

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the

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

July 27, 2023

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

The following were present:

Mr. Andy N. Ferguson, Deputy General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Dept. of
Education(OSDE)

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. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

Mrs. Suzanne Reynolds, Oklahoma City

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. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals signed up to address agenda item #7 included Rob Morrison, Maria Seidler, Jackie Shook, Ashley Daly, Sandra Valentine, Ted Lee, Don Spencer, Anderson Bell; Agenda item #4 included LeeAnn Jimenez, Mike Howe, Tori Caswell, and Elizabeth Lauren.

Individuals signed up to address items not on the agenda included Bob Linn, Aiya Ira Kelley, Tamara Bryan, Leonard Scott, Connie Thayer, Annette Basey, Ed Moore, Jackie Shook, Elicia Klieakr, Julie Collier, Telannia Norfer, Lane Brown, Alana Murphy, Deborah Campbell, Jackson Anderson, Angelia Wanlu, Andrea Peters, Nadine Smith, Ashley Hall, Lori Tuggle, Zaen Kunwae, Gary Holt, Mike Jones, Ted Lee Erika Watkins, Aleeha Bush and Misti Cilley.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Information from the State Superintendent

Superintendent Walters introduced Ms. Traci Manuel, Booker T. Washington High School-Tulsa Public Schools, 2023 Teacher of the Year (TOY) and said she will begin traveling the state and start publicizing her mission advocating for teachers and kids. We are happy and excited about the future and what she brings to our education system. Superintendent Walters provided updates on school visits and superintendent meetings; board room capacity issues to meetings; move Tulsa Public School District accreditation status recommendation/vote to the August meeting to further discuss and address severe issues; moment of silence state law requirements, annual compliance verification, enforcement, and legislation; student transfer parent complaints, and SDE enforcement-special education students.

Amend the special report of school districts in Oklahoma regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) spending (previously approved April 27, 2023), to further clarify which types of programs should be included within the final report based on preliminary responses received - Approved

Superintendent Walters said the April 27, 2023, approved Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) spending special report needed amending for clarification, based on preliminary program report responses received, as to which types of programs should be included within the final program report.

Andy N. Ferguson, Deputy General Counsel, advised submitted districts preliminary program reports were complying with the spirit of the order after not finding a DEI search term. The amendment is to bring in line with the board's intent and concepts, and not for using DEI keywords for compliance. The September 1 deadline and original timelines have not been modified and remain in effect.

Board members asked questions and discussed timeline modifications, program request and clarification, September deadline and resubmission deadline.

Board member Burdick moved to approve the amended special report program of school districts. 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.

First-Year Superintendents

First-year superintendents attending the meeting included Shane Hood, Aline-Cleo Public Schools; Erron Noble, Frontier Public Schools; Adam Garvin, Pauls Valley Public Schools; Sally Garfield, Pleasant Grove Public Schools and Yeager Thomas, Watts Public Schools.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE

**Minutes of the June 22, 2023, regular
State Board of Education meeting - Approved**

Board member Quebedeaux moved to approve minutes of the June 22, 2023, regular State Board of Education meeting. 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.

CONSENT DOCKET - Approved

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year and other requests:

- (a) **Abbreviated School Day – OAC 210:35-29-2 and 210:35-3-46**
Watonga Public Schools, Blaine County
LeFlore Public Schools, LeFlore County
Perry Public Schools, Noble County

Putnam City Public Schools, Oklahoma County
(**Putnam City Academy**)
Putnam City Public Schools, Oklahoma County
(**SOAR**)

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

Mannsville Public Schools, Johnston County
Tishomingo Public Schools, Johnston County
Heavener Public Schools, Le Flore County
Frontier Public Schools, Noble County
Shidler Public Schools, Osage County
Oak Grove Public Schools, Payne County
Grove Public Schools, Pottawatomie County
Leedey Public Schools, Rogers Mills County
Central High Schools, Stephens County
Tipton Public Schools, Tillman County

3 Years

Cherokee Public School, Alfalfa County
Wilson Public Schools, Carter County
Zaneis Public Schools, Carter County
Felt Public Schools, Cimarron County
Big Pasture Public Schools, Cotton County
Lone Star Public Schools, Creek County
Pretty Water Public Schools, Creek County
Deer-Creek Lamont Public Schools, Grant County
Buffalo Public Schools, Harper County
Coleman Public Schools, Johnston County
Peckham Public Schools, Kay County
Hennessey Public Schools, Kingfisher County
Le Flore Public Schools, Le Flore County
Shady Point Public Schools, Le Flore County
Morrison Public Schools, Noble County
Perry Public Schools, Noble County
Osage Hills Public Schools, Osage County
McLoud Public Schools, Pottawatomie County
Tuskahoma Public Schools, Pushmataha County
Hardesty Public Schools, Texas County

