



Board Meeting Minutes
July 31, 2025, 12:00 p.m.
Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

ATTENDING IN PERSON:

Voting Members:

Alan Buckland
Dr. Gina Doecker
Dr. Joanna Neel

Dr. Michael Odell
Eric Semlear, President

Non-voting attendees

Heather Bailey
Sammi Broussard
Christian Chesnut
Dr. Aimee Dennis

Amber Greene
Dr. Barbara Haas
Rachel Hawkins
Amanda Kaiser

Andrew Kohls
Nurse Cori Mackey
Dr. Jaclyn Pedersen

ATTENDING ON ZOOM:

Voting Members:

Dr. Yanira Oliveras

Non-voting Members:

Dr. Max Dass
Nikki Hart

Shelly Parsons
Holli Tate

Board Meeting

1. Call to Order

Mr. Semlear called the UT Tyler University Academy board meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, 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.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

3. Introduction of Dr. Barbara Haas, newly appointed UT Tyler Provost of Academic Affairs

- a. The Board members introduced themselves to Dr. Haas, and Dr. Odell presented a brief history of UA.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Open for Public Comment
 - a. Mr. Semlear noted that no one registered for public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Swearing in of Newly Elected/Appointed Members
 - a. Dr. Gina Doepker, UT Tyler Faculty Representative, was sworn in by Public Notary Christian Chesnut by stating the Oath of Office and Statement of Officer.
6. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve Previous Minutes, [Monday, July 21, 2025](#).
 - b. Dr. Neel moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Doepker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
7. Request [Approval of Interim Superintendent](#)
 - a. Mr. Buckland moved to approve the appointment of Dr. Aimee Dennis as University Academy's Interim Superintendent. Dr. Neel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of the recommendation.
8. Request [Approval of the Division of Superintendent Duties](#)
 - a. Dr. Odell moved to approve the Division of Superintendent Duties, and Dr. Doepker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of the motion.
9. Executive Session- The Board will go into Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.089 to address School Safety & Security Committee recommendations for the
 - a. Multi-hazard Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Basic Plan
 - b. Active Threat for School Annex
 - c. Active Shooter Appendix to the Active Threat Annex
 - d. Cybersecurity Annex
 - e. AED and Stop the Bleed Locations
 - f. Weekly Inspection Data
 - g. Bi-annual Maintenance Check
 - h. Required 3-Year Safety Audit Charter Audit Report (CARtool)The Board moved to Executive session at 12:19, and returned from Executive Session at 12:33.
10. Request Approval of the Safety and Security Committee Recommendations
 - a. Dr. Odell moved to approve the Safety and Security Committee Recommendations, and Dr. Doepker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of the recommendations.

11. Request Approval of Board Policies

- a. Request [Approval of PG-1.404 Crisis and Trauma Response](#)
- b. Request [Approval of PG-3.103 Prohibited Bullying](#)
- c. Request [Approval of PG-3.306 Administration of Medication](#)

Dr. Dennis presented the updates to each policy. Dr. Neel moved to approval PG-1.414, PG-3.103, and PG-3.306. Mr. Buckland seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting to approve the board policies.

12. Request [Approval of 2025-2026 Calendar](#)

- a. Dr. Dennis presented the 2025-2026 Calendar. Dr. Odell moved to approve the Calendar, and Dr. Doepker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of the Calendar as presented.

13. Request [Approval of 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct](#)

- a. Dr. Dennis presented the 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct. Dr. Odell moved to approve the Code of Conduct, and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of the Code of Conduct.

14. Request [Approval of 2024-2025 Budget Amendments](#)

- a. Ms. Chesnut presented the amendments. Mr. Buckland moved to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Amendments, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of the budget amendments.

15. Request [Approval for Innovative Course Engineering Essentials](#)

- a. Ms. Hart presented the Innovation Course Engineering Essentials, a PLTW class. Dr. Odell moved to approve the course, and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of approving the course.

16. Request [Approval for CTE Teaching Permits](#)

- a. Ms. Hart presented the CTE Teaching Permits. Dr. Odell moved to approve the CTE Teaching Permits, and Dr. Doepker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of approving the permits.

17. Request [Approval of the District Food Safety Plan \(HACCP\) for 2025-2026](#)

- a. Dr. Dennis presented the updates to the District Food Safety Plan. Dr. Doepker moved to approve the HACCP, and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of approving the HACCP.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

18. Financial Updates:

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

- i. Ms. Chesnut reported that the general fund received \$8 million in revenue and expensed \$10 million. The activity fund received \$74,000 in revenue and expensed \$73,000.
- 19. [EDGAR Manual](#)
 - a. Ms. Bailey presented the EDGAR manual and review updates.
- 20. Superintendent Report, all items presented by Dr. Dennis:
 - a. [Enrollment Projections for 2025-2026](#)
 - b. [2025-2026 Faculty/Staff Handbook](#)
 - c. [2025-2026 Student Handbook](#)
 - d. [School Board Meeting Dates/Times](#)
 - e. Campus Updates
 - i. Longview- Back to School event coming up
 - ii. Palestine- Chalk the Walk event coming up
 - iii. Tyler- Back to School event coming up
 - f. Administrative Updates
 - i. Lab School Updates- none to report at this time
 - ii. Facilities- Tyler campus removed a wall in a classroom, and the new art/PLTW space is finished.
 - g. Looking Forward- August 21st Board Meeting; Board Training Updates; Governance Reporting; Campus and District Improvement Plans, 2025-2026 Budget.

CLOSED SESSION

- 21. Executive Session- The Board did not need to return to Executive Session at this time.
- 22. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m. with a motion from Dr. Odell, seconded by Dr. Neel. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doecker, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Olivares, and Mr. Semlear voting in favor of adjournment.