

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
HELD AT THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CAREERTECH, 1500 WEST
SEVENTH AVENUE, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA**

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

The State Board of Career and Technology Education began its regular meeting at 9:02 a.m. Thursday, November 16, 2023, at the Oklahoma Department of CareerTech, Stillwater, OK and the meeting was also streamed on YouTube. Notice was properly given, and the final agenda was posted at 1:18 p.m. on November 14, 2023, in accordance with 25 O.S. 2011, § 311(9).

Members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education present and all appeared in person:

Mr. Brent Haken, State Director, ex-officio nonvoting member
Mr. Michael Brown, Lawton
Mr. Randy Gilbert, Tecumseh
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, Tulsa
Mr. Edward Hilliary, Elgin
Mr. Rob Seeman, Morris

Members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education not present:

Mr. Ryan Walters, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Chair of the Board
Mr. Peter Dillingham, Enid
Ms. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Attendees from the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and other guests:
See Attachment A.

1.01 CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Mr. Haken called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Ms. Ashley Zemp called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

**1.02 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, SALUTE TO THE OKLAHOMA STATE FLAG AND
A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Led by Mr. Brent Haken.

1.03 DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS –MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE DIRECTOR

Director Haken said, "Thank you all. Thanks, guys, for being here.

"We've got a few comments to go through, but the most important comment that I'll probably make today is, it is Ashley's birthday. Hey, happy birthday, Ashley! She's also getting married this weekend. Yeah, wow, that's the birthday. Thank you.

2. RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2.01 Presentation of National FFA Convention Highlights with Possible Discussion - Mr. Scott Nemecek, Agriculture Education Manager, Ms. Whitney Glazier, National Champion of the American Star in Agricultural Placement, and Several other National FFA Award Winners from Stillwater Public Schools, Led by Advisor Robby Branscum.

Director Haken said, "Now we have some great presentations. First up is from the National FFA Convention. We had some great highlights, so we'll welcome Scott Nemecek as the manager of the AAD division. Take it away, Scott."

Mr. Scott Nemecek said, Well, good morning. Thanks for having me this morning. I'm Scott Nemecek, Program Manager for the AG ED division here at CareerTech, and I want to give you a brief update as housekeeping things before we get to the real stars of the show. Mr. Trent, I want to thank you for the demonstration; appreciate that this morning. You guys have some handouts as well that I'll give you.

"We'll start off by introducing our staff. Many of you know them, but I'll go ahead and introduce you to our staff. That's my mugshot up there. Also, Rose Bonjour has been here a long time as Central Area Program Specialist. Hannah Brown is new to our division this year; she's a former Ag teacher and also worked in accreditation at the state department. She's the Northeast Area Program Specialist.

"Alan Miller is a Northwest Area Program Specialist, Kirk Long is our Southeast Area Program Specialist, and he also is in charge of the Agriscience Fair, which you will be hearing about shortly. Kurt Murray is the Southwest Area Program Specialist, Trevor Lucas is our State FFA Executive Secretary, Laura Howard, who will also be presenting as part of the United Way here in a little bit, and then Kathy Short, our two administrative assistants who help us out and do a great job.

"Just a brief overview for you; I'll try to go through these fairly quickly because several of you are familiar with that, but certainly, I'd be glad to answer any questions that you might have. This year, we're up to 494 programs in 366 districts across the state. That's all K-12 programs, and that's, I think, a record high in terms of the number of programs. For our purposes, a program is a teacher; many schools have multiple teachers. Over 28,000 students, and we operate on a three-circle model of agricultural education: classroom instruction, experiential learning (which we call supervised agricultural experience), and the FFA, which is the CTSO for our division.

"In classroom instruction, some of the big topics are teacher recruitment and retention, as in every division and every school district. It's a big topic that we're working hard on. We also have new teachers here in Stillwater today and tomorrow, about 50-something of those who are receiving training as new teachers and alternatively certified teachers. We are also working on programs to help those alternatively certified teachers reach certification. That's what's going on here today.

