

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the**  
**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**OLIVER HODGE EDUCATION BUILDING:**  
**2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD, ROOM 1-20**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

**May 9, 2011**

The State Board of Education met in special session at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 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 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 6, 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  
Mrs. Sue Arnn, Ardmore  
Mrs. Betsy Mabry, Enid  
Mr. Phil Lakin, Jr., Tulsa  
Ms. Gayle Miles-Scott, Oklahoma City (arrived 9:20 a.m.)

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

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 special meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Holland called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

**INTRODUCTION AND SWEARING IN OF NEW  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER**

Superintendent Barresi introduced and welcomed Mr. Phil Lakin who was newly appointed and confirmed to the State Board of Education. Mr. Lakin represents Congressional District 1, and he is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Tulsa Community Foundation (TCF). Superintendent Barresi swore in Mr. Lakin to the State Board of Education.

**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 TABLED**

Board Member Mabry motioned to table approval of the minutes for the March 22, 2011, special Board meeting. Board Member Lakin seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**MARCH 24, 2011 REGULAR BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES APPROVED**

Board Member Foresee motioned to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2011, regular Board meeting. Board Member Mabry seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mrs. Arnn, yes; Mr. Lakin, abstain; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Ms. Foresee, yes; and Superintendent Barresi, yes.

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Information from the State Superintendent**

Superintendent Barresi said the purpose of the special meeting is because time sensitive decisions need to be made, and particularly regarding Tushka Public Schools. The community of Tushka is determined to rebuild the school and have received a federal declaration as a disaster area which allows them to apply for Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA). The State Department of Education (SDE) staff has been working closely with the Tushka Public School superintendent to acquire new

equipment, materials, and locate vendors to supply temporary classrooms for this year and next year.

### **Assignment of Duties to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Approved**

Superintendent Barresi said House Bill 2139 has been passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Fallin. The bill provides the assignment of duties to the State Superintendent and takes effect in 90 days, August 30, 2011. She presented a request for the Board to consider assigning duties to the, State Superintendent, consistent with the provisions of House Bill 2139 and make it effective immediately. Many positions within the SDE need to be filled. Diligent work is being done to restructure and reorganize the SDE with individuals within the department. Individual interviews are being conducted with people to discuss about where they see themselves within the new department structure, duties, and abilities. There are many talented people in the SDE who are excited about the goals she has for education and education reform. Many individuals are excited about having increased autonomy and a new direction for the department. There are other employees that are very concerned about their job security as of August 30. Superintendent Barresi said she has done everything she can to try to sage their concerns and worries, but department heads and directors have informed her that morale is at an all time low. There are individuals that feel that they will summarily be dismissed despite advising them otherwise. She is concerned there are individuals who plan to leave the department and with the school year coming to an end, school districts and other agencies are or will be hiring. It is very difficult to hire talented people to work in government. The pay is not the best, working conditions are challenging and many of the individuals working at the SDE work out of devotion to education reform, and children of the state of Oklahoma. Losing some of these individuals will make it difficult to replace them and she would like to have the ability to bring the suspense to an end. Board Members were issued a summary and text of House Bill 2139.

Board Member Foresee asked why will this bill be effective in 90 days? Is this normal?

Superintendent Barresi said when a bill passes the Legislature it traditionally comes into authority 90 days after sine die unless the Legislature passes an emergency clause with the bill which would make it immediately effective. An emergency bill requires a second vote of the Legislature. The Senate approved the emergency measure of the bill but the House did not. Those that were involved assured her that it did not have anything to do with her and everything to do with politics.

Board Member Foresee asked can the Board legally approve this request?

Ms. Lisa Endres, General Counsel, said yes. The bill will be in effect in 90 days anyway. We are trying to improve the moral and give some assurances if there will be staff changes. These people have waited many months into Superintendent Barresi's administration before having any finality as to what the structure of the agency will be. The quicker an answer can be given the better the agency is going to perform. There is nothing legally inappropriate by approving this request.

Board Member Foresee asked Superintendent Barresi if all staff would stay until August 30?

Superintendent Barresi said no. We have had individual meetings, working with divisions, and informal luncheons to help staff understand what we are looking at in terms of organizing the department.

Board Member Foresee said since January people have known there was a possibility some will be leaving. If the Board approves the request, and tomorrow there is some staff you want to let go, will a two-week notice be given to them?

Superintendent Barresi said what has been happening is employees have been giving two-weeks notices but quite frankly, no, she did not have any intention to give two-week notices. The arbitrary nature that has been cast upon the idea of these duties is totally inappropriate. She said she does not operate that way.

Board Member Foresee asked was Superintendent Barresi saying employees will not be gone tomorrow?

Superintendent Barresi said she could not answer that question because that issue needs to be determined.

Board Member Mabry said she was concerned about losing good talent and if this moves us forward and keeps the best in the department she was willing for Superintendent Barresi to assume the responsibilities requested.

Board Member Mabry made a motion to implement House Bill 2139 immediately and Board Member Lakin seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Foresee, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; and Mrs. Arnn, no.

### **FIRST-YEAR SUPERINTENDENTS**

Superintendent Barresi introduced the first-year superintendent attending the meeting: Mr. Mark Maloy, Superintendent, Earlsboro Public Schools.

### **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**  
Colbert Public Schools, Bryan County  
Wanette Public Schools, Pottawatomie County
- (b) **School Calendar - 70 O. S. Supp. 2009 § 1-109**  
Broken Bow Public Schools, McCurtain County  
Northeast Technology Center, Mayes County
- (c) **Length of School Day - 70 O. S. 1-109**  
Stillwater Public Schools, Payne County
- (d) **Length of School Year - 70 O. S. 1-109**  
Tushka Public Schools, Atoka County

- (e) **Library Media Specialist - 70 O. S. 3-126**  
Choctaw-Nicoma Park Public Schools, Oklahoma County  
Oklahoma City Public Schools, Monroe and Putnam Heights Elementary  
Schools, Oklahoma County  
Salina Public Schools, Middle School and High School, Mayes County

Board Member Mabry commended Stillwater Public Schools' professional development plan in their length of school day waiver request. She said the library media specialist (LMS) waiver request from Oklahoma City Public Schools refers to LMS as "para-librarians." Is this a new term for persons working toward the LMS degree?

Superintendent Barresi said she did not know, but would discuss this with the Library Association.

Board Member Mabry commended the LMS candidate at Salina Public Schools on being a part of the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant at Northeastern State University. Part of the grant includes Native American literature, of which, she understands Superintendent Barresi wants to bring more Native American focus into Oklahoma schools.

Board Member Mabry motioned to approve the Consent Docket and Board Member Foresee seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mrs. Arnn, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; and Ms. Foresee, yes.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

### **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 87 applicants to receive a license.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. Board Member Foresee made a motion to adjourn and Board Member Lakin seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mrs. Arnn, yes; Ms. Miles-Scott, yes; Mr. Lakin, yes; Mrs. Mabry, yes; and Ms. Foresee, yes.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of  
the State Board of Education  
May 9, 2011

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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Janet Barresi, Chairperson of the Board

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Connie Holland, Chief Executive Secretary