

**Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
February 3, 2016**

5:33 pm

Tirzah Anderson, Holly Gunther, Adam Burris, Denae Pruden Excused: Nick Jackson, Emma Bullock

Welcome/Conducting: Tirzah Anderson

Pledge: Holly Gunther

Charter Highlight - Denae Prude: Open enrollment, random draw and preferences.

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt the agenda as written: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Holly Gunther

Unanimous

Public Comment: Pamela Budge, parent, commented on the ESSA bill that passed this December. She is concerned with amount of requirements and reporting to the federal government if schools take federal money. She is asking the state and the school to stop taking federal funds. She would like to know more about how the school is funded and doesn't want it to be held under the ESSA requirements. She feels the school should have the freedom to educate because they can do it better. She follows the education legislation each year and feels HB201 would be beneficial by preventing SAGE test scores from being used in teacher evaluations.

Approval of Minutes: Tabled

Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual - Louise Hoth:

Tirzah Anderson - this was approved previously, but the state requested minor changes. Louise highlighted the changes.

Motion to approve the final version of the Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Denae Pruden

Unanimous

Achievement Report - Scott/Melani:

The schools have received the information on the ACTs and have completed the second testing of DIBELS. There was improvement in DIBELS with some of the students already meeting the end of year goals. The ACT has a new way to score. One grade level can't be compared to the next. Writing was the weakest category. In all cases TECS was high in math and English.

The next achievement committee meeting is February 25th at 4:00 at Edison South.

LAND Trust Plan - Shem Smith: The two schools' plans are virtually the same. The principals referred to their principal reports for details on the committee meeting. Parent's main concerns were continuing funding of Spalding and the use of technology.

The goals are that a student will make one year's growth in one year's time. Monthly testing scores are used to measure this.

Scott mentioned that third grade students have made significant strides in words per minute and accuracy with their new keyboarding class. Brad added that some of the teachers that taught third grade were impressed with the amount of growth and how much more quickly the third graders are able to log into the computers. There is much more productive time.

Motion to approve the Edison North LAND Trust plan as written: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

Motion to approve the Edison South LAND Trust plan as written: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

School Fees Policy – Tirzah Anderson:

There was a small change in the 4th paragraph. It was expanded to include travel, other than regularly scheduled field trips. It is optional, so not considered a school fee.

Motion to approve the school fees policy with that new revision: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Denaë Pruden

Unanimous

National Competitions Reimbursement Policy - Holly Gunther:

The goal of this in the beginning was to cut down on some of the money that the school was paying for students and parents to travel to national competitions. Holly spoke with the history teachers. Their biggest concern is that a student who is eligible won't be able to fund their own chaperone and not be able to attend the competition. Liability prevents teachers from becoming the chaperones. The amount the schools have been paying has been increasing. Not much fundraising is being done.

Holly suggested that if the schools paid for a chaperone, the reimbursement amounts be discussed before travel plans are made.

Scott mentioned that in many schools and districts, the district or school actually makes the arrangements. They know before anybody leaves what the costs will be.

Holly suggested that this be tabled and a revised policy be voted on next month. There is some intent to have the students feel some sense of responsibility to help with fundraising.

Melani stated that the policy could include having the pool party or another fundraiser designated for travel expenses.

Budget Actions: SB38/UCA and Board Expenses - Adam Burris:

The board would like to use the funds in their budget line item to reimburse the schools for bonuses paid out to the employees.

Motion to open up the remaining board budget for principal discretion: Adam Burris

Second: Holly Gunther

Unanimous

Utah Charter Advocates came to the schools Friday to speak on SB38 legislation. Last year the legislature put forth a committee to study charter school funding. They came to the realization that charters are being underfunded compared to districts. SB38 is a bill put forth by Howard Stephenson to equalize it. It is on the calendar for the second reading in the senate. It came up yesterday and they circled it and tabled it for the moment. It is common when there is a lot of discussion.

