

**University of Texas Elementary School  
Management Board  
Austin, Texas  
March 24, 2026**

**Attendees**

- Board Members:
  - Present: Dr. Bill Lasher, Kathy Armenta, Dr. Kal Kallison, Dr. Laura Estep, Dr. Yulanda McCarty-Harris, Dr. Alex Eusebi, J E Johnson, Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons, Mark Williams, Dr. Jennifer Smith,
  - Absent: Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres
  - Non-voting board associates present: Dr. Melissa Chavez, Dr. Nicole Whetstone, Dr. Lara Wilder
  - Non-voting board associates absent: Connor Habhab
- Guests: Dr. Victor Saenz, David Clark
- UT-UCS Staff: Bob Micks, Jenny Davis, Sharon Yarbrough, Dr. Autumn Leal-Shopp, Giovanni Cantoran, Dr. Janina Roberts

**I. Call to Order and Establish Quorum**

*Dr. Lasher called the meeting to order at 11:35 and noted that a quorum was present.*

**II. Welcome and Recognition of Special Guests**

**III. Parent & Citizen Comments**

None at this time

**IV. Items for Consideration by Consent**

- a. Consider approval of the Consent Agenda.

*A motion that the Consent Agenda be approved was made by Dr. McCarty-Harris and seconded by Dr. Kallison.*

*For – Dr. Bill Lasher, Kathy Armenta, Dr. Kal Kallison, Dr. Laura Estep, Dr. Yulanda McCarty-Harris, Dr. Alex Eusebi, J E Johnson, Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons*

*Opposed –none*

*Abstain – none*

*Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Mark Williams, Laura Torres, Dr. Jennifer Smith,*

*The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-0-6*

## V. Action Items

- a. Consider approval of the Enhanced Teacher Incentive Allotment application and strategic compensation plan.

Dr. Whetstone explained to the board that we already participate in this program and she shared the changes that are being implemented by TEA to this “enhanced” program. She added that The University already has guidelines that guide merit for our staff and the Enhanced TIA will align with The University’s guidelines for salary increases. Dr. Whetstone explained how teachers are evaluated, what the different levels mean and how they will be compensated.

Dr. Lasher and Dr. McCarty-Harris raised questions about the compensation and how it will affect their TRS retirement calculations. Dr. Whetstone and Dr. Chavez explained that the compensation is not part of their salary but is recorded similarly as a stipend but ultimately it is calculated by TRS as credit towards their three highest years for retirement.

*A motion to approve the Enhanced Teacher Incentive Allotment application and strategic compensation plan was made by Kathy Armenta and seconded by*

Dr. Bill Lasher, Kathy Armenta, Dr. Kal Kallison, Dr. Laura Estep, Dr. Yulanda McCarty-Harris, Dr. Alex Eusebi, J E Johnson, Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons, Mark Williams, Dr. Jennifer Smith,

*Opposed – none*

*Abstain – none*

*Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres*

*The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-0-6*

- b. Consider approval of curriculum for Human Growth and Development

Dr. Whetstone explained the commercially developed curriculum we use, the parent review opportunities and how the lessons are delivered.

Dr. Kallison asked about the opting out of parents.

Dr. Whetstone explained that parents must now opt-in as required by law (rather than opting out.)

Dr. Lasher asked what the parents see.

Dr. Whetstone explained that the parents see exactly what the students see.

*A motion to approve was made by Dr. Kallison and seconded by Dr. McCarty-Harris*

*For – Dr. Bill Lasher, Kathy Armenta, Dr. Kal Kallison, Dr. Katie Tackett, Dr. Laura Estep, Starla Simmons, J E Johnson, Laura Torres, Dr. Alex Eusebi, Dr. Jennifer Smith*

*Opposed – none*

*Abstain – none*

*Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres*

*The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-0-6*

## VI. Reports/Discussion Items

- a. Chair's report – Dr. Bill Lasher  
Reminder that Dr. Lasher is stepping down in July.
- b. Chief Executive Officer's report – Dr. Melissa Chavez  
The COE and executive director have decided to hire a development officer to support all 3 schools but the UTES capital campaign in particular. They will have a 3-year appointment.
- c. Superintendent's report – Dr. Nicole Whetstone  
Current enrollment 303, SPED 64, ADA is 95%, Lottery was held 3/13 and we have a waitlist. Upcoming events.  
  
For Advancement Ceremony on May 20, we will have 3-4 UT graduates (former UTES students and our former student teachers.) and the board is invited.
- d. Health & Safety/Facilities report – Dr. Katie Tackett  
None at this summer
- e. Strategic Planning Committee report – Mrs. Kathy Armenta  
None at this time
- f. Finance Committee report – Dr. Kal Kallison  
Jenny Davis shared the budget to actuals and federal funds report.
- g. Education and Research Committee report – Dr. Sarah Woulfin  
Dr. Whetstone shared that they met to discuss the Growth and Human Development curriculum that the board approved today.
- h. Nominating Committee report – Dr. Alexandra Eusebi  
Dr. Whetstone explained that the committee has 4 spots to fill and they will present their recommendations at the next board meeting.

## VII. Adjournment

Dr. Lasher adjourned the meeting at 12:32 pm.