

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

**February 5, 2024**

The State Board of Education met in a special session at 4:01 p.m. on Monday February 5, 2024, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 2, 2024.

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, Chairman of the Board

Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon

Mr. Donald Burdick, Tulsa

Mrs. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

State Superintendent Ryan Walters called the State Board of Education special meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

## **STATE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **Information from the State Superintendent**

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.

## **ACCREDITATION STANDARDS**

### **Private School accreditation application for Miss Helen's Private School, Tulsa - Approved**

### **Private School accreditation application for Prosper Academy, Shawnee - Approved**

Ryan Pieper, Program Director, presented recommendation requests for Prosper Academy and Miss Helen's Private School private school accreditation and application, onsite visit, and facility review.

Miss Helene's private school was established in Tulsa by Helen Wingo and in operation since 1954, 69 years; Family members operate the school, make up the school board and oversee financial and operation aspects; own all school facilities, service 140 students grade K-5, spacious classrooms exceptional, nice furnishings/equipment and playground area; safety guidelines in place, curriculum aligned with State Standards; required policies available/reviewed; no participation in transportation or child nutrition services; high level of parent participation and community support. Accreditation recommends private school approval.

Prosper Academy serves students pre-k through 3-year-olds with the expectation to add third and fourth grade next year. The academy provided acceptable school calendar and class schedule, school is housed in a leased agreement, newer constructed section of First Heritage Church, classrooms are spacious, nice furnishings/equipment and playground area; school curriculum aligned with State Standards; required policies available/reviewed; scholarship funds available to assist low socio-economic families; professional services oversee finances and regular audits reviewed; no participation in transportation or child nutrition services; high level of parent participation and community support. Accreditation recommends private school approval.

Paige Dan, Assistant Director, Prosper Academy, said the academy is a newer school under the direction of Kelsey Brooks that offers a Finnish Education Philosophy. The school is play based or cushion based first and teaches biblical principles and curriculum covers a wide variety of learning areas to acquire many different skills and abilities. Certified educator staff curate very specific types of play throughout the school, indoors and outdoors, from gardening to math manipulatives and everything in between.

Students at the end of the day are exhausted not realizing they studied all day, learned together and independently. Private School Accreditation was in the Academy's 5-year plan to get more families to participate, and when legislation passed, started the process with the board, received Tax Commission approval, and can now offer early enrollment or priority enrollment to more families.

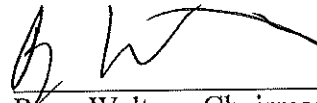
Board members discussed and asked questions regarding invitation to visit academy; new education opportunities, best practices concepts and reporting, and share with public, private and partnerships.

Board member Burdick moved to approve the Miss Helen's Private School and Proposer Academy accreditation application. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Mr. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

### ADJOURNMENT

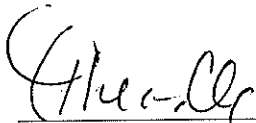
Board member Archer moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:21 p.m. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Mr. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday February 22, 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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Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board



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Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary