

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the

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

December 15, 2022

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 1:03 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2022, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

The following were present:

Mr. Brad Clark, 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 Joy Hofmeister, Chairperson of the Board
Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City
Mrs. Carlisha Williams Bradley, Tulsa
Mrs. Estela Hernandez, Oklahoma City
Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore
Mrs. Jennifer Monies, Oklahoma City
Mr. Trent Smith, Yukon

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL**

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

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

Superintendent Hofmeister 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 a moment of silence.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Information from the State Superintendent

Recognition of Employee of the Month

Superintendent Hoffmeister recognized Sarina Rhinehart, Executive Director of Governance-Accountability, as the December employee of the month and for outstanding leadership, professionalism and going above and beyond in meeting the needs of children, school districts and OSDE.

**Recognition of Jennifer Weber
for years of service to the state of Oklahoma**

Superintendent Hofmeister recognized Jennifer Weber, Executive Director, Child Nutrition, for 25 years of service to the state of Oklahoma.

Superintendent Hofmeister updated on the rural Oklahoma Early Literacy Education and Science of Reading Academies highlighted by the Barksdale Institute and WETA Public Broadcasting, Washington, D.C. and visit to Enid and Frederick Public Schools; Brad Clark, SDE Legal Counsel informed on the School Report Cards preparation, calculation, and delivery; and an ELEVATE video presentation viewed on the Dual Language Program-Jenks East Elementary School.

Message from State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister

“As this is my final State Board of Education meeting in my official capacity, I want to convey what an honor and a privilege it has been to serve as your State Superintendent of Public Instruction. There have been many amazing experiences throughout my eight years in office, times that I will cherish forever, but none more so than the many opportunities I’ve had to visit our classroom teachers. These visits never fail to inspire and inform. Your voices are critical if Oklahoma hopes to create and maintain a public education system that our children and families deserve.

But Oklahoma needs to do more than merely listen to our teachers. Teacher flight remains a crisis that calls for a multifaceted approach. Competitive pay is not the only remedy but is certainly part of any long-term fix. I am proud that during my terms in office an overwhelming majority of the state Legislature enacted two long-overdue teacher pay raises. Nevertheless, teacher pay is a moving target, especially in an environment where Oklahoma is competing against other states. Recent pay increases in Colorado, New Mexico, and elsewhere underscore the need for another teacher pay raise next legislative session if we have any hope of turning around the teacher shortage. Oklahoma's commitment to education should be consistent and incremental.

Let's be real. Public education in Oklahoma will not be where we want it to be – where students and families deserve it to be – in a single year, or even three or four. The challenges are formidable in the wake of insufficient per-pupil expenditures, a diminishing teacher pipeline, childhood trauma and the staggering (and still unfolding) repercussions of the COVID pandemic.

But I am optimistic, and you are largely the reason. Oklahoma's teachers are doing incredible things in the classroom each day to help our kids reach their full potential. You devote countless hours, invest the energy, and work hard, often under challenging circumstances, to make meaningful connections with your students and meet them where they are. You are the bedrock of public education in Oklahoma. You are heroes. All Oklahomans owe you a debt of gratitude, and so much more.

As I embark on my next chapter, please know that I remain committed to doing my part to ensure Oklahoma's brightest days lie ahead. And I will always champion you and your work. God bless you all!

With respect and gratitude, thank you board members for your public service. I wish you all the very best.”

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the November 17, regular State Board of Education meeting –Approved

Board member Hernandez moved to approve the November 17, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Board member Bobek seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes, Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Adams and Graison Yellowfish, Sovereign Community School, signed up to address Agenda item #7(c)-Sovereign Community School; and Ashley Daly, parent, Tulsa Public School signed up to address concerns with new elected State Superintendent's leadership and public representation.

First-Year Superintendents

First-year superintendents attending the meeting included Matt Goucher, El Reno Public Schools; Melvin Perry, Crutchco Public Schools; Johnathan Booth, Tannehill Public Schools; Rennie Nickell, Olive Public Schools; Taylor Stanton, Harding Fine Arts Academy; and Alison Black, Sovereign Community School.

