

**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 21, 2023**

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 1:06 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 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 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023.

The following were present:

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

Ms. Cara Nicklas, General Counsel to the State Board of Education

Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board

Mr. Donald Burdick, Tulsa

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

Mrs. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon

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 1:06 p.m. Ms. Terrie 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**

Superintendent Walters welcomed Cara Nicklas, General Counsel to the State Board of Education and updated on School Choice Tax Credit Program and applicants; Tutoring Program launch, and Tulsa student enrollment; Rules addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), religious freedom and teacher code of conduct.

**BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Minutes of the November 30, 2023, regular  
State Board of Education meeting - Approved**

Board member Quebedeaux moved to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2023, regular State Board of Education meeting. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Individuals signed up to address agenda item #5 included Peggy Howe, Sandra valentine, Lori Tuggle, Bryan Morris, LeeAnne Jimenez, Ashley Dailey, and Ryan Daily.

Individuals signed up to address items not on the agenda included Kahrer Green, Mike Howe and Sean Cummings.

**CONSENT DOCKET - Approved**

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2023-2024 school year and other requests:

- (a) **Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs –  
70 O.S. § 1210.568**

**3 Years**  
Erick Public Schools, Beckman County  
Nashoba Public Schools, Pushmataha County

- (b) Request approval to add the *Success with PAS Mathematics*, textbook to

the approved book list selected by the State Textbook Committee – **70 O.S. § 16-102**

- (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**
- (d) Request approval of private school accreditation application for **Shiloh Christian School**

Board member Quebedeaux moved to pull Consent Docket item 6.(b) for a separate vote.

Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel, advised to approve the consent docket other than Consent Docket item 6.(e).

Board member Quebedeaux withdrew the motion pull Consent Docket item 6.(b) for a separate vote and moved to approve Consent Docket waiver requests except for item 6.(b). Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Wesson, a member of the State Textbook Committee, said the committee approve adding *Success with PAS Mathematics* to the textbook list because the lessons did not build foundations from one to another, contained only 100 days of instruction leaving 80 days of instruction uncovered, and teachers would need to research supplemental curriculum. Considering numerous teachers are emergency certified the committee felt they would not be able to effectively teach with this curriculum if they were not experienced in this area. School districts may use the textbook and currently several are benefitting from it, however state funds cannot be used to cover the cost.

Board member discussed and asked questions regarding role of the State Textbook Committee and textbook approvals, denied textbooks petition option and State Board of Education reconsideration

Board member Quebedeaux moved not to approve Consent Docket item 6.(b) waiver request. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

## **ACCREDITATION STANDARDS**

### **Presentation from Tulsa Public School District, discussion, and possible action on the Tulsa Public School District accreditation status for the 2022-2023 school year**

Dr. Ebony Johnson, Superintendent, Tulsa Public School District (TPS) announced exciting news from Gabby Ross an Edison High School senior who was recently accepted to Dartmouth University. Dr. Johnsons said we were excited about our young people experiencing great learning ad fun at the winter tutoring program.

Dr. Johnson and team members Jorge Robles-Chief of Operations and Dr. Erin Armstrong, Chief Learning Officer presented the 2023-24 Improvement Plan specific to

the November 30, 2023, OSDE improvement goals with three objectives, OSDE meeting timelines/ December 13 request and multi-level responses.

Board members asked questions and discussed continuous work with OSDE school improvement teams; performance measures to increase score percentages on basic or above on May assessments; TPS Board of Education strategic plan updates, goal alignment and progress; science or reading professional development trainings and resources; MRI designed and re-designated school sites; academic goal status/progress; tiered literacy improvement system, implementation, assessments and grade level standards; progress financial transparency plan clarity, internal controls/implementation, and OSDE finance team collaboration; student challenges and successes using AMIRA platform tool; and TPSD teacher retirement system pending litigation.

