

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the State Board of Education

October 9, 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, September 25, 2025**

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session on or about 9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 25, 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 9:31 a.m. on Tuesday, October 7th, 2025.

The following were present:

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

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 Dehede, Tulsa

Ms. Becky Carson, Edmond

Mr. Wes Nofire, Park Hill

Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City

Members of the State Board of Education absent:

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 9:31 a.m. Interim Executive Secretary Jennifer Hembree called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

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

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.

ACTION ITEMS: Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2025-2026 school year pursuant to **70 O.S. § 3-104; Oklahoma Administrative Code (“OAC”) 210:35-1-4:**

3. Flexibility of Allocated Textbook Funds

Discussion and possible action on statutory waivers allowing flexibility in the use of state appropriated textbook funds pursuant 70 O.S. § 16-114a: (1) Blackwell Public Schools, Kay County (2) Edmond Public Schools, Oklahoma County (3) Grove Public Schools, Delaware County (4) Lookeba-Sickles Public Schools, Caddo County (5) Midwest City-Del City Public Schools, Oklahoma County (6) Mill Creek Public Schools, Johnston County (7) Newkirk Public Schools, Kay County (8) Owasso Public Schools, Tulsa County (9) Waukomis Public Schools, Garfield County (10) Wilson Public Schools, Carter County

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the statutory waivers so long as regional accreditation officers are accountable for following up on how the funds are used. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

4. 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: (1) Keys Public Schools, Cherokee County (2) McAlester Public Schools, Pittsburg County (3) Oologah-Talala Public Schools, Rogers County (4) Zion Public Schools, Adair County (5) Bartlesville Public Schools, Washington County (6) Fanshawe Public Schools, LeFlore County (7) Guymon Public Schools, Texas County

Board Member Carson moved to approve the exemption requests from library-media specialist certification requirements for the above-listed districts for the 2025-2026 school year. Board Member Bobek seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

5. **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: **One Year:** (1) Heavener Public Schools, LeFlore County (2) Agra Public Schools, Lincoln County (3) Anadarko Public Schools, Caddo County (4) Anderson Public Schools, Caddo County (5) Asher Public Schools, Pottawatomie County (6) Brushy Public Schools, Sequoyah County (7) Butner Public Schools, Seminole County (8) Central Public Schools, Sequoyah County (9) Chandler Public Schools, Lincoln County (10) Claremore Public Schools, Rogers County (11) Dickson Public Schools, Carter County (12) Drumright Public Schools, Creek County (13) Empire Public Schools, Stephens County (14) Fletcher Public Schools, Comanche County (15) Forest Grove Public Schools, McCurtain County (16) Fox Public Schools, Carter County (17) Grandfield Public Schools, Tillman County (18) Hanna Public Schools, McIntosh County (19) Harrah Public Schools, Oklahoma County (20) Hilldale Public Schools, Muskogee County (21) Hobart Public Schools, Kiowa County (22) Howe Public Schools, LeFlore County (23) Kansas Public Schools, Delaware County (24) Keys Public Schools, Cherokee County (25) Kremlin-Hillsdale Public Schools, Garfield County (26) Liberty Public Schools, Sequoyah County (27) Little Axe Public Schools, Cleveland County (28) Mason Public Schools, Lincoln County (29) Meeker Public Schools, Lincoln County (30) Morris Public Schools, Okmulgee County (31) Moseley Public Schools, Delaware County (32) Ninnekah Public Schools, Grady County (33) Oaks Mission Public Schools, Delaware County (34) Oklahoma Union Public Schools, Nowata County (35) Osage Public Schools, Mayes County (36) Paden Public Schools, Okfuskee County (37) Ponca City Public Schools, Kay County (38) Prue Public Schools, Osage County (39) Tecumseh Public Schools, Pottawatomie County (40) Timberlake Public Schools, Alfalfa County (41) Tishomingo Public Schools, Johnston County (42) Tupelo Public Schools, Coal County (43) Tuttle Public Schools, Grady County (44) Wagoner Public Schools, Wagoner County (45) Weleetka Public Schools, Okfuskee County **Three Years:** (46) Beaver Public Schools, Beaver County (47) Blackwell Public Schools, Kay County (48) Bridge Creek Public Schools, Grady County (49) Burlington Public Schools, Alfalfa County (50) Cache Public Schools, Comanche County (51) Cement Public Schools, Caddo County (52) Central High Public Schools, Stephens County (53) Checotah Public Schools, McIntosh County (54) Clayton Public Schools, Pushmataha County (55) Crescent Public Schools, Logan County (56) Deer Creek Public Schools, Oklahoma County (57) Earlsboro Public Schools, Pottawatomie County (58) Gore Public Schools, Sequoyah County (59) Haskell Public Schools, Muskogee County (60) Ripley Public Schools, Payne County (61) Ryal Public Schools, Jefferson County (62) Ryan Public Schools, Jefferson County (63) Tahlequah Public Schools, Cherokee County (64) Tenkiller Public Schools, Cherokee County (65) Waurika Public Schools, Jefferson County

