



Board Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2020 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDING:

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz, Dr. Michael Odell, Ms. Laura Owens, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, Mr. Daniel Rodriguez, Ms. Angela Wright, Ms. Lou Ann Viergever, Dr. Jo Ann Simmons, multiple directors, staff and parents (33+ participants).

OPENING:

The board meeting of the UT Tyler University Academy was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Dr. Oliveras-Ortiz on Thursday, July 23, 2020 via Zoom teleconferencing.

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. Swearing in of Newly Elected/Appointment Members

- Mr. Jeffry Kennemer, elected UA Tyler Parent Representative, completed his Statement of Officer and Oath of Office to renew his term.
- Ms. Laura Owens, appointed UT Tyler College of Education & Psychology member, completed her Statement of Officer and Oath of Office to begin her term.
- Mr. Odell joined meeting at this time.

4. Consent Agenda

- Previous Minutes, May 7, 2020. Motion to approve with no changes.
1st motion: Mr. Rodriguez, 2nd motion: Ms. Wright. Motion passed 6-0.
- Previous Minutes, May 21st, 2020. Motion to approve with no changes.
1st motion: Ms. Owens, 2nd motion: Mr. Kennemer. Motion passed 6-0.
- Previous Minutes, June 4th, 2020. Motion to approve with no changes.
1st motion: Mr. Rodriguez, 2nd motion: Mr. Kennemer. Motion passed 6-0.
- Previous Minutes, June 8th, 2020. Motion to approve with no changes.
1st motion: Ms. Wright, 2nd motion: Ms. Owens. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Ratification of CCMR Plans for 2020-2021 from May 21, 2020 Meeting.

- Due to the timeline of the agenda posting for the May 21, 2020 meeting, the adoption of the presented CCMR plan required ratification. No additional information/edits were presented.
1st motion: Mr. Kennemer, 2nd motion: Mr. Danny Rodriguez. Motion passed 6-0.

6. Request of IMA Allotment and TEKS Certification for 2020-2021 from May 21, 2020 Meeting

- Due to the timeline of the agenda posting for the May 21, 2020 meeting, the adoption of the presented IMA Allotment and TEKS Certification required ratification. No additional information/edits were presented.
1st motion: Ms. Wright, 2nd motion: Dr. Odell. Motion passed 6-0.

7. Request Approval of Region VII e-Agreements

- Dr. Simmons: this agreement confirms the services in which the charter will participate in at Region 7 as well as the costs associated with each. These are programs we utilize to receive training and necessary assistance in order to meet various operational requirements.
1st motion: Dr. Odell, 2nd motion: Ms. Owens. Motion passed 6-0.

8. Request Approval of 2019-2020 Budget Amendments

- Ms. Chesnut: presented the necessary budget amendments to account for recent and expected expenses between now and the end of fiscal year on August 31, 2020. As a result of a decision to purchase needed devices now as a result of COVID and supply shortages, additional funds will be needed from the fund balance to cover those costs we had intended on budgeting for 2020-2021. This brings total from fund balance projected at \$400,000 as a precautionary measure, although only those funds actually necessary at year-end will be documented as used from the fund balance.

1st motion: Mr. Rodriguez, 2nd motion: Ms. Wright. Motion passed 6-0.

9. Request Adoption of the 2020-2021 Budget

- Dr. Simmons, Ms. Chesnut, and Ms. Krier presented the proposed budget for the new fiscal year. Increases included Health Services to cover COVID costs, particularly two PT Nurses for the Longview and Palestine campuses to help with necessary monitoring and reporting. There are also new security charges associated with service of the new monitoring systems installed in Tyler.

- 1st motion: Mr. Kennemer, 2nd motion: Ms. Owens. Motion passed 6-0.

10. Request Adoption of 2020-2021 Code of Conduct

- This document represents the expectations of student behavior and consequences for non-compliance outlined by the district. No major changes were made from last year's version.

1st motion: Mr. Rodriguez, 2nd motion: Ms. Wright. Motion passed 6-0.

- Dr. Oliveras had to leave the meeting, Dr. Odell took over as acting President and confirmed quorum still present.

11. Request Pre-Approval to File Remote Synchronous Learning Plan for 2020-2021

- Dr. Simmons: In order for students to receive instruction in a remote synchronous environment we must file an attestation document with TEA stating we will follow a series of guidelines to account for engagement. This will allow us to file that plan and provide synchronous instruction to students if necessary.

1st motion: Mr. Kennemer, 2nd motion: Ms. Owens. Passed 5-0.

12. Request Pre-Approval to File Remote Asynchronous Learning Plan for 2020-2021

- Dr. Simmons: In order to provide remote instruction to students asynchronously (a requirement for K-2 remote instruction), the charter must develop a detailed plan that has to be submitted to TEA by October 1. Ms. Pedersen and her team are working to develop the plan in coordination with the Campus Directors and various members of the Leadership Team. The plan must account for how the district will ensure daily engagement. This will allow the district to submit the necessary documents to Region 7 and TEA as required to meet the asynchronous requirements in order to generate funding for remote learners. The Letter of Intent must first be filed to indicate we will be presenting a plan to TEA by the established deadline.

1st motion: Ms. Wright, 2nd motion: Mr. Rodriguez. Motion passed 5-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

13. Superintendent Report:

- Palestine Campus Director
 - Dr. Simmons announced Mr. Ben Moran as the new Palestine Campus Director.
- 2020-2021 Student Handbook
 - Dr. Simmons presented the initial version of the Student Handbook for the school year, noting that as changes are made, they will be communicated to families and noted on the document with the date the revision took place.
- 2020-2021 Faculty/Staff Handbook
 - Ms. Krier noted that this is the initial version, but that additional revisions are being made due to new procedures with hiring, leave, payroll and other items at the university level. The updated version will be made available to staff when they return for 2020-2021.
- Financial Updates
 - Katie Adams, new Tyler Assistant Campus Director and Federal Programs Coordinator, presented information on the process for Palestine to be named a Title I, Part A school-wide campus. Tyler did not make the cut-off to become Title I Targeted Assistance due to increases in the Palestine data that

resulted in a higher district average. A campus must be either 35% ECD or over the district average to earn Title I Targeted Assistance status.

- Ms. Adams also discussed available CARES Act funding that the charter qualifies for and the plans to submit an application to receive those funds for COVID-related expenses.
- Enrollment Projections
 - The district is expecting nearly 881 students as of July 18 data; 351 Tyler, 277 Longview, and 253 Palestine.
- COVID-19 Return-to-School Plan
 - Dr. Simmons provided an overview of the guidelines that would be in place for the upcoming school year based on TEA guidelines. She discussed that many things are “required”, while others are “recommended”. She also explained the university has certain precautions in place that must be followed to align with their COVID policies. In general, the Plan discusses PPE requirements, plans to limit interaction through classroom lunches, staggered pick-up and drop-off, hallway traffic, remote learning requirements, including attendance, etc. The Plan has been provided to parents and staff and will be readily available on the UTTUA Website with revisions noted and communicated as needed.

14. Motion for Adjournment:

1st motion: Mr. Kennemer, 2nd motion: Ms. Wright. Motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment occurred at 1:41 p.m.

Link to recorded meeting:

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/play/grAxc-wZm8emtASMAMvjEWSAr1e9A6J3Wz0CSinTgXRikwOu5hj68p9cNNFxmaba6_YJnVKDZCVj1b_gmcNOwUr0sl7nsds?startTime=1595523208000&_xzm_rtaid=jcxY1HmkQ-emtKKHNoiCNQ.1599597960447.c842c08bfd310a1a5ffed003580b5fd6&_xzm_rhtaid=501