

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the

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

September 28, 2023

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 9:36 a.m. on Thursday, September 28, 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 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

The following were present:

Mr. Bryan Cleveland, 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

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 9:36 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.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Information from the State Superintendent

Superintendent Walters thanked board members and gave comments and updated on the Chinese Party influence in public schools and Chinese Government funding investigations; Congressional testimony on Oklahoma’s national interest; Chinese Communist Party contracts within Tulsa Public School District, lack of transparency and parent notification; recommendations to Congress no indoctrination and undermining by foreign powers, make foreign power funding unlawful and foreign data sharing illegal; State Board of Education commended for swift action and request Oklahoma legislature act upon recommendations.

Updates included the “Back to Basics” academic plan focusing on reading math, science, and civics; \$8 million initiatives/programs to improve student outcomes, FY25 budget focus includes tutoring plan, accreditation process changes; and judicial decisions requiring birth certificate gender changes.

FY 2024-25 Education Budget - Approved

FY2025 Education Budget overview included the State Department of Education Vision to empower parents, kids, and all Oklahomans with the best education system for the future, and Goals to eliminate indoctrination and re-focusing on reading, science, math, and civics; recruit and reward teachers, increase school choice options, create education system transparency and efficiency; and recommend a \$3,922,000,000 budget request.

Board members reviewed the FY25 and FY24 appropriations comparisons, funding formula levels, budget request change summary, increase and decreases, new Back to Basics plan investments and free management principles; questions and discussions included pilot program, trainings, teacher compensations, bonus, credentialing performance improvement grants and request legislative funding for program expansion.

Board member Reynolds moved to approve the FY2025 budget request. 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.

Proposed 2024 School Capital Improvements Budget - Approved

Mr. Cleveland advised a School Capital Improvement report for school districts is mandated by legislation but in past years none were filed by the State Board of Education. No districts are requesting funds at this time, and instead of ignoring the report it is more appropriate to present and file a letter of explanation as to why this is not done.

Board members asked questions and discussed if the number is zero all districts are exempt from submitting report, and formal response compliance to state statute.

Board member Burdick moved to approve the request to submit the School Capital Improvement Budget report. 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; Ms. Reynolds, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the August 25, 2023, regular State Board of Education meeting - Approved

Board member Reynolds moved to approve minutes of the August 25, 2023, regular State Board of Education 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; Ms. Reynolds, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Annual Report on the 2023 Oklahoma Advisory Council Indian Education

Mr. Cleveland advised the State Board of Education is provided an annual report of the Oklahoma Advisory Council Indian Education to inform on the council actions and no action is required.

Superintendent Walters said questions and comments can be submitted to Jackie White, Project Manager, Indian Education, and on the Indian Education curriculum from the tribes that will be beneficial to Oklahoma history classes,

PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals signed up to address agenda item #5(a) included Margaret Bernard, Michael Jones, and Lee Ann Jimenez.

Individuals signed up to address items **not** on the agenda included Mike Howe, Lori Tuggle, Eddie Conger, Garrett Coulson, Bob Linn, Scott George, Reed Downey, Elizabeth Raymond, Carl Stevens, and Danni Dunn-Legg.

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) **Abbreviated School Day – OAC 210:35-29-2 and 210:35-3-46**
Harrah Public Schools, Oklahoma County

3 Years

Lexington Public Schools, Cleveland County
Kinta Public Schools, Haskell County
Weleetka Public Schools, Okfuskee County
Okmulgee Public Schools, Okmulgee, County
Antlers Public Schools, Pushmataha County

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

Gracemont Public Schools, Caddo County
Temple Public Schools, Cotton County
Mosley Public Schools, Delaware County
Seiling Public Schools, Dewey County
Kremlin-Hillsdale Public Schools, Garfield County
Paoli Public Schools, Garvin County
McCurtain Public Schools, Haskell County
Heavener Public Schools, LeFlore County
Barnsdall Public Schools, Osage County
Porter-Consolidated, Wagoner County

3 Years

Balko Public School, Beaver County
Riverside Public Schools, Canadian County
Cottonwood Public Schools, Coal County
Grand View Public Schools, Cherokee County
Tenkiller Public Schools, Cherokee County
Vici Public Schools, Dewey County
Bridge Creek Public Schools, Grady County
Tonkawa Public Schools, Kay County
Mountain View-Gotebo Public Schools, Kiowa County
Bokoshe Public Schools, LeFlore County
Cameron Public Schools, LeFlore County
Talihina Public Schools, LeFlore County
Ryal Public Schools, McIntosh County
Billings Public Schools, Noble County
Maud Public Schools, Pottawatomie County
Hammon Public Schools, Roger Mills County
Grandview Public Schools, Stephens County
Guymon Public Schools, Texas County
Allen Bowden Public Schools, Tulsa, County

Canute Public Schools, Washita County
Waynoka Public Schools, Woods County
Mooreland Public Schools, Woodward County
Woodward Public Schools, Woodward County

