

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics
1141 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
October 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The Board of Trustees for the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics met on October 12, 2023, at 1141 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK. The meeting was held consistent with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Advance notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State on August 30, 2023, at 11:37 a.m. and posted on the outside main door at 1141 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK, on October 11, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in compliance with 25 O.S. § 311.

Present: Dan Little, *Tom Adelson, Apryl Beall, Lance Benham (Zoom), Jerry Burger, *Dr. Michael Jordan, Dr. Qiang Liu, Dr. Lara Mashek, *Senator Adam Pugh, Steven Rhines, James Roller, Dr. Robert Romines, Dr. Geoff Simpson

Ex-Officio Members Present: Dr. Keith Garbutt, Cora James, Dr. Goldie Thompson, Dr. David Wrobel

OSSM Staff Present: Tony Cornforth, Dr. Brent Richards, Pam Felactu, Jamie Bond, Linda Waters, Shannon Gorbet

Guests: Madalynn Martin, Assistant Attorney General; Niki Batt, Deputy Attorney General; Tony Blasier, Office of the Attorney General; Jennifer Palmer, Oklahoma Watch

- I. Having noted a quorum, Chair Dan Little called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.
- II. After calling the meeting to order, Mr. Little conducted an introduction of new Board Members: Dr. Robert Romines, Superintendent of Moore Public Schools, and Dr. Qiang Liu, Scientific Director and Research and Development Director for ARL Bio Pharma. They each gave brief, personal summaries of themselves and expressed their appreciation for being on the OSSM Board as new members. Dr. Liu also expressed how proud he is to be a parent of two daughters who are currently attending OSSM.
- III. **Take action on Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of September 14, 2023.** Mr. Little asked for discussion, corrections, and approval to the minutes from September 14, 2023. Dr. Geoff Simpson moved for approval of the minutes; James Roller seconded. The vote is recorded below:

Dan Little:	Yes	Sen. Adam Pugh:	Yes
Apryl Beall:	Yes	Steven Rhines:	Yes

Jerry Burger	Yes	James Roller:	Yes
Dr. Michael Jordan:	ABST	Dr. Robert Romines:	ABST
Dr. Qiang Liu:	Yes	Dr. Geoff Simpson:	Yes
Dr. Lara Mashek:	Yes		

- IV. Mr. Little informed the Board Members that for the purpose of recognizing a special OSSM staff member, the agenda would go out of order, and President Cornforth would move to Item 7a. of the agenda. Mr. Cornforth expressed appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Keith Forshee for his dedication and service to OSSM for the past 27 years. Mr. Forshee received a standing ovation.

*Mr. Tom Adelson joined the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

- V. **Report from the Chief Fiscal Officer.** Ms. Gorbet gave a report on the FY25 budget request, which included funding requests for one-time appropriations to replace the dormitory fire alarm system (\$186,000) and complete the access control system installation in Samson Science Center (\$85,000). An additional funding request for operational expenses was submitted for one additional staff in the Admissions Department for recruitment purposes. Ms. Gorbet gave details about three HVAC projects still ongoing on the OSSM campus and are close to being completed. The current total completion cost of all projects is \$1.4 million. Gym equipment is scheduled to be replaced, which will benefit the students. Year-to-date financial expenditures indicate an increase in personnel costs due to position vacancies in the prior period. At the end of Ms. Gorbet’s report, for the sake of our new Board Members, Mr. Little asked her to share a little about herself.
- VI. **Report from Vice President of Academic Services.** Dr. Richards reported details of the upcoming Parents Day event and also the success of the OSSM students at the OSU Math Contest. Plans are in place for the annual Junior/Senior Flag Football game to be held on the evening of October 12th. The students are preparing for the PSAT test, required for the juniors. This will be the first time the test will be held on a Saturday, and this is due to the test being administered completely in digital form. Dr. Richards also informed everyone that several classrooms are now accessible due to HVAC project completions in those areas. It was also reported that a senior has withdrawn from OSSM, which was a mutual decision, and returned to his home school district. There are now 49 seniors. The first 6-week grading period was just completed, and the juniors did extremely well. This class is one of the academically stronger classes OSSM has had in a while. In conclusion, Dr. Richards spoke about the number of students and teachers across Oklahoma who have been impacted by OSSM events held both on and off campus – approximately 1000+. After Mr. Little had Dr. Richards speak about himself, Mr. Little shared with every one of the honor OSSM recently received, “the 5th ranked high school in America.”

