

MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
CHOCTAW/NICOMA PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ind. Dist. 4, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Place of Meeting
Administration Building Board Room, 12880 NE 10th, Choctaw, OK 73020

Don Alsup, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call established members present: Janice Modisette, Vice President, Staci Johnson, Assistant Clerk and Jason Ross, Member. Jessica Salinas-Dengler, Clerk, was absent.

Mr. Alsup called for consideration and approval of the agenda. Mrs. Modisette moved and Mrs. Johnson seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to enter into an engagement letter with the Center for Education Law for the provision of legal services to the board of education during the non-reemployment hearing for Kathy Smith. The vote was unanimous.

President Alsup opened the hearing for Kathy Smith, a support employee, on the Superintendent's recommendation that Ms. Smith be non-reemployed from her employment with the Choctaw-Nicoma Park School District.

President Alsup stated that the reason for this meeting is to conduct a hearing on whether to reemploy or non-reemploy Kathy Smith from her employment with the Choctaw-Nicoma Park School District. The order of the hearing is governed by the agenda. The agenda provides that both the administration and the support employee are given the opportunity to make an opening statement; the administration will then call its witnesses, with the support employee having the opportunity for cross-examination; the support employee will then call her witnesses which are subject to cross-examination; both sides will have time to make closing arguments to the board.

The board will then convene in executive session to discuss the evidence presented and will return to open session to vote to adopt findings of fact; that is, what facts the board finds have been shown from the testimony, and will vote on whether to re-employ or non-reemploy Kathy Smith from her employment with the Choctaw-Nicoma Park School District.

This hearing is to be an informal administrative hearing that will not be governed by strict rules of evidence such as would be used in a court proceeding. Thus, the board may hear hearsay evidence that it finds to have some merit in establishing facts. The president of the board will make any rulings needed regarding testimony. Only witnesses and legal counsel or other representatives, if any, will be addressing the board, and thus no statements from anyone in the audience will be heard. Witnesses are to be sworn to tell the truth during their testimony, which oath will be administered by the minutes clerk.

The Superintendent is present. Kathy Smith is present. Do the board members or parties or their representatives have any questions concerning the procedures for this hearing?

Adam Haven, Legal Representation for the Choctaw-Nicoma Park School District read the opening statement on behalf of the school district.

The first witness from the district was Brian Cannon, Director of Maintenance. Mr. Cannon was questioned by Adam Haven regarding text messages regarding Ms. Smith's punctuality to work.

Ms. Smith cross-examined Mr. Cannon regarding his testimony.

The next witness called by Adam Haven was Dr. Michael James, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel. Following this testimony, Kathy Smith redirected to Dr. James.

The next witness called by Kathy Smith was Phillip Hornsby. Following his testimony, Adam Haven had no questions for Mr. Hornsby. There was no rebuttal for Mr. Hornsby from Administration or Kathy Smith.

Kathy Smith presented her closing statement.

Adam Haven, legal representation for the district, presented the district's closings statement.

At 9:06 p.m., Mr. Ross motioned, seconded by Mrs. Modisette to meet in executive session. The vote was unanimous.

At 9:26 p.m., Mr. Ross motion, seconded by Mrs. Johnson to return from executive session. The vote was unanimous.

Board President, Don Alsup read statement regarding executive session minutes.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson to accept the reading of finding of facts. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve the non-reemployment of Kathy Smith. The vote was unanimous.

With a motion made by Mrs. Modisette and seconded by Mrs. Johnson, the board vote to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

(A full audio recording of the hearing is on file in the Superintendent's office.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Don Alsup, President

Janice Modisette, Vice President

Jessica Salinas-Dengler, Clerk

Staci Johnson, Asst. Clerk

Jason Ross, Member

MINUTES FOR JULY 14, 2025 REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
CHOCTAW/NICOMA PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ind. Dist. 4, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Place of Meeting
Administration Office Board Room, 12880 N.E. 10th, Choctaw, OK 73020

Don Alsup, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Alsup called roll to establish the following members were present: Jessica Salinas-Dengler, Clerk, and Jason Ross, Member. Vice President Janice Modisette and Assistant Clerk Staci Johnson were absent.

