belfonte Public Schools and told the superintendent she was going to retire then it would cut off any opportunity to take her out of the mandatory requirement.

Board Member Miles-Scott said it seems, Mrs. Davis is saying if there was no position for her she would probably retire so that she would have her health benefits. It appears Mrs. Davis did what she was required to do by the deadline.

Ms. Endres said Mrs. Davis did what she was required to do by the deadline but once again urged the Board to consider the language. If what is required for someone to receive 80 percent of severance pay is to wait until September 1, and not seek not seek employment before August, apply on September 1 to receive 80 percent of their retirement benefits and then enter the job market the following year. What kind of message will be communicated which is not the intent of the legislation? The intent is for severance pay to be a safety net and not an entitlement. Mrs. Davis did not earn the benefit however; the Board can consider whether or not she is entitled to the full 80 percent.

Board Member Foresee said when the Board annexed the school district, severance pay was granted to everyone else, correct? Unemployment, severance, and retirement can all be paid legally and it has been done, correct?

Mrs. Endres said correct, it has been done. As much as we would like to pay everyone 80 percent, that is not what the statute states.

Board Member Foresee asked does it state the Board paid others that were also retired?

Mrs. Endres said another person's case is different because he was retired four years prior, currently working and active in the job market. He did not retire after the termination and voluntarily chose to take himself out of the job market. The point former Superintendent Garrett made was that the severance was a safety net and not an entitlement. The Board has the option of granting zero to 80 percent, considering unemployment benefits. Mrs. Davis retired and by doing so voluntarily took herself out of the job market before the deadline.

Board Member Miles-Scott said to retire from the state of Oklahoma, an application must be made within a certain amount of days. Mrs. Davis had a September 1 deadline when she had to interview but we do not know what was said at the interview. She earned the retirement. Also, she and other employees did not receive checks for three months from the school district until August. Effectively she had no money, she did not know if she would be hired by Mr. Pinkerton, not to mention he offered her a job in November 2010. He offered Mrs. Davis a paraprofessional job and not a teaching job. What was she to do between saving herself and her family within that month and the job Mr. Pinkerton finally offered her in November? Money was given to the receiving school districts to take care of these types of problems.

Ms. Endres said the Board has the option to award severance and it does not have to be up to 80 percent.

Board Member Baxter said if Ms. Endres' argument is that Mrs. Davis is not eligible or that she is indeed eligible and the Board is at the point of making a determination of what percentage she receives all the other arguments about what was said in the interview, who was offered what is not really germane to the case, is it?

Ms. Endres said there has never been an argument as to whether she was eligible for severance pay. Her application was considered and was denied. Today's hearing is for the Board to consider upholding the department's decision or to grant Mrs. Davis severance. Ms Endres recommended Mrs. Davis receive ten percent severance because she was actively in the job market before filing the retirement application for 35 days.

Board Member Miles-Scott said applying for retirement does not take one out of the job market.

Ms. Endres said it does not take you out of the job market necessarily, but what message is one sending and advertising when applying for retirement?

Board Member Miles-Scott said she disagreed. Retirement is earned and received.

Ms. Endres said additionally there is no benefit of tax withholding when calculating the 80 percent. The 80 percent is calculated on the gross salary and yet, Mr. Novick is requesting the Board to consider taxing only the net salary. It can only be

taxed net to net or gross to gross, and statute requires considering the gross. In this circumstance the Board should consider retirement benefit.

Board Member Baxter asked procedurally what is it the Board is being asked to do? What do you want the Board to do?

Ms. Endres said obviously she believes the Board should uphold the Department's decision made in November 2010, not to award Mrs. Davis any severance pay.

Board Member Baxter asked what motion is needed in regard to taking action?

Ms. Endres said if the Board grants the severance and amount, at that point she urges the Board to consider Mrs. Davis received unemployment and retirement benefits during the year time frame when she was entitled to the 80 percent severance pay. It is only fair to all the other Bell employees who did not have the same options.

Board Member Baxter asked how long was Mrs. Davis an employee or teaching in Oklahoma?

Ms. Endres said twenty years and she understood this was an emotional issue.

Board Member Baxter said it was not emotional. He understood the statutes and employee issues, but essentially a teacher with 20 years of experience was displaced from a school district. There is no evidence that she had been anything other than a fine teacher. She did not do anything that was not allowed by law or regulation. A precedent had been established with the other employees of the district and the level they were paid was \$33,000, not \$350,000.

Board Member Baxter motioned to overturn the State Department of Education decision denying Mrs. Davis severance pay and award her 80 percent severance allowance.

Board Member Lakin asked legal counsel to clarify the statute if the gross pay is for the preceding year?

Ms. Endres said 80 percent of Mrs. Davis' \$41,763.75 gross pay is \$33,411.

Board Member Miles-Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Senator Rozell, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; General Baxter, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; and Ms. Foresee, yes.

Convene into Executive Session Approved

Ms. Endres recommended the Board convene into Executive Session to discuss the following:

Upcoming Legal Action needed to be taken Regarding the Requested Attorney General Opinion Interpreting the State Board of Education Quorum Statute and the State Board of Education, May 9, 2011, Vote authorizing Superintendent Barresi to obtain Authority Granted to Her under House Bill 2139 – 25 O.S. § 307 (B)(4);

Settlement Demand Letter and Possible Wrongful Termination Litigation by Former Employee Jack Herron-25 O.S. § 307 (B)(2) and (4);

Wrongful Termination Tort Claim Filed by former Employee Cathy Brown Hall – 25 O.S. § 307 (B)(4);

Final Employment Actions taken in May and June 2011 against Jack Herron, Marta Coombes, Shannon Ainsworth, Wendy Pratt, Karee Pyeatt, and Misty Kimbrough – 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (1) and (4)

Board Member Foresee made a motion to convene into Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. and Board Member Lakin seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; General Baxter, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; and Senator Rozell, yes.

Return to Open Session Approved

Board Member Baxter made a motion to return to Open Session at 12:00 p.m. Board Member Lakin seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Senator Rozell, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; General Baxter, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; and Ms. Foresee, yes.

CONSENT DOCKET APPROVED

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years, and other requests:

- (a) Allow Two School Days in a 24-Hour Period 70 O. S. § 1-111
 Bennington Public Schools, Bryan County
 LeFlore Public Schools, LeFlore County
 Wewoka Public Schools, Seminole County
- (b) Library Media Specialist Exemption- 70 O. S. § 3-126
 Marlow Public Schools, Elementary School, Stephens County
 Prue Public Schools, Osage County
 Sayre Public Schools, Beckham County
- (c) Administrative Services OAC 210:35-3-46 Wynona Public Schools, Osage County
- (d) Library Media Services OAC 210:35-5-71 and OAC 210:35-9-71 Lomega Public Schools, Elementary and High Schools, Kingfisher County Union Public Schools, Tulsa County
- (e) Planning Period OAC 210:35-5-42 Lomega Public Schools, Kingfisher County
- (f) Request for **Checotah Public Schools**, McIntosh County, to use \$50,000 of its general fund to make expenditures for capital needs OAC 210:25-5-4

(g) Report on Department personnel changes

Board Member Lakin motioned to approve the Consent Docket and Board Member Baxter seconded the motion.

Board Member Mabry referred to the Prue Public Schools, Library Media Specialist Exemption request. They reported there are zero students in middle school and asked if the middle school was in the elementary school.

A representative from Prue Public Schools indicated it was a K through 8 schools.

The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, nay; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; General Baxter, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, nay; Senator Rozell, nay; and Superintendent Barresi, yes.

Board Member Lakin called Point of Order we should have stated there was no action taken in the Executive Session.

Superintendent Barresi thanked Board Member Lakin and said there was no action taken in Executive Session.

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

FY2012 Common Education Budget Work Program Approved

Superintendent Barresi thanked staff for all the hard work in preparing the budget. She said by way of orientation in past years with the exception of last year and this year, the Legislature provides to the State Board a budget limits bill that gives direction on the funding of different programs. She directed Board members to the FY2012 Budget request and said there are three to four primary funds for the support of schools. The first is financial support of schools which is the state aid formula and compared the FY 2011 numbers which included funding from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment* (ARRA) *Act.* These funds were absent in the FY 2012 numbers. In Governor Fallin's proposed budget, as well as, in the budget passed by the State Legislature ARRA funds were backfilled into the budget. There has been confusion regarding this and she reminded school districts that ARRA funds should be obligated by September 30, 2011. She assured Board members staff had worked hard to make sure the districts are aware of the deadline. The financial support of schools state aid formula was reduced 4.13 percent.

The second primary fund is the Agency funding dollars used to run the SDE and to pay all of the salaries. Approximately \$12 million of the agency funding is for state testing which was reduced by 4.1 percent or a loss of \$1million.

Board Member Foresee asked if student testing was increasing this year. She thought the Board voted last year for a five-year contract for the \$10 million?

Board Member Miles-Scott said it was locked into a contract.

Superintendent Barresi said it is a slightly different amount every year. The third primary fund is the school activities and programs budget which received a 4.42 percent

cut. There is also a primary fund for textbooks. The Legislature granted school districts flexibility in the use of the textbook dollars. Superintendent Barresi referred Board members to the support of public school activities FY 2012 budget. She has described before it has been a heartbreaking year and when making the difficult decisions it indeed became heartbreaking. We have been focused on this budget since the Legislature convened and we are dealing with a new normal. This is the third year in a row the state budget has had a shortfall and the shortfalls have significantly impacted education. As we looked at what the priorities were the first had to do with student instruction and achievement. What had to be done was to direct as many dollars as possible into funds that directly affect classroom instruction, student achievement, and the benefits children would receive from professional development of their teachers.

Superintendent Barresi said the next priority was to honor the state's commitment to fully fund the teacher's retirement fund and the flexible benefit allowance. This was very important to do because in these difficult financial times superintendents and their staff must have a level of predictability in the dollars available to them for those funds. The approximate funding amount for the two funds was \$330 million out of a fund of approximately \$401 million. Initially, an across the board cut was applied to each of the funds/activities that included fully funding the teacher's retirement and the flexible benefit allowance, but ended up with a considerable deficit of \$65 million. She said she consulted with the Legislature and is appreciative the House and Senate leadership in came together to find a solution. We have statutory obligations for funding different funds that are stated specifically in statute; maintenance of effort obligations that relate to federal dollars; and what will benefit instruction. House and Senate staff pointed out to us the flexible benefit allowance and the period for which it was funded resulted in provided funding that went into two months of the next fiscal year and moving the flexible benefit allowance to full funding for FY 2012 a savings of approximately \$33 million to \$39 million. This savings provided money to fund ACE remediation, alternative education, and reading sufficiency which are critical to the operation of the school year.

Superintendent Barresi said zeroing out some of the programs were very emotional decisions. They are programs she believes in deeply and appreciates their work. Going forward at this department our work has not stopped in determining what we can do to support these programs. We will be looking at opportunities for public and private partnerships so these programs can be maintained. Very difficult decisions had to be made.

Board Member Miles-Scott asked if column 2 and 3 represent what is being proposed for the current budget?

Superintendent Barresi said column 2 is funding allocated just for the flexible benefit allowance, teacher's retirement, and federal matching requirements. It did not meet the statutory requirements for specific levels of funding under state statute. Column 3 does reflect that.

Board Member Foresee said she received the budget information the evening before the meeting. Last year Board members had time to review the information and felt she needed more time for review.

Superintendent Barresi said she wanted to provide an opportunity for the Board to review and have a thorough discussion today. She and staff were fighting for these programs up until noon the day before the Board meeting today.

Board Member Miles-Scott said middle school mathematics lab funding was in the FY 2011 budget but there is no funding for them in the FY 2012 budget. They are out, correct?

Superintendent Barresi said yes.

Board Member Lakin asked which item was being referred to?

Board Member Miles-Scott said she also received the budget the previous evening. As a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) looking and comparing the information she asked how was it decided what items to cut or to totally cut funding?

Superintendent Barresi said this was a great question. When she realized what we would be facing, she and staff tore apart every one of the programs and looked to see if there were partial areas that could be funded and that would directly support student instruction. For example, the professional development component of the Advanced Placement (AP) incentives is funded. Advanced Placement teachers are still able to benefit from any of the five one-week sessions that will increase the number of AP teachers in the state. This is important for rigor but it also has a double benefit. The double benefit is that AP has been identified as one of the best ways to train grade six through twelve teachers for instructional strategies of the common core standards. Perhaps we can work with a foundation or corporation to fund the stipends given to students on free-and-reduced lunches eliminating or reducing the fee they pay for the AP tests. Perhaps someone will be willing to support the awards given to schools where students score a three or better. Alternative Education academies were funded but the truancy diversion program that had shown encouraging results was not. She said again in this 'new normal' we will be working with that group to assist them.

