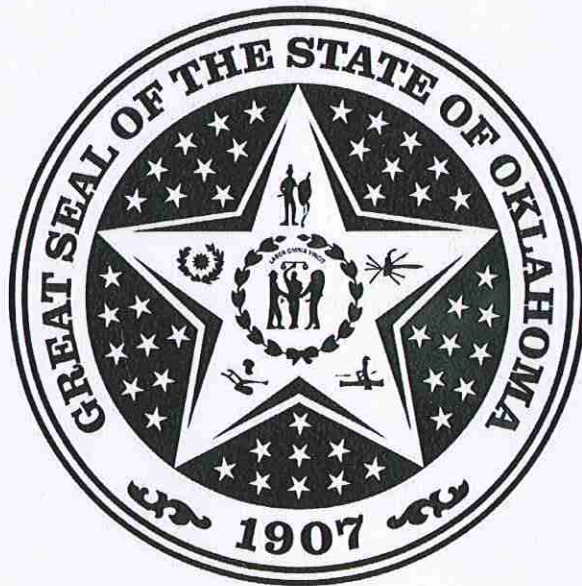


**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the
State Board of Education
June 26, 2025**



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

**Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 26, 2025**

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session at 9:33 a.m., on Thursday, June 26, 2025, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building, located at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 9:15 a.m., on Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

The following were present:

Mrs. Jacki Phelps, Interim General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE)

Mr. Chad Kutmas, General Counsel to the State Board of Education

Ms. Amy London, Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent, Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board

Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon

Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher

Mr. Mike Tinney, Norman

Mr. Chris Van Dehede, Tulsa

Ms. Becky Carson, Edmond

Members of the State Board of Education absent:

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:**

State Superintendent, Ryan Walters, called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., Executive Secretary, Amy London, called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, OKLAHOMA FLAG SALUTE, and PRAYER:**

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.

3. **STATE SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS:**

Superintendent Walters made remarks regarding ongoing Summer School and Teacher Recruitment Programs. He highlighted their success and the progress that has reflected on Oklahoma Education.

Superintendent Walters also commented on litigation surrounding the Oklahoma Social Studies Academic Standards, noting that the court dismissed the matter. Superintendent Walters further commented on the ongoing conflict regarding Israel and Iran. Superintendent Walters has issued guidance to schools on how to talk about the conflict according to the newly passed Oklahoma Social Studies Academic Standards.

Superintendent Walters made remarks regarding his recent visit to the White House to highlight their ongoing Founders' Room project as well his meeting with U.S. Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon.

4. **BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE:**

(a) Discussion and possible action on the AMENDED minutes of February 27, 2025, regular State Board of Education meeting.

Board member Tinney moved to disapprove and subsequently file the AMENDED February 27, 2025, board meeting minutes. Board member Van Dehede seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehede, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

(b) Discussion and possible action on the minutes of the May 21, 2025, regular State Board of Education meeting.

Board Member Deatherage moved to approve the May 21, 2025, board meeting minutes. Board Member Van Dehede seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehede, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

5. **CONSENT DOCKET:**

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2024-2025 school year **-70 O.S. § 3-104; Oklahoma Administrative Code 210:35-1-4:**

(a) Request approval on exceptions to State Board of Education teacher certification regulations to permit of emergency (provisional) certificates - **70 O.S. § 6-187.**

Board member Van Dehende moved to approve the Emergency (provisional) certificates. Board member Archer seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (b) Request approval on flexibility to use textbook funds - 70 O.S. § 16-114a(B).
- 1) Friend Public Schools, Grady County
 - 2) Bartlesville Public Schools, Washington County
 - 3) Olive Public Schools, Creek County

Board member Tinney moved to approve the waiver requests for school districts. Board member Archer seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

6. **ACCREDITATION STANDARDS**

- (a) Request approval of deregulation from OAC 210:35-29-2 for the 2025-2026 school year to have an Abbreviated School Day for Alternative Education:
- 1) Newcastle Public Schools, McClain County
 - 2) Healdton Public Schools, Carter County
 - 3) Piedmont Public Schools, Canadian County
 - 4) Western Heights Public Schools, Oklahoma County
 - 5) Pawnee Public Schools, Pawnee County

Board member Van Dehende moved to table items one (1) through three (3) and approve items four (4) and five (5). Board member Archer seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (b) Request approval for exemption from library media certification requirements pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3-126, OAC 210: 35-5-71, OAC 210: 35-7-61, OAC 210: 35-9-71 for the 2025-2026 school year:
- 1) New Lima Public Schools, Seminole County
 - 2) Mustang Public Schools, Canadian County
 - 3) Arapaho-Butler Public Schools, Custer County
 - 4) Cyril Public Schools, Caddo County
 - 5) Fairview Public Schools, Major County
 - 6) Middleberg Public Schools, Grady County
 - 7) Cleora Public Schools, Delaware County
 - 8) Freedom Public Schools, Woods County
 - 9) Lindsay Public Schools, Garvin County
 - 10) Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Murray County
 - 11) Yukon Public Schools, Canadian County
 - 12) Heavner Public Schools, Leflore County

