

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

April 22, 2021

The State Board of Education met in special session at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The agenda was posted at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

The following were present at remote locations:

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

Members of the State Board of Education present at remote locations via Zoom videoconference:

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, Chairperson of the Board  
Mrs. Estela Hernandez, Oklahoma City  
Mr. Trent Smith, Yukon  
Mrs. Carlisha Williams Bradley, Tulsa  
Mr. William "Bill" Flanagan, Claremore  
Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City  
Mrs. Jennifer Monies, Oklahoma City

**CALL TO ORDER  
AND  
ROLL CALL**

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister called the State Board of Education special virtual meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

Superintendent Hofmeister welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the State Board of Education.

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Recognition of Department Employee for the month of April**

Superintendent Hofmeister recognized Cory Ingram, Director of Creative Services, Office of Communications for outstanding leadership, professionalism and going above and beyond in meeting the needs of children, school districts and OSDE.

**Information from the State Superintendent**

Superintendent Hofmeister said the state preschool yearbook, National Institute for Early Education Research, reported Oklahoma ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for pre-K access, four-year-old program investment serving 80% of eligible children statewide and named a leader with high quality pre-K policy support for the third year. Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) partnered with national nonprofit, Teach.org, to produce “The Future Depends on Teachers” which airs in Oklahoma via television and radio. Video presentations included new public service announcement (PSA) addressing the statewide teacher shortage, celebrating teachers and inspiring others to become teachers and highlights of the 2019 United States Department of Justice \$1 million grant to create an estate crisis team.

**Minutes of the March 25, 2021 Special  
State Board of Education meeting - Approved**

Board member Monies moved to approve the March 25, 2021, State Board of Education special meeting minutes. Board member Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Flanagan, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

**Minutes of the April 9, 2021 Special  
State Board of Education meeting - Approved**

Board member Monies moved to approve the April 9, 2021, State Board of Education special meeting minutes. Board member Bobek seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Flanagan, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

**Resolution honoring the Month of the Military Child,  
April 16, 2021 - Approved**

Superintendent Hofmeister said honoring the military child is very important in our state and for the many Oklahomans serving in the military with families. Governor Stitt signed Senate Bill 68 legislation, effective July 1, allowing children of active-duty military personnel to pre-enroll in a local school district prior to moving to Oklahoma and be considered in compliance with school residency requirements prior to arrival. Also, Senate Bill 69 signed into law and effective July 1, offers pre-enrollment opportunity to children of active-duty military personnel but focuses on statewide virtual charter schools. The bill speeds up the process to get children back to school, and it is in line with other states under the National Compact of the Education of Military Children. The Resolution to recognize April as the Month of the Military Child was read as follows:

*Whereas April is designated as the Month of the Military Child underscoring the important role military children play in the Armed Forces community and recognizing military families for the sacrifices that they make and whereas the average military family moves three times more often than their civilian counterparts teaching military children how to face challenges and develop resiliency and whereas approximately 2 million children have experienced appearance deployment since 2001.*

*Military children face unique challenges related to the military transition and parental deployment. Whereas, on April the 15th, people around the world showed their support with purple up for military kids' day. Purple indicates support for all branches of the military and today we wear purple to celebrate the unique contributions of military children.*

*Now, therefore be it resolved that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in the Oklahoma State Board of Education recognize April as the Month of the Military Child. Thank you, Oklahoma military families and honoring their service and sacrifice to our state and to our nation.*

Board member Flanagan moved to approve the Resolution. Board member Bobek seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Flanagan, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

**CONSENT DOCKET – Approved**

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2020-2021 school year – 70 O.S. § 3-104; OAC 210: 35-1-4:

- (a) **Abbreviated School Day - OAC 210:35-29-2 and 210:35-3-46**  
Bennington Public Schools, Bryan County  
Grand View Public Schools, Cherokee County

**3 Years**

Caney Valley Public Schools, Washington County

- (b) **Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs – 70 O.S. § 1210.568**  
Wilson Public Schools, Okmulgee County  
  
**3 Years**  
Coleman Public Schools, Johnston County  
Bray-Doyle Public Schools, Stephens County
- (b) **Library Media Services – OAC 210:35-5-71 and 210:35-9-71**  
**3 Years**  
Perry Public Schools, Noble County  
Grand View Public Schools, Stephens County  
Caney Valley Public Schools, Washington County
- (d) **Library Media Specialist Certificate Exemption - 70 O.S. § 3-126**  
Norman Public Schools, Cleveland County  
**(Lincoln Elementary School)**  
Norman Public Schools, Cleveland County  
**(Norman North High School)**
- (c) 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 members discussed and asked questions regarding Consent Docket item 4 (a) **Abbreviated School Day - Bennington Public School** waiver request did not meet minimum requirement based on the daily 3.5 school hours for a four-day school week; and **Caney Public School** one-year waiver request did not meet the requirement due to school year ending; and (c) **Library Media Services - Grandview Public School** waiver requests did not meet requirement due to recruitment/retention nor efforts to train staff.

