



Board Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDING:

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz, Dr. Michael Odell (virtually), Dr. Joanna Neel, Mr. Tim Kennedy, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, Mr. Daniel Rodriguez, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, Jaema Krier, Christian Chesnut, Aimee Dennis, Umimi Bodede, Lou Ann Viergever, Wally Bodede, Mitchell Campbell (student, virtually).

BOARD MEETING:

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:09 p.m. by Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz on Monday, July 26, 2021 at the UT Tyler Alumni House in Tyler, TX. The meeting was also made available for virtual participation via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz confirmed a quorum of Board members were present with 6 members (Dr. Odell was online via Zoom).

2. Pledge

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

3. Public Comment

UA Student, Mitchell Campbell, addressed the board concerning the ESSER II and ESSER III plans, stating that the need for a Counselor has been needed for many years and is not the result of COVID-19, mental health has always been a need at UA. He stated that the funds will not fix learning loss and that administration must be good stewards of the funds.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Swearing in of Newly Elected/Appointed Members

a. Eric Semlear – UA Longview Parents

Mr. Semlear was unable to join the meeting in person to be sworn in and complete required documents. He was online and introduced by Dr. Oliveras. Mr. Semlear will be sworn in during the next regularly scheduled meeting in September.

b. Dr. Joanna Neel – College of Education and Psychology Member

Dr. Joanna Neel was sworn in by making her Statement of Officer and Oath of Office.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Previous Minutes, May 6, 2021

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to accept the minutes as written, it was seconded by Dr. Odell. The motion passed 6-0.

6. Request Approval of Region VII e-Agreements

- Dr. Simmons explained that the e-Agreements are those programs/co-ops that were subscribe to in order to provide training and resources for our staff.
- Mr. Kennemer made a motion to accept the e-Agreements with Region VII, it was seconded by Dr. Odell. The motion passed 6-0.

7. Request Approval of 2020-2021 Budget Amendments

- Ms. Chesnut explained the adjustments needed on the budget to account for salaries and bus maintenance; the funds were already in the budget, but were needed in a different function to cover changes in job duties and unplanned repairs.
- A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez to accept the proposed budget amendments, Mr. Kennedy made a second motion and it was passed 6-0.

8. Request Adoption of 2021-2022 Budget

- Dr. Simmons, Ms. Chesnut, and Ms. Krier explained the budget is built off projected enrollment of 850 students at 96% attendance. The budget is a bit conservative in that CTE funded with different weights and this accounts for all CTE hours at the lowest rate despite all of UA CTE courses in grades 9-12 are approved as the higher Level 1-2 and Level 3-4 rates. The budget also includes Title I funds going to the YMCA partnership in Palestine for After School programming; Dr. Simmons noted she would like for the DSP in Tyler to get involved and take over Tyler's After School program in a similar fashion.
- A motion was made to adopt the budget as present by Mr. Kennemer. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it was passed 6-0.

9. Request Adoption of 2021-2022 Code of Conduct

- The Code of Conduct was present with no changes from the past year. Mr. Kennedy motioned to accept the Code of Conduct as written. Dr. Neel seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. Superintendent Report:

a. New Directors

Dr. Simmons introduced the new Campus Directors for Palestine and Tyler. Ms. Umami Bodede is joining Palestine campus from Crandall ISD, her husband Wally was in attendance as well. Ms. Katie Adams, former Assistant Campus Director in Tyler, has been promoted to Campus Director in place of Aimee Dennis, former Campus Director for Tyler. She has been promoted to Director of Special Programs & Leadership, filling the vacancy left by Mr. Brian Weaver's retirement.

b. 2021-2022 Student Handbook

The main change relates to Food Service, Dr. Simmons explained that the UA has dropped the NSLP and can now offer a concession stand to provide ala carte items to all students, while still providing a free breakfast bag to students who are economically disadvantaged. The cost of running an NSLP program was too high with the district subsidizing nearly \$30,000 annually. Unless able to have a full scratch kitchen to make meals, the cost of a 3rd party service is too high. Ideally the revenue will generate enough profits to provide options for lunch in the future.

c. 2021-2022 Faculty/Staff Handbook

Dr. Simmons explained that the dress code was updated to ensure more professionalism, this has become an issue and parents have expressed concerns.

d. STAAR Data

Ms. Dennis reviewed the UA's STAAR data, explaining that there are no accountability ratings tied to this data, but rather it was used by the state to determine the amount of learning loss and gaps that need to be closed as a result of COVID. Overall scores were better than the state and we still saw growth in many areas. There are areas of concern, which will be addressed through targeted interventions in 2021-2022 as part of HB 4545.

e. Financial Update

I. 2020-2021 Budget Report

Ms. Chesnut went over the 2020-2021 Budget Update, reminding members of the amendment that was just approved. The UA is on target to have a reserve to add to our fund balance.

II. ESSER II & III

Dr. Simmons and Ms. Krier explained the ESSER II and ESSER III spending plans, noting there is not a "supplement no supplant rule in place" and that salaries/fringe are the easiest items to use federal funds on due to the reporting/documentation requirements. The Board was made aware, as required by the grants, that the money is a one-time allotment and that fiscal pitfalls must be avoided by planning for long-term funding of projects, etc. The UA spending plans account for

This footnote was erroneously left in the word document from prior meeting. Mr. Rodriguez was present for the entirety of the meeting.
- Jaema Krier

removal of portions of the salaries from this funding source over time, moving them to the general/other fund by the time the grants are depleted.

f. Enrollment Projections for 2021-2022

Dr. Simmons noted that the current projections show 855 students expected to return/enroll, with 348 in Tyler, 263 in Longview, and 244 in Palestine. The UA currently has 11 new staff onboarding and teachers will return August 4th with students returning August 16th. The campuses are undergoing facility updates in preparation for students, including a science lab in Palestine (for use in dual credit coursework), Brick façade and sports court funded by the Development Board is also underway there. Tyler has a walkway canopy underway so students will not walk in the rain between the main building and UA5. The water main is also be repaired there to address the water pressure concerns in the restrooms and the eye wash station and shower in the science lab.

g. Dr. Simmons announced that a Special Meeting will need to be scheduled end of August to address final budget amendments for the fiscal year and Board meetings must go back to in-person as of September 1 as the exemption for virtual will expire.

11. Motion for Adjournment:

1st motion: Mr. Kennemer, 2nd motion: Mr. Kennedy. Motion passed 5-0 (Dr. Odell left during Informational Items). Adjournment occurred at 1:44 p.m.

Adopted at a meeting of the Board on August 26, 2021.

DocuSigned by:
Yanira Oliveras Ortiz
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Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz
President, UTTUA School Board

8/26/2021

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 3B0AC6B9C4DF4FEEAD10974E660BC42E	Status: Completed
Subject: Please DocuSign: 4.a. Minutes - 26 July 2021.pdf	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 3	Signatures: 1
Certificate Pages: 2	Initials: 2
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled	Jaema Krier
Time Zone: (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)	3900 University Blvd
	Tyler, TX 75799
	jkrier@uttyler.edu
	IP Address: 129.114.199.58

Record Tracking

Status: Original	Holder: Jaema Krier	Location: DocuSign
8/26/2021 1:00:51 PM	jkrier@uttyler.edu	

Signer Events

Yanira Oliveras Ortiz
 yoliverasortiz@uttyler.edu
 President, UTTUA School Board
 The University of Texas at Tyler
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

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 15124C63BBC6429...
 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
 Using IP Address: 129.114.222.13

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Jaema Krier
 jkrier@uttyler.edu
 Director of Administration
 UT Tyler University Academy
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Payment Events

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Timestamps