

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the State Board of Education

September 25, 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 9:37 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 9:29 a.m. on Wednesday, September 24, 2025.

The following were present:

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, Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board
Mr. Mike Tinney, Norman
Mr. Chris Van Dehende, Tulsa
Ms. Becky Carson, Edmond
Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon

Members of the State Board of Education absent:

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher

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 on or about 9:37 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 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 a prayer.

3. **STATE SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS:**

Superintendent Walters began his remarks with a moment of silence. He then went on to highlight his initiative to put a Turning Point USA club in every high school in Oklahoma. Superintendent Walters then recognized Mason Cottrell, a Turning Point USA field representative, to speak further on this project.

4. **BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE:**

(a) Discussion and possible action on the minutes of the July 24, 2025, regular State Board of Education meeting.

Board Member Van Dehende moved to approve the July 24, 2025, board meeting minutes. Board Member Tinney seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

(b) Discussion and possible action on the minutes of the September 3, 2025, Special Meeting of the State Board of Education.

Board Member Tinney moved to approve the September 3, 2025, special board meeting minutes as amended. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Tinney, 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 with a possible effective date depending on local board decisions back to the beginning of the contract. Board member Archer seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

(b) Shared Superintendent Salary Assistance Discussion and possible action on the FY 2026 Shared Superintendent Salary Application pursuant to 70 O.S. § 7-203 and 70 O.S. § 5-106A

(1) Eufaula Public Schools and Carlton Landing Academy

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

(c) Federal Programs Discussion and possible action on late claims payment of joint federal program pursuant to OAC 210:25-3-7

(1) Snyder Public Schools (2) Talihina Public Schools (3) Coyle Public Schools

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

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

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

(d) Recommendations to Award Oklahoma Classroom Learning and School Supplies (CLASS) Grants Discussion and possible action on recommendations to award CLASS grants to the following teachers:

(1) Bartlesville Public Schools, Jonathon Miller (2) Blair Public Schools, Alison Martinez (3) Lawton Public Schools, Kristi Giordano (4) Lexington Public Schools, Bridget Johnson (5) Little Axe Public Schools, Avery Thompson (6) Muskogee Public Schools, Vickie Johnson (7) Oklahoma City Public Schools, Kelli Paul

Board member Van Dehende moved to approve all items under item (d). Board member Archer seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

6. FINANCIAL DIVISION

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

Board member Carson moved to table the discussion until members of the board receive further information. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Archer, no; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, no. **APPROVED.**

7. **NEW BUSINESS** (not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the agenda) – **Title 25 O.S. § 311** –

Board Member Tinney discussed the deadline for the submission of rules regarding absenteeism. Board Member Van Dehende discussed the agenda and the lack of teacher certification items on such. Board members Carson and Tinney joined the discussion and Board Member Van Dehende called for a special meeting.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Board member Van Dehende moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Archer 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.

Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board

Jennifer Hembree, Interim Executive Secretary