Board Member Foresee asked for clarification regarding alternative education. In 2011 alternative education was allocated \$3.1 million? There is nothing in column 3 but what does the \$14 million in column 4 mean?

Superintendent Barresi said yes alternative education was funded in 2011. The \$14 million in column 4 is the funding for the alternative education academies.

Board Member Foresee asked does that mean in 2012 that is the amount of funding alternative education will receive?

Superintendent Barresi said yes.

Board Member Foresee said the middle column is confusing. What do those figures mean?

Superintendent Barresi said it indicates the funding of the flexible benefit allowance, teacher's retirement system, and federal matching requirement, which shows the impact on the budget had we done nothing else. There would have only been just under \$8 million to work with but with requirements of \$30 million.

Board Member Miles-Scott asked National Board Certified teachers will not receive any funding?

Superintendent Barresi said what we are doing, because we believe National Board certification is very important, is asking school districts to consider using their \$33 million flexibility in funding to fund the awards to the teachers in their districts.

Board Member Foresee asked what programs will receive more money resulting in not funding these type things? Where is the money that last year funded these programs? Where is it indicated in column four?

Superintendent Barresi said the money used last year to fund National Board is not available due to the cuts. The budget was cut \$100 million for 2011-2012 and a lot of the money is simply not there. We were able to gain an additional amount of money through the shifting of the time period of funding of the flexible benefit allowance. She stressed the flexible benefit allowance is fully funded for fiscal year 2012.

Board Member Foresee asked what would be an increase?

Superintendent Barresi said we have gotten down as close as possible to determine the amount of dollars that will go to the flexible benefit allowance.

Board Member Mabry said this is her question also because she received a request from Enid Public Schools to fully fund the three programs. She informed the Board had learned from experience the need to fully fund. But the total the school received from for the flexible benefit allowance was \$315 million.

Superintendent Barresi said \$315 million is correct and referred to the certified employee health benefit and support personnel health benefit allowances in the budget. She said she had received resolutions from school districts throughout the state requesting the items be funded.

Board Member Foresee said she received phone calls as well, but did not realize the information had been emailed to her.

Board Member Miles-Scott said she also received phone calls but had nothing to reference.

Superintendent Barresi said programs funded last year did not get funded this year but one thing she wanted the Board to remember was last year some of the programs were funded and the flexible benefit allowance was not. What happened at the end of the year was teachers were laid off because school districts had to make up the money. This is the last thing we want; therefore, we must give superintendents some predictability and let them stand on concrete rather than shifting sand when making these decisions.

Board Member Baxter said when talking about partnerships with corporations, he understands the dilemma when not funding some wonderful programs like Great Expectations. He would like to be assured as a member of the Board that staff will devote sufficient effort to come forward with a formal plan that relates these specific programs to funding sources with corporate Oklahoma, whoever they are, and we are not waving the flag saying corporate Oklahoma is going to help. We must have a 'no kidding' program where we can reach out to foundations and Oklahoma companies to

fund some of these programs that are deserving but funds are not available. If we fail to do that then we would be just talking the talk and not walking the walk.

Superintendent Barresi said she agreed. She has already directed staff to begin work on exactly what Board Member Baxter stated. Other funds are also being reviewed that might possibly be savings from the Department. Everything is still being considered but we cannot budget things that there is not money to support.

Board Member Baxter said he understands but the issue cannot be dropped with just an approval of the budget, it must go forward.

Superintendent Barresi said she has directed staff to leave no stone unturned in efforts to help these programs.

Board Member Miles-Scott said when we look at this we are still dealing with two pots of money. The administration of this building is one and the schools are another. Keep in mind funds can be cut to zero on one side but it will not move over to the other funding side.

Superintendent Barresi said we will be looking for flexibility.

Board Member Miles-Scott said because this is a state agency and not private enterprise there is a statute for every dime that comes in and goes out and the Board must know this. Other things have been handled this way and the statutes have not changed.

