Board Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

Voting Members in Attendance:
Dr. Regan Beckham
Eric Semlear, President
Dr. Joanna Neel

Voting Members in Attendance via Zoom:
Dr. Gina Doepker
Dr. Michele Marjason

Voting Members Not in Attendance
Alan Buckland

Non-voting notable attendees:
Sammi Broussard, Director of Academic Intervention
Christian Chesnut, Finance Manager
Patricia Davis, Longview Campus Director
Dr. Aimee Dennis, Superintendent
Rachel Hawkins, Executive Director of Operations
Dr. Andrew Kohls, Tyler Campus Director
Shelly Parsons, Palestine Campus Director
Austin Kinghorn, Counsel for the School Board
Amanda Kaiser, Operations Manager, Minute Taker

BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order
   Mr. Semlear called the UT Tyler University Academy Board Meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 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 to speak during public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Consent Agenda
    a. Approve Previous Minutes, Thursday, September 24, 2026.
    b. Dr. Doepker moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Marjason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Dr. Beckham, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative. Dr. Doepker and Dr. Marjason voted in the affirmative via Zoom. Mr. Buckland was not present to vote.
5. The Board retired to Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.074 to address School Board Secretary Nominations. The Board will continue in Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.089 to address School Safety & Security Committee recommendations of the
    a. Cybersecurity Annex
    b. Emergency Communication Annex
    c. Active Threat Annex
    d. Active Shooter Appendix to the Active Threat Annex
    e. Weekly Inspection Data
    f. Bi-Annual Maintenance Check
    g. Intruder Detection Audit
    h. District Vulnerability Audit

    The Board entered Executive Session at 4:03 p.m. and exited at 4:16 p.m.

6. Request Approval of School Board Secretary Nominee
    a. Dr. Neel moved to approve the nomination of Dr. Doepker for School Board Secretary. Dr. Beckham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Dr. Beckham, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative. Dr. Doepker and Dr. Marjason voted in the affirmative via Zoom. Mr. Buckland was not present to vote.
7. Request Approval of the Safety and Security Committee Recommendations:
    a. Cybersecurity Annex
    b. Emergency Communication Annex
    c. Active Threat Annex
    d. Active Shooter Appendix to the Active Threat Annex
    e. Dr. Neel moved to approve the Cybersecurity Annex, Emergency Communication Annex, Active Threat Annex, and Active Shooter Appendix to the Active Threat Annex as presented in the Executive Session. Dr. Beckham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Dr. Beckham, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the

affirmative. Dr. Doepker and Dr. Marjason voted in the affirmative via Zoom. Mr. Buckland was not present to vote.

8. Request Approval of Non-Expansion Amendment for Virtual Courses
    a. Dr. Dennis presented the Non-Expansion Amendment for Virtual Courses.
    b. Dr. Neel moved to approve the Non-Expansion Amendment for Virtual Courses. Dr. Beckham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Beckham, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative. Dr. Doepker and Dr. Marjason voted in the affirmative via Zoom. Mr. Buckland was not present to vote.
9. Request Approval of Board Policies:
    a. PG-1.101 Board Policy and Administrative Procedures, presented by Dr. Dennis.
    b. PG-2.403 Bilingual Education and ESL, presented by Ms. Hawkins.
    c. PG-3.101 Equal Educational Opportunity, presented by Ms. Hawkins.
    d. Dr. Beckham moved to approve PG-1.101, PG-2.403, and PG-3.101 as presented. Dr. Doepker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Dr. Beckham, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative. Dr. Doepker and Dr. Marjason voted in the affirmative via Zoom. Mr. Buckland was not present to vote.
10. Request Approval of 2027 Charter School Renewal
    a. Dr. Dennis presented the 2027 Charter School Renewal.
    b. Dr. Beckham moved to approve the 2027 Charter School Renewal as presented. Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Beckham, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative. Dr. Doepker and Dr. Marjason voted in the affirmative via Zoom. Mr. Buckland was not present to vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

11. Financial Updates:
    a. 2026-2027 Budget Report presented by Ms. Chesnut. The General Fund received $0 and expended $1.3 million. The Activity Fund received $0 and expended $369.
12. TEA Review of Annual Financial and Compliance Report (2024-2025) presented by Ms. Chesnut.
13. Intent to Apply
    a. LASO Cycle 5 presented by Ms. Chesnut.
        i. PREP Grow Your Own
        ii. PREP Residency
        iii. PREP Traditional Preservice Program
        iv. Early Literacy Intervention Tool

b. Dr. Dennis stated that, after review, we were no longer moving forward with the Early Literacy Intervention Tool and would also explore applying for the AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) Grant through LASO Cycle 5.

14. 2026-2027 State and Federal Grants Manual (EDGAR) presented by Ms. Chesnut.
15. 2026-2027 Gifted and Talented Handbook presented by Ms. Hawkins.
16. Performance of Students Receiving Special Education Services, presented by Ms. Broussard.
    a. Ms. Broussard presented Special Education Progress and Special Education STAAR Performance.
17. Governance Reporting requirements were presented by Dr. Dennis.
18. Texas AI Awareness Training requirements were presented by Dr. Dennis.
19. 2026-2027 Student Handbook updates were presented by Dr. Dennis.
20. Student Academic Records and Graduation Preparation Processes updates were presented by Dr. Dennis.
21. Superintendent Report
    a. Enrollment for 2026-2027 was presented by Dr. Dennis.
    b. Campus Updates:
        i. Longview: Ms. Davis reported that the Longview campus brought the local community on campus with tours of a Life Transport Helicopter, ambulance, fire truck, and a hot air balloon. Their October Math Isn't So Scary Night: Wicked Theme was well attended. An 8th - 12th grade career fair planned by their academic counselor invited parents, guardians, and alumni to share about their careers.
        ii. Palestine: Ms. Parsons reported that 100% of their Class of 2027 have been accepted to UT Tyler; 3 have already confirmed acceptance. Lighthouse students continue to stay busy in the community, and a UT Tyler School of Medicine guest spoke with the BioMed pathway students. They look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with a Grateful Gathering Brunch for students, staff, and families.
        iii. Tyler: Dr. Kohls reported recent successes of the campus academic UIL teams, garnering awards against larger schools. Their Fall STEM/trunk-or-treat event drew in both university personnel and local community members. Staff has planned several December events, including high school carolers, a spirit squad holiday dance, and visits from the Grinch and Santa Claus. Next spring, they will be starting an eSports club.

c. Administrative Updates
    i. Lab School Updates: Longview will be hosting a student teacher.
    ii. Facility Update:
        1. The OAC repairs are complete.
        2. Tyler campus cameras were installed, with Longview and Palestine installations to follow shortly.
        3. Due to the pause on building expansions, Longview will reduce its 2028 Kindergarten class to one section.
d. Looking Forward: January 28, 2027, Board Meeting; Superintendent Evaluation; School Board Appreciation Month; Budget Amendment (if applicable); Financial Updates (if applicable); Texas AI Awareness Training (Due 1/1/2027); 2025-2026 Finance Audit; TAPR and Annual Report.

22. Adjournment
    a. Dr. Beckham moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Neel. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Beckham, Dr. Neel, and Mr. Semlear voting in the affirmative. Dr. Doepker and Dr. Marjason voted in the affirmative via Zoom. Mr. Buckland was not present to vote.
    b. The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.