University of Texas Elementary School
Management Board
Austin, Texas
August 25, 2025

Attendees

- Board Members:
  - Present: Dr. Laura Estep, Starla Simmons, Kathy Armenta, Morgan Kruse, J E Johnson, Dr. Kal Kallison, Dr. Jennifer Smith, Dr. Xiofen Hamilton, Dr. Alex Eusebi, Dr. Melissa Wetzel, Dr. Yulanda McCarty-Harris, Eddie Lopez, Mark Williams
  - Absent: none
  - Non-voting board associates present: Dr. Debra Cantu, David Clark
  - Non-voting board associates absent:
- Guests: Dr. Victor Saenz
- UTES Staff: Bob Micks, Jenny Davis, Dr. Nicole Whetstone, Sharon Yarbrough, Dr. Autumn Leal-Shopp, Giovanny Cantoran, Dr. Lara Wilder, Deja Gamble, Dr. Amy Gonzales

I. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

Dr. Laura Estep called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM and noted that a quorum was present.

II. Welcome and Recognition of Special Guests

Dr. Estep asked the room to go around and introduce everyone as we have new members

III. 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. Laura Estep, Starla Simmons, Kathy Armenta, Morgan Kruse, J E Johnson, Dr. Kal Kallison, Dr. Jennifer Smith, Dr. Xiofen Hamilton, Dr. Alex Eusebi, Dr. Melissa Wetzel

Opposed –none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Mark Williams, Yulanda McCarty-Harris

The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-0-3

V. Action Items

a. Consider approval of Senate Bill 12 (TEC §39.008): Annual Certification of Compliance with Certain Laws

Dr. Whetstone explained what activities are prohibited and those that are required by SB12.

Dr. Kallison noted that of the hundreds of school laws, that this is the one schools have to certify every year.
Dr. Smith questioned how this affects the classroom. Dr. Whetstone explained how it impacts the classroom and how we have been instructed by SB12 to handle it.

A motion to approve was made by Dr. Wetzel and seconded by Starla Simmons

For – Dr. Laura Estep, Starla Simmons, Kathy Armenta, Morgan Kruse, J E Johnson, Dr. Kal Kallison, Dr. Jennifer Smith, Dr. Xiofen Hamilton, Dr. Alex Eusebi, Dr. Melissa Wetzel, Dr. Yulanda McCarty-Harris

Opposed –none

Abstain – none

Absent – Eddie Lopez, Mark Williams

The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0-2

b. Consider the approval of a 2026-2027 budget amendment

Dr. Kallison explained what the budget amendment is, where it is coming from and where it is going to be use.

A motion to approve was made by Dr. McCarty-Harris and seconded by Starla Simmons

For – Dr. Laura Estep, Starla Simmons, Kathy Armenta, Morgan Kruse, J E Johnson, Dr. Kal Kallison, Dr. Jennifer Smith, Dr. Xiofen Hamilton, Dr. Alex Eusebi, Dr. Melissa Wetzel, Dr. Yulanda McCarty-Harris, Eddie Lopez

Opposed –none

Abstain – none

Absent –Mark Williams

The motion passed by a vote of 12-0-0-1

c. Consider approval of a research project, "The Effects of a Strategic Mindset Storybook Intervention on Children's Behavioral Responses to Frustration"

Dr. Whetstone explained the project to the board.

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

For – Dr. Laura Estep, Starla Simmons, Kathy Armenta, Morgan Kruse, J E Johnson, Dr. Kal Kallison, Dr. Jennifer Smith, Dr. Xiofen Hamilton, Dr. Alex Eusebi, Dr. Melissa Wetzel, Dr. Yulanda McCarty-Harris, Eddie Lopez

Opposed –none

Abstain – none

Absent –Mark Williams

The motion passed by a vote of 12-0-0-1

VI. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Chair's report – Dr. Laura Estep
None at this time

b. Combined with Executive Officer's report
Thanked the UTES staff for hosting a UTPS leadership team visit and for hosting the memorial for Dr. Sharpe last weekend.

c. Superintendent's report – Dr. Nicole Whetstone
Dr. Whetstone shared the theme for year: Roadmap to success. She detailed enrollment, staffing, the new afterschool program, and gave a progress report for our partnership with the Texas Cowboys. She reminded the board about the board retreat on September 11.

d. Health & Safety/Facilities report – Starla Simmons
Starla delivered information on student immunizations and a health report. Dr. Leal gave her facilities report. Next Starla gave the operations safety updates including the required safety drills. Dr. Leal reminded the board that parents are given advance notice when those drills take place. Next she detailed our integrated pest management plan.

e. Strategic Planning Committee report – Mrs. Kathy Armenta
A committee has been created.

f. Finance Committee report – Dr. Kal Kallison
Jenny Davis gave updates on our preliminary FIRST rating, endowment and T-TESS grant. Next, Jenny shared the budget-to-actual report, noting we are at the end of our fiscal year. The final slide was reporting on our federal expenditures.

g. Education and Research Committee report – Dr. Nicole Whetstone
None at this time

h. Nominating Committee report – Dr. Alexandra Eusebi
None at this time.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Estep adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM