

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the
State Board of Education
October 23, 2025**



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

**Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 23, 2025**

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session on or about 9:30 a.m., Thursday, October 23, 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 9:29 a.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2025.

The following were present:

Ms. Jacki Phelps, General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Department of Education
Mr. Ryan Leonard, General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Board of Education
Dr. Jennifer Hembree, Interim Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent, Lindel Fields, Chairman of the Board
Mr. Mike Tinney, Norman
Mr. Chris Van Denhende, Tulsa
Ms. Becky Carson, Edmond
Mr. Wes Nofire, Park Hill
Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

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

State Superintendent Lindel Fields called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order on or about 9:30 a.m. Acting Executive Secretary Jennifer Hembree called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, OKLAHOMA FLAG SALUTE, MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Superintendent Fields 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 a moment of silence.

3. **BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE:**

State Board of Education—Administrative (Action) Discussion and possible action on the minutes of the September 25, 2025, Regular Meeting of the State Board of Education.

Board Member Van Dehnde moved to approve the September 25, 2025, board meeting minutes. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, abstain; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

(Action) Discussion and possible action on the minutes of the October 9, 2025, Special Meeting of the State Board of Education.

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the October 9, 2025, board meeting minutes. Board Member Nofire seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, abstain; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

4. **FINANCIAL DIVISION:**

Financial Services Discussion and possible action on the proposed fiscal year budget for the State Department of Education. 70 O.S. § 3-104(A)(3).

(a) (action) Discussion and possible action on the proposed budget for the State Department of Education for Fiscal Year 2027.

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

5. **Emergency (Provisional) Teacher Certification Discussion and possible action on requests for exceptions to the State Board of Education teacher certification regulations to permit emergency (provisional) certificates. 70 O.S. § 6-187(G):**

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

6. **Library-Media Specialist Certification Exemption Discussion and possible action on requests for approval for exemption from library media certification requirements pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3-126, for the 2025-2026 school year:**

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

7. **Library-Media Services Waiver Discussion and possible action on requests for library-media services exemptions pursuant to OAC 210:35-5-71; OAC 210:35-7-61; OAC 210-35-9-71 for the 2025- 2026 school year:**

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the request for one year only. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

8. **Petition for a Four-Day School Week Discussion and possible action on requests a waiver from 70 O.S. § 1-105 regarding instructional days and to implement a day-to-hour calendar for the 2025-2026 school year, pursuant to OAC 210:10-1-4(b).**

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

9. **Cooperative Agreement for Alternative Education Waiver Discussion and possible action on requests for a statutory waiver concerning Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education pursuant to Title 70 § 1210.568 for the 2025-2026 school year:**

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

10. **Accreditation Warnings Discussion and possible action on issuing accreditation warnings to the following schools pursuant to OAC 210:35-3-201:**

Board Member Carson moved to disapprove the request. Board Member Van Denhende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

11. **Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education (OACIE) Presentation from Jackie White, Program Director for American Indian Education, regarding activities, accomplishments, and goals of OACIE and request for Superintendent to call the first meeting the OACIE Board**

Superintendent Fields called for the next meeting of the OACIE on November 18th.

12. **Special Education Services Presentation from Sherri Coats, Program Director for Special Education Services, regarding the 50th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), and asking the Board to approve a resolution recognizing and commemorating the 50th Anniversary of IDEA.**

Board Member Bobek moved to approve and accept the resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of IDEA. Board Member Tinney seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

13. 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 Nofire moved to transition into Executive Session. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

14. Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session

Board Member Deatherage moved to return from Executive Session. Board Member Bobek seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

15. Voluntary Surrenders Consent Order to Accept Voluntary Surrender of the teacher certificates and certificate numbers pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(d)(2) of:

Board Member Bobek moved to accept the voluntary surrender of the teaching certificate of (1) Tabitha Brooks. Board Member Tinney seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

16. Dismissals by OSDE (Formal Reprimands Issued) Motions to dismiss the Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and applications to revoke and issue formal reprimands pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(g)(2) of:

Board Member Nofire moved to issue a formal reprimand and impose a probationary period of 24 months and to dismiss the pending application to revoke and reinstate the teaching certificate and certificate number subject to the terms of the probation in the matter of OSDE v. Akin. In the matters of OSDE v. King and OSDE v. Park the motion was made to formally reprimand and impose probationary period of 12 months and to dismiss the pending application to revoke and reinstate the teaching certificate and certificate number subject to the terms of the probation. Board Member Van Denhende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

17. Litigation Discussion and possible action regarding the pending litigation in Walke, et. al. v. Superintendent, et. al., No. MA-122592; Randall, et. al., v. Superintendent, et. al., No. MA123237; and Ford, et. al. v. Superintendent, et. al.

Board Member Carson moved to retain Mr. Leonard as counsel for the State Board of Education in the matters of all pending litigation. Board Member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr.

Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

Board Member Bobek moved that the board undertake review of the 2025 social studies standards for a period of 60 days and possible further action with respect to the standards. Board Member Nofire seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

18. **New Business (Any business not known about which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting of the Agenda pursuant to Title 25 O.S. § 311.)**

19. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Board member Bobek moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Lindel Fields, Chairperson of the Board

Jennifer Hembree, Acting Executive Secretary