

The University of Texas Elementary School
Management Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
UTES Multi-Purpose Room

Minutes of Meeting

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

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

Members not Present: Mr. Gerald Torres, Dr. Marina Walne, Dr. Ed Sharpe, Dr. Chiquita Watt Eugene, Ms. Tonya King

Minutes from Management Board Meeting October 27, 2008

Dr. Diane Bryant motioned. Dr. Linda Ferreira-Buckley seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Chair's Report – Dr. Gregory Vincent

Representatives from the Austin Independent School District (AISD) and UT Austin met on November 14 to discuss the possibility of a partnership experiential middle school, and AISD Superintendent Dr. Pat Forgione requested a proposal by mid-December. The group discussed the possibility of a sixth grade program beginning in the fall of 2009. The group discussed the possibility of a connection with New Tech curriculum, and opportunities for professional development for faculty. There is a meeting scheduled on December 11 to update President William Powers and Provost Steve Leslie of UT Austin on the status of the middle school proposal.

The new deadline to complete the Texas Education Agency (TEA) mandated board training is January 12, 2009. Board members may check out the DVDs or participate in onsite TEA training on March 6 and March 27.

Principal's Report – Dr. Ramona Trevino

UTES had a parent forum meeting on November 11 for parents of fifth grade students on schools of choice for their children to attend next year, including charter schools and AISD schools. The teachers will be working with the fifth graders to help fill out applications and write essays.

St. Andrew's Episcopal School is interested in working with UTES parents to waive registration fees and give scholarships to UTES students interested in attending middle school.

The Thanksgiving Luncheon is on November 20 for the students and their extended family.

The Circle of Lights is a weeklong activity from December 1 through December 5, where students spend half days learning about Ramadan, Diwali, Kwanza, Hanukah, and Christmas. The Circle of Lights culminates in a concert on December 5 at 1:20 p.m. in the Pan-Am Recreation Center.

Other events in December include:

La Posada at 5:45 p.m. on December 5.

The Student Holiday Program on December 9.

Orange Santa on December 15.

The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on December 17.

The Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) Report is UTES' report card from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). UTES was rated as Recognized, and commended with Gold status in reading, writing, and mathematics, as well as comparable improvement in math. UTES is compared to elementary school campuses in other districts with similar demographics, not just AISD.

UTES sought to amend the UTES charter to include a transfer policy. The original language in the charter was a map using specific boundaries, rather than actual zip codes. The proposed language is: "The University of Texas Elementary Charter school requests to include a 'transfer policy' in its charter in accordance with 19 TAC 100.1207(e). Once all eligible applicants who reside within the approved geographic boundaries as defined in the charter application dated September 24, 2002 have submitted a timely application and have been enrolled, the charter school will accept transfer students from outside its geographic boundary assuming the maximum enrollment cap has not been reached. Transfer students will be accepted from the following school districts: Austin Independent School District and Del Valle Independent School District." The geographic area served by the school will be east of Interstate Highway 35, south of U.S. Highway 290, west of U.S. Highway 183, and north of State Highway 71.

Dr. Mike Kerker moved. Mr. Julien Carter seconded. The motion to change the charter to include the transfer policy passed with a voice vote. The recommendation will now go to the Board of Regents for their approval, then pending approval, to the Texas Education Agency.

Finance Report – Dr. Mike Kerker

Ms. Julie Nance and her staff are working with the UT Austin Office of Accounting to prepare reports that are compatible with the system used at UTES and the system used at UT Austin in preparation for an audit.

UTES received three grants that have been funded from the Lupton Foundation, the KDK Harmon Foundation, and the UT Austin School of Social Work. The Lupton Foundation indicated that their donation of \$5,000 should go to the students, so their donation will be used to increase the budget for field trips. The KDK Harmon foundation donated \$40,000. The UT Austin School of Social Work donated \$10,000.

Grants awarded, but not yet funded include: Dell Foundation with a \$25,000 award; Tapestry Foundation with \$21,691 and \$10,000 awards.

The donated money will go towards faculty salary, professional development, summer school, and other UTES projects.

The UTES Budget Committee requested the board approve amendments to the 2008-2009 budget.

Dr. Gregory Vincent asked for a motion to pass the budget amendment. Ms. Gwen Grigsby moved, Dr. Linda Ferreira-Buckley seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Development Report – Carly Huston on behalf of Marina Walne

The Current Building Campaign Fund is \$0.

Dr. Ramona Trevino, Dr. Ed Sharpe, and Carly Huston met with the developers from the Mueller site, as the developers are interested in donating land to an elementary school and wanted to see if there could be a partnership between AISD and UTES on their site.

UTES submitted a proposal to Rhonda Summerbell with the University Federal Credit Union (UFCU) for \$300,000 to name the stage. Approval is pending.

The Current Annual Fund is \$395.

A letter will be sent out in early December to 5,000 new and past donors to participate in the Holiday Annual Fund Drive.

The Current Grant Donation Fund is \$95,531.

UTES was invited to resubmit a proposal for \$10,000 to the Long Foundation for summer school in 2009.

The George and Fay Young Foundation gave UTES \$21,691 for Saturday academic enrichment camps in spring 2009 and part of summer school 2009.

The Powell Foundation donated \$23,840 for the Urban Education Pilot Project.

The Current General Donation Fund is \$120,000.

Mrs. Carolyn Lupton gave an additional \$5,000 to the UTES for school trips because of the thank you notes sent by UTES students in response to her earlier contributions. Carmel Borders and the Tapestry Foundation made a gift of \$10,000 to UTES to pay for one-quarter of the UTES social worker's salary for 2008-2009.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:52 p.m.