



Board Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting – June 4, 2020 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDING:

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz, Dr. Michael Odell, Mr. Jeffrey Kennemer, Ms. Angela Wright, Mr. Danny Rodriguez, Dr. Neil Gray (joined midway), Ms. Laura Owens (upcoming Board member), Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, Ms. Christian Chesnut, Ms. Jaema Krier, Dr. Becky Rutledge, Ms. Aimee Dennis, Ms. Rachel Hawkins, Ms. Jaclyn Pedersen and others (89+ participants reported).

OPENING:

The special board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz on Thursday, June 4, 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

Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz explained that the meeting has no action items and is an informational meeting only. The chat feature would be shut off during presentation and then allow for the entry of questions for consideration at the end.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. 2020-2021 Calendar Options

- Dr. Simmons explained that after exploring various options and hosting a committee meetings, as well as faculty/staff and parent town halls, there are a few options to consider and that all options presented are only drafts and an example of the different types of calendars:
 - Current Adopted Calendar – Starts August 18th. Was adopted in March, before Spring Break, since then everything has changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic and students finished the year in an online learning environment.
 - Based on 180 days, school ends late May, only 2 make-up days.
 - Year End Option – this option would look at beginning 2 weeks sooner, August 3rd, adding a week break in October, and placing all of the make-up days at the end of the year, essentially using the entire month of June as potential make-up days.
 - Based on 180 days, same instructional time of 7:55 a.m. – 2: 15 p.m., additional break, keeps instructional days before STAAR, but could cause attendance concerns if have to extend into June, particularly for graduates, would be hard to plan.
 - Intercession Calendar – purpose is to help with Summer Slide, getting kids in sooner and keeping them later with more breaks in between. Added weeks to October, Winter and Spring Breaks. These weeks are marked as potential make-up days and can revert to instructional days.
 - Based on 180 days, same instructional time of 7:55 a.m. – 2: 15 p.m., additional breaks throughout, makes it difficult for parents to plan when students will/will not be in session, especially if they do not align with other districts, and once you pass up the days, you lose valuable make-up days if closures happen later in the year.

- Minutes Calendar – This calendar changes from the current 180 day model to 75,600 minutes model. As a charter we have this flexibility. This calendar would have students going to school longer each day to bank minutes and allow for adding time to each remaining day in the event of a closure, eliminating the need to build in numerous make-up days. The example noted was an instructional day from 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. daily.
 - This model is not supported by parents/teachers as it adds more time to each day.
- Based on the models above Dr. Simmons recommends we either stay with the current model or move to the Year-End model with an early start date of August 3, break in October, and all make-up days in June.
- Discussion ensued: it was discussed that the calendar does not impact day-to-day operations with regard to potential class size limits, remote learning, etc. The calendar simply defines the days we are expected to offer instruction and earn ADA. Members agree that August 3rd start date seems important to get students in sooner than later to get them back on track. The added week in October will be a good break for students and parents and adding the days at end will show the Commissioner that we took COVID-19 concerns into consideration. Before proceeding to finalize a calendar to present for adoption, the board requests a survey of parents to determine potential enrollment/attendance concerns if school begins August 3rd vs. currently scheduled August 18th. Based on findings, would like to present the Year-End model to parents and plan to present to Board for adoption in July.

4. COVID-19 TEA Guidance

- Dr. Simmons explained TEA has provided guidance concerning face-to-face Summer School, they are using data to develop plans for the Fall. However, the intent is not to fund remote attendance as that is not how the Student Attendance Accounting Handbook is written, it is based on accounting for ADA in a face-to-face environment only. All schools should be planning to provide face-to-face instruction for students and the funding of remote instruction has not been addressed at this time. Right now they are say only a 10:1 student:teacher ratio is allowed, this will not be feasible with our numbers. They want students to remain in self-contained classrooms and teachers rotate if needed, students to eat in classrooms. In the event that remote learning is allowed and we have a need to limit numbers on campus, the recommendation would be for 8-12 to work remotely while K-7 spread out on campus. There are options of A/B days, hybrid courses, etc. As far as PPE is concerned, no guidance has been noted as to whether masks will be required or recommended; a lot of the guidance is you “must” and other items are it is “recommended”. The key is that until they provide details, we have to be flexible.

Chat opened.

- **Motion for Adjournment:**

1st motion: Dr. Odell, 2nd motion: Ms. Wright
Adjournment occurred at 1:10 p.m.