

Board Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2022, at 12:00 PM



ATTENDING:

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz, Dr. Michael Odell, Dr. Joanna Neel, Dr. Dominick Fazarro, Dr. Gina Doepker, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, Mr. Eric Semlear, Mr. Alan Buckland, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, Ms. Aimee Dennis, Ms. Jaclyn Pedersen, Ms. Jaema Krier, Ms. Christian Chesnut, Ms. Rachel Hawkins, Ms. Ummo Bodede, Dr. Kelly Dyer, Mr. Michael Donley, Ms. Kimberly Harden, Mr. Chris Kinsey, TraVey Robinson, Siena Robinson. Parents/guests were present/watching via online streaming through Zoom.

OPENING:

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz on Thursday, July 14th, 2022.

1. Call to Order

Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz confirmed quorum of board members were present; all members present.

2. Pledge:

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Pledge of the Allegiance to the Texas Flag

DEPARTURE/APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz was recognized as the departing President and Board Member after 6 years of service. Mr. Jeffry Kennemer was appointed as President and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

3. Open for Public Comment

Mr. Kennemer confirmed that there were no requests for public comment.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Swearing in of Newly Elected/Appointed Members

Dr. Gina Doepker and Mr. Alan Buckland were sworn in and given the opportunities to introduce themselves.

5. Consent Agenda

- a) Previous Minutes, May 5, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JK", is enclosed in a blue rectangular box. Above the box, the letters "DS" are printed in a small font.

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1st Motion: Dr. Odell, 2nd Motion: Dr. Neel, Passed 7-0

Palestine Parent, Ms. Robinson, and Student, Sienna, were given the opportunity to address the Board concerning the appeal of their grievance in either open or closed session. The student and her parent elected to address the Board in closed session.

12:15 p.m. – Mr. Kennemer called for the Board to go into Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.0821 to hear student and parent testimony. No objections were made.

12:32 p.m. - The Board returned to Open Session.

6. Executive Session Under Texas Government Code 551.074 to address Personnel Matters

12:35 p.m. - Mr. Kennemer called for the Board to go into Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.074 to discuss personnel matters. No objections were made.

1:37 p.m. – The Board returned from Executive Session.

Board took a brief break.

1:51 p.m. – The Board returned to Open Session.

Mr. Kennemer announced that the Board reviewed the actions and heard testimony from both the parent/student, as well as Administration. It is their determination that the school's action were deemed appropriate and that a recommendation is made to close the grievance filed by Ms. Robinson.

Dr. Odell motioned to close the grievance. Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

7. Executive Session Under Texas Government Code 551.089 to address the Safety & Security Audit

1:51 p.m. – Mr. Kennemer called for the Board to go into Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.089 to discuss the Safety & Security Audit. No objections were made.

2:48 p.m. – The Board returned to Open Session.

Dr. Fazarro had to depart; leaving 6 members present (maintaining a quorum).

8. Request Approval of District Safety & Security Audit Report



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Dr. Doepker motioned to accept the presented Audit Report. Mr. Semlear seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

9. Request Approval of Emergency Operating Plan – Active Threat Annex

Dr. Doepker motioned to approve the Active Threat Annex. Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

10. Request Approval of Policy Update:

- **PG-2.8 Make-Up Work**

Dr. Simmons explained that the current policy leaves the timeline for make-up work to the discretion of the teacher. The change to policy would provide student's two days per day absent to complete missed assignments.

Mr. Semlear motioned to adopt the proposed revision to policy. Dr. Doepker seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Dr. Odell had to depart, leaving 5 members present (maintaining a quorum).

11. Request Approval of 2021-2022 Budget Amendments

Ms. Chesnut presented the General Fund and Non-Governmental Fund amendments necessary for the 2021-2022 budget. Moved funds from Instruction to cover expenses in Library, Health Services, Transportation, Food Service, and Maintenance. Also recorded local revenue from students for Food Service costs and expensed those in the non-Governmental budget.

Dr. Neel motioned to approve the amendments. Mr. Semlear seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

12. Request Adoption of the 2022-2023 Budget

Dr. Simmons discussed the rising cost of personnel and the need to schedule a planned use of fund balance to cover building payment to keep other planned expenses within the fiscal revenue. The budget is conservative and likely will result in unused funds, meaning the planned fund balance use should be minimal. Discussions have increased around the need for expanded facilities to increase enrollment and revenue.

Mr. Semlear motioned to adopt the 2022-2023 Budget as written. Mr. Buckland seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

13. Request Adoption of 2022-2023 Code of Conduct

No changes were made to the Code of Conduct for the upcoming year.



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Dr. Neel motioned to adopt the 2022-2023 Code of Conduct as written. Mr. Buckland seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

14. Superintendent Report

a. Tyler Campus Director

Dr. Simmons introduced Dr. Dyer as the new Campus Director for Tyler. Dr. Dyer had been present earlier in the day, but had to leave to present for the doctoral program.

b. School Safety & Security

Dr. Simmons and Ms. Dennis presented on various improvements planned for the UA campuses as a result of the safety audit and an available grant the school has applied for with the help of the Campus PD and EH&S. An informational meeting is scheduled for parents and the UA community at 6:00 p.m. on August 6th. It will be held virtually.

c. Finance Updates

i. 2021-2022 Budget Report

Ms. Chesnut presented the current state of the budget, noting that the school has revenue owed for grant reimbursements as well as final FSP payments for the year. We intend to roll over more than initially budgeted.

ii. ESSER Update & RIPICS Review

Ms. Dennis presented results of the ESSER Survey noting the only comment made regarding suggestions/feedback was the need for the district to use the funds for teacher salary increases like other districts have done. No feedback was received regarding the RIPICS.

iii. Intent to Apply

Ms. Dennis explained that the District is scheduled to submit annual applications for the ESSA Consolidated grants which include the standard Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A, Title III, Part A, Title IV, Part A, and IDEA-B. The district also intends to apply for the APR Homeless II Federal Grant and a safety and security grant that if awarded, would be \$300,000 with a \$100,000 match by the district.

d. Preliminary STAAR Ratings/Data

Dr. Simmons and Ms. Dennis briefly reviewed the ratings and noted as it stands the District, as well as all three campuses, should receive an A rating. In the interest of time, the more in-depth discussion was tabled until future meetings.

e. 2022-2023 District & Campus Improvement Plans



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Dr. Simmons and Ms. Dennis briefly reviewed the District and Campus Improvement Plans, noting the district goals, and stating that the documents are living documents that can change throughout the year as needed. They are evaluated at the end of each semester to determine if the district/campuses met progress on their goals and objectives.

f. Enrollment Projections for 2022-2023

The district is anticipating 898 students as of current projections, with 269 on the wait list district-wide, the bulk of those from Longview who is at capacity in the younger grade levels.

g. Campus Updates

Dr. Simmons explained that campuses are still busy recruiting to fill vacancies. Tyler has two portables with 4 classrooms, which just arrived and are being made ready for the first of the year. Custodial has been busy waxing floors this summer.

h. Administrative Updates

Teachers return August 1st. The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for August 3rd at the UC Ballroom following the College of Education's Back-to-School event at the Cowen Center, which UA staff will attend.

i. Looking Forward

Board Members were advised of the need for a Special Board Meeting to be called on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at Noon to address last minute items before school begins. It was suggested that moving forward the Board meet in July, August and September of each year due to the number of last minute items that need addressed at the start of every school year.

Board Members were reminded that their annual board training updates are coming due and that we will be assigning their trainings this Fall.

Board Governance Reporting and Annual Conflict of Interest filings are due in November. We will begin processing initial drafts soon in order to have the final, official forms, available for their signature and final reporting deadlines.

15. Adjournment

1st Motion: Mr. Semlear, 2nd Motion: Dr. Dopeker, adjournment occurred at 3:52 p.m.

Adopted at a meeting of the Board on August 11, 2022.

DocuSigned by:

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Mr. Jeffrey Kennemer
President, UTTUA School Board
8/11/2022

Certificate Of Completion

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Signer Events

Jeffrey Kennemer
 jkennemer@uttia.org
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature



Signature Adoption: Drawn on Device
 Using IP Address: 47.219.117.156
 Signed using mobile

Timestamp

Sent: 8/11/2022 4:09:37 PM
 Viewed: 8/11/2022 4:10:32 PM
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 8/11/2022 4:10:32 PM
 ID: c11c0bec-5284-4db2-b82d-1281aa701ec3
 Company Name: The University of Texas at Tyler

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Jaema Krier
 jkrier@uttyler.edu
 Director of Administration
 UT Tyler University Academy
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)



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Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	8/11/2022 4:09:37 PM
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Browsers (for SENDERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0? or above
Browsers (for SIGNERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0?, Mozilla FireFox 1.0, NetScape 7.2 (or above)
Email:	Access to a valid email account
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum
Enabled Security Settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow per session cookies

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