Board Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2022, at 12:00 PM



ATTENDING:

Dr. Joanna Neel, Dr. Dominick Fazarro, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, Mr. Eric Semlear, Mr. Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, Ms. Jaema Krier, Ms. Aimee Dennis, Ms. Christian Chesnut, Ms. Sammi Broussard, Ms. Kimberly Harden, and Ms. Heather Bailey. Parents/guests were present/watching via online streaming through Zoom.

OPENING:

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Mr. Jeffry Kennemer on Thursday, August 11, 2022.

1. Call to Order

• Mr. Kennemer confirmed quorum of board members were present; 4 members present.

2. Pledge:

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag Pledge of the Allegiance to the Texas Flag

PUBLIC COMMENT:

3. Open for Public Comment

• Mr. Kennemer confirmed that there were no requests for public comment.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Consent Agenda

a) Previous Minutes, July 14, 2022.
 1st Motion: Mr. Eric Semlear, 2nd Motion: Dr. Dominick Fazarro, Passed 4-0

5. Request Approval of District Food Safety Plan (HACCP) for 2022-2023

Ms. Aimee Dennis went over the document, noting there were no major changes since we do not have a hot meal program and all items are pre-packaged. UA is working on updating a few menu items/prices for the school year and will be operating the Chick-fil-

2022

A drive one day per week in September to help incentivize return of the Income Surveys for EcD funding.

1st Motion: Dr. Joanna Neel; 2nd Motion: Mr. Semlear. Motion passed 4-0.

6. Request Approval of Policy Updates:

a. PG-2.18 State Assessment

Ms. Dennis noted there is no longer a Writing assessment in grades 4/7, so this has been removed from policy.

1st Motion: Mr. Semlear; 2nd Motion: Dr. Fazarro. Motion passes 4-0.

b. Module 6 – Special Education PG-6.1 – 6.29

Ms. Sammi Broussard, Special Education Coordinator, explained that the Charter Association went through another restructure of the Module, as a result some policies were split up, which means that the numbering of said policies no longer align, making it best to address the whole Special Education policy module. Some policies have added verbiage with more detailed descriptions of required policy/practice. She went over those modules with significant changes. She noted she was not sure which position should be listed as responsible for the coordination of video equipment with regard to PG-6.29.

Significant changes were noted in:

- PG-6.3 pertaining to Limited English Proficient now being referred to as Emergent Bilingual.
- PG-6.6 pertaining to the obligation to help locate children in need of services; as a
 charter the expectation is different than a local ISD since we cover a broader
 geographical boundary and cannot search each community. If students are
 identified through our existing families and those who contact us, we are
 obligated to help connect them to services in their area despite not being our
 student.
- PG-6.11 pertaining to Timeout and Restraint, some of which has been pushed down to PG-6.28.
- PG-6.13 pertaining to changes in Dyslexia requirements.
- PG-6.14 pertaining to Auditory Impairment now being referred to as Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Dr. Fazarro made a motion to revise PG-6.6 to state that the charter will work closely with local/home districts to identify students within the charter boundaries in need of services. Dr. Neel 2nd the motion. Motion Passed 4-0.

Dr. Neel made a motion to revise PG-6.29 to state the Director of Technology is responsible for video equipment coordination. Motion was seconded by Mr. Semlear. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Semlear made a motion to accept PG-6.1-6.5 and 6.7-6.28 as presented. Motion was seconded by Dr. Neel. Motion passed 4-0.

7. Request Approval of District Professional Development Schedule

Ms. Jaema Krier presented the professional develop schedule as required by the new Clearinghouse rules set forth in TEC and outlined by TEA. The document outlines those trainings that are required under various statues and notates the source of the training, the employees to which is applies, and the timeline for when it is implemented.

Dr. Fazarro motioned to accept the schedule as written. Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

8. Request Approval of 2022-2023 District Improvement Plan

Ms. Dennis explained that although we had presented as an informational item last meeting, the Goals/Objectives have to be approved by the board for various federal funding programs.

1st Motion: Mr. Semlear; 2nd Motion: Dr. Neel. Passed 4-0.

9. Request Approval of 2021-2022 Budget Amendments

Ms. Christian Chesnut presented the initial amendments that were published at the time of agenda, as well as a revised version that included various construction/safety items that came about in the past few days. Dr. Simmons explained that many of the safety items that were discussed at the last meeting as a result of TEA requirements and/or safety audit deficiencies have already started being addressed. The billing for many of these items could potentially be expensed from the 21-22 budget during the final 13th month of university accounting. The budget needs to have enough in the functions to cover these items in the event this occurs, meaning we need to plan for a use of fund balance to ensure the accounts are covered since this is the last meeting of the fiscal year to document amendments. More than likely not all will be in 21-22 and there will also likely be a final reserve to cover those that do, so very little, if any will likely be used.

Mr. Semlear motioned to accept the revised budget amendment documents, 4a and 4a.1. Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

10. Superintendent Report

a. Finance Updates

i. 2021-2022 Budget Report

Ms. Chesnut presented the current state of the budget, noting that the school has revenue owed for grant reimbursements as well as final FSP payments for the year. We intend to roll over more than initially budgeted.

b. RIPICS Update

Ms. Dennis noted that the new guidance allows for 5 days instead of 10 for both students and staff.

c. 2022-2023 Student Handbook

Ms. Dennis noted that GTT will continue to count toward high school credits, but no longer count toward GPA. Also, students in grades 6-12 are now going to be issued a badge and charged \$5 for replacements. Dr. Simmons went on to discuss more consistent implementation of current device policies, requiring students to put phones up during instructional time as they have become a significant distraction and a drain on broadband. Students will be charged \$5 if the phone is confiscated after initial warnings. The parent must come to office to pay the \$5 and get the phone back.

d. 2022-2023 Faculty/Staff Handbook

Ms. Krier noted the only significant change pertained to the Promotion Plan and the masters now having the 8 year timeframe discussed in prior board meetings.

e. 2022-2023 Gifted and Talented Handbook

Ms. Dennis noted the charter is working with a program at UT Tyler to provide academic coaching sessions to 9-12th grade GT students as part of a pilot program in the College of Education.

f. Campus Updates

Dr. Simmons explained that campuses are busy with back-to-school bashes and preparing for students to return on Tuesday, August 16th. Tyler portables are in and final touches being added to support students on first day.

g. Administrative Updates

Safety Updates are the biggest emphasis districtwide right now. Discussions are still taking place about possible expansion/building plans.

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h. Looking Forward

Ms. Krier reminded of upcoming obligations that will be assigned soon.

11. Adjournment

1st Motion: Mr. Semlear, 2nd Motion: Dr. Fazarro adjournment occurred at 2:06 p.m.

Adopted at a meeting of the Board on September 8, 2022.

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Mr. Jeffry Kennemer President, UTTUA School Board

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