Board Member Carson moved to approve requests for Library-media services exemption for 2025-2026 for 1 year for all districts listed above. Board Member Nofire seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

6. **Abbreviated School Day for Alternative Education**

Discussion and possible action on requests for approval of deregulation from OAC 210:35-29-2 for the 2025-2026 school year to allow for an Abbreviated School Day for Alternative Education: (1) Choctaw-Nicoma Park Public Schools, Oklahoma County (2) Harrah Public Schools, Oklahoma County (3) Little Axe Public Schools, Cleveland County (4) Putnam City Public Schools, Oklahoma County (5) Canadian

Public Schools, Pittsburg County (6) Collinsville Public Schools, Tulsa County (7) Kingfisher Public Schools, Kingfisher County (8) Ninnekah Public Schools, Grady County

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the requests for the deregulation to allow an abbreviated school day for alternative education for the above-listed districts for the 2025-2026 school year. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

7. 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: (1) Agra Public Schools, Lincoln County (2) Carney Public Schools, Lincoln County (3) Dewey Public Schools, Washington County (4) Forest Grove Public Schools, McCurtain County (5) Howe Public Schools, LeFlore County (6) McCurtain Public Schools, Haskell County (7) Osage Public Schools, Mayes County (8) Peavine Public Schools, Adair County (9) Tishomingo Alternative Academy, Johnston County (10) Turpin Public Schools, Beaver County (11) Vian Public Schools, Sequoyah County (12) Aline-Cleo Public School, Major County (13) Braggs Public Schools, Muskogee County (14) Coyle Public Schools, Logan County (15) Gore Public Schools, Sequoyah County (16) Healdton Public Schools, Carter County (17) Moss Public Schools, Hughes County (18) New Lima Public Schools, Seminole County (19) Pawhuska Public Schools, Osage County (20) Pioneer Public Schools, Grady County (21) Sayre Public Schools, Beckham County (22) Tipton Public Schools, Tillman County

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the statutory waiver requests for cooperative agreements for alternative education for the above listed school districts for the 2025-2026 school year. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

8. Alternative Education Waiver for K-8 (Elementary) School District

Discussion and possible action on requests to waive alternative education requirements for elementary (K-8) school districts pursuant to 70 O.S. § 1210.568(F), citing no current student enrollment in their respective programs: (1) Holly Creek Public Schools, McCurtain County (2) Maple Public Schools, Canadian County

Board Member Nofire moved to approve the requests to waive alternative education requirements for elementary school districts for the 2025-2026 school year, due to no current student enrollment, for Holly Creek Public Schools, McCurtain County, and Maple Public Schools, Canadian County. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

9. Accreditation Warnings

Discussion and possible action on issuing accreditation warnings to the following schools pursuant to OAC 210:35-3-201: (1) Bokoshe Public Schools (2) Chelsea Public Schools (3) Cherokee Immersion Public Charter Schools (4) Fletcher Public Schools (5) Grandview Public Schools (6) Gypsy Public Schools (7) Insight Public Charter Virtual School (8) KIPP Tulsa Public Charter School (9) LeMonde International Public Charter Schools (10) McAlester Public Schools (11) Optima Public Schools (12) Peavine Public Schools (13) Straight Public Schools (14) Vinita Public Schools (15) Wagoner Public Schools (16) Western Heights Public Schools

Board Member Carson moved table items (1) through (15), to the next regular meeting of the Board of Education and to approve item (16) Western Heights Public Schools. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

LEGAL SERVICES—STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

10. 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: Appeals of Denied Transfers, Emergency Suspensions, Voluntary Surrenders, Petition to Vacate and Reopen, Dismissals by OSDE, Dismissals by OSDE (Formal Reprimands Issued), Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, Due Process.

