



Board Meeting Minutes  
Special Meeting - May 21, 2020 12:00 p.m.

**ATTENDING:**

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz, Dr. Michael Odell, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, Ms. Angela Wright, Mr. Danny Rodriguez, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, Ms. Christian Chesnut, Ms. Jaema Krier, Dr. Becky Rutledge, Ms. Aimee Dennis, Ms. Rachel Hawkins, Ms. Jaclyn Pedersen and others (117+ participants reported).

**OPENING:**

The special board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz on Thursday, May 21, 2020 via a virtual Zoom session.

**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. Request Approval to Explore an Intersessional Calendar**

- Dr. Simmons explained that the TEA Commissioner, Mike Morath, has called on districts to consider an intersessional calendar for 2020-2021 to help with potential closures that schools may face in the wake of COVID-19. This past Spring schools were closed as a result of an immediate need and funding was frozen to help alleviate an impact to schools. However, moving into 2020-2021, schools need to plan for potential closures and how they can best serve students in a face-to-face environment as that is the best means of instruction. Funding will not necessarily be secured for remote learning in the coming year and schools should build in days to serve as "COVID-19 Relief Days". It is suggested that schools look at up to 6 weeks of intermittent breaks to serve as make-up days in the event of closures. Dr. Simmons acknowledged the 2020-2021 calendar was previously adopted, but that the 2 bad weather days currently on the schedule may not be enough in the event the school is forced to close for a 14 day quarantine period.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion: Mr. Kennemer, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Mr. Rodriguez. Motion passed 5-0.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**4. Superintendent Report**

- Administrative Updates
  - Very proud to report that the district was one of only 24 in the nation (only 2 in Texas) to be named a PLTW Distinguished District.
- **Motion for Adjournment:**  
1<sup>st</sup> motion: Dr. Odell, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Ms. Wright  
Adjournment occurred at 1:27 p.m.