(c) **Library Media Services – OAC 210:35-5-71 and 210:35-9-71**

Anadarko Public Schools, Caddo County
Hinton Public Schools, Caddo County
Fox Public Schools, Carter County
Noble Public Schools, Cleveland County
Geronimo Public Schools, Comanche County
Tishomingo Public Schools, Johnston County
Bokoshe Public Schools, LeFlore County
McCord Public Schools, Osage County
Central High Public Schools, Stephens County

3 Years

Felt Public Schools, Cimarron County
Big Pasture Public Schools, Cotton County
Bluejacket Public Schools, Craig County
Deer Creek-Lamont Public Schools, Grant County
Blair Public Schools, Jackson County
Hennessey Public Schools, Kingfisher County
LeFlore Public Schools, LeFlore County
Shady Point Public Schools, LeFlore County
Checotah Public Schools, McIntosh County
Morrison Public Schools, Noble County
Crutcho Public Schools, Oklahoma County
Putnam City Public Schools, Oklahoma County
Glencoe Public Schools, Payne County
Claremore Public Schools, Rogers County
Hardesty Public Schools, Texas County
Yarborough Public Schools, Texas County

- (d) **Library Media Specialist Certificate Exemption - 70 O.S. § 3-126**
Noble Public Schools, Cleveland County
Guthrie Public Schools, Logan County
- (e) Request approval on exceptions to State Board of Education Teacher certification regulations to permit issuance of emergency (provisional) certificates – **70 O.S. § 6-187**
- (f) Request approval for **Colere Academy** to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program – **70 O.S. § 13-101.2**
- (g) Request approval for **Glory Christian School OK, Inc.** to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program – **70 O.S. § 13-101.2**
- (h) Request approval for **Victory Family School (VFS)** to participate in The Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program – **70 O.S. § 13-101.2**

Board member Burdick moved to approve Consent Docket item 6.(a) through (h). 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.

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS DIVISION

**School district and school site accreditation recommendations
for the 2022-2023 school year –
70 O.S. §§ 3-104, 3-104.3, 3-104.4; OAC 210:35-3-201**

Ryan Pieper, Program Director, Accreditation Standards Divisions, acknowledged first-year superintendents were present fulfilling State Board meeting attendance

requirements, and said he was blessed to lead the accreditation team, acknowledged staff members and regional accreditation officers (RAO) who take pride in serving school districts.

Mr. Pieper presented the 2022-23 school district and school site accreditation recommendations and reviewed state legislation and school law, requirements for accreditation/tiers, compliance/noncompliance pursuant 70 O.S. §§ 3-104.3 and OAC 210:35-3-201 (House Bill 1017 and 1990); communicating accrediting standards, guidance, audit, and support to local school boards; state board of education authority and requirements. A spectrum of accreditation recommendations reviewed include accredited with no deficiencies, accredited with one deficiency, accredited with deficiencies, accredited with warning, accredited with probation and nonaccredited. Accrediting recommendations include public schools, nonpublic schools, charter schools and Career Tech.

Board members asked questions and discussed the 376 school districts with no deficiencies, 143 with one deficiency and 65 with deficiencies; 1650 school sites with no deficiencies, 156 with one deficiency and 53 with deficiencies; 6 recommendation of probation, 27 accreditation with warning and 2 accreditation not recommended include Sovereign Community School and Infinity Generations Preparatory School; funding allocation changes, effects of various statuses and changes, non-accrediting issues/decisions rerouted through personnel and/or Awareness investigation. Noted Mosely and Hardisty Public Schools accredited with warning and no longer accredited with probation.

**Accreditation status of Tulsa Public School District and
Infinity Generation Preparatory School, private school
accredited by the State Board of Education -
moved to August 24, 2023, SBE regular meeting - Approved**

Superintendent Walters reiterated delaying Tulsa Public Schools accreditation status vote regarding concerns and severity of issues, impact on students and staff, and require more fact-finding to ensure the board has the best information to make best decision.

Board member Burdick moved to remove Tulsa Public Schools accreditation recommendation status until the August 24, 2023, regular meeting. 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.

