

The University of Texas Elementary School
Management Board Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2009
UTES Multi-Purpose Room

Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Dr. Gregory Vincent, Dr. Linda Ferreira-Buckley, Dr. Ramona Trevino, Dr. Ed Sharpe, Ms. Tonya King, Dr. Diane Bryant, Dr. Mike Kerker, Mr. Jose Del Valle

Others Present: Ms. Julie Nance, Ms. Anne Steele, Dr. Sherri Sanders, Ms. Carly Nieri

Members not Present: Dr. Chiquita Watt Eugene, Dr. Marina Walne, Mr. Julien Carter, Ms. Gwen Grigsby

Approval of Minutes from Management Board Meeting February 23, 2009:

Dr. Ed Sharpe motioned. Dr. Diane Bryant seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes from Management Board Meeting March 23, 2009:

Dr. Diane Bryant motioned. Mr. Jose Del Valle seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Chair's Report – Dr. Gregory Vincent

Dr. Vincent and Dr. Trevino recognized Dr. Sanders for her work on the historic unveiling of the Barbara Jordan Statue held on Friday, April 24. Dr. Sanders served as the project director for the Barbara Jordan Statue Project for the past seven years. Dr. Trevino presented Dr. Sanders with a drawing of Ms. Jordan by a UTES student as a gift of appreciation for her work on the project and its impact on the students, staff, teachers, and community.

Dr. Vincent provided an update on the discussions between UT and Austin Independent School District (AISD) regarding the creation of a partnership middle school. Conceptually, UT is in favor of the partnership middle school, however, there are many more steps that need to be taken before UT commits to the partnership. The article in the April 23, 2009 Austin American Statesman was premature in presenting the perception that UT has reached an agreement with AISD. Given that a new superintendent will be assuming the leadership of the school district in July, further discussions and decisions will be made in cooperation with the new superintendent and her staff.

On Thursday, April 23, Dr. Vincent attended a meeting hosted by AISD for parents, staff, and community members interested in learning more about possible changes at Martin Middle School.

UT continues to explore funding possibilities for UT's portion of the proposed middle school with UT's Central Development and the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE) Development staff. Grant funding is one option. In addition, UT submitted a proposal to AISD for funding via the stimulus funding that AISD might receive.

Meetings continue to ensure a seamless transition of the University of Texas Elementary School (UTES) to DDCE. Specific meetings held include meetings with the DDCE Finance Manager and Chief of Staff and continued meetings with the DDCE Development team.

Principal's Report – Dr. Ramona Trevino

Dr. Trevino presented two research proposals for the board's approval. The first proposal was on the Exploratory Clinical Interviews of Students: Understanding in Geometry and the second proposal was on Instruction for Students with Learning Disabilities. The Research Committee presented both proposals for a vote and both were approved by a voice vote of the board.

The following information was presented in terms of the TAKS assessment:

- Fifth Grade Math Results: 97% passing and 62% commended
- Third and Fourth Grade Math Assessment: April 28th
- Fourth Grade Reading: April 29th
- Third and Fifth Grade Reading Retest: April 29th
- Fifth Grade Science Assessment: April 30th
- Fifth Grade Math Retest: May 19th

In terms of the SAT 10 Results for the Fifth Grade, there were gains in most of the testing areas.

Dr. Trevino presented the school calendar for the 2009-2010 academic year and asked that the board vote on the opening (August 12) and close (May 27) dates at the May 18, 2009 board meeting.

As of April 27, there are 57 applications for grades K-5 for the 2009-10 school year. There are 25 openings with 17 in kindergarten; 3 in fourth grade; and 5 in fifth grade. With only one application for the fifth grade, applications may be opened for students in AISD and Del Valle per the new transfer policy. The lottery will be held on May 19.

The Campus Planning retreat is at Umlauf Gardens from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on May 5, 2009. Dr. Trevino provided the board with a campus planning packet that will be reviewed at the retreat.