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**
Preston Public Schools, Okmulgee County
- (b) Request approval on exceptions to State Board of Education Teacher certification regulations to permit issuance of emergency (provisional) certificates – **70 O.S. § 6-187**
- (c) Request approval on exception to alternative certification requirements – **70 O. S. § 122.3**
- (d) Request approval for **Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School (CROKC)** to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program – **70 O.S. § 13-101.2**
- (e) Request approval for **Positive Tomorrows, Inc.** to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program – **70 O.S. § 13-101.2**

Board member Monies moved to approve Consent Docket, agenda item #6. (a)-(e). Board member Williams Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

Superintendent Hofmeister recognized Board member Bobek's family members attending the meeting, wife Tony and daughter Jordan.

LEGAL SERVICES

Update, discussion, and possible action regarding Western Heights Independent School District, including the terms and conditions of State Intervention, as determined on July 12, 2021 – Approved

Mr. Clark reviewed the April 2021 action of the SBE placing Western Heights Independent School District on accredited with probation and given a 90-day corrective action; suspended/revoked certificates of former Superintendent Mannix Barnes, SDE Monty Guthrie placed as interim superintendent; an intervention plan adopted July 2021; August 2021 received Writ of Mandamus from Oklahoma County District Court Judge the

Honorable Judge Timmons, removal of Mannix Barnes and most recently school board Attorney; hired Brayden Savage as interim superintendent; Governor appoints new board member after three members abrupt resignations.

Mr. Clark and board members congratulated Superintendent Brayden Savage, thanked SDE team members Monty Guthrie and Ryan Pieper for their dedication to the kids in the Western Heights community; compliments and appreciation to SBE member Trent Smith assisting Governor with candidate interviews and appointment process; and phenomenal litigation job by the SDE legal team.

Mr. Clark recommended to lift the Western Heights intervention according to agenda language. The Western Heights new legal counsel, who was retained Monday night December 12, requested lifting the intervention. Travis Jett, General Council, State Board of Education, concurred and advised that the agenda language is focused just on intervention and not the accreditation status which will be determined later.

Brayden Savage, Interim Superintendent, Western Heights Public Schools, said a lot of work needs to be done in the district but looks forward to making positive changes in Western Heights. New member, Mr. Johnson, was unable to attend but would attend a future meeting. Updates will be provided as they are now a part of her calendar for life! She appreciates all the SDE/SBE support and trusting the district to move forward.

Board member Smith moved to approve lifting the sanctions and new council leadership to be able to make the best decisions. Board member Monies seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes, Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

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

Brad Clark, General Counsel, State Department of Education, said on agenda item 7. (c). there were no additional complaints and no additional information from school districts about complaints being field.

Issue Notice of Proposed Termination on the State Board of Education's sponsorship of Sovereign Community School - Tabled

Ms. Clark updated, reviewed and board members discussed and asked questions regarding the 2019 Sovereign Community School state sponsored charter school timeline, early budget and enrollment warning signs, school leadership/recruitment; SBE meeting notifications/appearances; unlawful proposed merger; board and administrator instability, inexperienced/resignations, new hired administrator; academics failure, SBE accreditation status probation; steps to begin sponsorship termination proceedings per required Charter School Act statute 3-137; and presented reasons to terminate due to fiscal management standards, good cause violations of law defined in sponsorship contract; test scores, non-compliances of state/federal law, Oklahoma Constitution; indebtedness, finance, fiscal audits; and dissolution of a Charter School.

Mr. Clark recommended termination at the end the 2022-2023 school year, June 30, 2023, to begin March 23, 2023, and ending of the 90-day period for due process and appeal.