Adam checked with Steve about the schools donating \$1.00 per student to Utah Charter Advocate, a non-profit organization lobbying for this bill. It would be ok to pull this money from contingency.

Motion to donate \$1.00 per student out of cash surplus from both campuses to Utah Charter Advocates to fight for SB38: Adam Burris

Second: Holly Gunther

Unanimous

Tirzah commented that UCA is working closely with the UAPCS.

Personnel Requests - Melani/Scott:

Scott referred to his report. Cathy Hansen is retiring at the end of the school year. She and Noelle Harrild have both been part time. Noelle would like to move to full time. There will be an increase because she will be eligible for benefits.

Melani's requests are all changes, not additions.

- Liz Horrocks was replaced by Jaime Hadsell, a certified teacher who was an aide and long term sub in 1st grade.
- The aide to replace him, Gerryn Smith was chosen by the teacher.
- Two aides, Celeste Radik and Bette Samuelsen received offers of full time employment with benefits.
- They have been replaced by Wendy Garvin, who was a sub, and Kristen Woodbrey, a certified elementary teacher (with a GPA of 3.97) and possible candidate for a teaching position next year.
- Lindsey Law is helping to fill hours for Holli Christensen who cut back hours to attend USU for her elementary education degree.

Motion to approve the personnel requests as stated: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Dena Pruden

Unanimous

Vendor/Contractor Approvals - Scott/Melani:

Scott is looking for landscape and snow removal.

Finance Report -Jim Peterson: Some numbers have changed due to staffing, other expenses and revenues changes.

Adam commented that the state requires a 60 day surplus of funds since they pay at the end of the month. Edison South has 111 days and Edison North has 79 days.

Jim pointed out that the USDA loan reserve account has been building. When the school pays off the loans, the funds will be freed up. It was \$175,000 when last checked.

Adam would rather have the funds help the students. Edison North is looking at purchasing land.

Both schools are in the black.

Legislative Update - Jim Peterson: Jim prepared an abbreviated, color coded list of education bills currently before the legislature.

HB 1 - Base budget - there will be one at the end of the session. They modify the base budget that was previously passed. It tells how much to raise WPU and will be the final budget for the minimum school program.

HB 71 - Bill which replace the October 1 count as charter school financing formula to prior year ADM (average daily membership) plus growth. It basically equalizes the funding formula for all schools.

HB 152 – Raised the minimum for this year that the state will put into local levies.

SB38 - Changes the LRF (local replacement fund) formulas. No guarantee it is going to pass. A lot of educators are influenced by education agencies. It is going to be a battle.

HB 193 - Bill which repeals the provision that requires a school district to allocate a certain portion of local property tax for areas that have charters. It would be an additional property tax. Charters would then receive local funds for the area. Cache County is on the low end. Royce does not believe this bill has much of a chance.

Principal Reports - Melani/Scott:

Melani Kirk:

- Kindergarten enrollment is good. There are quite a few interviews scheduled and the school should meet its projections for starting the school year. The projection for 9th grade is 41 and she feels good about have one section.
- Brand recognition – All 100 employees have been asked to put the Thomas Edison decal on their cars. She gave the board some for their cars.
- Adam remembered that that he kindergarten count was low when school started and asked if it just filled during the year. Melani answered that it was fluke year. We should have a waiting list in kindergarten this year. Jamie Lewis explained that the school checked with other area districts and found that their kindergarten population was also low.

Scott Jackson:

- Scott referenced enrollment for the current year and next year. Fifty seven of the 60 openings in kindergarten are taken by siblings this year. There are still new families coming in every day.
- The science fair is this Friday.

Subcommittee Reports - Tirzah/Adam/Denae: Suspended for tonight.

Board Training Objectives: Handbook Review, Accreditation and Charter Fidelity Monitoring, Board Performance Standards and Indicators.

The board will visit the schools on February 18th.

Motion to adjourn: Tirzah Anderson

Adjourn

7:14