

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the State Board of Education

May 21, 2025



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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 2:29 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025

The following were present:

Mrs. Jacquelyne Phelps, Assistant General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Dept. of Education (OSDE)

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

Ms. Amy London, Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board

Mr. Christopher Van Dehende, Tulsa

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Ms. Becky Carson, Edmond

Mr. Michael Tinney, Norman

Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher

Members of the State Board of Education absent:

Mr. Zachary Archer, Member-at-Large

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 3:04 p.m.. Executive Secretary Amy London called roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, OKLAHOMA FLAG SALUTE, 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**

Progress at the Federal Department of Education and the waiver offered to Oklahoma, which could increase Oklahoma's flexibility and funding.

Success of summer school programs and the importance of districts using best teachers.

The new curriculum will align with the jobs Oklahoma needs and the talents of young people.

Welcome to new board member Becky Carson.

4. **BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE**

Discussion and possible action on January, February, and April 2025 minutes.

4a -Board member Lepak moved to approve the January 28, 2025, board meeting minutes.

Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion failed** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, abstain; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, abstain; Mr. Deatherage, abstain; Ms. Carson, abstain; Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Van Dehende moved to direct the executive secretary to enter the minutes into the record without a vote of approval to the board. Board member Tinney seconded.

The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

4b- Board member Tinney moved to table the February 27, 2025, minutes. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, no.

4c- Board member Lepak moved to approve the April 24, 2025, minutes. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, abstain; Superintendent Walters, yes.

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:**

5a- Request approval of exceptions to State Board of Education teacher certification regulations to permit emergency (provisional) certificates - 70 O.S. § 6-187.

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

5b- Discussion and possible recommendations on proposed qualified suppliers of Mobile Panic Alert System services - **70 O.S. § 5-149.4:**

Board member Deatherage moved to approve the proposed qualified suppliers of Mobile Panic Alert System services. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

6. ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

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) Mannford Public School, Creek County – **APPROVED**

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

7. LEGAL SERVICES – State Board of Education

7a-Vote 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 Van Dehende moved to convene into Executive Session. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

7j-Vote to reconvene into Open Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4), (7), and (8).

Board member Deatherage moved to reconvene into Open Session. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent

Walters, yes.

7b-Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke: **1) Dillion Snow; 2) Jonah Davis; 3) Alden Armstrong; 4) Samuel Melton; 5) Roger Jessie.**

Board member Lepak moved to summarily suspend the teacher certificate and certificate number of **Dillon Snow** and to refer the matter to a hearing officer. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Lepak moved to summarily suspend the teacher certificate and certificate number of **Jonah Davis** and to refer the matter to a hearing officer. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Lepak moved to summarily suspend the teacher certificate and certificate number of **Alden Armstrong** and to refer the matter to a hearing officer. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Lepak moved to summarily suspend the teacher certificate and certificate number of **Samuel Melton** and to refer the matter to a hearing officer. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Lepak moved to table the matter with respect the Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificate and certificate number and application to revoke to **Roger Jessie**. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

7c- Consent Order to Accept Voluntary Surrender teacher certificates and certificate numbers of: **1) Justin Wood; 2) William Hale.**

Board member Lepak moved to accept the voluntary surrenders. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

7d- *Amended Application to Summarily Suspend Teaching Certification:

1) Patrick Cobb; 2) Patrick McKenzie; 3) Jason Dowdy; 4) Tyler Frizzell; 5) Ashley Fairres; 6) Joshua Foos.

*Amended Applications are based upon the original facts, but additional claims are added.

Board member Lepak moved to ratify the board's previous decisions regarding the teaching certifications with respect to **Patrick Cobb, Patrick McKenzie, Jason Dowdy, Tyler Frizzell, Ashley Fairres, and Joshua Foos**. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

7e- Motion for Leave to Amend the Application to Revoke Teaching Certificate / Dismissal of Application / Denial of Renewal of Teaching Certificate with Respondent's Appeal and Request for Due Process Hearing: 1) Philip Koons.

Board member Deatherge moved to table the matter until the next board meeting. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

7f- Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law from Hearing Officer Liz Stevens and OSDE Exceptions to the Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation: 1) Kelly Bacot.

Board member Lepak moved to direct the OSDE to provide the entire record of the proceedings on **Kelly Bacot** to the board for its review with respect to the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law on the recommendation from the hearing officer for **Kelly Bacot**. Board member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

7g- Discussion and possible action on procedural oversight in reference to revocation Case No. 2024-50 Kimberly Coody (any action will only be taken in Open Session).

No action taken.

7h- Consideration with possible action/resolution regarding Independent School 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 Lepak moved to authorize board council to negotiate a mutually agreeable resolution consistent with the privileged discussion that we had an executive session today with respect to the cases listed in those **agenda items 7h and 7i**. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters.

7i- Consideration with possible action/resolution regarding Independent School

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 Lepak moved to authorize board council to negotiate a mutually agreeable resolution consistent with the privileged discussion that we had an executive session today with respect to the cases listed in those **agenda items 7h and 7i**. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters.¹

7k-Discussion and possible action regarding the matters discussed in the Executive Session – see action on items 7b – 7i as recorded within minutes.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals who gave a one-minute public comment included: **Peggy Howe, Mike Howe, Jennifer Daughtery, Lindsay Bruehl, Saralynn Boren.**

9. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Lepak moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Deatherage seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes, Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 9:30a.m. The meeting will be held at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board

Amy London, Chief Executive Secretary

¹ Action was taken on items 7h and 7i by a combined motion.