



Board Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2020 12:00 p.m.

**ATTENDING:**

Dr. Michael Odell, Dr. Wesley Hickey, Mr. Daniel Rodriguez, Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, Ms. Angela Wright, Ms. Lou Ann Viergever, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, Dr. Becky Rutledge, Ms. Rachel Hawkins, Ms. Aimee Dennis, Ms. Jaclyn Pedersen, Ms. Darla Dear, Ms. Jaema Krier, Ms. Christian Chesnut, Ms. Karen Rule

**OPENING:**

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz on Thursday, January 16, 2020 in the OAC Ballroom Room.

**1. Call to Order:**

Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz confirmed a quorum of Board members were present.

**2. Pledge:**

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

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**3. Consent Agenda**

- a. Previous Minutes, November 14, 2019. Motion to approve with no changes.  
1<sup>st</sup> motion: Mr. Rodriguez, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Mr. Kennemer. Motion passed 4-0.

**4. Request Approval of 2018-2019 Finance Audit**

- Darla Dear, Auditor, discussed modifications that have already occurred, including revenue, income and net change vs. fund balance.
- Ms. Krier mentioned that University Academy is required to submit a new bid for auditing service provider next year. Ms. Krier thanked Ms. Dear for her work and service.
- Ms. Dear extended a commendation to both Ms. Krier and Ms. Chesnut for their contribution to the ease of accomplishing her audit tasks and for success of the audit. Ms. Dear also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with the University Academy overall.
- Ms. Dear explained the University Academy was given an unmodified opinion on the audit with no material weaknesses noted. All disclosures were made via the Auditor Disclosure Letter.
- Motion to approve with no additional modifications.  
1<sup>st</sup> motion: Mr. Kennemer, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Ms. Wright. Motion passed 4-0.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### 5. 2018-2109 Academic Performance Report (TAPR) & Annual Report

- Dr. Simmons elaborated on the benefit to view these reports as they reflect a multitude of data concerning school performance including grade, content, ethnicity, staff and faculty salaries, years of service, overall ratings, compliance issues, and state comparisons.

### 6. Superintendent Report

#### a. Financial Updates

- Ms. Chesnut reported the current University Academy revenue vs. expenses.
- Ms. Krier added that UA is expecting more revenue than initially budgeted. We have also applied for grants which will subsidize the budget.
- Mr. Kennemer questioned if the grants are restrictive. Dr. Simmons affirmed they are 99% of the time. Grant expenditures must be spent on the model and needs detailed within the grant application. Expenditures must also be managed and documented as specified.

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

- Dr. Simmons discussed the Academy's higher retention across campuses.
- Attendance is at 96%. District Total is 824 - Tyler: 317, Longview 265, Palestine 242.

#### c. Campus Updates

- Longview Elevate met their \$15,000 goal for their playground construction. The committee will meet Friday, January 17, 2020 to celebrate the accomplishment and to recognize the committee for their efforts. This success has motivated the committee to develop additional fundraising ideas and support.
- Tyler campus has extended their deadline for the playground fundraising. Further discussion concerning fundraising options is in process.
- Palestine development board is finalizing plans and rendering for a brick facade. A celebration with awarding of plaques to recognize the counsel is planned for February 20, 2020.
- A campus expansion proposal for Longview was submitted for consideration and Dr. Hickey is in discussions with Administration. We hope to get final word soon as recruitment for 2020-2021 begins soon.
- Dr. Simmons stated a new website is being developed and we are working through contracts.
- Dr. Simmons discussed the options for providing breakfast and lunch options for each campus. We have met with the vendor and Health Department to determine costs, facility needs and health department requirements.

#### d. Administrative Updates

Dr. Simmons and Ms. Pedersen discussed MIZ Grant funding for Blended Learning (Math) and Non-Math Blended Learning.

- University Academy applied for and received a grant to participate as a pilot specifically around reading.

### 7. Motion for Adjournment:

1<sup>st</sup> motion: Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Dr. Odell.

Adjournment occurred at 12:57 p.m.