"Regarding Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), each student will have a program where they gain experience outside of the classroom in an area of agriculture, they're interested in. Those are foundational, entrepreneurial, placement, and research. We use a program called the

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Agricultural Experience Tracker, which is used nationwide. It's an accounting program but also accounts for skill development, finances and leadership activities.

“In general, FFA had a record-high membership last year, and this year is very close to it. We're the seventh-largest nationwide last year, and if you break it down per capita, I think we're number one or number two in terms of our state population versus the number of FFA members. We have several support groups, such as the Oklahoma FFA Alumni, a strong organization supporting agricultural education. We also have over \$10 million in assets with the FFA Foundation. A lot of that is invested in the Oklahoma City Community Foundation where they, and that money is used for student support and for support of our largest event, which is our State of FFA convention in April. We have lots of Industry Partners; we have some new title sponsors that are coming on. One interesting one is the University of Tulsa, uh, as a title sponsor. So, they see the value in our students as well as many other industry partners.

“Lots of individual sponsorship that's raised each year as well, and that goes for those convention support Awards, grants, and scholarship. So now we'll get into kind of the fun part, I guess, of the program and recognizing our students and our chapters that have done an outstanding job this year, and we're recognized at the National FFA convention. Actually, this would be for work that they would have done in the last school year, and those applications are processed in late spring and throughout the summer and fall to get to our national winners.

“Karstyn Cantrell, who was a former member of the Sky FFA, who was a state officer here for us a couple of years ago as a student in Oklahoma State University. She just completed her term of service as a National FFA officer. She was on Oklahoma's 23rd National FFA officer, which puts us very close to the top of the number of national officers, and she did an outstanding job there. I haven't seen her; I don't think she's quite back yet. They do some debriefing after the convention, but we're looking forward to having her back here in Oklahoma. For our National FFA Convention recognition, I will pass these out to you guys, and you can kind of follow along if you would like.

“We had an outstanding year as always at the National FFA convention. Many of our students' chapters represented in Oklahoma, and just that first slide there, those are the final results, but we had 20 proficiency award finalists. In each of the 45 areas of proficiency Awards, which is dialed down to a certain part of their SAE, and so we had 20 National finalists, four National finalists in each area. We were tied, I think, for the number one state in terms of proficiency award finalists. Four of those were National winners, and we're very proud of those, and they're listed, on I think page two of your hand out there.

“We also had 28 Agriscience Fair finalists. We were the number three state in that, and we had four National winners, and you'll get to hear from two of them here just shortly from Stillwater. All 20 of those were recognized on stage at National Convention for placing, regardless of that. And I think Stillwater, Mr. Nipper, I think, did you guys have all of yours were in the top five? Yeah, so in all of the contests and areas, they have gold emblem, silver, and bronze emblem. All 15 of Stillwater's finalists were gold emblem and were recognized on stage as well as many other chapters that participated.

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“We had five national three-star premier chapter finalists, which was tied for the number one state. So Premier chapter is, we have a program of activities where there is building, um, building communities, growing leaders, and strengthening agriculture or the three areas of that. They are selected based on an activity they had in their local chapter, and then they compete for that. And so, with that, we had several winners. Stillwater, again, our big winner this year, was a national premier chapter in building communities, and Bartlesville was a National Premier chapter in growing leaders for their activities.

“We had a star winner this year, and for those of you that aren't familiar with that, the American FFA degree is the highest degree that a student can achieve, and it's based on their participation in FFA, but mostly it's based upon their SAE experience and the dollars that they are earning, through that along with the skills they're developing, uh, to prepare them for further career advancement. There are four areas: star farmer, star agricultural placement star, and Agro. science and star in Agro. business. And we had a national finalist Whitney Glazier who we'll talk to here just shortly, and she was actually the American Star. One of four stars Nationwide that was recognized, and that's a big deal in the FFA world, and we're very proud of Whitney.