The Parent Forum is having a Fiesta for fundraising on May 2 at the Pan Am Recreation Center. The Volunteer Reception will be held on May 21. The 5th Grade Graduation is May 27.

Dr. Trevino reported on the middle school plans for 38 of the fifth graders. Eight students will be attending Southwest Key. Seven were accepted to Ann Richards Middle School. Seven will attend Maplewood Elementary, which has a sixth grade. Five will attend O. Henry Middle School. Three are undecided. Two will attend Kealing Magnet School with five attending the Fulmore Magnet School. Two students are moving out of the state or city. One is attending St. Mary's Catholic School and one is attending Fulmore Middle School.

Facilities Report – Dr. Ed Sharpe

The plans for a permanent facility have been completed, however, the funds for this facility have not been secured. Ms. Martha Oestreich, executive director for development within DDCE, will coordinate a feasibility study to assess the potential for raising the \$19 million needed for the design as presented in the plans.

In the short-term, options will be considered for modifications to the current facility. After June 1, Dr. Trevino and her team will move forward with meetings on the development of options for a cafeteria and kitchen to eliminate the need for catering and the modification of the current multi-purpose room to identify additional administrative office space. According to Dr. Trevino, a request will need to be submitted for a cost inquiry as to the projected expenses for these modifications to the current facility.

Finance Report – Dr. Mike Kerker

Dr. Kerker reviewed the proposed amendments to the budget including the decrease in state aid (ADA and special education funds); increase in federal Title 1, 2, 4, and 5 money; foundation funding; and expenditure adjustments for the book fair, banquet, custodial supplies, and summer supplies. The projected deficit of \$106,000 is due to decrease in state funds, however, this will be offset as a result of incoming economic stimulus dollars of approximately \$110,000. Dr. Kerker believes that there will still be a carry forward balance of approximately \$71,000.

Dr. Kerker motioned for approval of the amendments to the budget. Ms. King seconded the motion. The amendments were approved by voice vote.

Development Report – Ms. Carly Nieri on behalf of Dr. Marina Walne

The Current Building Campaign Fund is \$10,000. Dr. Trevino, Ms. Oesterich, and Ms. Nieri are traveling to Atlanta on April 30 to meet with Tom Cousins who created the Drew Charter School.

The Educational Dialogue was held on Friday, April 24 and over 60 individuals attended. The focus of the program was on early childhood education.

Recent tours included Chris Busse of the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, and Jim Cannon and Mike Lawrence from Cap City Kids. Upcoming tours include Terry and Sue Tottenham, and Cissie Ferguson.

The Current Annual Fund is \$2,507.07. In the near future, an annual fund process will be conducted both via the mail and the Internet.

The Current Grant Donation Fund is \$160,000. The school submitted a \$24,000 grant proposal to the Zarrow Foundation for additional Web based cameras for the classrooms.

The Current General Donation Fund is \$245,807. Mickey and Jeanne Klein confirmed a third \$100,000 donation for 1009-2010 for UTES programming.

The Current In-Kind Donation Fund is \$9,188.50.

The new Web site (www.utelementary.org) was launched in April. Career Day is Friday, May 8.

Nominating Committee Report – Dr. Sherri Sanders on behalf of Mr. Julien Carter

Given that the bylaws allow up to 15 members on the UTES Management Board, Dr. Sanders asked for the board's opinion regarding increasing the number of board members to 15 per Mr. Carter's request. Board members expressed support for this increase in order to broaden the membership to meet the needs of the school. Dr. Sharpe suggested that the term limits of the new board members be staggered to prevent a large turnover of members at the same time.

Three current board members will be leaving the board at the end of their second terms on June 30, 2009. Dr. Vincent and Dr. Kerker will be starting their second three-year terms.

Dr. Sanders shared the list of 7 individuals under consideration by the nominating committee. Mr. Carter will talk with these individuals to assess their interest and availability and will return with names to carry forward at the May 18, 2009 UTES Management Board meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.