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

Cave Springs Public Schools, Adair County
Bennington Public Schools, Bryan County
Norman Public Schools, Cleveland County
(Dimensions Academy)
Norman Public Schools, Cleveland County
(Various)
Oilton Public Schools, Creek County
Fletcher Public Schools, Comanche County
Oaks Mission Public Schools, Delaware County
Tuttle Public Schools, Grady County
McCurtain Public Schools, Haskell County
Ponca City Public Schools, Kay County
Dover Public Schools, Kingfisher County
Agra Public Schools, Lincoln County
Meeker Public Schools, Lincoln County
Crescent Public Schools, Logan County
Hilldale Public Schools, Muskogee County
Harrah Public Schools, Oklahoma County
Morris Public Schools, Okmulgee County
Osage Hills Public Schools, Osage County
Canadian Public Schools, Pittsburg County
Tecumseh Public Schools, Pottawatomie County
Brushy Public Schools, Sequoyah County
Vian Public Schools, Sequoyah County
Empire Public Schools, Stephens County
Porter-Consolidated, Wagoner County

3 Years

Sayre Public Schools Beckham County
Healdton Public Schools, Carter County
Shady Grove Public Schools, Cherokee County
Lexington Public Schools, Cleveland County
Cottonwood Public Schools, Coal County
Depew Public Schools, Creek County
Drumright Public Schools, Creek County
Olive Public Schools, Creek County
Pauls Valley Public Schools, Garvin County
Friend Public Schools, Grady County
Hollis Public Schools, Harmon County
Newkirk Public Schools, Kay County
Carney Public Schools, Lincoln County
Prague Public Schools, Lincoln County
Purcell Public Schools, McClain County
Eagletown Public Schools, McCurtain County
Billings Public Schools, Noble County

Frontier Public Schools, Noble County
 Okmulgee Public Schools, Okmulgee County
 Turkey Ford Public Schools, Ottawa County
 Cleveland Public Schools, Pawnee County
 Yale Public Schools, Payne County
 Tannehill Public Schools, Pittsburg County
 Vanoss Public Schools, Pontotoc County
 Maud Public Schools, Pottawatomie County
 Cheyenne Public Schools, Roger Mills County
 Guymon Public Schools, Texas County
 Berryhill Public Schools, Tulsa County
 Collinsville Public Schools, Tulsa County
 Union Public Schools, Tulsa County

- (d) **Library Media Specialist Certificate Exemption - 70 O.S. § 3-126**
 Norman Public Schools, Cleveland County
 Meeker Public Schools, Lincoln County
 Oklahoma City Public Schools, Oklahoma County

3 Years

Mannford Public Schools, Creek County
 Altus Public Schools, Jackson County
 Deer Creek Public Schools, Oklahoma County
 Claremore Public Schools, Rogers County
 Guymon Public Schools, Texas County
 Union Public Schools, Tulsa 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 on flexibility to use textbook funds – **70 O.S. § 16-114a(B)**
 Edmond Public Schools, Oklahoma County
- (g) General Fund for Capital Expenditures - **70 O.S. § 1-117** and OAC 210:25-5-4
Flower Mound Public Schools, Comanche County
- (h) Discussion and possible action on payment of joint federal program claims listed below - **OAC 210:25-3-7(12)**
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Davis Public Schools | AWARE Mental Health Service Program, Project 782 |
| Haworth Public Schools | Project 628 |
| Haworth Public Schools | Project 643 |
| Friend Public Schools | Project 621 |
| Moore Public Schools | Project 621 |
| Moore Public Schools | Project 628 |
| Moore Public Schools | Project 641 |

Board member Quebedeaux moved to approve Consent Docket item 6. (a) through (h). Board member Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynold, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS DIVISION

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

Representatives of Tulsa Public School District (TPS) attending the meeting included Dr. Ebony Johnson-Interim Superintendent, Stacey Wooley-Board President, Dr. Jeanettie Marshall-Board member, Jorge Robles-Chief Finance and Operations Officer, and Paula Shannon-Deputy Superintendent.

Dr. Johnson said she appreciated the opportunity to present before the Board on her ninth day as Interim Superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools and wanted the board to know she will be responsive, results-oriented and is completely and utterly dedicated to the work. She has embraced intensive hard work as a school administrator and as Chief Academic Officer used data to drive instruction and ensured teachers had quality curriculum, materials, and professional learning. Dr Johnson and TPS team thanked State Board members Burdick and Wesson for their engagement and commitment. The TPS team understands it is critically important to use the data to drive the change we want and are resilient to ensure the narrative of TPS is truly realized to move forward, overcome and be great for our schools and community and we will. Dr. Johnson said the TPS team are mindful of the day-to-day challenges schools face to move our students; consistent data will provide the trends that we are moving in the right direction; and said the presentation includes the science of reading, F school corrective action plans, internal controls, and updates regarding progress.

Ms. Wooley said quarterly strategic plan meetings are conducted to review the data on each goal and will determine if we are trending in the right direction. There is accountability and adult behavior changes, transparency and the superintendent evaluations are based on student outcomes. We are going in the right direction.

Board members were provided notebook documents to review how TPS addresses science of reading, provides professional development, data team meetings and expectations, and budgetary internal controls; and discussed and asked questions on the goals, guardrails and strategies of the Pathways to Opportunity 2022-2027 Strategic Plan; preliminary budget preview (2022-23, 2023-24) 2023-24 School Budget and Financing Plan-Executive Summary and update on TPS District team member and student demographics; literacy and science of reading, corrective action plans and new internal controls, timeline projection on goals, test scores and growth, pre-pandemic outcomes and pandemic impact; and highlighted 2023 National Blue Ribbon High School-Booker T. Washington, TPS a charter school authorizer, charter schools (pre-K-12 and college-bound) and magnet schools (EM, MS and Academic); finance support committee, expenditure processes/safeguards; Amira Learning (artificial intelligence program); CSI and MRI school collaborations; thank you to State Board members Burdick and Wesson engagement and commitment.

FINANCE

Provided one-time FY2024 Severance Allowance Payment to former Employees of Terral Public School District, which were not employed or paid severance by the receiving district. Annexations took place in FY2023 – Approved

Renee McWaters, Program Manager, Office of State Aid, said Terral Public Schools annexed to Ryal Public Schools on June 30, 2023, and presented a request to provide severance payments to thirteen (13) employees of the annexed district who applied for employment but denied employment by the receiving district. State law allows the employees to apply to the State Board of Education to use approximately \$230,014 severance payment from the School Consolidation Assistance Fund.

Board member Burdick moved to approve the request to pay Terral Public School employees out of the School Consolidation Assistance Fund. Board member Reynolds 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.

SCHOOL & DISTRICT SUPPORTS

Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI) and More Rigorous Intervention (CSI-MRI) designations for school sites

Superintendent Walters presented failing schools designated as Comprehensive Support & Improvement and More Rigorous Intervention (MRI) designations or CSI-MRI schools (42) earning an F on the Oklahoma School Report Card three consecutive years. The schools continue to fail with rigorous intervention, additional funding, support, and resources. Superintendent Walters and board members reviewed average proficiency rates, district MRI schools, current MRI procedures, support, improvement plans implemented, technical assistance provided; Oklahoma ESSA plan does not address MRI sites; metric needed to ensure schools maintain academic results pursuant 70. O.S. §3-104.4 Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools; board member feedback and recommendations needed to change and develop best practices to improve accreditation standards.

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

Mr. Cleveland, General Counsel, State Department of Education (OSDE), advised there were no new House Bill 1775 issues to report on agenda item 10.(a).

Emergency Rule Adoption – Approved

Mr. Cleveland advised on the request to adopt the following emergency rule:

- (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]

Board member Reynolds moved to approve adoption of the emergency rule. 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.

**Resolve into Executive Session
pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (7) for the
purpose of engaging in deliberations on appeal of an
application for student transfer listed on Agenda Item 10 (c)**

**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 10 (d)**

**Resolve into Executive Session
pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B) (4) (7) and (8) for the
purpose of discussing possible action to issue an emergency order summarily
suspending the teacher certificate and certificate number of Raymond Garner
pending an individual proceeding for revocation or other action
listed on Agenda Item 10(e)**

**Resolve into Executive Session
pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B) (4) (7) and (8) for the
purpose of discussing possible action to issue an emergency order summarily
suspending the teacher certificate and certificate number of Serena Cator
pending an individual proceeding for revocation or other action
listed on Agenda Item 10(f)**

**Resolve into Executive Session
pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (4) to discuss pending litigation,
Mecklenburg et al. v. Independent School District #7, et.al.,
in the Oklahoma Supreme Court, Case No. 121552**

Mr. Cleveland advised convening into Executive Session for agenda items in succession 10(c) through (g).

Board member Burdick moved to convene into Executive Session at 12:45 p.m. Board member Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel, and Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary, remained in the Executive Session. Angela Grunewald, Superintendent, Edmond Public Schools responded to questions and gave the districts decisions. Edmond Public School representatives Cara Jernigan, Debreon Davis and Laura Holmes were not in the session but available.

Return to Open Session

Board member Burdick moved to return to Open Session at 1:23 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; Ms. Reynolds, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

No votes were taken, and no decisions were made on the matters discussed in the Executive Session.

Board member Burdick moved to submit correspondence to Yukon Public Schools District. 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.

Board member Quebedeaux moved to deny the transfer appeal to Edmond Public Schools. Board member Reynolds 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 moved to suspend the teaching certificate and number of **Raymond Garner**. 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.

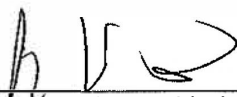
Board member Burdick moved to suspend the teaching certificate and number of **Serena Cator**. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Lepak moved to approve the Crowe & Dunlevy firm to file on behalf of the Board of Education pending litigation. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Reynolds moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:27 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; Ms. Reynolds, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

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