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April 8, 2025

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1958

By: Staires of the House

and

Sacchieri of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 5-118, which relates to meetings of district boards of education; allowing a board of education to submit an affidavit in lieu of meeting minutes in certain circumstances; stating affidavit requirements; requiring the State Department of Education to accept certain affidavits; clarifying duty of boards to keep meeting minutes; providing affidavit components; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 5-118, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-118. A. Regular meetings of the board of education of each school district shall be held upon the first Monday of each month, or upon such day as may be fixed by the board. Special meetings may be held from time to time as circumstances may demand.

B. All meetings of the boards of education shall be public meetings, and in all such meetings the vote of each member must be publicly cast and recorded. Executive sessions will be permitted

1 only for the purpose of discussing the employment, hiring,
2 appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignations of
3 any or all of the employees or volunteers of the school district,
4 and for the purpose of discussing negotiations concerning employees
5 and representatives of employee groups, and for the purpose of
6 hearing evidence and discussing the expulsion or suspension of a
7 student or students only when requested by the student involved or
8 his or her parent, attorney, or legal guardian; provided, however,
9 that any vote or action thereon must be taken in a public meeting
10 with the vote of each member publicly cast and recorded. It is
11 required that the board of education shall provide notice to the
12 student, his or her parent, attorney or legal guardian that said
13 student is entitled to an executive session regarding the discussion
14 of expulsion or suspension of said student.

15 C. Any action taken in violation of the provisions of this act
16 shall be invalid.

17 D. Each member of the board of education of a school district
18 with an average daily attendance exceeding fifteen thousand (15,000)
19 or a school district where boundaries encompass a total population
20 exceeding one hundred thousand (100,000) persons according to the
21 last preceding Federal Decennial Census may be paid from the
22 district's general fund a stipend of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00)
23 for each regular, special or adjourned meeting of the board of
24

1 education that he or she attends, but not for more than four
2 meetings in any calendar month.

3 E. 1. Unless otherwise provided by law, a board of education
4 may submit an Affidavit of Board Action to the State Department of
5 Education in lieu of approved board minutes to provide proof of an
6 action approved or taken at a board meeting. Such affidavit shall
7 be signed and sworn by the applicable personnel as provided in
8 paragraph 2 of this subsection. The State Department of Education
9 shall accept a signed Affidavit of Board Action as certification
10 that the district board has approved or taken a specific action at a
11 board meeting. Nothing in this subsection shall exempt a board of
12 education from keeping minutes of a meeting in accordance with
13 Section 312 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

14 2. The Affidavit of Board Action described in paragraph 1 of
15 this subsection shall include:

- 16 a. the county or district code,
- 17 b. the name of the school district,
- 18 c. the date of the board meeting,
- 19 d. the agenda item number approved,
- 20 e. a summary of the action approved,
- 21 f. an affirming signature representing the district from
22 the district superintendent or the assistant
23 superintendent, and

1 g. an affirming signature representing the district board
2 from the board president or chair, or from a board
3 officer.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
6 April 8, 2025 - DO PASS
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