Board Member Van Dehende moved to table the request to the next regular Board Meeting. Board Member Becky Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, no. **TABLED.**

- (c) Request a statutory waiver concerning Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education pursuant to 70 O.S. § 1210.568 for the 2025-2026 school year:
- 1) Quapaw Public Schools, Ottawa County

- 2) Heavner Public Schools, Leflore County
- 3) Seiling Public Schools, Dewey County
- 4) Friend Public Schools, Grady County
- 5) Gracemont Public Schools, Caddo County
- 6) Jay Public Schools, Delaware County

Board Member Archer motioned to approve the request. Board Member Becky Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (d) Request approval of a statutory waiver of OAC 210:10-1-4b; authorization for districts(s) to implement a school year calendar that includes fewer than 165 days when school is in session and classroom instruction offered:
 - 1) Osage Public Schools, Mayes County
 - 2) Coyle Public Schools, Logan County
 - 3) Stonewall Public Schools, Pontotoc County

Board Member Archer moved to approve the request. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

7. LEGAL SERVICES –State Department of Education

- (a) Request approval of a mandatory annexation; 70 OK Stat § 8-106:
 - 1) Albion Public Schools to Clayton Public Schools, Pushmataha County.

Board Member Archer moved to approve the request of a mandatory annexation on Item 1; 70 OK Stat § 8-106. Board Member Tinney seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

8. LEGAL SERVICES –State Board of Education

- (a) Discussion and possible action to convene into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B)(4), (7) and (8) for the purpose of discussing possible action on the following issues:

Board member Archer moved to convene into Executive Session. Board member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (h) Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session.

Board member Deatherage moved to return to Open Session. Board member Archer seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**
- (b) Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke of 1) **LeAnna Sample**; 2) **Charles Preaus**; 3) **Betty Jo Planta-Lewis**; 4) **Roger Jessie**.

Board member Tinney moved to approve the emergency order summarily suspending teaching certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke, as well as refer to a hearing officer and request a time and date be set for **items 8(b) 1 through 4**. Board Member Archer seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**.

- (c) Consent Order to Accept the Voluntary Surrender of teacher certificates and certificate numbers of **1) Benjamin Grace; 2) Jacqueline Stone; 3) Samuel Melton; 4) Jason Dowdy; 5) Billy Deleplank; 6) Patrick McKay; 7) Monica Martinez**.

Board member Tinney moved to accept the Voluntary Surrender of the teacher certificates and certificate numbers for **item 8(c) 1 through 7**. Board member Archer seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**.

- (d) Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law from Administrative Law Judge Timothy Houchin: **1) Nicholas Plank; 2) Sarah Butterworth; and 3) Kanyen Cole**; along with and OSDE Exceptions to the Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation for: **4) Kelly Bacot; 5) Jaelah Rose**.

Board member Tinney moved to table the Application for Emergency Order to Summarily Suspend Teaching Certification of **Nicholas Plank, Kelly Bacot, and Jaelah Rose**. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **TABLED**.

Board Member Tinney moved to accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law in regard to **Sarah Butterworth**. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, no. **APPROVED**.

Board Member Tinney moved to accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law and to revoke the teaching certificate in regards to **Kanyen Cole**. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**.

- (e) Consideration with possible action/resolution/approval of joint motion for dismissal disregarding Independent School District No. I-2 of Creek County, Oklahoma v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. State Board of Education, Case No. CV-2024-24, pending in Creek County District Court.

Board Member Tinney moved to accept the joint motions to dismiss with prejudice in regard to Independent School District No. I-2 of Creek County, Oklahoma v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. State Board of Education, Case No. CV-2024-24, pending in Creek County District Court and Independent School District No. I-5 of Tulsa County, Oklahoma v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. State Board of Education, Case No. CV-2024-01680, pending in Tulsa County District Court. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.***

- (f) Consideration with possible action/resolution/approval of joint motion for dismissal regarding Independent School District No. I-5 of Tulsa County, Oklahoma v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. State Board of Education, Case No. CV-2024-01680, Pending in Tulsa County District Court.

Board Member Tinney moved to accept the joint motions to dismiss with prejudice in regard to Independent School District No. I-2 of Creek County, Oklahoma v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. State Board of Education, Case No. CV- 2024-24, pending in Creek County District Court and Independent School District No. I-5 of Tulsa County, Oklahoma v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. State Board of Education, Case No. CV-2024-01680, pending in Tulsa County District Court. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.***

***Items 8(e) and 8(f) were separate on the June agenda but considered jointly. The items were approved in the same motion but are separated here to align with the June agenda. The action taken was the same in all respects. As such, these paragraphs are identical.**

9. **NEW BUSINESS** (not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the agenda) – **25 O.S. § 311 - NO NEW BUSINESS**
10. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
Individuals signed up to give a one-minute public comment included: Sean Cummings, Elizabeth Lower, Adrian Miller, Eliza Howe, Candace Jay, Linda Woodrow, Jessica Scott and Mitch Walking.
11. **ADJOURNMENT:**
Board member Archer moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 9:30a.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

Acting Chief Executive Secretary