Board Member Foresee said earlier this year the Board allocated funds for National Board Certified teachers and said if more money was available but now you are saying there is none. She is 99 percent sure someone will say there is money available if funds are taken from other areas. It is a tough situation and she is not sure how to address those issues when they come to the Board.

Superintendent Barresi said a thorough review was performed. Ms. Endres, legal staff, fiscal staff and I reviewed every statute with these types of difficult decisions. We all believe in the importance of awards to teachers under National Board Certification. This is why school districts are being asked to use the \$33 million or a portion of the amount to make those awards to their teachers.

Board Member Baxter said he wanted to shape this in terms of priorities. Board members can have ongoing discussions on favorite programs and different views. His statement is if Superintendent Barresi has the priorities right what do we want to argue about individual cases or not.

Board Member Foresee said she did not want to argue, she just has not had enough time and needs more time to review and understand the budget. Being a teacher she will receive numerous calls regarding the decisions made.

Superintendent Barresi said statutory language for the National Board certification states funded as funds are available.

Board Member Miles-Scott said she needed more time to review the numbers.

Board Member Mabry said Ag in the Classroom was not funded last year but is funded this year, why?

Superintendent Barresi said it directly benefits students within that area.

Board Member Mabry asked does the Rural Infant Stimulation Environment (RISE) program funding also meet the criteria that directly benefits students?

Superintendent Barresi said last year RISE was stripped of state funding and was replaced with 100 percent federal funding, which is not permissible. We have advised the United States Department of Education of the fact and await their decision. The nature of the program has a double benefit and serves pre-school children that are handicapped. It provides an environment where pre-service students, physical therapy, occupation therapy, and speech therapy students can interact and work with the children. Again, we have the double benefit behind this.

Board Member Mabry asked does the Oklahoma Arts Institute also have the double benefit criteria?

Superintendent Barresi said it services students and provides professional development for teachers.

Board Member Lakin asked if the mandates have been met, and federal and state funds are matched to the greatest extent possible?

Superintendent Barresi said Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) remediation was absolutely critical this year. This is the year seniors must pass four of the seven tests, and it would have been inappropriate to strip the funds.

Board Member Miles-Scott said the middle school mathematics lab are good and prepares the students for testing.

Superintendent Barresi said the middle school math laboratories were line itemed in House Bill 1137 in 2009 and is not found in statutes or funded.

Board Member Miles-Scott said it was line itemed in 2011 for \$2.5 million.

Superintendent Barresi said they are listed because they were just funded last year and there was no line item last year. This is a public body and it is critical to have the deliberations about the budget in public.

Board Member Mabry asked do we ask if anyone wants to speak or have any public comment?

Superintendent Barresi said it is the Boards discretion.

Ms. Endres said the public meeting is open to the public for their participation and understanding but it is not required the Board acknowledge anyone. It is the Board's choice to do so.

Board Member Baxter said he prefers for those who have comments be allowed to comment.

Superintendent Barresi said she has heard from each of the programs as well as legislators, the Governor, and Board members. The decisions in no way reflect the worthiness of these programs and their accomplishments and it is very important that we make that clear.

Board Member Miles-Scott said one reason, but not the only reason she needed more time to review the budget was because since January the Board has not received any legislative updates. The Board never received, as we always did, any bills from the Legislature and how they would affect education. Even though she has tried to keep up with the bills, she still does not know enough to make sure we are in compliance with what we have to do. There are some comparisons and questions, as an accountant, she still has. Therefore, having just received the budget the day before and not having sufficient time to review she did not feel comfortable voting on the budget. Board Member Miles-Scott said she thought receiving the budget the day before and wanting a vote today was unfair.

Board Member Lakin asked how much time would help the Board or the school system?

Superintendent Barresi said budgets have to be developed at every school district. My department needs the month of July to determine the flow of dollars out to districts. To delay would significantly delay the ability of districts to plan, move forward, and make final decisions on things such as staffing and programs. They are asking the Board to make a decision.

Board Member Miles-Scott asked could we not have a special meeting in a week or two?

Superintendent Barresi said the budget has to be approved by June 30.

