



Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024
Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

ATTENDING:

Heather Bailey	Amanda Kaiser	Eric Semlear
Alan Buckland	Jeffry Kennemer, President	Dr. Jo Ann Simmons
Christian Chesnut	Dr. Joanna Neel	Dr. Gina Doepker
Dr. Aimee Dennis	Dr. Jaclyn Pedersen	

In addition, Darla Dear, Regional Director for Belt Harris Pechacek CPAs, one parent, and those logged in to through the online zoom link.

1. Call to Order

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Mr. Kennemer on Thursday, January 18, 2024, 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.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Kennemer confirmed there were no registered requests for public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the previous meeting, Thursday, November 9, 2023, were presented for questions or discussion. Dr. Doepker noted that under item 12, the minutes reflected that Dr. Odell made a motion, but there was no 2nd or result of voting. The minutes were corrected to note under item 12 that Dr. Odell made the motion, Dr. Neal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. With this correction, Dr. Doepker motioned to accept the minutes, and Dr. Neel seconded the motion, passing unanimously.

5. Request Approval of 2022-2023 Annual Finance Report (AFR)

a. Annual Financial Report:

Ms. Dear presented the audit results, highlighting 3 specific items:

- i. Page 5- The audit agreed that our financial report was presented fairly.

- ii. Page 22- A reflection on our general fund balance, revenue, and expenditures.
- iii. Page 37- Our Actual expenditures vs the budgeted amount. All UA expenditures were below the budgeted amount.

Dr. Neal made the motion to approve the 2022-2023 Annual Financial Report, Mr. Semlear seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. FY 2022 AFR TEA Review

- a. TEA Review Letter
- b. Review Letter Comments: The TEA returned a letter of comments on our 2021-2022 audit. No action is called for. All comments were in relation to the presentation of information and received in time for the 22-23 Audit to reflect those changes.

7. Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC 2020-2021) Suppressed Data

- a. Dr. Dennis reported that UA received a letter that our CRDC 20-21 data from our 8th-grade algebra and high school geometry were suppressed due to being larger than the CRDC parameters. We confirmed that our data was correct and simply did not align with their expectations. The letter was informational in nature.

8. Financial Updates:

- a. 2023-2024 Budget Report: Mrs. Chesnut reported that we have received \$3.4 million and expensed \$4 million as of December 2023.

9. Intent to Apply for the Safety and Facilities Enhancement Grant (SAFE) Cycle II Grant

- a. Dr. Dennis reported that receiving this grant would help us comply with all safety standards.

10. 2022-2023 Accountability

- a. Dr. Pedersen reported that the state has not yet released any accountability report. She also shared with the Board UA's own preliminary expectation of accountability based on the numbers we know. Currently, the district and all three campuses are rated at an A in all three domains, resulting in an overall A rating based on the internal calculations.

11. Superintendent Report

a. School Board Appreciation Month

- i. Dr. Simmons formally thanked the School Board for the time, attention, and support they provide for us. The campuses provided thank-you notes, gifts, and a video to honor the School Board members.

b. Retention Bonus

- i. Other districts provide bonuses for returning teachers and/or staff.
- ii. The state did not pass further funding for this year that we hoped for.
- iii. This topic will be revisited after the review of the budget.

c. District Enrollment and Attendance

- i. Total District enrollment is 1014 students, with an average attendance rate of 95.98%.
- ii. The budget was based on enrollment of 1040 students and 96% attendance.

d. Campus/Administrative/Facility Updates:

- i. Longview expansion is expected to move forward.
- ii. Marketing continues to work closely with us, with a video being produced that better explains our PBLs.
- iii. All campuses will host a showcase day this spring to encourage community awareness.

Mr. Kennemer expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board for the kind words, thoughts, and gifts presented to the Board in honor of School Board Appreciation Month.

21. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. with a motion from Dr. Doepker and second by Mr. Semlear. The motion passed unanimously.

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Jeffry Kennemer
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