

**Thomas Edison Charter School South
Governing Board Meeting
March 4, 2015**

5:04

In attendance: Adam Burris, Kara Swensen, Tirzah Anderson, Electronically - Emma Bullock, Late: Sonny Tuft

Welcome/Conducting: Tirzah Anderson

Pledge: Adam Burris

Charter Development:

- Policy Highlight - The policy highlight was about volunteers and parent involvement. Parents are key to the school running well.

Sonny Tuft is in attendance.

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt the agenda without approval of minutes: Tirzah Anderson

Adam Burris

Unanimous

- *Governance:* Building Strong Parent and Community Relations - Adam would like the school to work on building stronger parent and community relations. Doing what the handbook specifies sets the school apart.
- *Compliance:* Accreditation/Charter Fidelity Monitoring

Public Comment: None

Parent Organization Policy - Tirzah Anderson: Stipulates that the principal is the head of the PO. It specifies creating rules for financial transactions, obeying school rules, etc.

Motion to approve the Parent Organization policy: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Kara Swensen

Unanimous

LANDTrust Plan - Edison North - Scott Jackson: The following are part of Edison North's plan:

- Continue to fund summer Spalding programs with \$15,000.
- Technology including starting keyboarding for 3rd grade students. Typewrites (devices with a full keyboard, they take no bandwidth and give you statistics). Lab of laptops or tablets with keyboards. \$23,364
- Any extra money will be used for technology.

Motion to approve the Edison North LANDTrust plan as proposed: Adam Burris

Tirzah Anderson

Adam asked how the board verifies that goals are met. Scott explained that this is a new goal, so this year some benchmarks will be set.

Unanimous

LANDTrust Plan - Edison South - Melani Kirk: Shem is putting together the final report.

- \$30,000 for Spalding.

- Mobile devices - Edison South has 18 wireless hotspots teachers have acquired by using Donors Choose. There is a good infrastructure in place. The school would like to use mobile devices for typing and free the labs for research.
- Graphing calculators.

Business Services Provider - Adam Burris: - Two reputable companies responded with a bid to the RFP. The finance subcommittee met to review the proposals and recommendations. Based on experience and recommendations they recommend Red Apple remain as business managers.

Motion to accept recommendation of finance subcommittee: Adam Burris

Emma Bullock

Adam mentioned that the contract can be terminated on 60 day notice and always in constant review.

Scott commented that having Steve as our representative makes a big difference. He has tremendous worth.

Unanimous

Strategic Outcomes - Tirzah Anderson: The financial goal, outcome 7, was originally a 1.2 million debt reduction. The new goal states that Edison North will eliminate its portion of USDA Loan #1 and Edison South will eliminate its USDA loan #2.

This gives the school greater flexibility to keep the money until the loans are to be paid off. It could be used in case of emergency.

The first outcome has been changed to "At least 85% of TECS students enrolled for at least one year will achieve proficiency-level scores on national assessments and TECS will rank in the top 20% of comparable schools statewide on state assessments."

Tirzah received e-mails from some of the Edison South teachers who were concerned with the goal that all students indicate plans to achieve post-high school education or training. Tirzah thinks we will have 100% on this goal.

There were a few concerns regarding outcomes in citizenship, proficiency level percentages on state and national testing and that 90% of the students enrolled for at least one year will make one year's worth of growth (outcome 2).

There was also a concern that the special education population was too high to achieve some of the goals. The percentage of special education students appears to be the same around the state. The goal of the board on outcome 2 was to address those students who struggle a little bit more.

Scott commented that it is important to have measures for the students and data to drive the instruction. There was general feedback concerning 85% proficiency being too high. The scoring bands have moved, but since this is a long term goal it can be met over time.

Emma Bullock stated that evidence shows that what we are doing is effective. Using multiple measures lets us triangulate and helps us see the schools in the context of other schools.

Tirzah commented that in no way does this change the philosophy of not teaching to any tests. It is not a philosophy change. The students should show high level thinking across multiple measures. The schools should still be focusing on teaching fundamentals.

Emma - the outcome is a measure, not a process. The board wants the schools to figure out how to meet them. Adam would like all of the goals met without changing the philosophy of the schools.