Board Member Baxter said in the matter of mandates and dollars, he assumed the budget contains the required amount of support in every area that is legislatively mandated or is in law. Is that true?

Superintendent Barresi said where statute specifically states the amount that must be funded is what the Board is reviewing. The ACE remediation does not require funding but again it directly affects students in the classroom. The AP programs, as well, have double benefit even though some areas were cut out of the program; Ag in the Classroom is critical and is struggling; alternative education programs and charter school incentive funds were zeroed out.

Board Member Foresee said only the alternative education academies will be funded?

Superintendent Barresi said yes.

Board Member Baxter asked is the flexibility limited in terms of all programs?

Superintendent Barresi said there is almost no flexibility at all. None, if you are considering the needs of students first.

Board Member Lakin asked as opposed to the needs of...?

Superintendent Barresi said adults.

Board Member Lakin asked is it not possible to pass the budget today and if there were issues found before the next regular Board meeting those issues could be reconsidered? There is parliamentary procedure that allows for the reconsideration of votes in typical organizations. This will allow Superintendent Barresi to move forward and in the event there are no changes between now and then, everything will stay as is.

Superintendent Barresi said moving forward if we get the goods news of funds that have been freed up we will be thrilled to come to the Board with an amendment to the budget.

Board Member Lakin said he wanted to help the Board decide if the budget could be passed today because Board members are concerned about the amount of time they have had to spend reviewing the budget, that elements could reconsidered in July. Should that be the role of the Board.

Superintendent Barresi said yes.

Board Member Mabry said under staff development do the numbers add up to \$6 million?

Superintendent Barresi said no. The \$6 million is under reading sufficiency. There is new legislation dealing with the proficiency of students at the third grade level. We are focused on making sure that every student, by the beginning of third grade, is on grade level. In order to do that we must focus on proficiency and professional development programs. Almost all of this money is focused on professional development for teachers. This shows our commitment plus we are looking at repurposing with federal dollars for this program and any other available funds. In order for this state to move forward we must have a literate population to successfully develop within our students 21st century skills that have to do with thinking but they must read first. It is the most fundamental thing.

Board Member Mabry said her question is under the reading sufficiency what are those numbers?

Superintendent Barresi said they are the separate programs that are not receiving funding.

Board Member Lakin pointed out the reading sufficiency amount was highlighted in red on the chart.

Board Member Foresee asked what is reading sufficiency?

Superintendent Barresi said the *Reading Sufficiency Act* was passed several years ago to support students with reading. Basically, Oklahoma has continued to flat line over the last ten years with no support. We are focused on doing what we can to support districts with their individual activities. An entire program is being developed by the Department to bring more continuing education to teachers to increase their efficacy. We are providing the funding to districts because some are in a different place in reading and

reading instruction than others. To impose a centrally controlled program that would cause districts to fit the program is inappropriate. We are trying to create flexibility.

Board Member Foresee asked if the staff development amount for 2011 included everything under reading sufficiency. Is that correct?

Superintendent Barresi said yes.

Board Member Foresee asked now it is \$1 million short and only includes the reading sufficiency?

Superintendent Barresi said yes. She informed Board members the *Reading Sufficiency Act* was not funded last year and it is being funded this year.

Board Member Baxter asked is there a thought of a motion to approve per Board Member Lakin's suggestion that the budget could be addressed or adjusted based on Board input before the July meeting?

Superintendent Barresi said the budget would need to reflect the revenues available and would put..

Board Member Baxter said we cannot print money.

Superintendent Barresi said she understood the intent of the Board, but it would still put the money for the flexible benefit allowance and teacher's retirement in a cloud. Her desire would be to give the superintendents a number and then she could report to the Board as additional dollars become available and present a budget for at that time.

Board Member Lakin said the Board has sufficient power, via Robert's Rules of Order to bring the budget back if the Board so chooses at the next subsequent meeting. If it is the will of the Board, we can move forward with approving the budget, and allow the Department to carry out the essential activities of the schools and the agency.

Board Member Miles-Scott asked Superintendent Barresi said if the budget was not voted on today it would put the flexible benefit allowance in a cloud, correct?

Superintendent Barresi said the budget has to be approved and districts need to move forward as a result. They would have the ability, if approved, to move forward and make decisions regarding staffing requirements and other programs.

