

**Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
March 2, 2016**

5:35

In Attendance: Tirzah Anderson, Holly Gunther, Adam Burris, Denae Pruden

Excused: Emma Bullock, Nick Jackson

Welcome/Conducting - Adam Burris

Pledge of Allegiance - Holly

Charter Highlight - Adam Burris: Adam highlighted sections from charter regarding principals.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Adam Burris

Second: Holly Gunther

Unanimous

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Tabled

Achievement Report - Jamin/Bridget/Scott/Melani:

Jamin – The last few years Edison students have taken the Explore test. The year Jamin was told Explore was not available and the students should take Aspire. He was able to find some comparison results to the new aspire results in the ACT readiness benchmarks taken in spring. The testing in fall compared to spring. It is an indication of what students still need to learn to be ready by the end of the year.

Briget explained the graphs that show the scores increased or stayed the same in all categories for the 14-15 and 15-16 school years.

Denae asked the reasoning behind taking the test in November instead of spring. Jamin replied that the school is now starting SAGE testing and they didn't want the students to be taking both tests at the same time. Shem added that the scores are needed for the PCCRs in January.

Adam is surprised that the students do so well in English, but not in reading. Jamie let them know that even the nationals go down. The English test is half an hour. Reading is 50 minutes.

Jamin explained that there are not a lot of school wide reports for this test. This year he compared Edison South's 9th graders to last year's 8th graders. There were increases in all tests.

Most students are close to the benchmarks and will be above them by the end of the year. The benchmarks show where you should be to be ready for college.

The information will be discussed in the middle school split PLC.

Adam noted that one of the strategic goals is for students to be 85% proficient at the end of FY20. These results are very close to that.

Initial Principal Contract Renewals – Holly Gunther:

Motion to renew Scott and Melani's contracts for the next school year: Holly Gunther

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

Edison North Co-Principal Appointment – Holly Gunther:

Motion to make Shem a co-principal next year at Edison North: Holly Gunther

Second: Denaë Pruden

Unanimous

Director of Instruction Intern - Scott/Melani:

Scott asked that the board approve Angela Barton as a director of instruction intern. She is now a math teacher at Edison South and data specialist for the LEA. Her teaching assignment may change next year.

Motion to approve Angela Barton as the director of instruction intern starting in 2016-17: Denaë Pruden

Second: Holly Gunther

Melani mentioned that Angela would also like to keep the data position.

Unanimous

Revised Enrollment Policy, #2101 - Shem:

The reasoning for this is we want to have the opportunity to have children and grandchildren of founders, board members, employees and transfer students to be in our preferential lottery. They can get into the program before those on the regular waiting list or lottery.

Motion to approve the revised enrollment policy: Holly Gunther

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

Revised Competition Participation and Travel Policy - Holly: Tabled

Teacher Handbook Revision - Jamie Lewis: Each year the handbook is reviewed. Some of the items changed or added were: Video clips in the classroom, middle school prompts, minutes in subject areas, professional standards for licensed educators.

Motion to approve the teacher handbook revisions as stated by Jamie: Adam Burris

Second: Denaë Pruden

Unanimous

Personnel Requests - Melani/Scott:

If the board gives approval for Shem to be the co-principal at Edison North, Melani would like Brad Larsen to be the full time assistant principal at south next year.

Motion that Brad Larsen be approved as assistant principal at Edison South starting next year: Holly Gunther

Second: Denaë Pruden

Unanimous

Vendor/Contractor Approvals - Scott/Melani:

Special education is overcrowded and Jim came up with some great ideas to divide up the rooms. Lundahl's is preparing a bid to divide the current rooms and create more special education rooms out of part of the band room. The office will also be expanded a little.

Adam would like to see the bids once they are submitted.

Stakeholder Feedback Report - Carolyn Larsen:

The staff survey was sent to approximately 155 employees by Kevin Miller to measure how loyal the employees are to where they work. He received 130 responses.

Kevin has been working with this for 20 years. This is the highest score he has ever seen. The schools land in the top 5% of any organization for employee loyalty. There are only four detractors and the rest are promoters, or in between.

The administration has been pouring over the comments. They can now do training and keep the staff asking questions. Some of the comments were for the governing board. Several were brought up about testing and stress on the students.

Continuing after the training is the 21 club. It takes 21 days to build a habit. There is a poster for employees to sign once they have done something on one of their cards for 21 days.

Kevin was so impressed with the employees at the training. He looked around and couldn't see anyone who would be a detractor.

Board Visit Day Recap - Tirzah Anderson:

Tirzah visited quite a few different classes and saw some awesome things happening. Melani received comments from Denae and Emma and passed them on to the teachers.

Angela expressed her appreciation for the board taking the time to visit and stay in touch with what is going on at the school.

Finance Report - Jim Peterson:

Both schools continue to operate in the black. The IDEA funds in the budget are over \$20,000 less than last year.

Principal Reports - Scott/Melani:

Scott:

- The waiting list at Edison North has increased.
- This year's enrollment is still above the October 1 count.
- New parents have seen the marketing efforts. One downside is that the waiting list is longer. Some parents give up.
- Scott included in the packet a list of students from both schools who are category winners in the Bridgerland Science and Engineering Fair. One student from each school qualified for nationals. Many of the high school winners were former TECS students.
- Edison North had a successful and much improved lockdown drill this week.

Melani:

- Next year's projected enrollment is 830. There are now 840 students on the list for next year. Previously it was uncertain whether there would be a 9th grade next year, but 39 students are interested in attending. Melani is confident that there will be enough to continue with 9th grade.

Legislative Update - Jim Peterson:

There are significant changes from last month.

SB38 4th substitute

The LRF has been an evolving situation fraught with controversy and high emotion over the years. This year reached another high pitched magnitude and a compromise was hammered out. The 4th substitute bill was dramatically different. The description talks about the LRF formula as having two components added to it for next fiscal year. Those add \$200 - \$250 per student. It addresses playgrounds, facilities and a change to 2017 property tax notices. They will have a notice saying how much of levy is going to district schools and to charter schools. The charter school levy will replace the LRF after this year.

It passed in house committee by 14 to 0. It would not have passed if there had not been a compromise.

HB193 was changed to the wording in SB38 s4.

Scott asked about the latest on the WPU. Jim said that the appropriations subcommittee recommended a 5.2% increase. Budgetary discussions are still going on.

The fiscal outlook for the next FY came out lower than what had previously been projected. There has been a lot of difficult discussion on where they will take that funding.

Board Training Objectives – Tirzah Anderson: Tirzah will write a summary.

Adjourn

7:11