Dr. Johnson said after the holiday break staff members will deploy to MRI sites for third through eighth grade students to have certified educators in the classrooms and hiring additional substitute teachers; make changes to ensure students get materials needed to prepare for the April Oklahoma State Testing; build cabinet level positions, analyze and strengthen accreditation processes, and propose TPS Board to align district goals directly to the expectation outlined by the state.

Superintendent Walters thanked Dr. Johnson and TPS team for their patience providing clarity to SBE specific questions, processes and procedures updates and a fuller picture of student growth.

(Superintendent Walter called for a 10-minute recess at 3:23 a.m. and returned at 3:34 p.m.)

## **LEGAL SERVICES**

### **2023-24 school year request to be in session and offer instruction for a less than the requirements -**

Mr. Cleveland advised no action will be required on Agenda item 8.(a) due to additional paperwork review.

### **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**

Mr. Cleveland, General Counsel, State Department of Education (OSDE), advised there were no new House Bill 1775 issues to report on Agenda item 8.(b).

## **Permanent Rule Adoption**

Mr. Cleveland advised no action on Agenda item 8 (c) and updated on the rule statute public comments and to follow-up in January confirming the Oklahoma Regents provision on Subsection (g) (3) (i) -

- (1) Title 210. Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Chapter 35. Standards for Accreditation of Elementary, Middle Level, Secondary and Career and Technology Schools  
Subchapter 9. Additional Standards for Secondary Schools

Part 7. Standard IV: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and  
Climate  
**210:35-9-31 Program of studies and graduation requirements  
[AMENDED]**

Mr. Cleveland advised no action on Agenda item 8 (d) and updated on the statutory basis of the rule public comment and reference clarity of Subsection D and B. and to follow-up in January -

- (1) Title 210. Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Chapter 10. School Administration and Instructional Services  
Subchapter 1. General Provisions  
**210:10-1-24 Student records [NEW]**

Ms. Nicklas advised further review was needed and preferred moving Agenda item 8 (d) to the January meeting.

**Expansion of The Academy of Seminole to a new site in Okmulgee - Approved**

Mr. Cleveland advised the SBE was the sponsor of the Academy of Seminole charter school. The Academy of Seminole has applied to open a new charter school site in Okmulgee.

Wren Hawthorne, Superintendent, Academy of Seminole provided the Academy of Seminole's history, vision and attributes and presented the new site application to authorize serving grades PreK-8 leadership students. Paul Campbell, Board Chairman, Matthew Yates, parent and Professor/Enrollment Counselor.

Board members discussed and asked questions relating to the new site expansion and five-year recommendation, shared financial and staff resources, community support and collaboration, governing body, goals, and measurement guidelines; school leadership, enrollment projections, timeline and Charter School law requirements, finance projection and support; and building and equipment contracts/gifts.

Board member Quebedeaux moved to approve the expansion request. Board of the Academy of Seminole new site in Okmulgee. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**Sovereign Community Charter School exit audit  
conducted by Bledsoe, Hewett & Gullekson**

Mr. Cleveland advised the State Board of Education will be presented the closing/exit audit report due to the school closure and school board is no longer in existence. Board members are required to sign an acknowledgement form confirming attendance at the meeting and presented the audit.

Christopher Gullekson presented the Independent Auditor's Report summary that included auditing standards, procedures and findings, school compliance and internal

controls, accounting policies, financial reporting and statements, closure liabilities, deficiencies, and management noncompliance.

**Resolve into Executive Session  
pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (4) (7) and (8) for the purpose of  
discussing possible action on the Hearing Officer's proposed findings of fact,  
conclusions of law and orders on the teacher certificates and certificate  
numbers of 1) Heather Bycroft; 2) Heather Porter; 3) Joe Shaw;  
4) Lester Young; and 5) Samuel Snyder – 70 O.S. §3-104; OAC 210-1-5-6**


Mr. Cleveland Ms. Cara Nicklas, General Counsel, State Board of Education advised Executive Session not needed on Agenda item 8(g).

Board member Burdick moved to accept the Hearing Officer recommendations. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Board member Burdick moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:19 p.m. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

January 25, 2024, 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.

  
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Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

  
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Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board