

**University of Texas Elementary School
Management Board
Austin, Texas
April 28, 2026**

Attendees

- Board Members:
 - Present: Dr. Bill Lasher, Kathy Armenta, Dr. Laura Estep, J E Johnson, Dr. Alex Eusebi, Dr. Jennifer Smith, Dr. Kal Kallison, Mark Williams, Dr. Yulanda McCarty-Harris
 - Absent: Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres, Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons
 - Non-voting board associates present: Dr. Melissa Chavez, Dr. Nicole Whetstone, Dr. Lara Wilder, Connor Habhab
 - Non-voting board associates absent: none
- Guests: Dr. Victor Saenz, David Clark
- UT-UCS Staff: Bob Micks, Jenny Davis, Sharon Yarbrough, Dr. Autumn Leal-Shopp, Giovanni Cantoran

I. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

Dr. Lasher called the meeting to order at 11:32am and noted that a quorum was present.

II. Welcome and Recognition of Special Guests

Recognition of Dr. Lasher for his last board meeting

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. Kallison and seconded by Kathy Armenta.

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

Opposed –none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres, Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons

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

V. Action Items

- a. Consider the nomination of Xiaofen Hamilton for recommendation to the Management Board for a three-year term dated July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029

A motion to approve was made by Dr. McCarty Harris and seconded by J.E. Johnson

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

Opposed – none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons

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

- b. Consider the nomination of Melissa Wetzel for recommendation to the Management Board for a three-year term dated July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029

A motion to approve was made by Dr. Smith and seconded by Dr. Estep.

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

Opposed – none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons

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

- c. Consider the nomination of Morgan Krause for recommendation to the Management Board for a two-year term dated July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028

A motion to approve was made by Smith and seconded by Estep

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

Opposed – none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons

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

- d. Consider the nomination of Mark Williams for recommendation to the Management Board for an additional three-year term dated July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029

A motion to approve was made by J.E. Johnson and seconded by Dr. Kallison

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

Opposed – none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons

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

- e. Consider the nomination of Alexandra Eusebi for recommendation to the Management Board for an additional three-year term dated July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029

A motion to approve was made by Kathy Armenta and seconded by Dr. Smith

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

Opposed – none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons

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

- f. Consider the nomination of Laura Estep to serve as board chair effective July 1, 2026

A motion to approve was made by Kathy Armenta and seconded by J E Johnson

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

Opposed – none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons

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

- g. Consider approval of the 2026-2027 budget

Dr. Kallison began by describing the differences in our annual budgets. He noted the benefits of cost sharing with our partner school districts. He explained some of the measures we are taking to balance our budget.

Jenny Davis thanked our school leadership for the work they put in to creating this budget. She next explained the revenue and expense assumptions that were used to create the budget.

Dr. Saenz added that the College of Education is supportive of our cost sharing and will continue to assist our districts as needed.

Jenny went into detail about revenue streams. Kathy Armenta asked about the revenue UTES receives from the President's and Provost's Offices. Jenny explained that they are longtime allotments and they have not increased.

Dr. McCarty-Harris asked about the funding of the incoming ED as she noted that the new ED will only be a 50% time position. Jenny noted that the new ED is funded by UTHS.

Dr. Lashed added for clarification about funding from UT Charter. Jenny explained that UT Charter pays rent to UT Elementary for space on the 2nd floor of the 6th street building.

Jenny detailed UTES expenses and showed a chart of expenses, noting that 67% of our budget is Instruction. Dr. Kallison noted 58% is the average percentage of ISD's direct instruction budgets statewide.

Jenny showed the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 budgets next to one another for the board to compare. She went through the budget line by line adding additional information to clarify and to detail where cost-sharing measures are being taken.

Dr. McCarty-Harris asked about areas of flexibility and budgeting a deficit. Jenny explained that the budget is created using a standard financial strategy that includes budgeting for a deficit that the finance committee is comfortable with. Dr. Kallison added that the Finance Committee is comfortable with this level of deficit

What is the state requirement for fund balance? Jenny explained that they want 3 months worth of expenses in the fund balance.

Dr. Smith asked about what funding may be coming down from the State. Dr. Whetstone said that there may be some decreases in positions if the state does not fully fund schools.

A motion to approve was made by Dr. McCarty Harris and seconded by J E Johnson

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

Opposed – none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons

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

- h. Consider Approval of the Research Study “Learning to Innovate: Development and Diversity”

A motion to approve was made by Dr. Estep and seconded by Dr. Smith

Dr. Whetstone explained that this is a joint research between the Economic and Social Research Council and the National Science Foundation to determine whether, and how, schooling influences the developmental trajectory of tool innovation. The investigators are Professor Christine Legare, Director of the Center for Applied Cognitive Science at UT Austin and Dr. Bruce Rawlings, Department of Psychology, Durham University, England.

Dr. Wilder added that this is a global study.

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

Opposed – none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Dr. Sarah Woulfin, Jolie Kinyamahanga, Laura Torres Dr. Katie Tackett, Starla Simmons

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

VI. Reports/Discussion Items

- a. Chair’s report – Dr. Bill Lasher
Dr. Lasher noted that this is his last meeting and he appreciates everyone and will stay in touch.
- b. Chief Executive Officer’s report – Dr. Melissa Chavez
Dr. Chavez noted that this is also her last meeting and she thanked everyone for the support over the past 22 years.
- c. Superintendent’s report – Dr. Nicole Whetstone
Dr. Whetstone shared the UTES staff and faculty awards; enrollment information, academic unit report (the University academic units where our UT student interns, etc. are from). Teacher incentive allotment information included new designations. Dr. Smith asked how many TIA designated teachers do we have? Dr. Whetstone showed the chart that detailed the 58% of teachers who are designated. A question was asked about district comparisons and our local districts are just beginning to participate and we won’t know until they have had longer participation.
- d. Health & Safety/Facilities report – Dr. Katie Tackett
Dr. Leal gave the health report for both students and staff (estimated) and the safety report. Then she showed a breakdown of types of discipline data. Dr. Wilder added that the majority of referrals are sports related. Next, she gave a facilities report that included photos of the new roof on building G. We started an integrated pest management program based on the policy that the board previously approved. She

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- showed a detailed facilities financial report of budget vs. actual for the school year. She showed the safety drill report and safety door/gate check report.
- e. Strategic Planning Committee report – Mrs. Kathy Armenta
Kathy Armenta explained that the committee is currently inactive and looks forward to more work in the fall.
 - f. Finance Committee report – Dr. Kal Kallison
Jenny showed the board the current budget vs actuals and reminded the board that the budget goes through 8/31.
 - g. Education and Research Committee report – Dr. Sarah Woulfin
None at this time
 - h. Nominating Committee report – Dr. Alexandra Eusebi
Dr. Eusebi thanked everyone who helped this year and offered suggestions.
 - i. Development Report – Dr. Victor Saenz
Dr. Saenz explained to the board that we are hiring a Director of Development position that will report to the College of Ed's Development Officer Wendy Elder with one of their goals to be helping with the UT Elementary Capital Campaign once it is approved by the Dean.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Lasher adjourned the meeting at 1:08 pm.