



Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023
Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd, Tyler, TX 75707

ATTENDING:

Heather Bailey	Nikki Hart	Dr. Joanna Neel
Alan Buckland	Rachel Hawkins	Dr. Michael Odell
Christian Chesnut	Amanda Kaiser	Shelly Parsons
Dr. Aimee Dennis	Jeffry Kennemer,	Dr. Jaclyn Pedersen
Dr. Kelly Dyer	President	Eric Semlear
Dr. Dominick Fazarro	Cori Mackey	Dr. Jo Ann Simmons

In addition, 3 parents were present, and anyone logging 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 12:02 p.m. by Mr. Kennemer on Thursday, November 9, 2023, 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

Kennemer confirmed there were no registered requests for public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the previous meeting, Thursday, September 14, 2023, were presented for questions or discussion. There were none. Dr. Neel made a motion to accept the minutes, and Semlear seconded the motion, passing unanimously.

5. Request Record Vote on Whether the District will Hire or Accept as a Volunteer a Chaplain Through Board Resolution

Dennis explained that SB 763 states that between now and March 2024, each of the 1200 Texas school district boards and open enrollment charter schools must vote on whether they will accept chaplains to provide mental health services to students.

- Dr. Odell noted that there are no qualifications required for someone to become a chaplain nor to prove any mental health counseling qualifications.

- Dr .Odell moved that the board does not adopt such a policy authorizing, employing, or accepting as volunteers, chaplains to provide support, services and programs for students as assigned by the Board. Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

6. Request Approval of Early Childhood Literacy and Math Plan

- a. Dr. Pedersen presented the district goals for K-2 and 3rd grade, both by campus and district. Last year's numbers were utilized to create 5 years of goals, with consistent incremental increases for reasonable expectations.
- b. Dr. Odell moved to approval the plan, Buckland seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

7. Request Approval of College, Career, and Military Readiness Plan

- a. Hart present the CCMR plan, stating that we were at 100%, and our goal is to stay there.
- b. Buckland moved to approve the plan and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

8. Request Approval of Policy Update: PG-1.3 Board Policy and Administrative Procedures

- a. Dr. Dennis stated that this update is to define what needs to be board approved or simply presented to the board, giving UA the ability to adjust some items in a more timely manner.
- b. Semlear moved to approve PG-1.3 updates, and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

9. Request Approval of Policy Update PG-3.14 Medical Treatment

- a. Nurse Mackey presented a policy update for compliance in our requirement to have Narcan on campus and policy to go with it.
- b. Dr. Odell asked if the state was providing the Narcan; Nurse Mackey said yes.
- c. Semlear asked if we needed standing orders from a physician to administer the Narcan. Nurse Mackey responde that we do, and she has already drafted that document and will present it later in the meeting under informational items.
- d. Dr. Neel moved to approve the updated policy and Dr. Fazarro seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

10. Request Approval of Policy Update PG-1.16 Emergency Plans

- a. Dr. Dennis presented the requirement that we provide our parents timely information about violent activity on or near campuses. TEA has provided some guidance/templates to assist in alerting parents.
- b. Semlear moved to approve the updated policy and Dr. Odell seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

11. Request Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Amendment

- a. Chesnut noted that we were purchasing a bus for Palestine campus from our fund balance, and were expending our instructional materials in order to apply for a grant.
- b. Buckland moved to approve the budget amendment and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

12. Request Approval of 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct

- a. Dr. Dennis explained that House Bill 114 makes vaping punishable by mandatory assignment to a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program, or DAEP, run by the district. Because our district does not have a DAEP, the student would be expelled. This would be added to the 23-24 Student Code of Conduct, Reasons for Expulsion.
- b. Dr. Fazarro questioned why we have expulsion for e-cigarettes but not traditional cigarettes. Several board members explained that e-cigs, or vapes, can be very easily loaded with numerous other contents, in particular, narcotics.
- c. Buckland inquired about student applying to UA who had been expelled from their district school from this action. Dr. Simmons outlined the charter policy we follow in regards to discipline reports/records for each incoming student that would not permit entry of such a student until 3 years after the expulsion.
- d. Dr. Odell moved to accept the addition and Dr. Neel seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

13. Financial Updates- 2023-2024 Budget Report

- a. Chesnut reported that we have received \$1.6 million and expensed \$1.6 million as of October 26, 2023.

14. 2022-2023 Charter FIRST (FY22 data)

- a. Charter FIRST indicators: Chesnut reported that we passed all indicators.
- b. Charter FIRST Management Report: Chesnut outlined that the report contained the superintendent's salary, superintendent and board member reimbursements for travel, benefits received by the superintendent, and any gifts and transactions for board members.

15. EDGAR Manual

- a. Bailey reported that the EDGAR Manual was updated primarily with changes in faculty and some dates.

16. Health Services- Standing Orders

- a. Nurse Mackey prepared a draft of standing orders from a physician the provides for a slight increase in services that can be provided by UA school nurses, to include epi pens and Narcan use.

17. Health Services- Naloxone Procedures

- a. Nurse Mackey presented a procedure document the use of Narcan on campus.

18. Intent to Apply: LASO Cycle II Lending Grant

- a. Dr. Dennis reported that we will be applying for the competitive technology lending grant.

19. Superintendent Report from Dr. Simmons

a. District Enrollment and Attendance

- i. Dr. Simmons reported on the current enrollment and attendance numbers, noting that attendance was averaging just over 96% for the district.
- ii. Recruitment- brochures and a video are in the works
- iii. Each campus will host a ShowCase evening, highlighting the campus, the student achievements, PBLs, etc.
- iv. Dr. Fazarro asked if we do billboards- the answer was yes in Palestine and Tyler, and are being added to the Longview cycle in conjunction with UT Tyler.
- v. A general discussion ensued regarding where do parents look for information on schools, how do we increase attendance

b. Campus Updates- Longview expansion- the renderings are complete and reviewed. Recommendations have been made, and costs being calculated.

c. Jr/Sr Night

- i. Dr. Simmons reported that Jr/Sr night happening on Tuesday, Nov 14, was going to be an exciting night, with Dr. Calhoun making a special scholarship announcement.
- ii. At full capacity next year, UA will have 400 high school students across 3 campuses.
- iii. Jr/Sr night is for talking about the opportunities available at UT Tyler for UA students.

d. Dean's meeting update: Dr. Simmons had the opportunity to meet with the Deans, and they expressed their desire to connect with our students, engaging in future events.

Parent comments:

- A parent inquired about community opportunities for our students.
- A parent inquired about the 24 hr return policy from fever, diarrhea or vomiting in relation to attendance.

20. Executive Session

- 1. At 1:16 pm, the board entered Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.075 to discuss the summary of findings from the intruder detection audit.
- 2. The Executive Session ended at 1:43 pm.

21. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m. with a motion from Dr. Odell, and second by Semlear. The motion passed unanimously.

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