“I'm extremely proud also, so she happens to be my great-niece as well. So little extra pride going in there. We'll introduce her shortly. Two national champion CDE teams, our Career Development events livestock judging. This for the second year in a row, a chapter from Oklahoma won that, and that was Guthrie. Then, the poultry evaluation, which is a very intense contest, lots of varieties of poultry, and that was Westville FFA was the national winner in that. With that said, we're going to see a short video of Whitney, and then we'll let her tell you her PR, her successes.

Mr. Randy Gilbert said, “I would like to say one thing just to put it in perspective for us to have the national champions, we have somewhere over 900,000 FFA members which is what I think I saw last. So, for us to have national champions with over 8 or 900,000 nationally it is a pretty big step. Congratulations to all of them.

Mr. Scott Nemecek said, “In terms of Whitney, the American degree, which the American stars come from the American degree list and there's over 3,000 of those each year, so it's a very distinguished honor and one that she can be very proud of as we are. So, Blanc, play the video.

The video said, “Hi, I'm Whitney Glazier, a member of the Lomega FFA chapter in Omega, Oklahoma, and I'm an American Star finalist in agriculture placement. My SAE in placement consists of working on the Family Farm and in grain production. We do seed wheat and in the forage production, I worked with the swather, bore, and rake. I ran all those pieces of equipment, and our family operation also consists of a beef cattle herd, so I also worked in that part of the deal. Then I went and worked for a veterinary clinic in Kusher, Oklahoma, where it was a mixed animal clinic, so I did both small and large animal. Currently, I work at the Agronomy research station at Oklahoma State University, where we do research on both soybeans and sorghum.

“One of the greatest challenges for me is I'm physically not very big in size. Especially on the family farm with all the large machinery, combines, and tractors, my family members, my uncles, grandparents, they were worried about me being able to handle myself with large machinery. So having to prove that I knew how to run the machinery and could do it safely and efficiently allowed them to believe that hey, I could do this. My dad was a big part of that; he was always the first one to teach me something new or teach me how to run a new piece of

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equipment. He also helped whenever we had something new to do; he would say, "Hey, Whitney can go do that because she knows how to do that." And my responsibilities just kind of blossomed from there, and just knowing that not giving up and hard work truly does pay off.

"My family has definitely been a big supporter and big help through my SAE projects. Being from a fifth-generation family farming operation, it's in our blood, and it's just something that was ingrained from the time you could walk. You could see going right around the buddy seat of the tractor with cousins and uncles and my dad and grandparents. It just showed that this is something I wanted to be a part of and something that was a passion to get involved in and be able to do. I've had multiple ag teachers throughout my FFA career, and I believe that they each one has had a different impact and a meaningful impact in shaping and making my FFA experience and my SAE the way that it turned out to be.

"They all played a different integral role in advising me and saying, "Let's maybe try this," or "I don't know if this will work, but maybe here's this that would work better." And they just showed that having the support from your school and from your FFA chapter just goes a really long way. One of the greatest things that I've learned throughout my SAE experiences would have to be to never stop learning. To me, the FFA is family, especially within your home chapter and within your State Association. You build so many memories and connections and friendships that would last a lifetime and they're invaluable not just in your FFA experience but in the overall grand scheme of life as well."

Mr. Scott Nemecek said, "So at this point, Whitney, if you'll come up and share a little bit more with them, and then they would you guys can certainly ask Whitney any questions that you would like to do."

Ms. Whitney Glazier said, "Hi, everyone, I'm Whitney Glazier. That was one of the coolest things I've ever done is to have somebody follow me around and get to video and kind of show a day in the life of just every little part of my SAE. So that was really cool. I mean, my SAE is different than most people. It's like placement SAEs or just SAEs in general because for my placement one, it was three different sections like working on the family farm, working at a vet clinic, and working at the agronomy station up here in UI still continue to do the family farm. It was just one that was natural and just made sense to keep continuing doing.

"I want to go to vet school and become a village animal veterinarian. So, I decided, hey, after graduating from high school that I need, I decided I was going to go work at a vet clinic and learned both sides of large animal and small animal. It was also cool to see the other side of veterinary medicine instead of being the patient with the animals that are being taken care of and working here at the agronomy research station just kind of allowed to keep going to college while also being able to work part-time to pay for going to college. So, it's kind of all fell in place and worked out probably as best as they probably could have.

