



Board Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2024

Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

ATTENDING:

Voting Members:

Alan Buckland

Dr. Gina Doepker

Dr. Dominick Fazarro

Jeffry Kennemer, President

Dr. Micheal Odell

Eric Semlear

Non-Voting:

Heather Bailey

Sammi Broussard

Dr. Aimee Dennis

Dr. Kelly Dyer

Rachel Hawkins

Laura Hilbig

Amanda Kaiser

Cori Mackey

Shelly Parsons

Dr. Jaclyn Pedersen

Dr. Jo Ann Simmon

BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

The UT Tyler University Academy Board Meeting was called to order at 12:16 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2024, by Mr. Kennemer, UA Board President, confirming the presence of a quorum.

2. Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was said, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. Public Comment

No one registered for public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

DS
JK

6/5/2024

4. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the previous meeting, [Thursday, March 28, 2024](#), were presented for approval. Dr. Doepker moved to accept the minutes. Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion, and the vote was carried unanimously.

5. Request Approval of the [Excellent Teen Choice Program](#)

- a. District Nurse Cori Mackey said this program would replace our current ESTEEM program, covering the state requirement that we offer sexual risk avoidance and abstinence education.
- b. The benefits are that it satisfies SB 9 and TEKS, requires fewer days, facilitators come to the campus for presentations, and parents can still opt out.
- c. Dr. Odell stated that he needed to abstain from voting due to his relationship with the state in approving these programs.
- d. Mr. Semlear voted to approve the Excellent Teen Choice Program, and Mr. Buckland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Request Approval of Superintendent to the [Region 7 Advisory Committee for 2024-2025](#)

- a. Mr. Buckland moved to approve this request, and Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

7. Request Approval of the [2024-2025 Student Code of Conduct](#)

- a. There were no updates to the Code except for the year. Dr. Odell moved to approve the request, and Mr. Semlear seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

8. Request Approval of Attendance Waiver for the District for 4/8/2024

- a. The district had a low attendance rate for the solar eclipse day.
- b. Mr. Semlear moved to approve the requests for waivers for 4/8/2024 and 11/3/2023, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Request Approval of Attendance Waiver for Tyler Campus for 11/3/2023

- a. The Tyler campus had low attendance on 11/3/2024 due to sickness
- b. Mr. Semlear moved to approve the requests for waivers for 4/8/2024 and 11/3/2023, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Request Approval of the [24-25 Budget Amendments, Including Expenditures of TIA Funds](#)

- a. Heather Bailey of the district office finance team presented the 24-25 Budget Amendments, including expenditures of TIA Funds.
- b. Dr. Doepker moved to approve the amendments, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Request Approval of [District Improvement Plan Goals](#)

- a. Heather Bailey presented the goals, Mr. Semlear moved to approve them, and Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

For Action Items 12-16:

12. Request Approval of [PG-1.101 District Foundations](#)

13. Request Approval of [PG-1.102 Board Authority, Roles, and Responsibilities](#)
14. Request Approval of [PG-1.103 Board Policy and Administrative Procedures](#)
15. Request Approval of [PG 1.104 Orientation and Training](#)
16. Request Approval of [PG1.105 Ethics, Conflicts of Interest, and Nepotism](#)

Dr. Dennis presented these board policy updates, which are highlighted in the linked documents. The changes were primarily semantics, policy number updates, and copyright updates.

Mr. Semlear moved to approve Action Items 12-16, and Mr. Buckland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

For Action Items 17-29:

17. Request Approval of [PG-2.101 Instructional Program Overview](#)
18. Request Approval of [PG-2.102 General Educational Program](#)
19. Request Approval of [PG-2.103 Academic Achievement](#)
20. Request Approval of [PG-2.104 Graduation Requirements](#)
21. Request Approval of [PG-2.105 Make-Up Work](#)
22. Request Approval of [PG-2.106 Career and Technology Education](#)
23. Request Approval of [PG-2.107 Compensatory and Accelerated Instruction](#)
24. Request Approval of [PG-2.108 Credit by Examination](#)
25. Request Approval of [PG-2.109 Dual Credit](#)
26. Request Approval of [PG-2.110 Gifted and Talented Program](#)
27. Request Approval of [PG-2.111 State Virtual School Network](#)
28. Request Approval of [PG-2.112 Prekindergarten Program](#)
29. Request Approval of [PG-2.113 Contracts with Outside Agencies](#)

Dr. Pedersen presented these board policy updates. All policies had an updated copyright date.

Mr. Semlear moved to approve Action Items 17-29, and Mr. Buckland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

For Action Items 30-35:

30. Request Approval of [PG-2.201 Testing Programs](#)
31. Request Approval of [PG-2.202 Reading Assessments](#)
32. Request Approval of [PG-2.203 State Assessments](#)
33. Request Approval of [PG-2.204 State Assessment of Emergent Bilingual Studies](#)
34. Request Approval of [PG-2.205 Accelerated Instruction- Unsatisfactory Performance on Assessments](#)
35. Request Approval of [PG-2.206 Parental Option for Student Retention](#)

Dr. Pedersen presented these board policy updates. Most had policy number updates and minor language updates.

Comments were made that the following items needed to be updated:

- PG-2.203 Update spelling of University Academy

Mr. Buckland moved to approve Action Items 30-35, and Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

For Action Items 36 and 37:

36. Request Approval of [PG-2.301 Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials](#)
37. Request Approval of [PG-2.302 Library Materials](#)

Laura Hilbig presented these board policy updates. They all referenced library resources, and Hilbig noted that we do not maintain a physical library at UA.

Comments were made that the following items needed to be updated:

- PG-2.302 Change Academ to Academy

Mr. Semlear moved to approve Action Items 36 and 37, and Dr. Doepker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

For the record, Dr. Odell left the meeting at 12:55; a quorum was still present.

