

Board Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023, 12:01 PM



ATTENDING:

Dr. Joanna Neel, Dr. Gina Doepker, Dr. Michael Odell, Mr. Eric Semlear, Mr. Alan Buckland, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, Ms. Aimee Dennis, Ms. Christian Chesnut, Ms. Jaclyn Pedersen, Ms. Lou Ann Viergever and Ms. Heather Bailey. Parents/guests observed via the online stream.

OPENING:

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Mr. Kennemer on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kennemer confirmed quorum of board members were present with board president, 6 board members were 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 no request for public comment were received.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Consent Agenda

a) Previous Minutes, Thursday, February 23, 2023.

1st motion to approve: Mr. Semlear, 2nd motion to approve: Dr. Doepker, Passed 6-0

5. Request Approval of Superintendent to the Region 7 Advisory Committee For 2023-2024: Dr. Simmons will represent UA on the Region 7 Advisory Committee which is comprised of all superintendents/charter school CEOs in Region 7. The advisory committee executes all documents related to the ESC.

1st motion to approve: Dr. Neel, 2nd motion to approve: Dr. Odell, Passed 6-0

6. Request Approval of TEKS Certification for 2023-2024:

Jaclyn discussed how districts are required to certify annually to the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Commissioner that students have access to instructional materials covering all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for all required subjects, except physical education. Additionally, Jaclyn reviewed how the TEKS are implemented in the curriculum.

1st motion to approve: Dr. Doepker, 2nd Motion to approve: Mr. Semlear, Passed 6-0

7. Request Adoption of the 2023-2024 Code of Conduct

Aimee pointed out one minor change to student code of conduct on page 15 focused on removing “choose to voluntarily waive the right to an expulsion hearing” and adding “only waive their right to attend the expulsion hearing, not the student’s right to a hearing.”

1st motion to approve: Dr. Odell, 2nd motion to approve: Dr. Neel, Passed 6-0

8. Request Approval of Policy Update:

a) PG-1.13 School Visitors- The additions to the policy detail the steps of banning visitors on campus. Dr. Simmons outlined examples of when this may be used.

1st motion to approve: Mr. Buckland 2nd motion to approve: Mr. Semlear, Passed 6-0

9. Request Approval for Budget Amendments for 2022-2023

Christian spoke about amendments that have been made for this year.

1st motion to approve: Dr. Doepker 2nd motion to approve: Mr. Buckland, Passed 6-0

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

10. Superintendent Report:

a. Financial Update FY 23

Christian spoke about the revenue and expenses.

i. Intent to Apply

1. FY 2023 School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

The funds will assist with the cost of Silent Panic Alert Technology and the purchase/installation of equipment that allows emergency responder two-way radios to function within most portions of the building.

a. District will match 25% of awarded amount.

2. FY 24 ESSA Consolidated Grants (Title 1, Part A; Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A; Title IV, Part A)

3. FY 24 IDEA-B

b. **District/Campus Enrollment and Attendance**

Dr. Simmons reviewed the current enrollment on each campus (District - 851, Tyler – 360, Longview – 262, and Palestine – 223). The current attendance is 95.60 for the district (Tyler – 95.08, Longview – 96.19, and Palestine 95.76)

c. **2023-2024 Student Handbook**

There are minor revisions to the Student Handbook that are mainly focused on updating the years.

d. **2023-2024 Faculty/Staff Handbook**

There are minor revisions to the Faculty/Staff Handbook that are mainly focused on updating personnel, references to documents for special programs, and updating the years.

e. **2023-2024 Parent Code of Conduct**

This will be the first year to implement the document, which will be a part of online enrollment each year. Dr. Simmons reviewed the document and the need for the document, so that there are clear expectations that can be referred to if a situation arises. The title will be changed to “UT Tyler University Academy Visitor and Parent Code of Conduct.”

f. **Campus Updates**

Dr. Simmons spoke about expansion and what is happening at our UA campuses. The perimeter fence will hopefully start next week. Mr. Buckland spoke about needing to fix internet issues on Palestine campus.

g. **Administrative Updates**

- i. **Senior Banquets/Graduations-** Dr. Simmons spoke about upcoming events. Invited all board members to attend.
- ii. **Recruitment 2023-2024-** Dr. Simmons stated that Longview has most of their positions filled with a strong waitlist, and she is working with marketing on the Tyler and Palestine campus recruitment.
- iii. **Facilities-** Dr. Simmons spoke about the facility expansions on the campuses.

h. Lab School Activities

Dr. Odell spoke about how our district was recognized a PLTW Distinguished District and reviewed the NASA Global Meeting coming up.

i. Board Election Appointments:

- i. **Tyler Election-** Term Ending, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer. He will be running again. Formerly there would be an open forum for the running elections, but due to how many nominees are running (8), each nominee will create a 3-5 minute video about themselves that will be sent out to Tyler parents and staff.
- ii. **Faculty Member Appointment Outside the College of Education and Psychology-** Term Ending, Dr. Dominick Fazarro who has agreed to serve in this role for another term.

j. 2023-2024 School Board Meetings at a Glance

At the February meeting, the School Board requested a document that would outline the items that are usually covered at each board meeting.

k. Looking Forward-

Swearing in new board members, ESSER/RIIPICS Plan Feedback, School Safety and Security Update, Campus and District Improvement Plans, FY 24 Budget adoption

11. Adjournment

1st motion to Adjourn: Dr. Odell, 2nd motion to adjourn: Mr. Semlear, Adjournment occurred at 1:24 p.m.

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