

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

April 27, 2023

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, April 27, 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, April 26, 2023.

The following were present:

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

Mr. Travis Jett, Counsel to the Board

Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board

Mr. Donald Burdick, Tulsa

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

Mrs. Suzanne Reynolds, Oklahoma City

Mr. Trent Smith, Yukon (arrived at 9:38 a.m.)

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 9:34 a.m. Ms. 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

First-Year Superintendents

Superintendent Walters recognized first-year superintendents attending the meeting that included Robin Gann, Moss Public Schools; Randy Turney, Carnegie Public Schools; and Mark Williams, Fox Public Schools.

**Recognition of Department Employee
for the month of April: Edgar Savaria-Rodas**

Superintendent Walters recognized Edgar Savaria-Rodas, Project Coordinator, Child Nutrition for outstanding leadership, professionalism and going above and beyond in meeting the needs of children, school districts and SDE.

**Require a special report of school districts in Oklahoma regarding
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) spending - Approved**

Superintendent Walters said the agency priorities on the championing school choice, parental empowerment and parental involvement continues this legislative session. Updates were provided on the House, Senate and Governor's actions; new program launches Teacher Signing Bonus and Teacher Empowerment Program; concerns with Higher Education programs of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusions (DEI) effect on K-12 school system; school district special reporting requirement to identify and breakdown DEI curricula, personnel, funding resources, categories, and expenditures.

Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel, State Department of Education (SDE), advised the categories of the special reporting request for DEI spending includes expenditures for the 2022-2023 school year with subcategories indicating staff, materials, third-party contractors/vendors, state or local, federal, and private funds; personnel engaged at least 25% of time operating or assisting with DEI programs; electronic copy spending of materials used by staff or third-party contractor for DEI instruction.

The DEI special report is defined as instruction or programs teaching that meritocracy, equality of opportunity or freedom of speech is harmful to society or subgroups within society and anything the school or district has labeled as involving or as related to DEI, whether for state or federal purposes. A preliminary report deadline is June 9, 2023, and final versions are due no later than September 1, 2023. School districts with no responses are relieved of any obligation to file the final report.

Board members asked questions and discussed curriculum consultants, third party contracts; one-time report only current school year, RAOs conduct school outreach; reporting extension and penalty per board requirement; require identifying all vendor names and all DEI expenditures; and report applies to DEI trainings.

Mr. Cleveland confirmed board members suggested modifications to the special report requirements that included naming third-party vendors and late filing extension.

Board member Burdick moved to approve a required special report with modifications of school districts in Oklahoma regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Dei) spending. Board member Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals signed up to address agenda item 3.(a) included Dana-Hardy-Stover, Edmond; Ashley Day, parent-Tulsa Public Schools, DEI; and John Gibbon, Edmond, DEI.

Individuals signed up to address items not on the agenda included Brent Backus, Piedmont; Aaron Means, Transgender; Megan Slinkard and Maria Seidler, Tulsa, Bullying; Bob Linn, OCPAC Foundation; Charles J. Johnson, Sr., Muskogee, Children Morning; Ed Moore; and Erika Wright, Oklahoma Rural Schools Coalition, board meeting accessibility.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the March 23, 2023, regular State Board of Education meeting – Approved

Board member Smith moved to approve minutes of the March 23, 2023, regular State Board of Education meeting. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Minutes of the April 12, 2023, special State Board of Education meeting - Approved

Board member Reynolds moved to approve minutes of the April 12, 2023, special State Board of Education meeting. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, abstain; Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

CONSENT DOCKET - Approved

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2022-2023 school year and other requests:

- (a) **Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs – 70 O.S. § 1210.568**
Turpin Public Schools, Beaver County
Central High Public Schools, Stephens County

3 Years
Marlow Public Schools, Stephens County
- (b) **Library Media Services – OAC 210:35-5-71 and 210:35-9-71**
Central High Public Schools, Stephens County
- (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 member Smith moved to approve Consent Docket item 6.(a)-(c) waiver requests. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Waiver request of the Meta Metric Lexile and Quantile licensing product requirements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year - Approved

Cora James, Assistant Division Administrator, said the Lexile and Quantile scores on the Student/Family Report-Oklahoma School Testing Program are provided by a propriety vendor describing the scores as measures. The terms specified by promulgated rules are limiting and do not fulfill the intent of state statute 70 O.S. § 3-168. Norm-Criterion reference indicators will report how students are doing to each other, district-wide and statewide; and criterion-references compares the individual state standards.

Mr. Cleveland advised the previous State Board of Education in 2021-2022 authorized an administrative rule to use the Lexile and Quantile products solely offered by Meta Metric for required scores on student level reports in grades 3-8. The vendor products are no longer required as Oklahoma statues require both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced scores to be reported for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The request is a waiver from the sole source vendor requirement.

Board member Burdick informed members his father, a statistician and consultant, invented the term lexicon, a former employee of Meta Metric (the developer of the Lexile and Quantile frameworks), and he performed the statistical evaluation. The development intent was an objective scoring system to tie student reading comprehension ability to text, regardless of content.

Board member Burdick said his father no longer has affiliation with the company, and because of this information and relationship, he would abstain from the vote.

Board member Smith moved to approve the request to waive the requirement for next year. Board member Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Burdick, abstain; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, 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

Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel, State Department of Education (SDE), advised two complaints were received from Putnam City High School concerning the interim baseball coach and players. An investigation is ongoing, and a report will be provided when information is received.

Accept and provide for the administration of matching grant funds for Project RESPECT - Approved

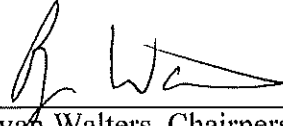
Mr. Cleveland said the Project RESPECT grant provides 14 counselors to school districts in Pottawatomie County. The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) grant has matching fund providers that includes the Avedis Foundation as detailed in board materials. Avedis Foundation administers and distributes their match funds and questioned whether the Department could accept the match funds, manage, and administer funds to schools. Mr. Cleveland advised it would be easier to manage the Avedis Foundation, Department, and school district funds through the OSDE financial team, receive both federal and match funds, and distribute. The Department currently receives USDE partial funding and distributes. The State Board of Education (SBE) authority by statute 70 O.S. §3-104(12) can accept money on behalf of schools and provide for administering funds to schools. The Department request the SBE accept the matching funds from the Avedis Foundation on behalf of the school districts and distribute the funds in accordance with the grant.

Board member Smith moved to approve the request to accept matching funds and distribute. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Burdick moved to adjourn the meeting 10:59 a.m. Board member Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2023, 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board



Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary