



Board Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2025  
Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

**ATTENDING:**

Voting Members:

Alan Buckland  
Dr. Gina Doecker

Dr. Dominick Fazarro  
Dr. Michael Odell

Dr. Yanira Oliveras  
Eric Semlear, Board President

Non-voting attendees:

Heather Bailey  
Sammi Broussard  
Christian Chesnut  
Dr. Aimee Dennis

Stephanie Halberstadt  
Rachel Hawkins  
Amanda Kaiser  
Shelly Parsons

Dr. Jaclyn Pedersen  
Dr. Jo Ann Simmons  
  
Participants via Zoom link.

**Board Meeting**

1. Call to Order  
The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Mr. Semlear on Thursday, February 27, 2025, confirming that a quorum was present.
2. Pledge  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was said, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

**Closed Meeting**

3. Executive Session- The Board will go into Executive Session under Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to deliberate personnel matters, specifically employment and duties.
  - a. The Board entered Executive Session at 12:04 p.m. and exited at 12:52 p.m.

**Public Comment**

4. Open for Public Comment

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- a. There was one registration for public comment. Mr. Semlear read the board rules and procedures regarding public comment, and then the board listened to the comments by the registrant, Stephanie Halberstadt.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

5. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve Previous Minutes, [Thursday, January 23, 2025](#).
  - b. Dr. Doepker moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
6. Request Approval to Submit Renewal Waiver- Teacher Data Portal of TX Assessment Mgmt System
  - a. Dr. Simmons reported that UTTUA prefers to use DMAC as its data portal system rather than the state-provided system. This waiver provides approval for DMAC. Dr. Oliveras moved to approve the submission of the renewal waiver, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Request Approval for [Budget Amendments for 2024-2025](#)
  - a. Ms. Chesnut presented the Budget Amendments. Dr. Fazarro moved to approve the Budget Amendments for 2024-2025, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Request Approval of [TIA Spending Plan Modification](#)
  - a. Dr. Pedersen presented the plan, reporting that the updated plan will allow a larger percentage of the TIA funds to be distributed to the TIA-designated teachers. Dr. Odell moved to approve the TIA Spending Plan Modification, and Mr. Buckland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Dr. Pedersen also took a moment to celebrate the University Academy's significant increase in [teaching staff earning TIA designations](#). Dr. Simmons thanked Dr. Pedersen for her hard work in the TIA processes.
9. Executive Session- The Board will go into Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.074 to discuss the Superintendent's annual performance evaluation.
  - a. The Board entered the Executive Session at 1:17 p.m. and exited the Executive Session at 1:55 p.m.
10. Executive Session- The Board will go into Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.076 to address School Safety & Security Committee updates for the
  - a. District Safety & Security Audit Report
  - b. Safety Updates
  - c. Weekly Inspection Data

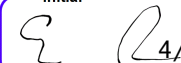
The Board entered the Executive Session at 1:56 p.m. and exited the Executive Session at 2:03 p.m.

11. Request Approval of District Safety & Security Audit Report
  - a. Dr. Odell moved to approve the District Safety & Security Audit Report, and Dr. Oliveras seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
12. Request Approval of PG-6.1 Nondiscrimination
13. Request Approval of [PG-6.3 Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee](#)
14. Request Approval of [PG-6.7 Children Who Transfer](#)
15. Request Approval of [PG-6.13 Dyslexia and Related Disorders](#)
16. Request Approval of [PG-6.14 Eligibility Criteria](#)
17. Request Approval of [PG-6.15 Referral for Possible Special Education Services](#)
18. Request Approval of [PG-6.16 Evaluation](#)
19. Request Approval of [PG-6.19 Shared Services Arrangements](#)
20. Request Approval of [PG-6.22 Graduation Plan](#)
  - a. Ms. Broussard presented each of the Board Policies PG-6.1 through PG-6.22.
  - b. Dr. Odell moved to approve the updated policies, PG-6.1 through PG-6.22. Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

21. Financial Updates:
  - a. Ms. Chesnut presented the [2024-2025 Budget Report](#). The General Fund received \$5 million and expended \$5.6 million, and the Activity Fund received \$26,000 and expended \$20,000.
22. Superintendent Report
  - a. [District Enrollment and Attendance](#)- Dr. Simmons once again thanked the campus admins for their hard work and attention to campus attendance.
  - b. [SPED Cyclical Monitoring Report](#)
    - i. Ms. Broussard reported that the report covered a 7-year cycle, and UTTUA received a 100% compliance rating. Dr. Simmons congratulated the Special Education Team, led by Ms. Broussard, and said that this achievement spoke volumes of the team and their commitment to high reporting standards.
  - c. Campus Updates:
    1. Longview- Ms. Hawkins presented that their scholars had several successes in state-level 4-H cooking competitions, and their Family STEAM/PatriART night is that evening.
    2. Palestine- Ms. Parsons presented that high school social studies teacher Mr. White was selected to participate in a continuing education program, the Lighthouse team hosted a dance, and their Campus Bazaar and Community Engagement event is coming up in March.

3. Tyler- Dr. Simmons announced that three seniors won the Honors College Scholarship from UT Tyler, the campus hosted a Second Semester Open House, and the campus is hosting a campus-wide PBL before Spring Break. Dr. Dennis presented that the PTO was sponsoring a Readathon.
  - d. Lab School Updates
    - i. Reading Buddies continues, as do Phase I and II teacher observations.
    - ii. Dr. Odell reported UA students are helping with GLOBE research.
  - e. Administrative Updates:
    - i. Facilities: continue to work with facilities for spring/summer projects such as awnings and carpet tiles.
  - f. Looking Forward: Waiver Applications/Renewals; 2025-2026 District/Board Calendar Adoptions; Budget Amendments; Financial Updates; TEKS Certification for 2025-2026; School Board Elections- Palestine Parent Representative, College of Education and Psychology Appointment
23. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm with a motion from Dr. Odell and seconded by Dr. Doecker. The motion passed unanimously.

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Eric Semlear

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Board Member

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## Timestamp

## Envelope Summary Events

## Status

## Timestamps

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