Board Member Miles-Scott said the Board of Equalization and Legislature did appropriate to the SDE these dollars. The Board of Equalization gives the state Legislature the estimated amount of funds/revenues that will be available. The SDE has in fact been appropriated these funds, correct?

Superintendent Barresi said yes, \$401,224,655 was appropriated for activities and programs.

Board Member Lakin motioned to approve the budget request as presented and Board Member Baxter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Senator Rozell, nay; Ms. Miles-Scott, nay; General Baxter, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Ms. Foresee, nay; and Superintendent Barresi, yes.

Board Member Lakin said he would be reviewing the budget and if necessary bring up the budget for reconsideration at the next regular meeting. By voting in the affirmative he has the ability to do so. I look forward to reviewing the budget, but also to giving Superintendent Barresi the ability needed to move Oklahoma's school system forward.

Board Member Baxter asked when the Board could expect to see some sort of a program that partners these programs with Oklahoma corporations and foundations? Can you give the Board a date?

Superintendent Barresi said she has requested that information be ready by the end of August.

Board Member Foresee asked when will the superintendents be asked to fund the National Board Certified teacher bonus?

Superintendent Barresi said they will be sent a memo requesting they fund the bonus. School districts would have discretion with the expenditure of the \$33 million.

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Recommendations from the Teacher Competency Review Panel Approved

Ms. Melissa Newport, Certification Specialist, Alternative Certification, presented the recommendations from the Teacher Competency Review Panel for 49 applicants to receive a license.

Board Member Mabry made a motion to approve the recommendations and Board Member Foresee seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; General Baxter, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; and Senator Rozell, yes.

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Oklahoma Cost Accounting System (OCAS) Penalties Approved

Mr. Chad Bratton, Executive Director, Financial Accounting, presented a request to waiver penalties for late Oklahoma Cost Accounting System (OCAS) submission. School districts are required to submit by September 1 a summary expenditure revenue financial transaction via the OCAS reporting system annually. In FY2010, 111 school districts failed to meet the deadline. Mr. Bratton reviewed economic occurrences and budget shortfall trends of 2010 and previous years; school district noncompliance issues, fund transfers/accountability, improvement, stimulus funding/budgeting, Web-based system-data submission, training workshops, video conferencing, and FY2011 outlook.

Board Member Rozell made a motion to approve the request.

Board Member Mabry asked are workshops at the school district, SDE, where?

Mr. Bratton said workshops were held in central locations at career techs and centers.

Board Member Foresee asked are the same districts consistently late every year?

Mr. Bratton said yes, about a dozen. They were regular type problems that were brought on because of the complexities of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA).

Superintendent Barresi said she has instructed Mr. Bratton identify and work with the school districts that repeatedly, three years or more, been in noncompliance.

Board Member Lakin said that information would be good to have at the next regular Board meeting. Maybe some line item adjustments can be made for the repeat offenders.

Board Member Lakin seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Senator Rozell, yes; General Baxter, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; and Ms. Foresee, yes.

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Office of Accountability

Standard Setting Results for the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT) Grades 3-8 Math, Oklahoma Modified Alternate Assessment Program (OMAAP) Grades 3-8 Math and U.S. History Approved

Dr. Josh Goodman, Pearson, reviewed the standards setting Pearson facilitated in cooperation with the SDE Assessment and Accountability office, standards settings process/procedure, recommended cut scores-benchmarks, and OCCT and OMAAP testing programs/results, *PASS* standard changes/alignments, grade level curriculum and expectations, NAEP standards, performance level descriptors, committee panels, and impact data.

Superintendent Barresi said there are two actions for the Board to take. The first is to accept the median recommended cut scores of the standard setting committee. Second, to make the recommended cut scores effective immediately that will apply to the student scores collected in the spring 2011.

Board Member Foresee asked why would want to this after the fact?

Dr. Goodman said the ultimate goal of trying to classify students into performance levels is to give them the most accurate description possible. The fear is if the old cuts are used as they now exist the classifications do not make sense with the new curriculum, therefore, the classifications may not be accurate. Ultimately, we do no favors to the students if we do not produce scores that are meaningful for them as individuals or to the teachers to use holistically.