Mr. Alsup called for consideration and approval of the agenda. Mr. Ross moved and Mrs. Salinas-Dengler seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve the June 9, 2025 regular board meeting minutes and the June 23, 2025 special board meeting minutes, June 24, 2025 special board meeting minutes and June 26, 2025 regular board meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

Ambra Smith, ACT Representative, reported that she will be filling in for Toni Dennis until she arrives this evening. Ms. Smith stated that they have begun talks regarding negotiations. She stated that ESY is underway, Lego's camp just finished and the Drama EOPA camp is underway.

There were no comments from the floor regarding agenda items.

Superintendent Reid was absent. Dr. JeanAnn Gaona, Deputy Superintendent of Student Affairs gave the following report:

- Site administrators and site secretaries officially report back on August 1st.
- All teachers will report back on August 13th and school will begin on August 19th.

Director of Bond Oversight, Todd Dilbeck reported on the following bond projects: Manhattan: High School: Sidewalks to be completed around the south end of the building connecting to the ROTC Building. Demo continues on the old high school building. Manhattan is overseeing the brick for CAA and there should be come available next week. Manhattan: ROTC/Tennis Building: Interior electrical and HVAC continues. Painting will begin this week. Interior comb design will be painted on all four walls. Quad: New Concession and remodel of restrooms will receive final inspection this week. Quad: Multipurpose Building: Dirt pad is completed. Steel company will be moving in this week. Goldsby: Choctaw Elementary: Shrouds in the saferoom are being hung this week. Sidewalks around the east side and steps up to the north sidewalk to begin tomorrow. Drainage grate to be installed this week. Ross: GME: Parking lot concrete areas and approaches are completed. Asphalt driveway and parking lot will begin this week. Saferoom hallway has been tiled and the classroom tile continues this week. Light fixtures are being added to classrooms. The north and west side final grade is completed. AC Owen: CNP Heartland: Saferoom roof was poured last week. Final hanging of the beam will be tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. Steel continues to go up and all brick has been delivered. Vo-Ag Show Barn: Final drawings have been sent to Red Dot to review the street design. Gravel parking lot on the north side for 80 vehicles was reviewed. The driveway was expanded around the building to 30 feet and will add a header curb to keep the 8 inches of sand underneath the overhangs. Pope Construction: McCharen Center: Practice gym/museum review of final drawings will be conducted this week.

There were no board member comments.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve the school calendar based on hours instead of days for the 2025-26 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve a policy revision for FNG – Personal Electronics. The vote was unanimous.

Chad Allcox, Chief Financial Officer reported that the business department is actively working on finalizing salary schedules and will be meeting with both ACT and SECNP in the coming weeks. Once these discussions are completed, and after we receive as Estimate of Needs Report at the end of the month, we will transition our finalized financial plan. Mr. Allcox stated that in the meantime, we are in the process of closing out purchase orders from the prior fiscal year that are no longer needed and are compiling and reviewing OCAS data for timely submission to the Oklahoma State Department of Education. He added that we are conducting a review of current policies and will be making some recommended updates. These revisions, along with updated templates, will be shared with district leadership in the coming weeks and ultimately brought back to the board for final approval. Mr. Allcox reported that one item of concern

is that we have not received the May payment for Child Nutrition. This payment was expected last Friday in the amount of \$65,890.79. It's also worth noting that if the district were required to full absorb the cost of student meals, it would result in an estimated additional expense of over \$2 million annually to our existing budget. In closing, Mr. Allcox gave a brief update on the agenda items under the business section.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve encumbrances. Approved were the following: Fund 11 – #'s – 1 – 217 – \$5, 230,199.51; Fund 21 – #'s 1 - 91 \$1,673,732.19; Fund 22 - # – 1-16 - \$961,600.00, and Fund 33 - #'s 1-59- \$8,842,581.82; Fund 41 - #'s – 1-3 - \$10,582,943.76 and Fund 86 0 #'s 1- 8 - \$297, 339.07. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve Jim's Cleaning Service L.L.C, as the cleaning service from July 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve Aptegy for FY 2025-26. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve a contract with Vivi, LLC in the amount of \$3,816.00 for the 2025-26 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas Dengler to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Kelli Hosford, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services stated ESY started last week and continues for 2 more weeks. She added that we have a record number of students in ESY. There is a great group of teachers, paras, OT, PT and SLPs that are working to make this possible for our students. Mrs. Hosford added that we do not have any news on state test scores yet. Additionally, Mrs. Hosford reported that we have submitted our close out for the 24/25 school year. Hopefully, we will be able to see our IDEA Part B funding soon. Mrs. Hosford stated that she has found a Speech Language Pathologist for NPI and added that this is with a company which the board has the contract to vote on tonight. She reported that if this contract is approved this evening, we will be fully staffed for next year. In closing, Mrs. Hosford stated that she and Mrs. Keiffer had a meeting with Miss Oklahoma, Tessa Dorrell a week ago. Her platform is special needs students. She stated that they look forward to a positive working relationship with her as he advocates for our students.

Dr. JeanAnn Gaona, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Affairs reported that summer has not ended educational opportunities for our students. A few over 100 students attended SPARK this year which is our summer elementary remediation and enrichment opportunity. We have also concluded our LEGO camp as well as Camp Invention. Dr. Gaona continued stating that in June of 2025, thirty-three advanced teachers were selected to participate in the very first Choctaw-Nicoma Park Teacher Empowerment Cohort. These educators were chosen based on their leadership, instructional excellence, and commitment to innovation. Over the course of the summer session, they engaged in strategic initiatives designed to strengthen curriculum, integrate technology, support new teachers, and enhance family partnerships. She added that the following were some of the key accomplishments: Developed and aligned district-wide pacing guides (First Grade and High School Math); Integrated Social Studies standards into ELA instruction at the elementary level; produced instructional resources and videos for early math and phonics skills; explored and implemented the use of Artificial Intelligence tools in both elementary and secondary classrooms; created resources for classroom management and student engagement; designed a comprehensive New Teacher Academy 2025-26; and launched family engagement projects including the *Caregivers as Coaches* initiative and early childhood education videos. Dr. Gaona shared that 95.8% of participating teachers reported high satisfaction and a strong desire to continue in similar leadership role. Additionally, the Empowerment Cohort model proved to be a productive and forward-thinking initiative that leveraged teacher expertise to directly impact instruction and community engagement. Plans are in place to continue this model and expand its reach in the 2025-26 school year. In closing, Dr. Gaona reported to the board that she wanted to make them aware that the federal government is currently impounding critical Title II and Title IV funds. This delay will immediately impact our ability to provide professional development for our teacher. This professional development is essential considering that 92 of our roughly 360 classroom teachers are either emergency, alternatively or adjunct certified. Additionally, since a portion of these funds are transferred into our Title I programs, we are now facing potential disruptions to summer school next year as well as site funding in order to protect our reading intervention programs in our schoolwide Title I sites which include Griffith Meridian Elementary, Choctaw Elementary, Nicoma Park Intermediate, Nicoma Park Elementary, Westfall Elementary and Nicoma Park Middle School. The timing and uncertainty of this delay place real pressure on our planning and staffing just weeks before school begins.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve core or elective credits for students attending Eastern Oklahoma County Tech Center that are in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grades, which will count toward graduation requirements. These classes may include math, science, computer arts, elective courses or credit recovery courses. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve a list of chrome books as deprovisioned items. The vote was unanimous.

At 6:20 p.m. with a motion made by Mr. Ross and seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler, the board entered into executive session. The vote was unanimous.

At 6:26 p.m. with a motion by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler and seconded by Mr. Ross, the board voted to return to open session. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve the following certified recommendations: Bradley Delejsi**, effective 7/1/25 and Sabina Scoti, effective 7/1/25. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve the following certified resignations: Jacob Rapp, effective 5/16/25; Christina Sundly, effective 5/16/25 and Erin Harry, effective 7/1/25. The vote was unanimous .

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve the following support recommendations: Jacob Pearman, effective 7/1/25; Jennifer Garrison, effective 7/1/25 and Marcus Peters, effective 7/1/25. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler, to approve the following support resignations: Sydnee Browning, effective 7/1/25. The vote was unanimous.

There being no further new business, at 6:27 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler and seconded by Mr. Ross to adjourn. The vote was unanimous.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

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Janice Modisette, Vice President

Jessica Salinas-Dengler , Clerk

Staci Johnson, Asst. Clerk

Jason Ross, Member