

**Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
January 7, 2015**

5:34

In attendance: Tirzah Anderson, Sonny Tuft, Emma Bullock, Estee Wilson, Kara Swensen, Adam Burris

Welcome/Conducting: Tirzah Anderson

Pledge: Sonny Tuft

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Sonny Tuft

Unanimous

Charter Highlight - Estee Wilson: Reviewed the section of the charter having to do with special needs.

Board Development

Policy Highlight - Tirzah Anderson: Plan to focus land trust funds on academics.

Training Objectives - Tirzah Anderson:

Governance

TECS: Charter

Governance: Preventing Charter School Trains Wrecks",

CECSB: Board/Staff Relations

Compliance: Open Meetings/GRAMA

Tirzah highlighted reasons for school failures: insufficient enrollment, mismanagement and not enough board oversight.

Open meetings - public notice given 24 hours before the meeting includes agenda, date, time and place. The agenda is posted at the place of the meeting and on the public website.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes - Tirzah Anderson:

Motion to approve the minutes for the December 2014 board meeting: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Kara Swensen

Unanimous

2015-16 Calendar Approval - Scott/Melani: The calendar coincides as much as possible with the nearby school districts.

Motion to approve proposed calendar: Adam Burris

Second: Sonny Tuft

Unanimous

Financial Audit Acceptance - Adam Burris: The audit was completed by Squire and there were no issues.

Motion to accept audit provided by squire for the school: Adam Burris

Second: Sonny Tuft

Unanimous

Personnel Requests - Scott/Melani:

Scott:

Jaclyn Chavira as a Spanish speaking secretary, instead of an aide.

Lori Bender to replace Jaclyn in the classroom as a first grade aide.

Motion to approve the personnel requests: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Estee Wilson

Unanimous

Mortgage Review - Jim Peterson: USDA loan #2 is less than what was thought. The American West Bank interest rate is 3 points lower than when loan was first obtained. Both schools have paid off the revolving loans.

Finance Report - Jim Peterson:

Edison South is operating at about \$1,400 per month under projections. Some of this is in salary and benefits. Edison North is a little over its projections.

Principal Reports - Melani/Scott:

Scott:

- Enrollment for 2014-15 is steady at 527 students. The lottery will be on January 23rd. Many parents are doing observations, not just in kindergarten. The lottery this year will be in several grade levels.
- The 8th grade students are taking the NAEP.
- It is a good start back to the school year.

Melani:

- Edison South had maintenance expenses to the water heater and drinking fountain due to the poor quality of the original building.
- If board members haven't had a chance to attend the history fair, please come. It is a fun thing. Tirzah remarked how good it was that JoLyne has all of her students interviewed.
- The lottery is coming up for next year. Next week five new students are enrolling for this year. Edison South has also had a lot of interviewing for enrollment for 15-16.
- A new large gate will be installed to facilitate faster evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- Most of the openings at Edison South will be in 7th and 8th grades.

Adam asked about the challenge with middle school. Scott explained that at Edison North one of the problems is the math classes. Students have different math classes but funnel into a science or other class, which makes it too large.

Emma Bullock would like hundreds of students on the waiting list.

Jim Peterson - The schools are gradually working up to full capacity. Once Edison South opened it took about 1/3 of the Edison North students. It took a few years for Edison North to recover and for Edison South to fill the classes that were open. Edison South is still going through a cohort phase.

Cache Valley is not like the Wasatch front where you can have 1200 student waiting lists. From a pure business standpoint it could be argued that Edison South opened a few years earlier than it should have, but for convenience, and for other parents not coming to the school, it made sense to open it. Edison South is a lot larger than North, with three classes per grade. It takes a while to fill up those classes in a small community.

Emma would like to have more ways to get the word out. Adam suggested the focus be on middle schools students.

Scott has noticed that once students get through the elementary grades they want to be with neighborhood friends in middle school.

Emma reiterated that when applying for grants, schools with a short waiting list are viewed negatively.

Motion to adjourn: Tirzah Anderson