



Board Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

ATTENDING IN PERSON:

Voting Members:

Dr. Gina Doepker
Dr. Michael Odell

Dr. Joanna Neel
Eric Semlear, President

Voting attendees on Zoom:

Dr. Dominic Fazarro

Non-voting attendees:

Ashlie Aguilar
Heather Bailey
Sammi Broussard

Christian Chesnut
Dr. Aimee Dennis
Rachel Hawkins

Amanda Kaiser
Andrew Kohls
Dr. Jaclyn Pedersen

BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order
Mr. Semlear called the UT Tyler University Academy Board Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2026, 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.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve Previous Minutes, [Thursday, April 23, 2026](#).
 - b. Dr. Odell moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Doepker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Doepker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Odell, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
5. Request for Approval of Policies:
 - a. [PG-3.318 Concussion Response Policy](#)
 - b. [PG-3.321 Student Health Advisory Council](#)
 - c. [PG-3.501 Student Records](#)
 - d. [PG-3.502 Electronic Student Records System](#)
 - e. [PG-3.503 Student Fees](#)
 - f. [PG-3.504 School Sponsored Publications](#)
 - g. [PG-3.505 Distribution of Non-school Literature](#)
 - h. [PG-3.506 Student Activities](#)
 - i. [PG-3.507 Student Insurance](#)
 - j. [PG-3.508 Student Dress Code](#)
 - k. [PG-3.509 Student and Parent Complaints and Grievances](#)
 - l. [PG-6.1 Nondiscrimination](#)
 - m. [PG-6.10 Coordination of Funds to Purchase Instructional Materials](#)
 - n. [PG-6.11 Discipline of Students with Disabilities](#)
 - o. [PG-6.12 District and Campus Improvement](#)
 - p. [PG-6.13 Dyslexia](#)
 - q. [PG-6.14 Eligibility Criteria](#)
 - r. [PG-6.15 Referral for Possible Special Education Services](#)
 - s. [PG-6.16 Evaluation](#)
 - t. [PG-6.17 Idea Part B Funds](#)
 - u. [PG-6.18 Funding- Noneducational Services](#)
 - v. [PG-6.19 Funding- Shared Service Arrangement](#)
 - w. [PG-6.2 Administration](#)
 - x. [PG-6.20 State Special Education Funds](#)
 - y. [PG-6.21 General and Fiscal Guidelines](#)
 - z. [PG-6.22 Graduation Plan](#)
 - aa. [PG-6.23 Parent](#)
 - bb. [PG-6.24 Private School Children](#)
 - cc. [PG-6.25 Procedural Safeguards and Requirements](#)
 - dd. [PG-6.26 Records](#)
 - ee. [PG-6.27 Records Retention and Destruction](#)
 - ff. [PG-6.28 Restraint and Timeout](#)
 - gg. [PG-6.29 Video Surveillance of Special Education Settings](#)

- hh. [PG-6.3 Admission Review and Dismissal Committee](#)
 - ii. [PG-6.30 Texas Driving with Disability Program Information](#)
 - jj. [PG-6.4 Adult Student](#)
 - kk. [PG-6.5 Ages 0-5](#)
 - ll. [PG-6.6 Child Find Duty](#)
 - mm. [PG-6.7 Children Who Transfer](#)
 - nn. [PG-6.8 Closing the Gap](#)
 - oo. [PG-6.9 consent and Prior Written Notice](#)
 - i. Dr. Dennis presented updates to policies PG-3.318 through PG-3.509. Mrs. Broussard presented the updates to policies PG-6.1 through PG-6.9.
 - ii. Dr. Odell moved to approve all policies as presented: PG-3.318 through PG-6.9. Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Doepker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Odell, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
6. Request for Approval of the [2025-2026 Budget Amendments Including Expenditures of TIA Funds](#)
- a. Mrs. Chesnut presented the updates to the Budget Amendments.
 - b. Dr. Odell moved to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Amendments, including expenditures of TIA funds. Dr. Doepker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Doepker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Odell, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
7. Request to add [AP Computer Science Principles to High School Course Catalog](#)
- a. Dr. Pedersen presented the request.
 - b. Dr. Odell moved to approve of adding AP Computer Science Principles to the High School Course Catalog. Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Doepker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Odell, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.
8. Request Approval of [Low Attendance Day Waiver for UT Tyler University Academy at Palestine for 12/12/2025](#).
- a. Dr. Dennis presented the Waiver.
 - b. Dr. Neel moved to approve the Low Attendance Waiver for UT Tyler University Academy at Palestine for 12/12/2025, and Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Doepker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Odell, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9. Financial Updates:
- a. Mrs. Chesnut presented the [2025-2026 Budget Report](#).

