



Board Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2025
Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

ATTENDING:

Voting Members:

Alan Buckland	Dr. Joanna Neel	Dr. Yanira Oliveras
Dr. Gina Doepker (via zoom)	Dr. Michael Odell	Eric Semlear, Board President

Non-voting attendees:

Heather Bailey	Amanda Kaiser	Dr. Jo Ann Simmons
Christian Chesnut	Dr. Jaclyn Pedersen	Participants via Zoom link.
Dr. Aimee Dennis		

Board Meeting

1. Call to Order
Mr. Semlear called the board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy to order at 12:02 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 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 Session

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 12:03 p.m. and exited at 1:02 p.m.

Public Comment

4. Open for Public Comment
 - a. No one registered for public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve Previous Minutes, [Thursday, February 27, 2025](#).
 - b. Mr. Buckland moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Odell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
6. Request Approval of [Open Education Resources \(OER\) Transition Plan](#)
 - a. Dr. Pedersen explained that UA would like to use the Texas Bluebonnet Curriculum for K-5 Math.
 - b. Dr. Odell moved to approve the request, and Dr. Olivares seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Request Approval for [Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials Survey 2025-2026](#)
 - a. Dr. Pedersen presented that this is an annual certification required by the State Board of Education.
 - b. Dr. Olivares moved to approve the request, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Request Approval for [Budget Amendments for 2024-2025](#)
 - a. Ms. Chesnut presented the updates for the 2024-2025 Budget Amendments.
 - b. Mr. Buckland moved to approve the request, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
9. Request Approval of [2025-2026 District Calendar](#)
 - a. Dr. Simmons presented the proposed 2025-2026 District Calendar.
 - b. Dr. Odell moved to approve the proposed calendar, and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Request Approval of the [2025-2026 School Board Meeting Calendar](#)
 - a. Dr. Simmons presented the proposed 2025-2026 School Board Meeting Calendar.
 - b. Mr. Buckland moved to approve the calendar, and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
11. Request Approval for [2025-2026 Staff Development Waiver](#)
 - a. Dr. Simmons presented this annual request.
 - b. Dr. Olivares moved to approve the request, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
12. Request Approval for the [2025-2026 Professional Development Schedule](#)
 - a. Dr. Dennis presented the 2025-2026 Professional Development Schedule.
 - b. Dr. Neel moved to approve the request, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Request Approval of [PG-5.021 Authorization for the Obligation and Expenditure of Funds](#)

- a. Ms. Chesnut presented that this is a new Board Policy concerning creating and adopting the budget. It will not change any of our current operations.

14. Request Approval of [PG-5.490 Employee Assistance Program](#)

- a. Ms. Chesnut presented that this is also a new Board Policy, which aligns with the UT Tyler HOP.
- b. Dr. Neel moved to approve both PG-5.021 and PG-5.490. Dr. Odell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Oliveras left the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

15. Financial Updates:

- a. Ms. Chesnut presented the [2024-2025 Budget Report](#). The General Fund received \$7.1 million and expended \$7.7 million, and the Activity Fund received \$40,000 and expended \$29,000.

16. Superintendent Report

- a. [District Enrollment and Attendance](#)- Dr. Simmons presented the current district enrollment and attendance percentages and discussed recent lottery successes.
- b. Campus Updates:
 1. Longview- Ms. Hawkins sent a document for Dr. Dennis to present: Longview completed a successful lottery with minimal openings left, 15 students qualified for Regional UIL Academics, Longview has a student selected for Boys State, and had students receiving Region 7 poetry awards and state STUCO awards.
 2. Palestine- Ms. Parsons sent a document for Dr. Dennis to present: Palestine was also very pleased with a successful lottery with openings only in high school, two teams qualified for Regional UIL Academics, a high school teacher was nominated for local Teacher of the Year, and Mr. White was named to the Vanderbilt Peabody College Alexander Initiative 2025 Fellowship and a member of the NEW Landmarks of American History and Culture workshop.
 3. Tyler—Dr. Dennis presented that Tyler has an upcoming art show, Radiant Children, with a Leader in Me Notebook presentation; UA achieved a 96% A rating from TEA, zero violations on the TEA intruder audit, 1st and 2nd place at the UT Tyler IDEA Challenge, 16 participants in Regional UIL Academics, and two students recognized as Rotary Young Citizens.
- c. [District End of Year Events](#)

- i. Dr. Simmons presented the end-of-year senior banquets, awards dates, and graduation.
- d. Lab School Updates presented by Dr. Simmons
 - i. Dr. Neel's Reading Buddies were concluding on the Tyler campus
 - ii. Phase students were wrapping up their observations and teaching on the Tyler campus.
 - iii. Dr. Odell reported that UA students are helping with GLOBE research.
- e. Administrative Updates:
 - i. Facilities: No new buildings are planned for the 2025-2026 school year
 - 1. Palestine: space in Mathis Hall is being arranged for appropriately sized classrooms for UA classes.
 - 2. Longview: meeting with LUC to look at future use of new facilities, specifically labs.
 - 3. Tyler: creating a larger art room/design center within the existing space.

Dr. Simmons presented the recently released TEA accountability report from 2023. She was proud to report that the University Academy district and all three campuses received an A rating, were the top-performing school in Region 7, and were among the seven schools in the state to perform higher than University Academy.

- f. Looking Forward: 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct, 2025-2026 Student Handbook, 2025-2026 Faculty/Staff Handbook, Superintendent to the Region 7 Advisory Committee for 2025-2026, Intent to Apply for Federal Funds (ESSA; IDEA-B), Region 7 EAgreements for 2025-2026, School Board Elections- Palestine Parent Representative and College of Education and Psychology Appointment.

17. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 pm with a motion from Dr. Odell and seconded by Dr. Neel. The motion passed unanimously.

DS
MO

5/22/2025

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 6ECB07D2-A1BB-4491-8C24-F15C31183FF8
 Subject: Complete with Docusign: 4. 4.24.25 UTTUA Board Minutes.pdf
 Source Envelope:
 Document Pages: 4
 Certificate Pages: 1
 AutoNav: Enabled
 Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled
 Time Zone: (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

Status: Completed

 Envelope Originator:
 Aimee Dennis
 3900 University Blvd
 Tyler, TX 75799
 adennis@uttyler.edu
 IP Address: 192.88.11.210

Record Tracking

Status: Original
 5/22/2025 12:44:48 PM
 Holder: Aimee Dennis
 adennis@uttyler.edu
 Location: DocuSign

Signer Events

Michael Odell
 modell@uttyler.edu
 ED IC

The University of Texas at Tyler
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
 (None)

Signature

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
 Using IP Address: 192.88.11.210

Timestamp

Sent: 5/22/2025 12:45:44 PM
 Viewed: 5/22/2025 2:22:28 PM
 Signed: 5/22/2025 2:22:44 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
 Not Offered via Docusign

In Person Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Editor Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Agent Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Certified Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Carbon Copy Events

Status

Timestamp

Witness Events

Signature

Timestamp

Notary Events

Signature

Timestamp

Envelope Summary Events

Status

Timestamps

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Payment Events

Status

Timestamps