Board Member Mabry said when speaking to teachers the problem is that it is after the fact; feel the test would not be accurate enough and they did not have all the information they needed for a year of instruction.

Ms. Gail Loving, Office of Accountability and Assessment, said training for school districts was conducted in the fall for the assessments. During the trainings school districts were made aware *PASS* standards had changed in the prior year, and this year would begin, this year, with those assessments and standard settings processes. Letters were mailed to the superintendents and principals informing they would be assessed on the new standards and the process. Information was also posted on the SDE Web site.

Board Member Mabry said sometimes teachers do not receive word of notices sent to superintendents and principals.

Ms. Loving said the SDE conducts teacher workshops throughout the year and meet with consortium groups to provide information.

Board Member Lakin motioned to approve and accept the median recommended cut scores of the standard setting committee. Board Member Mabry seconded the motion.

Board Member Mabry asked how many hours were dedicated to this?

Dr. Goodman said two and a half days of meetings and a week compiling information.

Superintendent Barresi said the next time she would invite Mrs. Mabry to attend and participate in the standards setting process.

The motion passed with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; General Baxter, yes; and Senator Rozell, yes.

Board Member Baxter motioned to approve the new cut scores to be effective immediately. Board Member Mabry seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Senator Rozell, yes; General Baxter, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; and Ms. Foresee, yes.

Office of Student Support

Supplemental Education Services Providers for the 2011-2012 School Year (NCLB) Approved

Ms. Kerri White, Assistant State Superintendent, Student Support, presented a recommendation request of supplemental education services providers for the 2011-2012 school year. Ms. White introduced Mr. Gary Hurst, Program Specialist, who oversees the supplemental educational services. Supplemental education services are required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for schools in the second year of school improvement and are Title 1 schools. In the 2010-2011 school year, approximately 3,500 students were serviced with supplemental educational services. Ms. White reviewed provider requirements and applications, provider update/students served, and renewals.

Board Member Mabry asked was the provider that served 652 students an online service provider?

Ms. White said it was not. The provider is a large company that performs face to face tutoring and has a reputation for being productive.

Board Member Baxter motioned to approve the request and Board Member Lakin seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; General Baxter, yes; and Senator Rozell, yes.

Board Member Mabry said regarding the cut scores, teachers possibly will not know or get the information, even though superintendents or the district may be aware. She asked if Superintendent Barresi was planning to send a letter or newsletter to inform all teachers?

Superintendent Barresi said a great deal is being done around curriculum and instruction, such as, regional meetings focused on teachers regarding providing additional information on *PASS* standards and the transition to the common core and common assessments. Two convenings are scheduled for a consistent group of districts over the next three years. The first meeting being with superintendents and their senior staff and that same group will stay together over the next three years as we transition to common core. Those districts will be required to transmit the information to surrounding school districts. We are focused on professional development and increasing the effectiveness of teachers within the classroom, and also bringing into this the embedding of instructional strategies that will improve curriculum within the classrooms. There is a great deal going on regarding the issue and she will take suggestions and guidance from the Board on other areas.

Board Member Mabry said it would be nice for every individual teacher to receive an update in the mail, possibly monthly. As a teacher it has been her experience that the information may get to the district, but there is a breakdown in getting the information to teachers.

Superintendent Barresi said she would do everything she could. Perhaps when schools reconvene at the beginning of the year we can press the point with superintendents and principles to put this as an item to visit with their teachers. A mailing to every teacher in the state is not affordable.

Board Member Foresee asked for clarification, if the July State Board meeting would be the last meeting for this Board?

Superintendent Barresi said August.

Board Member Foresee asked after July and August then everybody is gone, and if she understood correctly, the Governor will reappoint/appoint Board members?

Superintendent Barresi said the Governor will have the option of reappointing or appointing someone for your position.

Board Member Mabry asked when was the August meeting, and would everyone be together at that meeting? The Governor would reappoint or appoint after the August meeting?

Superintendent Barresi said August 30.

FIRST-YEAR SUPERINTENDENTS

First-year superintendent, Ms. Susan Pierce, Superintendent, Moore Public Schools attended the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Board Member Mabry motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Board Member Rozell seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Senator Rozell, yes; General Baxter, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; and Ms. Foresee, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Janet Barresi, Chairperson of the Board