- b. The General Budget received \$7.1 million and expended \$8.9 million. The Activity Funds received \$35,000, and expenditure was \$13,000.
- c. Mrs. Chesnut also presented the [Intent to Apply for Federal Funds, FY 27](#):
 - i. ESSA
 - 1. Title I, Part A
 - 2. Title II, Part A
 - 3. Title III, Part A
 - 4. Title IV, Part A
 - ii. IDEA-B

10. School Board Elections

- a. Tyler Parent Representative term ending: Dr. Oliveras
 - i. Dr. Dennis reported that six candidates were nominated for the position, and that a meet-and-greet was held. Voting will take place the week of May 18 - 22.
- b. UT Tyler Non-CEP Member term ending: Dr. Dominic Fazarro.
 - i. Dr. Dennis reported that Dr. Fazarro was approved for reappointment for another term.

11. Superintendent Report

- a. [District Enrollment and Attendance](#) presented by Dr. Dennis.
- b. Campus Updates:
 - i. Longview: Ms. Hawkins reported that May was busy at Region 7 Robotics competitions for grades 4-12, with high school and middle school already placing. Middle School STUCO students participated in a conference, and four high school students qualified for and will attend state UIL competitions in academics. English students across several grade levels participated in the Gregg County essay contest and swept first - third places. Still to come are the UTTUA at Longview field day, the annual faculty vs. student kickball game, the senior banquet, and more.
 - ii. Palestine: Dr. Dennis reported for Ms. Parsons that Palestine has a ninth grader who scored the top Physics score at Regional UIL and will attend state UIL competitions, and the student has never taken physics! They had several groups of students volunteering from theatre to blood drives. Their robotics teams competed at the Region 7 robotics competitions. They are looking forward to eighth grade completing their math TSIA2 and field trips to multiple locations across grade levels. Rounding out the year will be field day, the color run, and the final hootenanny.
 - iii. Tyler: Mr. Kohls reported that the Tyler campus has multiple field trips both under their belt and in the future. Their PBL spring fling

was attended by over 250 parents, with all students presenting a PBL during the day. The Tyler Amateur Radio Club did a campus collaboration, and some students will be obtaining their amateur radio license. Ms. Donna Phillips, a fourth-grade teacher, was named Teacher of the Year, and five high school students qualified for the state UIL championships in academic competitions. Tyler looks forward to the school board representative election.

c. Administrative Updates

i. [Recruitment 2026-2027](#) was presented by Dr. Dennis.

ii. Lab School Updates:

1. Dr. Dennis thanked Dr. Pedersen for her hard work on the TIA process, noting our high percentage of eligible teachers who qualified for a designation.
2. Dr. Odell reported that he and Dr. Fischer met with UT Austin staff, and that UA was selected as one of three locations throughout the state to host an AI workshop for teachers next December.

iii. Facilities

1. Dr. Dennis reported that the usual summer waxing was being scheduled for June and July across the district.
2. Also reported was that the OAC would need upkeep repairs in the next year. UT Tyler Facilities is developing a plan to potentially break the repairs into stages.

d. Looking Forward: Budget Amendments; Financial Updates; Swearing in of New Board Members; FY 27 Budget Adoption; Campus and District Improvement Plans; School Safety and Security Committee Update; Annual Statement of Disclosure and Compliance; District Food Safety Plan (HACCP) for 2026-2027; CTE Teaching Permits; EDGAR manual; Annual Review of 4.205 Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect.

12. Adjournment

a. Dr. Odell moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Doepker, Dr. Fazarro, Dr. Odell, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative.

b. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.