- VII. **Report from Director of Admissions.** Ms. Jamie Bond began her report by sharing a little about herself and her one-year anniversary at OSSM. Ms. Bond emphasized the need for additional assistance in her department, especially now that one of her staff members resigned. She praised Ms. Lauren Vela, Assistant Director of Admissions, and what a great help she is. The juniors are doing well, and Ms. Bond checks in on them often. Regarding recruitment efforts, it was originally planned that every faculty member would have a county to visit. However, plans changed and now only a few staff members are going out, including President Cornforth. A special “thank you” was given to staff members for their efforts with recruiting and assistance in getting the online application uploaded. OSSM currently has 26 applications for next year. Ms. Bond gave details about several events she is currently working on: Coffee Talks, Preview Day (151 guests currently registered), ACT Boot Camp (offering virtual and on-campus sessions), and Field Trips to OSSM (junior high students). It was observed by Mr. Jerry Burger the sense of excitement Ms. Bond has for her department. There was further discussion amongst those present: outreach costs vs. efforts in digital outreach; Ms. Bond’s visit to the math and science school in Hot Springs, Arkansas; benefits of OSSM now having an ACT code; how OSSM could benefit from the College Board requirement for schools to have at least four AP courses (small schools could participate virtually); is it possible for our virtual classes to be offered in an online format vs. a “live” session; question from Dr. Liu of how does OSSM present to the younger students the stories of our current students and the student life here on campus.
- VIII. **Report from Director of Development.** Ms. Pam Felactu gave a brief biography of herself and expressed praise to Jamie Bond and her staff for their efforts to encourage schools to utilize the virtual programs of OSSM. The Board was informed of a \$100,000 grant awarded to OSSM to expand the virtual programs. Additionally, a \$10,000 technology grant was awarded in order to purchase a “learning glass lightboard system.”
- IX. **Report from President.** Mr. Cornforth shared with everyone a brief summary of himself. In his report, he acknowledged the OSU math contest results and also the Niche high school rankings for high schools in America, and to continue the celebrations of this big honor, Mr. Cornforth was hopeful to have the drone take pictures of everyone at the flag football event the evening of October 12th, provided it would not be too windy. In conclusion, Mr. Cornforth expressed his appreciation to all the Board Members for their dedication and volunteerism.
- X. **Report from Personnel Subcommittee Chair.** Tom Adelson reported there are plans to review and update OSSM handbooks. This will require an outside firm, Crowe & Dunlevy, to give a full review and assess the HR manual and Student Handbook. The cost is \$6500 for full review and drafting.

Dan Little made the motion to hire Crowe & Dunlevy for the purpose of reviewing and drafting the Employee Handbook and Student Handbook. James Roller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Dr. Michael Jordan made the motion at 11:25 a.m. to move to Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the Board and Counsel concerning a pending investigation. Dr. Geoff Simpson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The motion carried.

James Roller made the motion at 12:45 p.m. to return from Executive Session. Jerry Burger seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The motion carried.

No further action was taken.

- XI. Dr. Lara Mashek made the motion at 12:48 p.m. to move to Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for confidential communications between the Board and Counsel concerning a demand letter from counsel for Jonathan Triplett. Tom Adelson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The motion carried.

*Dr. Michael Jordan and Senator Adam Pugh left the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

James Roller made the motion at 12:55 p.m. to return from Executive Session. Dr. Geoff Simpson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Dr. Geoff Simpson made the motion to allow Chair Dan Little, President Tony Cornforth, and the representatives from the Attorney General's office to agree to finalize the settlement with Mr. Jonathan Triplett. James Roller seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The motion carried.

- XII. Item XI of the agenda was not discussed at this meeting and will be moved to the agenda of the December 12th meeting. Item XI is the discussion and possible action of the 2024 OSSM Governing Board of Trustee Regular Meeting dates.
- XIII. **Adjournment.** Motion was made by James Roller to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Lara Mashek seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.