Board members asked questions and discussed the status Sovereign Community School with Kendra Wilson-Clements, School Board President, and Allison Black, newly hired School Leader that included professional backgrounds; Sovereign Community School affiliations, 2022 board appointment, inadequate school system setup, leadership, operations, internal controls, policies/procedures, inexperienced staff; new school leader credentials, academic turnaround, finance, 90-day recovery opportunity, academic accountability; financial contributions/stability, and tribal participation; require corrective action, monthly updates and progress reports through the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Jett said questions were moving toward discussions and advised to take appropriate motions to continue.

Board member Williams Bradley moved for 90-day notification period and provide Sovereign the opportunity to have a hearing in March to showcase, what she hoped to be vast improvement to produce a high-quality learning environment for the students. The work they are doing, she believed, is important but also believes the board should not compromise quality to continue to go down the path it has been going down.

Board member Superintendent Hofmeister seconded the motion.

Mr. Jett advised for clarity Board member Williams Bradley's motion is for the board to vote on whether to issue the Notice of Termination. The school would have 90 days to request an informal hearing on the termination decision, then come back to the board, at which time representatives from the department and Sovereign would present. The Notice of Termination will be issued today if the motion is approved.

Board member Hernandez called for Point of Order if the Notice of Termination vote failed the school will have corrective action opportunity.

The motion failed with the following votes: Mr. Smith, nay, Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Ms. Hernandez, nay; Ms. Lepak, nay; Mr. Bobek, nay; Ms. Monies, nay; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

(Superintendent Hofmeister called for a break at 2:49 p.m. and returned at 3:02 p.m.)

Further discussion concluded with clarification of the "Notice of Termination" will be the 90-day period. Mr. Jett advised if agenda item 7(c) is tabled with a majority vote, any future board requirements for the school could appear on the January 26 agenda.

Board member Hernandez moved to table agenda item 7(c) to the January 26, 2023, State Board meeting. Board member Bobek seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Smith, yes, Ms. Williams Bradley, nay; Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Monies, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, nay.

**Executive Session pursuant to 25 O. S. § 307 (B) (4)
to discuss pending litigation, Western Heights Independent School District
#I-1, et al., v. Oklahoma State Department of Education, Joy Hofmeister, State
Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oklahoma State Board of Education, in the
District Court of Oklahoma County, CV-2021-945**

**Executive Session pursuant to 25 O. S. § 307 (B) (4)
to discuss pending litigation, Midwest City-Del City Independent School District
#52, et al., and Western Heights Independent School District #I-1 v. Oklahoma
State Department of Education, Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public
Instruction; and Oklahoma State Board of Education, in the District Court of
Oklahoma County, CV-2016-1965, Oklahoma Supreme Court, Case No. 117,081,
2020 OK 56.**

Mr. Jett advised an Executive Session for agenda items 8 (a) and (b) was not required.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Smith moved to adjourn.

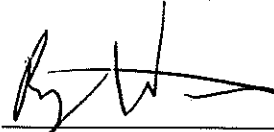
Board member Smith thanked Superintendent Hofmeister for all she has done serving the state of Oklahoma. He said he enjoyed serving with her, learned a lot and enjoyed their battles. Best wishes and good luck in her next phase and enjoyment.

Board member Williams Bradley thanked Superintendent Hofmeister for her unwavering commitment to put students first, and in her role as State Superintendent, in the most challenging of times, she saw her true integrity, heart, passion, and her 'why' evident every time she heard her speak. She was grateful for the impact on all our kids statewide, in her life, and watching her lead as a young woman leader.

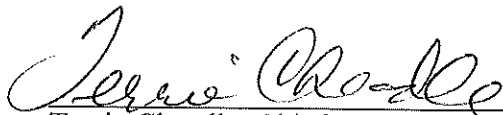
Superintendent Hofmeister said she was appreciative and grateful for each member. Serving has been a lot of fun and such important work. She was grateful to walk alongside all, as we served, hashed out and came away unified in the mission and aim to serve kids in Oklahoma; and seeing they have the best education we can give them. Thank you very much!

Board member William Bradley seconded the motion. There motion carried by unanimous vote to adjourn at 4:21 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 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