Board Member Bobek moved to enter executive session. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

11. Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session

Board Member Bobek moved to reenter open session. Board Member Tinney seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

12. Appeals of Denied Transfers

Consideration of transfer request denial pursuant to 70 O.S. § 8-102.2(E) and OAC 210:10-18-1.1. (1) Bethany Public Schools/Graham (2) Edmond Public Schools/Desta (3) Edmond Public Schools/Gomez (4) Edmond Public Schools/Razaq

Board Member Tinney moved to affirm the decision of Bethany Public Schools. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

Board Member Tinney moved to reverse the decision of Edmond Public Schools with regard to items (2) and (4). Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

Board Member Tinney moved to table item (3) to the next regular meeting of the Board of Education. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

13. Emergency Suspensions

Application for an emergency order pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(d)(1) summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke of: (1) Andrew McGann (2) Treva Thompson (3) Forrest Mazey (4) Anthony Arnold, Sr. (5) Valerie Hartless (6) Nadeena Lavarney

Board Member Tinney moved to approve the applications for emergency orders to summarily suspend the teaching certificates of items (1), (2), (3), (6) and to set the matter for hearing before and Administrative Law Judge. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

Board Member Tinney moved to set the matter for a hearing before and administrative law judge without the suspension of teaching certificate for items (4) and (5). Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

14. 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: (1) Jacob Doshier (2) Dakota Keys (3) Seth Oberlander (4) Karl King (5) Courtney Walker (6) Patrick Northrip (7) Ryan Matthias (8) Isileli Ofiu, Jr.

Board Member Bobek moved to accept the voluntary surrenders as listed above. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

15. Petition to Vacate and Reopen

Petition to Vacate Order, Reopen the Matter, and Set for New Hearing (1) Rick Dillinger

Board Member Carson moved to approve the petition to vacate the prior order, reopen the matter, and set a new hearing. Board Member Bobek seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

16. Dismissals by OSDE

Orders regarding Dismissal of the Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(g)(2) of: (1) Cody Barlow, Motion to Dismiss (2) Billy Little, Order from Administrative Law Judge (3) Dylan Nagode, Motion to Dismiss (4) Regan Killackey, Motion to Dismiss (5) Alison Scott, Motion to Dismiss (6) Philip Koons Sr., Motion to Dismiss (7) Nicholas Plank, Motion to Dismiss & Reinstatement (8) Jonah Davis, Motion to Dismiss

Board Member Nofire moved to grant items (2), (3), (4), (5), and (7) for the dismissal and to deny the dismissal of items (1) and (8) and to dismiss item (6) as moot set the matter for a due process hearing. Board Member Bobek seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

17. 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: (1) Richard Akin (2) Robert Park (3) John King (4) Rhonda Turley (5) Dillon Snow

Board Member Bobek moved to table items (1), (2), and (3) and also to grant the motion on items (4) and (5). Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

18. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(g)(2) from Administrative Law Judge: (1) Russell Bailey

Board Member Nofire moved to accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law from the Administrative Law Judge. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

19. Due Process

Motion to set the matter for a due process hearing pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(g)(2): (1) Tyler Kimrey, Notice of Appeal (2) Miranda Currier, Notice of Appeal (3) Bryan Till, Notice of Appeal

Superintendent Fields moved to set items (1), (2), and (3) for a due process hearing. Board Member Bobek seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

20. ADJOURNMENT:

Board member Van Dehende moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Bobek seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: 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, October 23, 2025, 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.

Lindel Fields, Chairperson of the Board

Jennifer Hembree, Interim Executive Secretary