Ryan Pieper, Executive Director, Accreditation, confirmed the Caney Valley application did not meet the minimum waiver requirement; and confirmed the Grandview application did not include current or future recruitment efforts.

Board member Monies moved to approve the Consent Docket except for **Bennington, Caney and Grandview Public Schools**. Board member Bobek seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; Mr. Flanagan, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

#### **LEGAL SERVICES/STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE**

#### **Report and update on Western Heights Independent School District, including terms of probation from the April 9, 2021, State Board of Education meeting**

State Board members asked questions and discussed the Western Heights School District terms of probation and probationary responses provided by Mannix Barnes. Legal counsel for the District appeared with Superintendent Barnes. The District's legal counsel made an opening statement in appearance that the District had filed a lawsuit against the State

Board of Education and State Department of Education. Questions and discussion included the terms and conditions of being Accredited with Probation, the requirement of 90 days to correct all noncompliance and deficiencies, complaints received regarding the District, attempts to meet with the District, requests from the State Board for the District to appear at the April 9 meeting, the prior correspondence exchanged between the District, State Board and State Department of Education, as well as the conditions of probation and the difference between probation and nonaccredited status.

(Superintendent Hofmeister called a break at 11:37-11:47 a.m.)

**Report and update on Sovereign Community School, including the School's  
5-year financial plan, student enrollment, liabilities and assets,  
Measurements of operational progress from the April 9, 2021,  
State Board of Education meeting**

Brad Clark, General Counsel recapped the SBE April 9 decision for Sovereign Community School (SCS) to remain on probation status and provide a 5-year financial plan, P & R schedule and updated progress report at the April 22, 2021 SBE meeting.

Board members asked questions and discussed the Sovereign Community School (SCS) presentation by Kyla Molina, Interim School Board President, and Stacie Thrasher, Interim Superintendent, that included prospective superintendent candidates, interviews/hiring rubric and timeline; fiscal strategic plan to the SCS community; Grant funding for PPP, community engagement projects with Tribal Education Departments National Assembly(TEDNA) partnership/programming, holistic wellness, mental health education campus providers, property upkeep planning phases, student recruitment, functional greenhouse, and language preservation; Five-year revenue expenditure projection, month-month cash flow, student enrollment and staff projections, 11<sup>th</sup> grade addition, FY20 carryover deficit, mid-year adjustment, current revenue inclusive of all federal funds, flexible benefit payments, loan amounts and adjustments; teaching staff/student ratios, gifted and talented program offered, no AP courses offered; Administrative and instruction salaries, benefits not included in instructional, benefits and tax burden and budgeted percentages, TRS cost, fees and penalty obligation; Current/future expenses, services, liabilities and contracts, rent increase, lease terms and purchase options, 2023-24 budget/school year close, long-term viability, no contingency fund amount; full high school plans, expense and projections, graduation requirements; Larger high school classes year 5 and 6 projections, cost adjustment and current enrollments per grade; Clarification provided on what subjects taught and by whom which included the **math** teacher has 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades, **science** teacher has 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade science and physical education, special education coordinator teaches 10<sup>th</sup> grade English and **English** teacher has 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> and leadership classes, **art and history** teaches 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade; Cash flow process, protections and 2020 balances January-April, April-June and July-January, short and long term liabilities, October carryover and deficit amounts; seek potential scholarship opportunity tax programs, pending Oklahoma Corporation Commission funding; Estimate of needs increase updated and Title 70 § 5.157 prohibits creating or authorizing a deficit budget; Reconciled differences/error and continued work on accuracy.

Board members thanked SCS representatives and appreciated the commitment to students, education excellence, progress and the appearance before the Board upon request and as a condition of probation. Recommended continued focus serving current grades and progression levels and provide in-depth review of future growth for high school grade levels with report at the May 2021 SBE meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

Board member Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Board member Bobek seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Flanagan, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 9:30 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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Joy Hofmeister, Chairperson of the Board

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Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary