



Board Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

ATTENDING IN PERSON:

Voting Members:

Dr. Gina Doecker

Eric Semlear, President

Dr. Dominick Fazarro, arriving at 4:45 pm

Non-voting attendees:

Heather Bailey

Dr. Neil Gray

Cori Mackey

Sammi Broussard

Rachel Hawkins

Shelly Parsons

Christian Chesnut

Amanda Kaiser

Dr. Jaclyn Pedersen

Dr. Aimee Dennis

Andrew Kohls

ATTENDING ON ZOOM:

Voting Members:

Alan Buckland

Dr. Joanna Neel

Dr. Michael Odell

Board Meeting

1. Call to Order

Mr. Semlear called the UT Tyler University Academy board meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. on Thursday, September 25, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. Open for Public Comment

- a. Mr. Semlear noted that no one registered for public comment.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Introduction of Dr. Neil Gray, Interim Dean of the College of Education and Psychology

- a. Dr. Dennis welcomed Dr. Gray and introduced him to the board, followed by kind comments from Dr. Gray.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve Previous Minutes, [Thursday, September 11, 2025](#).
 - b. Dr. Doepker moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
6. Request Approval of [Board Resolution Regarding Non-Enrolled Students and UIL](#)
 - a. Dr. Dennis presented the Resolution.
 - b. Dr. Doepker moved to approve the Resolution Regarding Non-Enrolled Students and UIL. Dr. Odell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
7. Request Approval Board Policies
 - a. [PG 1.103 Board Authority, Roles, and Responsibilities](#)
 - b. [PG 1.201 Board Meetings](#)
 - c. [PG 1.206 Parental Engagement Policy](#)
 - d. [PG 1.406 Security Officers](#)
 - e. [PG 2.114 Student Health Curriculum](#)
 - f. [PG 3.318- Concussion Response Policy](#)
 - g. [PG 3.321 Student Health Advisory Council](#)
 - h. [PG 3.317 Sexual Abuse, Sex Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children](#)
 - i. [PG 3.506 Student Activities](#)
 - j. [PG 4.204 Reporting Employee Misconduct](#)
 - k. [PG 4.212 Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Duties](#)
 - l. [PG 4.213 Instructional Requirements and Prohibitions](#)
 - i. Mr. Semlear invited discussion on the policies.
 - ii. Mr. Buckland moved to table Policy PG 1.406 for more clarification and to approve PG 1.103, PG 1.201, PG 1.206, PG 2.114, PG 3.318, PG 3.321, PG 3.317, PG 3.506, PG 4.204, PG 4.212, and PG 4.213. Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
8. Request Approval of [Resolution for Anderson County Texas Extra Curricular 4-H Organization](#)
 - a. Ms. Parsons presented the Resolution.
 - b. Dr. Doepker moved to approve the Resolution for Anderson County Texas Extra Curricular 4-H Organization, and Mr. Buckland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
9. Request Approval of the Updated [Student Code of Conduct](#)
 - a. Dr. Dennis presented the updated Student Code of Conduct.
 - b. Dr. Doepker moved to approve the updated Student Code of Conduct, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. Financial Updates:

- a. Ms. Chesnut presented [2024-2025 Budget Report](#).

11. 2024-2025 Charter FIRST (FY24 data)

- a. Dr. Dennis reported that UT Tyler University Academy continued to receive a Superior Rating and thanked Christian Chesnut, Finance Manager, for her hard work. Ms. Chesnut presented the following:
 - i. [2023-2024 Charter Management Report](#)
 - ii. [2023-2024 Charter FIRST Indicators](#)
 - iii. [2024-2025 Charter Management Report](#)
 - iv. [2024-2025 Charter FIRST Indicators](#)

12. [Title III Annual report/ESL Waiver](#)

- a. Dr. Pedersen presented the report.

13. Superintendent Report

- a. Dr. Dennis presented the current [District Enrollment and Attendance](#) numbers.
 - i. Dr. Dennis also reported:
 - 1. Longview and Palestine UA campuses have been named among U.S. News and World Report's Best High Schools for 2025.
 - 2. UT Tyler is working with the City of Longview and TXDOT on the installation of a school zone at the UA Longview campus.
- b. Campus Updates:
 - i. Longview: Ms. Hawkins reported that they will be hosting a Leader in Me campus night next week, Kindness Week is approaching, clubs are starting, STUCO will be attending a leadership conference, and their PTO has been particularly supportive this year.
 - ii. Palestine: Ms. Parsons reported that their PTO sponsored a successful book fair, a forestry expert was a guest speaker on campus, students completed Stop the Bleed training, 2nd grade adopted a lion from Tiger Creek, and Mayor Jordan Mitchell visited the campus to speak with 6th and 7th graders.
 - iii. Tyler: Mr. Kohls reported that ABC Bootcamp wrapped up today for kindergarten. The PTO and campus are gearing up for Trunk or Treat participation with UT Tyler. STEM night for the community will take place at the end of October, and clubs have started.
- c. Administrative Updates
 - i. Lab School Updates: Dr. Pedersen reported that 58 students from the UT Tyler School of Education were on campus this semester, including those participating in UTeach and Reading Buddies, as well as her own Classroom Interactions class, which met on campus. Dr. Odell reported that over 90% of University Academy staff have degrees from UT Tyler.
 - ii. Facilities: Dr. Dennis reported that Dr. Haas and Stephanie Fenter would be touring the Longview and Tyler campuses next week.

- d. Looking Forward: November 13th School Board Meeting, Complete Annual Trainings by October 17th; Budget Amendments, Financial Updates, Governance Reporting, Performance of Students Receiving Special Education Services
14. Adjournment
- a. Dr. Doecker moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doecker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm.