

The University of Texas Elementary School
Management Board Meeting

Monday, August 25, 2008
UTES Multi-Purpose Room

Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Dr. Gregory Vincent, Mr. Julien Carter, Mr. Jose Del Valle, Dr. Mike Kerker, Dr. Chiquita Watt Eugene, Gwen Grigsby, Dr. Marina Walne, Dr. Linda Ferreira-Buckley, Dr. Diane Bryant, Dr. Ramona Trevino

Others Present: Dr. Sherri L. Sanders, Ms. Carly Huston, Ms. Julie Nance, Ms. Sarah Y. Shafer

Members not Present: Ms. Tonya King, Mr. Gerald Torres, Dr. Ed Sharpe

Minutes from Management Board Meeting May 19, 2008

May 19, 2008 minutes were approved by voice vote.

Chair's Report – Dr. Gregory Vincent

Dr. Vincent introduced two new board members Dr. Eugene and Mr. Del Valle; then each member of the board introduced themselves.

The Middle School Initiative Task Force, with participation from across the campus, continues to meet and is writing a proposal that will be given to AISD on September 15, 2008. The group met throughout the summer and among the critical priorities is that the UT-AISD Middle School would be the only charter school housed within an AISD facility. An alternate set-up would have the UT-AISD Middle School join multiple academies within a single AISD location. UTES students eligible for promotion to middle school would automatically be admitted and an application and lottery system would be used for all other eligible students. Autonomy in decision making is critical in the following areas: hiring of administrators, staff, and teachers; development and implementation of curriculum; funding and distribution and use. Transferability of design into AISD middle schools is also an essential component, especially for UTeach. Strong community involvement is of high importance, as well as engagement of the community in the development process after the proposal is approved by AISD Board of Trustees. Project-based Instruction will form the research-based framework for an integrated curriculum. AISD recommended that the UT-AISD Middle School plan should be incorporated into the AISD Middle School Education Plan process.

New board members are required to complete 12 hours of training and returning board members are required to complete 6 hours of training each year. DVDs are available through the UTES administrative office and the deadline is October 15, 2008. Once board members have reviewed the DVDs, they should e-mail Dr. Trevino and copy Dr. Sanders so that certification can be completed. Critical issues that need to be addressed

in 2008-2009 include consideration of expansion of zip codes due to affordability issues in the immediate neighborhood and possible adjustment of the sibling rule.

Principal's Report – Dr. Ramona Trevino

Dr. Trevino passed out binders for the Board Members to keep their handouts organized throughout the school year.

School started two weeks ago Tuesday. Gwen Grisby got “Hook ‘Em” out at the school and the event was highlighted on News 8 Austin. The Co-Op donated three uniform shirts per student. Mr. Mitchell from the Co-Op visited with the kids and gave them pom-poms and footballs.

The AEIS Report gave UTES a rating of “Recognized.” The TAKS results were good, but the science score was one point below the standard for “Exemplary.” UTES is collaborating with the Texas Science Collaborative in the College of Education; a staff member works half-time teaching at the school and half-time working at UT.

A calendar with information on events throughout the school year is provided in the binder. All members of the board are invited to attend events.

A press release went out regarding the UTES TAKS test scores.

The Urban Education Pilot Cohort is a program that is a collaboration with The Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, the College of Education, AISD, and UTES. The goal is to evaluate teacher preparation by imbedding the 3 Tier-Model developed and disseminated by the Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts and social and emotional learning, taught out of the Educational Psychology Department. The group has had five meetings and some faculty from the College of Education changed their curriculum based on the project. There is a kick-off reception tomorrow, August 26. A grant from RGK will fund a book based on the work in each of the content areas and integration of this project into AISD schools. Teachers involved will be funded by this grant to author portions of the book, which will serve as a teaching preparation manual.

Approximately two hundred parents came to the New Parent Organizational meeting. New parents were asked to come and ask questions and learn about UTES' goals.

UTES has a common technology problem regarding regulating student access of Web. Equipment and software is being investigated to address this issue. UTES created a parent waiver similar to the one AISD uses to approve their students' to access computers and the internet while on campus. UTES has posted a position for a full-time information technologist to help with day-to-day issues, as well as this one.

There are spaces available because some students did not return this year: 1 in Kindergarten, 2 in 3rd grade, 4 in 4th grade, 3 in 5th grade.

Parents involved in Neighborhood Longhorns are concerned about a middle school. Dr. Vincent suggested he speak with them regarding the AISD-UT Middle School plan.

Facilities – Dr. Ramona Trevino for Dr. Ed Sharpe

UTES has been cleared to start construction to build a temporary gym. It will be the size of a regular portable building with a ten-foot ceiling and no wall in the middle. It should be finished by Thanksgiving. The Capital Metro lot behind the school is empty and UTES intends to build on it. In the mean time, the plan is to have the students use it for outdoor P.E. activities.

Financial Report – Dr. Mike Kerker

At the last board meeting, the board gave the executive committee the authority to make line item adjustments up to \$10,000. Some changes to the 2007-2008 budget have been made prior to the end-of-year. Items that went up in cost included security, Time Warner Cable, and a new curriculum program called C-Scope. C-Scope is from Region 13. Its purpose is to align the curriculum to state guidelines. UTES is specifically purchasing math and science lesson plans.

The Management Board needs to vote on adjustments made to the 2007-2008 budget. Utility and catering costs have gone up. Catering refers to breakfast and lunch for the students who are eligible for discounted meals. The State reimburses UTES for some of those costs, but not all of it. The motion is to increase the utility budget by \$8,190 and the catering budget by \$9,900. Dr. Vincent moves. Mr. Carter seconds. Motion to amend the 2007-2008 budget passes.

There have been some amendments to the Draft 2008-2009 budget. There are some projections of increased revenue. Changes included: salary adjustments, technology needs, field trips, 5th grade graduation reception, supplies, the Urban Education Project, utilities, and catering. Dr. Kerker moves to accept the amendment. Dr. Vincent seconds. Motion to amend 2008-2009 budget passes.

Development Report – Dr. Marina Walne

The current building campaign fund is \$1,910,000. Sam Barshop made a \$10,000 gift towards the construction of the permanent facility on behalf of Pat and Julie Oles, Development Council Co-Chairs. A proposal was submitted to the Hogg Foundation for \$1.25M to build the Social/Emotional Center and the Clinic. West Austin Youth Association board members came for a tour to talk about funding needed this year. We asked them to hold a fundraiser with Mack and Sally Brown to raise \$250,000 for the playscape areas. Upcoming Tours will include the Lance Armstrong foundation with Sally Brown; Matt Whelan, Catellus; and University Federal Credit Union. The next Development Council meeting is September 30, 2008.

The Current Annual fund is \$17,154. UTES sent a summer annual fund letter on June 15th to over 5,000 donors and alumni.

The Current Grant Fund is \$105,450. KDK Harman awarded \$40,000 for UTES to create a science demonstration program, along with the Texas Regional collaborative. A grant proposal was submitted to the Dell Connected Communities Program for \$50,000 to support our laptop check out program for parents and for additional technology in the classrooms.

The current General Donation fund is \$222,573. An anonymous donor made a \$70,000 gift to UTES to give teachers and staff a one-time gift for their hard work.

The UT Co-Op has agreed to let UTES use the \$150,000 donation made towards the Campus Center to be used for the temporary gym. In return, UTES will name the community after the University Co-Operative Society. The Buena Vista Foundation has agreed to let UTES use part of their \$1.075M donation to be used towards the construction of the temporary gym and to pay for the soil remediation of the back lot.