

Governing Board Meeting
Thomas Edison Charter Schools
April 28, 2015

5:33 pm

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

Welcome/Conducting: Tirzah Anderson

Pledge: Emma Bullock

Motion to adopt the agenda as currently written: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

Charter Highlight - Tirzah Anderson: Utah State Core Curriculum will serve as core curriculum for subjects taught.

Policy Highlight - Tirzah Anderson: Looked level criteria to move from one level to the next and the expectation that level five teachers will be mentors and take on some leadership roles.

Estee Wilson - Liked the purpose of the development and compensation plan. Students are more likely to succeed if provided quality instruction. TECS trains all teachers to potentially become master teachers.

Public Comment: None

Motion to approve the February minutes: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Sonny Tuft

Yes: Tirzah Anderson, Sonny Tuft, Estee Wilson, Emma Bullock

Abstain: Kara Swensen, Adam Burris

Motion to approve the March minutes: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Kara Swensen

Yes: Tirzah Anderson, Sonny Tuft, Kara Swensen, Emma Bullock

Abstain: Estee Wilson, Adam Burris

USU Marketing Presentation: Three of the five in the USU group are in attendance. They are all marketing majors taking a class in problem solving and continuous improvement. Their goal was to fill the waiting lists to 107% of capacity. They first wanted to find out why the school was special and why parents wanted to have their children here. They developed a survey for the parents to see what should be shown to potential new parents.

As a result of the survey, it was decided to open a social media campaign and update the school's promotional videos.

The survey showed that the top three reasons parents choose the school are:

Curriculum

High Academics

Spalding

The return rate of the surveys was 65% of households. Of those, almost 80% heard about the school from word of mouth.

One way to leverage is to create a Facebook page for the school. Not just anyone could post on it. There would be strict privacy settings and certain people responsible for posting. Everything that is posted has to be approved by the administrators of the page. The page is done, but not published yet. The page will be introduced and kick started with the new video. The announcement can go to all of the parents and have them share it and the video on it with their friends.

Maddie showed the Facebook page and explained that they will develop guidelines for person in charge of the page. This will ensure consistency if the administrators change.

Mitch - Three videos will be made. The older long video will be updated, but there will also be a 30 second video that can be shared on any social media site. There will be a three minute video for the school's website with a little more information. The videos will emphasize the top reasons why current parents chose to come to Thomas Edison.

Melani thanked the group for their work and how great they were to work with.

LAND Trust Plan - South - Shem Smith: The report is included in the packets. Edison South identified MILA 1 and 2 courses that need to be funded. The rest of funds will go toward technology. Both schools are having a push for 3rd grade students to improve their computing skills.

Motion to approve the LAND Trust report for Edison South: Emma Bullock

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

The website is not yet available, but both reports are ready.

Teacher compensation plan - Scott Jackson/Melani Kirk: The plan has not been updated since March 2010. The school tells prospective teachers that the pay is higher than in Cache and Logan districts, however, Logan now has a higher starting salary.

The legislative salary adjustment is listed separately on the paychecks, but shows as included on the agreement (with an asterisk and explanation at the bottom of the page).

Motion to approve adjusted salary schedule: Adam Burris

Second: Emma Bullock

Unanimous

Principal Contract Revision - Tirzah Anderson: There is a minor revision providing a little more detail in section 3.

Motion to approve the updated principal contract: Adam Burris

Second: Sonny Tuft

Unanimous

Contractor/Vendor Approvals - Shem Smith/Melani Kirk/Scott Jackson:

Scott presented two contracts: Frogtummy for the website design and Scott Carpenter for the online lunch program. Scott's portion will be done July 1st to allow testing before school starts.

Motion to approve the contracts with Frogtummy and Scott Carpenter as constituted: Adam Burris

Second: Estee Wilson

Unanimous

Personnel Requests - Melani Kirk/Scott Jackson:

Melani

- Jody Johnson is moving from Edison North to Edison South to take over as the new elementary special education teacher.
- Liz Evans will be taking over as a middle school math teacher for Kristi Hillyard.
- Paige Young for Derek Sharp in art.
- Sarah Hadsell, who is a first grade aide, will take a 4th grade teaching position to replace Amy Baldauf.
- Julie Johnson, a brand new teacher, will take over for Amanda Clark who is having a baby.
- Hoping that Dane Hepworth will take the science position. He has been offered the position, but has not yet accepted. (Will approve when he accepts.)
- A part time CTE teacher and an SLP are still needed.

Scott

- Replace Jodi Johnson with Ralph Trumble as a 4th grade teacher.
- Bridget Crane as a half time counselor replacing Shalese Bruya.

Motion to approve the personnel requests as written: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Emma Bullock

Unanimous

Strategic Outcomes Report - Scott Jackson/Melani Kirk: The marketing strategy is to help with the strategic outcomes. Both schools are talking to the teachers so they will be on board. Opportunities for service projects around the schools are being provided.

Finance Report - Jim Peterson: Steve mentioned that the unvested retirement money for employees who left was credited. Nothing had to be paid out of the budget for retirement for about two months. Edison South is way below average on spending for 2014-15.

Jim has been working on next year's budget. Edison South looks really good for next year. Edison North is down a little because of extra projects with technology.

Board Visit Day Recap - Board:

Board members commented on their experiences visiting the schools:

- Kara watched a science assignment taking place over two different classes. She feels this is something they will always remember.
- Emma visited 4th grade math and was impressed with the wonderful structured way the students were guided into respectful, kind, mathematical discussions. The discussions were data driven with items that had been missed in the last few weeks.
- Tirzah saw a variety of things such as poetry recitations, a science lab about moonlight and a class reading. One of her favorites was a music class on composers and different types of music.
- Adam - It is a good procedure that gives the teachers and students a chance to get to know the board.
- Sonny - Mr. Lowe was teaching about Utah history and he didn't want to leave.

Principal Reports - Melani Kirk/Scott Jackson:

Scott:

- Enrollment maximum for next year is 540. Right now enrollment is at 539. Unusually, there are not many of the waiting list. Kindergarten usually has a large waiting list, but there are none on it this year.
- The counseling review will take place tomorrow. There will be people at both schools from other places. This is a three year interim review, so does not involve personnel from the USOE.
- Hanover introduced some changes for the insurance renewal. They have been good to work with.

Melani:

- Bids have been received from custodial groups to take over custodial duties for 2015-16. Advanced Cleaning has the most experience and understanding of what it will take to clean the building. The others have not done anything on this large of a scale.
- There will likely be only two sections of 8th grade next year. This is the inverse bubble that started in kindergarten. The likelihood of filling this section is not high. There is a plan if the section does fill.

- Adam wanted to know if things were trending downward. Edison South is keeping 55 out of the 67 students going from 8th to 9th grades.
- More room is needed for labs due to higher standards for keyboarding and testing. Edison South has looked into adding a portable in the back. It would be used for more special education classes and an additional computer lab. These cost around \$100,000, but Steve had the idea of purchasing a used portable, or leasing one.

Legislative Recap - Jim Peterson: Jim discussed a few bills that might affect the schools. Some of the highlights are:

- The appropriations bill increased the WPU 4%
- There was an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for digital learning. There are no rules yet on how this will be distributed to the schools.
- There will be some new guidelines having to do with collection and sharing of student data.
- There will be a task force to study charter school funding, looking at the whole funding program. It will contain 14 members from various places, both charter school community and district community. There will be representatives from both the house and senate and a member of the state board of education.

Motion to adjourn: Tirzah Anderson