

The University of Texas Elementary School
Management Board Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2009
UTES Multi-Purpose Room

Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Dr. Gregory Vincent, Dr. Linda Ferreira-Buckley, Mr. Jose Del Valle, Dr. Mike Kerker, Dr. Ramona Trevino, Dr. Ed Sharpe, Dr. Marina Walne, Ms. Gwen Grigsby via proxy to Dr. Mike Kerker

Others Present: Ms. Julie Nance, Dr. Sherri Sanders, Ms. Kiersten Ferguson

Members not Present: Dr. Diane Bryant, Mr. Julien Carter, Dr. Chiquita Watt Eugene, Ms. Tonya King

Approval of Minutes from Management Board Meeting April 27, 2009:

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

Chair's Report – Dr. Gregory Vincent

Dr. Vincent provided an update on the discussions between UT and Austin Independent School District (AISD) regarding the creation of a partnership middle school. Paul Cruz, associate superintendent for middle schools, presented preliminary information on the proposed partnership middle school to the Austin Independent School District (AISD) School Board on May 4. Specific aspects of his presentation focused on the conceptual framework and sustainable business model developed with AISD and a request for initial input from the AISD School Board for feedback. Examples of feedback from the AISD School Board included the importance of the new superintendent's involvement and buy-in on the project, determining the most effective approach for students (such as project-based learning), and a request for additional in-depth information on aspects of the proposal including the budget, governance, and impact on other schools in the district.

UT Austin is still waiting on the results of the two-year Stimulus Funding Proposal that was submitted to AISD in late March.

In order to comply with the UT Austin President's expectation that the middle school project is a low cost/no cost endeavor, along with his expectation of a plan to sustain the project long term, all money needs to be secured for the project before a commitment will be made to the project. The UT Austin College of Education is exploring possibilities for hiring a coordinator to serve as the liaison, but long-term funding is a significant consideration. Discussions will continue between AISD and UT once additional information and direction on budgets are available.

Principal's Report – Dr. Ramona Trevino

New hires for UTES faculty and staff included Senior Intervention Specialist Paulette Garza and Assistant Principal/Student Services Director Mary Ledbetter. UTES is still in the search process for a part-time Spanish Instructor, Fifth Grade Teacher, Second Grade Bilingual Teacher, and a part-time Nurse.

Preliminary TAKS Scores for 2008-2008 were very positive.

The Calendar Committee submitted recommendations for the 2009-2010 school year, which are similar to last year's calendar and the AISD holiday schedule. The school year would begin on August 12, 2009 and end on May 27, 2010 for a total of 180 instructional days. UTES has clearance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to begin the school year in August.

Dr. Marina Walne motioned for approval of the calendar. Dr. Ed Sharpe seconded. The calendar was approved by voice vote.

The Health Fest on May 15 was very successful and included aerobic activities, yoga, meditation, and nutrition information.

The Volunteer and Recognition Reception will be on May 21 at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center at UT Austin. The Fifth Grade Banquet will be held on May 27. The Completion Assemblies for each grade level will be on May 28.

The Kindergarten-Fifth Grade Lottery will be held on May 19 at 6:00 pm. Dr. Linda Ferreira-Buckley will convene the lottery and be the Management Board representative. There were more applicants than openings except in the Fifth Grade. The Pre-Kindergarten Lottery is pending for August because the guidelines come in during the summer.

The Education Council submitted a draft Education Plan. Dr. Trevino, Ms. Julie Nance, and Ms. Melissa Chavez will be going through the plan to ensure that the necessary resources are allocated and to forward budget ramifications to the development office. The draft Education Plan will be brought forward to the Management Board in August for review and questions.

Facilities Report – Dr. Ed Sharpe

Dr. Sharpe and Dr. Trevino reported on the short-term plans for current building modifications. The current facilities needs included a cafeteria that holds 260 students, a full-use kitchen for preparing breakfast and lunch, room for a serving line and storage for cafeteria tables, and a possible stage. Renovations included changing the current cafeteria into a library with a small teacher's lounge, a parent forum office, and storage area; renovating the current cafeteria storage into a school storage and book room; altering the current SEL Center into a computer lab and IT office; changing the current library into the SEL Center with speech room and assessment room; and renovating half of the current Principal's Office with a wall addition to create a conference room.

If the stimulus package money is available, those funds are projected to address multiple needs on the UTES campus including refinishing the outdoor court and decks, designing a new drainage system, and replacing the carpets in the offices. The intercom system currently goes through teacher phones, and they are in the process of getting an estimate for a more effective intercom system.

Finance Report – Dr. Mike Kerker

Dr. Kerker shared the preliminary 2009-2010 UTES budget, noting that some of the numbers

will change between now and August.

After discussion from the Management Board, Dr. Kerker moved for approval of the preliminary budget. Dr. Ed Sharpe seconded. The preliminary budget was approved by voice vote.

Development Report – Dr. Marina Walne

The Current Building Campaign Fund is \$10,000. Dr. Trevino, Ms. Oestreich, and Ms. Nieri traveled to Atlanta, Georgia on April 30 to meet with Tom Cousins who created the Drew Charter School. Dr. Trevino reported that it was a great example of a total revitalized community including a beautiful Pre-kindergarten to Eighth Grade school, a gated community, shopping areas, YMCA athletic facilities, and a golf course.

Career Day was held on May 8 and presenters included Susan Dawson of E3 Alliance, Dr. Craig DeWaal, Greg Lee and Betty Otter-Nickerson of Lance Armstrong Foundation, Troy Contreras of SHW Group, and Nastran Kherad.

Recent tours included Betty Otter-Nickerson of Lance Armstrong Foundation and AmeriGroup. Upcoming tours include Scott Thompson of Microsoft.

The Current Annual Fund is \$2,556. An online and mail drive will be conducted in May through the new Web site, which will feature stories of UTES students. Ms. Martha Oestreich is working on the creation of a feasibility and development committee to develop a plan over the summer.

The Current Grant Donation Fund is \$150,031. The school submitted a grant proposal to the Zarrow Foundation for \$24,000 for Web-based cameras in the classrooms.

The Current General Donation Fund is \$320,610. UTES received the final payment from the University Co-op for the temporary gym. Mickey and Jeanne Klein gave a verbal commitment for a \$100,000 donation for 2009-2010.

The Current In-Kind Donation Fund is \$13,366.

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

Dr. Sanders shared the list of individuals under consideration by the nominating committee. Mr. Carter will continue to talk with these individuals to assess their interest and availability. In lieu of the June Management Board meeting, Dr. Sanders suggested sending e-mails with the names of the individuals for the Board's approval.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.