

Board Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2023, 12:06 PM



**ATTENDING:**

Dr. Joanna Neel, Dr. Gina Doepker, Dr. Michael Odell, Dr. Dominick Fazarro, Mr. Eric Semlear, Mr. Alan Buckland, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, Aimee Dennis, Christian Chesnut, Amanda Kaiser, Kelly Dyer, Jaclyn Pedersen, Ummi Bodede, Rachel Hawkins and Heather Bailey. Parents/guests observed via the online stream.

**OPENING:**

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Mr. Kennemer on Thursday, February 23, 2023.

**1. Call to Order**

- Mr. Kennemer confirmed quorum of board members were present with board president, 7 board members were present.

**2. Pledge:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**3. Open for Public Comment**

- Mr. Kennemer confirmed no request for public comment were received.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**4. Consent Agenda**

- a. Previous Minutes, Thursday, January 12, 2023. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion to approve by Dr. Doepker and 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to approve by Dr. Fazarro. Passed 7-0

**5. Request Approval to Submit Renewal Waiver-Teacher Data Portal of TX Assessment Mgmt. System:**

This a 3-year renewal for the teacher data portal. 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve by Dr. Odell and 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve by Dr. Neel. Passed 7-0

**6. Request Approval to File a Staff Development Waiver for 2023-2024 Calendar**

Allows for five staff development days within the school year to meet the minimum requirement of 180 instructional days. 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve by Mr. Buckland and 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to approve by Dr. Fazarro. Passed 7-0

#### **7. Request Approval of 2023-2024 District Calendar**

Dr. Simmons explained to the Board about the differences between a minute's calendar and a day's calendar. She explained that the poll sent to teachers showed they favored the minutes calendar with 60% for and 40% against. However, the data from the survey sent to parents showed that 60% wanted to keep the day's calendar and 40% wanted to keep the minute's calendar. Dr. Odell discussed the differences in the schools that have changed to the minute's calendar and how this may affect our future enrollment. Board members discussed how we need more research before deciding. Dr. Simmons answered any/all questions from the Board about teacher burnout and how we can ease this problem. The Board didn't feel there was enough data to change the calendar to minutes instead of days at this time. 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve the day's calendar with the changes of increasing the days off for winter break by 3 days and increasing the instructional days at the end of the school year by three days made by Dr. Doepker and 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to approve by Mr. Buckland. Passed 7-0

#### **8. Request Approval of 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion to approve by Dr. Neel, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve by Dr. Fazarro. Passed 7-0

#### **9. Request Approval for Budget Amendments for 2022-2023**

Christian Chesnut provided information about the amendments that have been made for this school year. 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve by Mr. Buckland, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion by Dr. Odell. Passed 7-0

#### **10. Executive Session Under Texas Government Code 551.074 to discuss the Superintendent's annual performance evaluation**

1:18 p.m. – Mr. Kennemer called for the Board to go into Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.074 to discuss the Superintendent's annual performance. No objections were made.

2:04 p.m. – The Board returned to Open Session.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

### **11. Superintendent Report**

#### **a. 2021-2022 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) & Annual Report**

Dr. Simmons presented the TAPR and the Annual Report which is available to parents and the community.

#### **b. Financial Update FY 23**

Christian Chesnut presented the current state of the budget.

#### **c. Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) Manual**

Christian presented the EDGAR Manual which provides the federal regulations that govern all federal grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Education.

#### **d. Cancellation of March 2,2023 School Board Meeting**

Dr. Simmons reviewed that the March 2, 2023, School Board Meeting is cancelled, and the next meeting will be held on May 4, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

#### **e. District/Campus Enrollment and Attendance**

Dr. Simmons presented the current attendance percentages for the campus and district, and she also reviewed the current enrollment which is at 845 students. Dr. Simmons reviewed that we are always looking at ways to increase enrollment through marketing.

#### **f. Campus Updates**

Dr. Simmons reviewed that there are many campus activities that have occurred this year on each campus to which the Board has already discussed.

#### **g. Administrative Updates**

- a. Senior Banquets/Graduations-** Dr. Simmons invited all Board Members to attend the Senior Banquets that would be hosted in May at each campus in addition to graduation. Dr. Simmons also informed the Board that we are looking for a speaker for graduation, so if a Board Member had a suggestion to please reach out to her.

- b. Recruitment- Dr. Simmons reviewed that information about recruitment for 2023-2024 has been communicated to families and we are also pushing with marketing for the expansion in Longview.
- c. Facilities- Dr. Simmons discussed the expansions occurring in Tyler and Longview and reviewed the district is working closely with the university to address facility needs.

**h. Lab School Activities**

Dr. Simmons reviewed that we continue to work with the university to engage in research.

- i. **Looking Forward-** Superintendent to the Region 7 Advisory Committee for 2023-2024, TEKS Certification for 2023-2024, Region 7 E-Agreement for 2023-2024, Board Election Appointments

Dr. Odell highlighted a proclamation that was read on the floor of the capital recognizing the University Academy. Dr. Simmons spoke about the three University Academy students who received the Honor scholarship to UT Tyler.

**Adjournment**

1<sup>st</sup> Motion made by Dr. Odell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion made by Dr. Doepker. Adjournment occurred at 2:14 p.m.

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**Envelope Summary Events**

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**Timestamps**

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