



ATTENDING:

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz, Dr. Michael Odell, Ms. Laura Owens, Mr. Daniel Rodriguez, Ms. Angela Wright, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, multiple directors, staff and parents.

OPENING:

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:46 p.m. by Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 via Zoom teleconferencing.

1. Call to Order:

Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz confirmed a quorum of Board members were present.

2. Pledge:

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

ACTION ITEMS:

3. Public Comment

- Dr. Oliveras and Ms. Krier confirmed no requests for public comment were received.

Dr. Simmons explained the details behind the expansion plan, including: it will be a separate campus and unrelated to our physical campuses, it would be fully online and serve students 11-12 based on their completed credits, cannot require TSI completion for enrollment, if students want to switch between virtual campus and physical campus it would require applying for admission and withdrawal from the other campus, implementation would begin 2022-2023, would extend geographic boundaries to Region 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 as well as our existing boundaries, offers free dual credit opportunities to homeschool and rural students. Today's approvals do not complete the process, impact letters will need to be sent to all districts, the application will then be submitted to TEA for approval by March 1st deadline, meetings may be needed and recommendations would be made to the Commissioner for approval within 30-60 days. If approved, the planning and marketing would begin in preparation for enrollment Fall of 2022.

4. Request to Approve Proposed Charter Expansion Business Plan

- Business Plan was presented, detailing 19-20, 20-21 accounting and revenue/expense projections pertaining to the new high school. Portion of fund balance would be likely be needed to fund initial start-up expenses.
1st motion: Mr. Rodriguez, 2nd motion: Ms. Wright, Passed 5-0.

5. Request to Approve Campus Expansion (Virtual Senior High School)

- Application form presented showing request of Campus Expansion with details on justification and implementation, including estimate of 12,500 max enrollment at completion.
1st motion: Dr. Odell, 2nd motion: Mr. Rodriguez, Passed 5-0.

6. Request to Approve Maximum Enrollment Expansion

- Application form presented showing request to expand from current 2,400 district enrollment to 15,000.
1st motion: Ms. Wright, 2nd motion: Mr. Rodriguez, Passed 5-0.

7. Request to Approve Geographic Boundary Expansion

- Application form presented showing that 267 new school districts would be added to the existing geographic boundary. The new schools encompass all of Regions 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11.

1st motion: Ms. Wright, 2nd motion: Mr. Rodriguez, Motion Passed 5-0.

8. Request to Approve Submission of Charter Expansion Amendment Application

- Completed application was presented, noting that Checklist of Attachments would be filled in and signatures applied prior to final submission. All other relevant fields and attachments were included at this time.

1st motion: Ms. Wright, 2nd motion: Dr. Odell, Passed 5-0

9. Request to Approve Submission of Campus Number Request Form Upon Approval from TEA

- Campus Number Request Form presented to Board, noting it would be filed if the additional campus was approved. This would provide the campus its own identification number for reporting and accountability purposes through TEA.

1st motion: Mr. Rodriguez, 2nd motion: Ms. Wright, Passed 5-0.

10. Request Approval to Delegate Authority to the Superintendent to Submit Additional Requests Aligned with the Charter Expansion Plans.

- Dr. Oliveras explained that this would be needed so that Dr. Simmons can provide TEA with additional information that may be requested with regard to the charter expansion request in order to meet deadlines.

1st motion: Dr. Odell, 2nd motion: Mr. Rodriguez, Passed 5-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

11. 2019-2020 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) & Annual Report

- Dr. Simmons presented and explained the Annual Report. Ms. Krier noted that Section 6 will not have post-secondary performance for one more year, related to UA's first Class of 2019, however post-secondary enrollment data was presented in its place.

12. Superintendent Communication/Report:

Dr. Simmons explained that these approvals do not guarantee the launch of the new campus and that next steps include sending out impact statements, applying to TEA, and awaiting approvals.

Dr. Simmons communicated to the Board that due to the recent winter weather event in Texas, campuses were closed for safety concerns the week of February 15-19 and that February 22 the schools were closed by UT Tyler due to infrastructure concerns with facilities. Students are being served remotely as of February 23-26 since many communities within our geographic boundaries are still without water and have boil water notices. The Board will be presented with the need to file various waivers for these events; TEA provided guidance and flexibility to districts coping with severe weather during this time, authorizing the use of waivers for missed instructional days, low attendance, and full remote-learning days.

13. Adjournment:

Adjournment occurred at 1:19 p.m.