Motion to approve strategic outcomes for 2015-20: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Sonny Tuft

Adam asked Scott and Melani if they thought there were too many goals. They agreed that the goals are quality goal and they both want to meet them.

Unanimous

Principal Renewals - Kara Swensen: The board appreciates the principals and thinks they are doing a wonderful job.

Motion to renew both Scott Jackson as principal at Edison North and Melani Kirk as principal at Edison

South: Kara Swensen

Second: Emma Bullock

Unanimous

Assistant Principal/Administrative Intern - Scott/Melani: At faculty meeting yesterday Scott let the faculty and staff know that he plans to retire at the end of the 2016-17 school year. He wants to make sure the succession plan is under way.

Shem Smith has been the assistant principal at Edison South and Brad Larsen is now participating in the ATP. Scott asked the board to approve having Shem Smith part time at Edison north next year and part time at Edison South as the process for having a new principal begins. He has been able to prove himself at Edison South.

Melani let the board know that Shem has been a fabulous assistant principal. Since he will be working part time at Edison South, there is need to have another person. Melani would like the board to approve having Brad Larsen as a half time administrative intern while Shem is at Edison North. He would also teach half of the day.

Motion to approve the requests: Adam Burris

Second: Tirzah Anderson

Scott is very pleased with Shem's work and commitment to the program.

Unanimous

Personnel Requests - Melani/Scott:

Melani:

One of the third grade students needs a one on one aide. The classroom aide, who works extremely well with the student was hired. A classroom aide was hired to replace her. Recently, it was decided that a middle school student needs a one on one math class. An aide will be hired for one hour per day.

Motion to approve the personnel request as stated: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

Charter Fidelity Monitoring Survey - Tirzah Anderson: This is being looked at by the board and administration. The executive committee will complete the information, which is due March 30th. The state was using an outdated charter, so the changes can be tracked from the current charter.

Achievement Committee Report - Emma Bullock: The committee met last week and looked over in-house measures for math. The next meeting will be in April.

Finance Report - Jim Peterson: Jim pointed out that Edison South is running about \$12,000 per month lower than projected. Edison North is within about 40 cents of being right on the average.

Principal Reports - Scott/Melani:

Melani:

- Melani pointed out that the USU marketing group did parent surveys. They were hoping to have an 80% return. The response rate was 65%. By far the most common way parents find out about the school is by word of mouth, from either friends or family. The group determined that social media is the best way to increase the numbers and are looking at setting up a Facebook page for each school. All items will be approved before being posted. They can also facilitate creating an updated video.

Scott:

- Scott gave an update on the damage to the building. He is meeting with the adjuster for the aide's insurance company tomorrow.
- The regional History Fair is coming up next Tuesday. Seventeen student from Edison North will be participating.
- Frogummy will be creating the new website. There is some concern about e-updates, since Frogummy does not provide that capability.
- A proposal has been submitted to the school for the creation of a new lunch program. This is still in the investigative phase.
- The Charter School Conference is June 16th and 17th. We get a discount for registering early.

Legislative Update - Jim Peterson:

- SB1 - Base budget for public education took last year's base budget and added growth. It has been approved.
- HB2 - Will take away from SB1
- HB67 - Grants for digital learning - Nothing has happened. It might be because of SB222 which is proposing 75 million dollars. It accomplishes the same thing, but with a lot more funding. SB1 has a competitive application process, SB222 just divides up the money.
- HB203 - TSSP amendments. There is concern in the educational community that quality math and science teachers are going elsewhere. This increases incrementally over the next five years. It also adds special education and computer science teachers. It is about halfway through the process.
- SB23 failed in the house, but was resuscitated.
- SB279 - student assessment task force. Some legislators think there are too many mandated assessments. The education community agrees. This bill is to address the issue and see what the state should be able to mandate.
- SB284 - Charter school funding revisions. The bill does not directly impact charters, but does affect districts and now much they are contributing to the local replacement fund. This would increase their payment up to 50%. They are fighting this and want to require that the property tax notices show how much tax was going to charters. It did not make it through committee. There is so much opposition, it has been held.

Motion to adjourn: Tirzah Anderson

6:24