Mr. Pieper provided updates on July 2022 State Board approved closure of Sovereign Community School, assets removed and students transferred; Infinity Generations Preparatory School, an OSDE accredited private school August 2021, July 28, 2022 State Board of Education accredited with warning, 2023 accreditation not recommended for state and federal reporting noncompliance, no notice of school closure mid-year and suspended serving enrolled students January 2023, no communication with Accreditation Division mid-year, no availability for accreditation audits February 2023 until June 2023 and no longer eligible for OSDE accreditation;

Gina Darby, Director of Operations, Infinity Generation Preparatory School and Jim Johnson, Attorney for Infinity Generation Preparatory School, participated via phone, identified concerns in a letter submitted July 26, 2023, regarding OSDE agency improprieties and efforts to revoke or cancel accreditation from September 16, 2022, to July 12, 2023. Ms. Darby said she closed the school in December 2022 not January 2023. Mr. Johnson requested written notice of OSDE/SBE authority and litigation, administrative hearings, and State Board meeting notice.

Mr. Ferguson advised he had no conversations with Ms. Darby nor her legal counsel. The accreditation status matter was discussed internally.

Mr. Pieper said once an accreditation audit takes place schools are notified of accreditation status and recommendation. Infinity Generation Preparatory Academy was e-mailed an accreditation status notification approximately two weeks prior to this meeting.

Board member Burdick moved to delay the accreditation status vote for Infinity Generation Preparatory School to the August 24, 2023, regular 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.

Board member Burdick moved to approve the remaining 2022-2023 accreditation recommendations. 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.

TEACH and LEARN, SPECIAL EDUCATION-FEDERAL

Proposed Oklahoma Alternate Standards for social studies, career readiness and life skills aligned to the new alternate diploma pursuant House Bill 1041 amending 70 O.S. § 11-103.6 – Approved

Todd Loftin, Chief Academic Officer and Sherri Coats, Program Director, Special Education Services, presented two recommendation requests for new alternate academic achievement standards, aligned to Oklahoma Alternate Academic Standards, to earn credits for an Alternate Diploma; and 'other course substitutions' requirement, amended current state statute by House Bill 1041, to allow a state-defined alternate diploma approved by the 2023 Legislature. Course substitutions include social studies alternate (U.S. Government, Oklahoma history, geography), Life Skills and Career Readiness. The alternate diploma for students with most significant cognitive disabilities shall be implemented in the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Loftin and Ms. Coats reviewed the Office of Special Education proposed standards recommendations and Board members asked questions and discussed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) basis for an alternate diploma, Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) public-school obligations and exceptions, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) alternate diploma requirements, participation requirement, allowance and expanded graduation opportunities; FAPE/IDEA high school and alternant diploma differences; stakeholder input/review, public comment and recommendation support letters.

Board member Burdick moved to approve the proposed Oklahoma alternate standards recommendations. 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.

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

Andy N. Ferguson, Deputy General Counsel, State Department of Education (OSDE), advised there were no new House Bill 1775 issues to report on agenda item 9.(a).

Requests to be in session and offer instruction for a less than the requirements for the 2023-24 school year – 70 O.S. § 1-109 Roff Public Schools, Pontotoc County and Stonewall Public Schools, Pontotoc County– Approved

Mr. Ferguson advised two school district requests were received and board members requested to pull these items from the Consent Docket for further discussion.

Scott Morgan, Superintendent, Roth Public Schools, requested 159-day calendar and Greg Lovelis, Superintendent, Stonewall Public School, requested 156-day calendar and board members asked questions and discussed two (2) statutory waivers requesting school calendar flexibility meeting the eligibility requirements for the State Board of Education (SBE) to authorize district(s) to implement a FY23 school year calendar for one or more sites that includes fewer than one hundred sixty-five (165) days when school is in session and classroom instruction offered.

Board member Burdick moved to approve the waiver requests for Roth and Stonewall Public Schools. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, nay; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Appeal of a transfer application upon denial Webber Falls Public Schools

Mr. Ferguson advised convening into Executive Session for agenda item 9(c) if either party wished to address the disciplinary matters in the transfer application.

Resolve into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B) (8) for the purpose of engaging in deliberations on appeal of an application for student transfer listed on Agenda Item 9(d) -

Board member Wesson moved to convene into Executive Session at 1:13 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.

Andy N. Ferguson, Deputy General Counsel, and Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary, remained in the Executive Session; Chris Whelan, Webber Falls Superintendent, Nikki McCraw-parent of student and Deidra Thompson, parent advocate did not remain in the session, and Ryan Pieper was requested board members but did not remain in the session.

Return to Open Session

Board member Burdick moved to return to Open Session at 1:46 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.

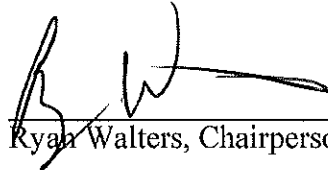
Mr. Ferguson said no votes were taken and no decisions were made on the matters discussed in the Executive Session.

Board member Wesson moved to reject the appeal. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Burdick moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 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.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, August 24, 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