For Action Items 38-44:

38. Request Approval of [PG-2.401 Homebound Services](#)
39. Request Approval of [PG-2.402 Special Education](#)
40. Request Approval of [PG-2.403 Identification, Evaluation, Eligibility of Special Education Students](#)
41. Request Approval of [PG-2.404 Transition Services](#)
42. Request Approval of [PG-2.405 Dyslexia and Related Disorders](#)
43. Request Approval of [PG-2.406 Bilingual Education and ESL](#)
44. Request Approval of [PG-2.407 Title I Services](#)

Dr. Pedersen presented these board policy updates, which included policy number updates.

Comments were made that the following items needed to be updated:

- PG-2.405 Goes from Sections four to six with two sixes listed.

Dr. Doepker moved to approve Action Items 38-44, and Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

For Action Items 45-74:

45. Request Approval of [PG-6.1 Nondiscrimination](#)
46. Request Approval of [PG-6.10 Coordination of Funds to Purchase Instructional Materials](#)
47. Request Approval of [PG-6.11 Discipline of Students with Disabilities](#)

48. Request Approval of [PG-6.12 District and Campus Improvement Plans](#)
49. Request Approval of [PG-6.13 Dyslexia](#)
50. Request Approval of [PG-6.14 Eligibility Criteria](#)
51. Request Approval of [PG-6.15 Referral for Possible Special Education Services](#)
52. Request Approval of [PG-6.16 Evaluation](#)
53. Request Approval of [PG-6.17 Funding - Federal Funding Compliance](#)
54. Request Approval of [PG-6.18 Funding - Noneducational Services](#)
55. Request Approval of [PG-6.19 Funding- Shared Services Arrangement](#)
56. Request Approval of [PG-6.2 Administration](#)
57. Request Approval of [PG-6.20 Funding - State Allotments](#)
58. Request Approval of [PG-6.21 General and Fiscal Guidelines](#)
59. Request Approval of [PG-6.22 Graduation Plan](#)
60. Request Approval of [PG-6.23 Parent](#)
61. Request Approval of [PG-6.24 Private School Children](#)
62. Request Approval of [PG-6.25 Procedural Safeguards and Requirements](#)
63. Request Approval of [PG-6.26 Records](#)
64. Request Approval of [PG-6.27 Records Retention and Destruction](#)
65. Request Approval of [PG-6.28 Restraint and Timeout](#)
66. Request Approval of [PG-6.29 Video Surveillance Procedures](#)
67. Request Approval of [PG-6.3 Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee](#)
68. Request Approval of [PG-6.30 Driving with Disability Program Information](#)
69. Request Approval of [PG-6.4 Adult Students](#)
70. Request Approval of [PG-6.5 Ages 0-5](#)
71. Request Approval of [PG-6.6 Child Find Duty](#)
72. Request Approval of [PG-6.7 Children Who Transfer](#)
73. Request Approval of [PG-6.8 Closing the Gap](#)
74. Request Approval of [PG-6.9 Consent and Prior Written Notice](#)

Sammi Broussard presented these board policy updates. The changes included policy numbers and copyright updates. The most notable was the move of Dyslexia from Section 504 status to SpEd.

Dr. Fazarro moved to approve Action Items 45-74, and Mr. Semlear seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

75. Financial Updates
 - a. [2023-2024 Budget Report](#)
Heather Bailey presented our revenue at 6.8 million and expenses at 8.4 million.
76. Superintendent Report
 - a. [District Enrollment and Attendance](#)

Dr. Simmons presented the current enrollment and attendance. She also encouraged staff and families to continue to share about UA. When our enrollment goes up, revenue goes up, and opportunities increase.

- b. Intent to Apply
 - i. Region 7 for 2024 STOP School Violence Grant
 - ii. FY 25 ESSA Consolidated Grants (Title I, Part A; Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A; Title IV, Part A)
 - iii. FT 25 IDEA-B
 - iv. The board will be kept updated on the results of these grant applications.
- c. [2024-2025 Student Handbook](#)
 - i. Amanda Kaiser presented, noting only minor and insignificant changes since last year.
- d. 2024-2025 Faculty/Staff Handbook
 - i. Amanda Kaiser presented, noting that the only significant change was an update to section 2, HR. With the hiring of Laurynda Diaz in HR, she fully updated our handbook to reflect the appropriate policy more accurately.
- e. Campus Updates

Dr. Simmons noted that we maintain a strong instructional environment through May, past the STAAR testing dates.

Graduation is coming up, and with that, a huge thank you to Mr. Kennemer for his work as a board member for seven years. Mr. Kennemer will be ending his position as his senior graduates from UA this year.

- f. Esports- we are looking at opportunities to bring Esports to our campuses. Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Evans are taking the lead on this.
- g. Administrative Updates
 - i. Recruitment 2024-2025: we have increased marketing
 - ii. Facilities: The Longview expansion building won't be complete by the August start of school; we are looking at options. Palestine will add 30 parking spaces, awnings, and expand the playground by moving the fence. We are also replacing our Jeeps through the University leasing program.
- h. Board Election Appointments
 - i. Tyler Parent Election: Mr. Kennemer is leaving due to his student graduating
 - ii. Longview Parent Election: Term Ending for Mr. Semlear
 - iii. College of Education and Psychology Appointment: Term Ending for Dr. Joanna Neel
- i. Looking Forward- – Swearing in of New Board Members; FY 25 Budget Adoption; Campus and District Improvement Plans; Budget Amendments; Financial Updates; School Safety and Security Committee Update; Approval of District Professional Development Schedule

77. Adjournment

Dr. Fazarro moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Semlear seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

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Jeff Kennemer
 jajk17@gmail.com
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature



Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
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