

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the
State Board of Education**

May 21, 2026



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR J. KEVIN STITT
2300 NORTH LINCOLN BLVD., RM. 213
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 21, 2026

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session on or about 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 21, 2026, in the Office of Governor J. Kevin Stitt Large Conference Room in the Oklahoma State Capitol at 2300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 9:29 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

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, Executive Secretary to the Oklahoma State Board of Education

Members of the State Board of Education present:

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

Members of the State Board of Education absent:

Mr. Chris Van Denhende, Tulsa

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 9:40 a.m. 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. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Recognition of Paul’s Valley High School Principal Kirk Moore by Governor J. Kevin Stitt, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Lindel Fields, and Representative Cynthia Roe, Oklahoma House of Representatives, District 42

B. Recognition of U.S. Senate Youth Program Delegates: Kross Brown and Lakshmiprasanna Reddy Birasam by Project Manager Social Studies and Personal Financial Literacy, Brenda Beymer-Chapman

4. BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE:

State Board of Education—Administrative (Action) Discussion and possible action on the minutes of the April 23, 2026, Regular Meeting of the State Board of Education.

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the April 23, 2026, board meeting minutes. Board Member Deatherage, seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

5. SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS: (No Action)

Superintendent recognized Vickie Hale for serving 30 years at the State Department of Education. He also recognized the employee of the month, Jennifer Weber.

6. DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES—DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS—ADMINISTRATIVE: (No Action)

Updates from the Deputy Superintendents:

Dr. Romel Muex-Pullen, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction

Ms. Kristen Stephens, Deputy Superintendent of Operations.

7. Alternative Education Cooperative Waiver: Discussion and possible action on statutory waiver requests under 70 O.S. § 1210.568, allowing districts with fewer than ten Alternative Education students to operate their own programs rather than enter into a cooperative agreement.

Board Member Bokek moved to approve the statutory waiver requests submitted by Marlow Public Schools, Maysville Public Schools, Middleberg Public Schools, and Woodland Public Schools. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

8. Library Media Services Deregulation: Discussion and possible action on Library Media Services Deregulation requests under 70 O.S. § 3-126, including district requests for reduced library hours or supervision by a library aide, with services to be provided through alternative

means.

Board Member Carson moved to approve the media services deregulation for Nobel Public School, and South Coffeyville Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year. Board Member Tinney seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

Board Member Carson moved to approve the deregulation for Cyril Public Schools and Fairland Public Schools for the 2026-2027 school year. Board Member Nofire seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

Board Member Carson moved to **DENY** the deregulation for Maysville Public Schools, and Middleberg Public Schools for the 2026-2027 school year with the request each district should resubmit the request with documents showing their further efforts to fill the position with a certified individual have been tried and exhausted for the September board meeting. Board Member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

9. Library Media Specialist Waiver discussion and possible action on a request for exemption from Library Media Teacher Certification requirements pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3-126, allowing a certified teacher to serve as the librarian while pursuing Library Media certification.

Board Member Carson moved to approve the waiver for Deer Creek Public Schools. Board Member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

10. Flexibility of Allocated Textbook Funds Waiver Discussion and possible action on statutory waiver requests under 70 O.S. § 16-114a for flexibility in the use of state-appropriated textbook funds, permitting districts that demonstrate current and appropriate instructional materials to use these funds, including carryover, for purposes supporting and maintaining the district.

Board Member Bobek moved to disapprove the waiver for flexibility in the use of state-appropriated textbook funds for Crooked Oak Public Schools and to approve the waiver for flexibility in the use of state-appropriate textbook funds for Sperry Public Schools. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

11. Non-Certified Substitute Teachers Exceeding Statutory Hour Limits Waiver Discussion and possible action on approval of non-certified substitutes who have exceeded the maximum number of allowable hours pursuant to 70 O.S. § 6-105 for Midwest City-Del City Public Schools:

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

12. **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.)**
None

13. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Board Member Deatherage moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Bobek seconded the motion. **The motion was approved** with all members voting in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. **APPROVED.**

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Lindel Fields, Chairperson of the Board

Jennifer Hembree, Executive Secretary