

Board Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2022 at 12:00 PM



ATTENDING:

Dr. Dominick Fazarro, Dr. Joanna Neel, Dr. Gina Doepker, Mr. Eric Semlear, Mr. Alan Buckland, Mr. Jeffrey Kennemer, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, Mrs. Jaema Krier, Mrs. Christian Chesnut, Mrs. Aimee Dennis, Mrs. Ummi Bodede, Mrs. Rachel Hawkins, Dr. Kelly Dyer, Mrs. Kathy Parker, and Mrs. Heather Bailey. Board Member, Dr. Michael Odell observed via the online stream along with other parents/guests.

OPENING:

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Mr. Kennemer on Thursday, September 8, 2022.

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Kennemer confirmed quorum of board members were present with board president, 6 board members were present and 1 via zoom.

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 no request for public comment were received.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Consent Agenda

- a) Previous Minutes, Thursday, August 11, 2022.
1st Motion: Dr. Neel, 2nd Motion: Dr. Fazarro, Passed 6-0

5. Request Adoption of Teacher Incentive Allotment (Tia) Spending Plan

Dr. Jo Ann Simmons discussed how the TIA will affect our teachers and what it means for our district. Jaema Krier discussed how this gives an incentive for continued performance through the 5-year period by awarding increased percentages. The original plan to fund our current Distinguished Teacher Add-Ons with TIA funds was not feasible in all scenarios, therefore the stated indicating such should be removed. The board

members discussed adding an item on the next agenda to discuss options for increased compensation for personnel not addressed through the TIA.

Dr. Doepker motioned to approve with the removal of “funded through awarded allotments”. Dr. Fazarro 2nd the motion. Passed 6-0.

6. Executive Session

12:52 p.m. – Mr. Kennemer called for the Board to go into Executive session under Texas Government Code 551.089 to address School Safety & Security Committee recommendations for the Emergency Management Plan. No objections were made.

1:05 p.m. – The Board returned to Open Session.

7. Request Adoption of the Basic Emergency Plan

1st motion was given by Mr. Eric Semlear. 2nd motion was made by Dr. Neel. Passed 6-0

8. Request Adoption of the Active Threat Annex

1st motion was given by Mr. Buckland. 2nd motion was made by Dr. Doepker. Passed 6-0

9. Request Adoption of the Active Shooter Addendum

Dr. Doepker motioned to approve the Active Shooter Addendum with revisions on page 57 as discussed in the Executive Session. 2nd was given by Dr. Fazarro. Passed 6-0

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

10. Superintendent Report

a. Financial Updates

i. 21-22 Budget Report

Christian Chesnut went over current standings, noting these are not final as the university’s 13th month will not close until October. Expenses exceed revenue because there are still revenue payments due from the state and grant reimbursements.

b. 2021-2022 Charter FIRST (FY21 Data)

Christian Chesnut spoke about this financial rating. University Academy has a rating of “passed” in all indicators. The Financial Management Report was also presented noting expenses paid to the Superintendent and Board in FY21. Expenses were minimal due to COVID and lack of travel.

c. STAAR Ratings/Data

Aimee Dennis explained about University Academy STAAR ratings and how they compared to other schools in the area and state. The district and all three campuses are rated as an A and earned all available distinctions; placing them in the top 1.5% of the state academically per Dr. Odell’s data analysis. UA is the top school in each of the counties we serve.

d. **Title III Annual Report/ ESL Waiver**

Aimee Dennis spoke about our progress on TELPAS levels and EOC results. Low areas and areas of improvement. K-12 new program from Region VII. Students performing well and making progress. Waiver with TEA - all ELAR teachers must have ESL certification. K-8th is using Lexia program.

e. **Summer Partial Targeted Safety Audit**

Aimee Dennis went over safety audit and what needs to be fixed/changed. Some doors were not shutting correctly or not closing fast enough. These have been fixed.

f. **RIPICS Update**

Aimee Dennis detailed updates; “COVID-19 and other infectious illnesses” was added. “Symptoms as listed” has been taken out. “Close contacts are not required to remain off campus” has been added. Removed section describing required weekly report of COVID cases. Staff no longer having to report cases to UT Tyler hotline.

g. **22-23 CTE Handbook**

Aimee Dennis updated about no longer having internships- meet advisory board twice a year. One in Fall and one in Spring.

h. **22-23 Teacher Incentive Allotment Handbook**

Jaema Krier explained the Handbook is necessary for teachers to have for reference; it explains the eligibility and scoring criteria. Spoke eligibility and expected growth. Also, about scoring and ratings. Portfolio to evaluate teachers and the phase out of the Distinguished Teacher Promotion Plan was discussed by Dr. Simmons.

i. **District Enrollment and Attendance**

Dr. Simmons spoke about percentages on each University Academy campus.

j. **Campus updates**

Dr. Simmons spoke about how good the beginning of the school year is going. Thanks to everyone involved, it takes a team effort. A lot of activities/events are coming up this time of year. UT Tyler Top 25% celebration is later this month; our students are eligible with a 3.5 GPA or higher because we do not rank our classes. 37/49 seniors received scholarships for this event totaling \$296,000.

k. **Administrative Updates**

i. **Evergreen Compensation Study**

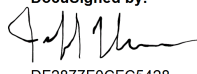
Dr. Simmons spoke about the study and how it impacted UA salaries effective 9/1/22. Dr. Fazarro spoke about his experience on the study with regard to faculty. Jaema Krier explained that it primarily impacted non-exempt, classified positions; Admin Assist II, III, and Maintenance. Positions that were found to be in need of salary range adjustments received the newly defined minimum salary (+ 3% if they had been here longer than 6 months). One 12-month position was also increased in range and received the 3%. Those not identified for range increases, and who are not part of the existing HB3 salary schedule, we awarded 3% as

well. All of these were anticipated based on early discussions and were included in the previously adopted 22-23 budget.

1. **Adjournment**

1st Motion: Mr. Buckland, 2nd Motion: Dr. Fazarro, adjournment occurred at 1:46 p.m.

Adopted at a meeting of the Board on November 10, 2022.

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Mr. Jeffrey Kennemer
President, UTTUA School Board
11/11/2022