



Special Board Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2025, 4:00 p.m.  
Ornelas Activity Center  
3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

**ATTENDING IN PERSON:**

Voting Members:

Dr. Joanna Neel  
Dr. Michael Odell

Dr. Yanira Oliveras  
Eric Semlear, President

Non-voting attendees:

Christian Chesnut  
Dr. Aimee Dennis

Amanda Kaiser  
Javier Kypuros

Dr. Jaclyn Pedersen  
Donna Phillips

**ATTENDING ON ZOOM:**

Voting Members:

Alan Buckland

Dr. Gina Doepker

Dr. Dominick Fazarro

Non-voting attendees:

Rachel Hawkins

Dr. Tim Kennedy  
Milton Marshall

Jennifer Rau-Hug

**Board Meeting**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Semlear called the UT Tyler University Academy special board meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 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.

Initial  
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1/22/2026

## ACTION ITEMS

4. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve Previous Minutes, [Thursday, November 13, 2025](#).
  - b. Dr. Fazarro moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Oliveras, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
5. Executive Session - The Board went into Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.074 to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.
  - a. Interview and Consider Candidate(s) for Position of Superintendent of Schools
  - b. The Board moved to Executive session at 4:05 p.m., and returned from Executive Session at 5:21 p.m.
6. Request Approval to Name Lone Finalist for Position of Superintendent of Schools
  - a. Dr. Oliveras moved to approve Dr. Aimee Dennis as the Lone Finalist for the position of Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Oliveras, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. Superintendent Report
  - a. Looking Forward: Annual Finance Report; Budget Amendments; Policy Updates; Annual Report of Early Childhood Literacy and Math Plan; Annual Report of the College, Career, and Military Readiness Plan; TAPR and Annual Report; Financial Updates; School Board Appreciation Month; Consider Employment of Lone Finalist.
8. Adjournment
  - a. Mr. Buckland moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Buckland, Dr. Doepker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Neel, Dr. Odell, Dr. Oliveras, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.