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Awesome. You guys have questions for Whitney. Whitney, I would ask one question: What do you think are the most valuable skills that you've gained through the FFA? What's going to help you in your college career and then later on?"

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Ms. Whitney Glazier said, "Probably some of the most invaluable skills are definitely like general hard work, responsibility, and dedication. But just like paying attention to details and if you don't know something, ask questions because it's not going to make you look dumb or like you're not going to look like you don't know what you're doing if you're asking questions. It'll actually respect you and offer you to give more chances if you do ask questions 'cause they know, like, "Hey, if you don't know what you're doing, asking questions is a building block to learning and just developing your knowledge and skill set."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Awesome. Well, first off, congratulations. Thank you so much for what you've done. What questions would you all have for Whitney?"

Mr. Randy Gilbert said, "Congratulations on your accomplishments and thanks for bringing that to Oklahoma."

Ms. Whitney Glazier said, "Thank you. It was definitely, it still is so very surreal that, like, it's happened, and it's just, I keep looking back on the videos because a friend of mine videoed it going on to convention, and so I have it to be able to look back at. I'm like, did that seriously still happen? So it's just still crazily surreal."

Ms. Shaelynn Haning said, "So, what are you doing right now? How, what does your day-to-day look like between the work that you're doing and the school that you're doing? What is that like for you now?"

Ms. Whitney Glazier said, "So currently, I work at the OSU research station part-time, like in between going to classes and stuff because I'm a full-time student at OSU. So, it kind of is just a really good work balance because working for the school and working with the mentors and people that I work with, it's, you come to work when you are able to come to work, and you can work when you need to, and you have the ability to. Like, it's really flexible. So, say you have, like, an exam or something come up, you can be like, "Hey, I don't think I'll be in today. I need to study for this." And they're like, "Okay, that's perfectly fine," and then you can come in later once you get done with it. So, it's very flexible, and it's just been an awesome experience to be able to have that flexibility to go to convention where I was gone for 4-days, and every single one of them was behind me, like, "We're rooting for you, and we're hoping for you," and everything. So it's just, it's really awesome."

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Awesome, Whitney and thank you so much, we're very proud of you."
[Applause]

Mr. Scott Nemecek said, "Guys, well, as we move forward, we have some representatives from Stillwater, and they had probably a record convention, I think, of any chapter anywhere has ever had with the number of awards and recognition. And certainly, that doesn't happen by accident. They do a great job working hard and preparation for that. And so, we'd like to recognize them here just real briefly. I would call, first, they were the National Model of Excellence win, which in layman's terms, that is the outstanding chapter in the nation, the outstanding overall chapter in the nation. And so, at this time, Ryan Crosthwait, let's see, Kyriana Beard, and Trinity Blosch, I

believe, are going to go on to share a little bit about that success and what that means for them and what happened to get them to that point.”

Additional presentations and discussions were had among board members with national FFA Convention award winners, Mr. Ryan Crosthwait, Ms. Trinity Blosch, Ms. Kyriana Beard, Ms. Aubrey McEndoo, and Stillwater AG teacher, Tanner Nipper.

2.02 Presentation over United Way Fundraising Activities with Possible Discussion - Mr. Russell Ray, Director of Communications and Marketing

Mr. Russell Ray said, “It's great to see everybody here in Stillwater today. I'm going to talk a little bit about our United Way campaign, a great cause. We had a lot of fun. Our director, our very own director, Brent Haken, won our mini golf contest. He won it in a tiebreaker, and Jordan Duck, who's here with us today, we want a rematch. We could do it after the board meeting. I've got my putter. The other big highlight of the United Way campaign was our bucket challenge. Brent Haken versus our chief of staff, Justin Lockwood. The person who raised the most money got a nice cold bath, and we have some splendid video of that that we're going to show you here in a bit.”

“Let me start off with our mission statement. Our mission statement is to prepare Oklahoma to succeed in the workplace, in education, and in life. And I think if you really think about it, what that means is that we're here to change people's lives. And so, it only makes sense that for the last 40 years or so, we've aligned ourselves very closely with the United Way of Payne County. Our missions are very, very similar. The United Way helps organizations that help people. That's what we're doing here at Oklahoma CareerTech. The money that goes to United Way is used to provide people access to programs that promote a happier and healthier life. And again, that's something that we're here to do as well. United Way helps people with education, financial stability. It helps people with disabilities. It helps people who need shelter and food. It helps people who need protection from abuse. It's something that we're very proud of participating in every year. And so, every year, we hold a United Way campaign that lasts about two weeks, and we recruit a committee of volunteers who work very hard every year. It takes a lot of work to plan and prepare for all of these events. In addition to meeting their regular work deadlines, they need to meet the deadlines for United Way as well. And we have the committee is here with us today. I'd like to ask our members of our committee to please stand to be recognized for all their efforts this year.” [Applause].

“We had some of the traditional events, the chili dessert cook-off, a live auction, a silent auction, mini golf of course, scavenger hunt, Bingo. We had the Minute to Win It games that Jordan organized, and we had the ice bucket challenge, of course, that Denise Bethke organized as well. And this year's campaign was a big success. People are paying more for food, people are paying more for gas, people are paying more for rent. Despite all of those things, those increasing burdens, this year's campaign raised nearly \$20,000. A big hand for our committee.” [Applause].

“We've got a slideshow. We had a lot of fun, maybe too much fun, and I think this slideshow will represent that. Hit it.”

[Slide Show Played]

Mr. Russell Ray said, "A big thank you to our committee members who are here with us today. It's something we're very proud of. In addition to all that, we had a Halloween costume contest and an office decorating contest. We had to edit that slideshow a little bit and take out federal programs; they did a spook cast that was a little too spooky. Again, nearly \$20,000 for a great cause, and we're very proud. Forty years we've been doing this, and we're going to keep having fun doing it. Any questions or comments? Thank you, team. Thank you so much."

3. MANAGEMENT ACTION ITEMS

3.01 Proposed Executive Session for the Annual Performance Review of the State Director – Mr. Brent Haken, State Director of Career and Technology Education (Authority: 25 O.S. 2021, § 307 (B)(1)).

Should the Board enter Executive Session to discuss the annual performance review of the State Director, the following actions may be taken:

- a. Vote to Convene in Executive Session**
- b. Discuss the Annual Performance Review of the State Director**
- c. Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session**
- d. Possible Vote on Any Action Regarding Subjects of the Proposed Executive Session**

Mr. Brent Haken said, "Item 3.01 is a proposed executive session for the annual performance review of the state director, Mr. Brent Haken. With that, I need to turn it over to Randy (Gilbert) now because that's an item about me, and Superintendent Walters is not here as chair. Randy, I'll turn chairmanship over to you."

Mr. Randy Gilbert said, "Ok, we will move into the management action item 3.01, the proposed executive session for the annual performance review of the state director."

Mr. Edward Hilliary moved to convene into executive session at 9:58 a.m. Mr. Michael Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Mr. Michael Brown, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes
Mr. Edward Hilliary, yes
Mr. Rob Secman, yes

Motion Carried. A copy of the minutes is on file at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

c. Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session

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Mr. Michael Brown moved to return to open session at 10:42 a.m. Mr. Edward Hilliary seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Mr. Michael Brown, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes
Mr. Edward Hilliary, yes
Mr. Rob Seeman, yes

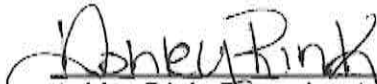
Motion carried. A copy of the minutes is on file at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

No votes were taken, and nothing was decided while in executive session.

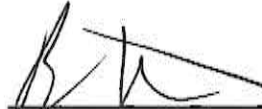
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Career and Technology Education will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will convene at the Oliver Hodge Education Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Ashley Rink, Executive Assistant
to the CareerTech State Director and
Secretary of the CareerTech Board



Ryan Walters, Chair of the Board-

