

UT Elementary Education Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2025

Location: UT Elementary

Facilitator: Lara Wilder/ Lucy McCoy

Overview

Lara Wilder opened the meeting by discussing House Bill 1605, which allows parents to petition for local reviews of classroom instructional materials. While UT Elementary has always provided curriculum access for review, this bill now formalizes the process.

She then outlined the Campus Improvement Plan, emphasizing three priorities:

- Goal setting and progress tracking for both students and teachers.
 - Maintaining a positive school culture through systems such as the regulation matrix and Bevo Back system.
 - Increasing reading and math scores by 5% in grades 3–5 through professional learning communities (PLCs), TEKS-aligned lesson planning, and frequent classroom observations.
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Goal Setting and Data Tracking

- Teachers set professional and student goals, reviewed mid-year and end-of-year.
 - Students and teachers track progress, with administrators providing additional support.
 - PLCs are used for standards analysis, data-driven planning, and collaborative instructional alignment.
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Family and Community Engagement

- A weekly newsletter continues to highlight campus updates.
 - Events include a planned GT showcase, an emergent bilingual information session, and family feedback meetings.
 - Region 13 partnership: parent education sessions, including a Zoom session on September 24 about school–home collaboration.
 - Ongoing principal coffee sessions provide informal opportunities for parent input.
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Research Activities and UT Programs at UTES- McCoy

- Teacher-in-Residence Program: Supports certification and integration into the UT Elementary community.
 - Project Align: Focuses on improving ELA core instruction and interventions.
 - CACS Project: A digital comprehension program piloted in third grade, with emphasis on social studies and science content.
 - UT College of Education's reading methods course uses UT Elementary as a model classroom, with two cohorts conducting small-group instruction.
 - Internships in social work and speech therapy continue, expanding service capacity for students.
 - The YouTeach program (engineering and physics) and science methods class partner for classroom lectures.
 - Reading methods cohorts will add early childhood observation during the spring semester.
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Mentor Programs and Volunteer Opportunities

- UT Texas Cowboys Mentor Program (led by Ms. Montoya): pairs 3rd–5th grade boys, with some 2nd graders as needed. Mentors also support after-school events.
 - Neighborhood Longhorn Program: provides scholarship opportunities, sports outings, summer events, and the “College for a Day” field trip for 4th–5th graders.
 - Discussion included exploring a parallel mentoring program for girls, potentially through Texas Sweethearts or Teachers of Tomorrow.
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Committee Feedback

- Suggestions to expand the Cowboy mentor program and create opportunities for girls.
 - Teachers of Tomorrow club may be explored as a long-term partner for mentorship.
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Final Remarks

- Members shared light anecdotes, including stories about the campus.
 - Lara Wilder reminded staff of upcoming responsibilities and the importance of maintaining clarity and consistency in communications.
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Action Items

- Lara Wilder – Follow up on Texas Sweethearts volunteer opportunities in the library.
- Education Council – Explore expanding mentoring opportunities for girls.