

**Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
September 3, 2014**

5:34

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

Welcome/Conducting: Tirzah Anderson

Pledge: Estee Wilson

Training Objectives: Board handbook, board recruitment, "The Seven Outs", legal compliance: USBE, USOE, SCSB & general requirements for charter schools.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Sonny Tuft

Unanimous

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 25 meeting that began at 7:06: Adam Burris

Second: Tirzah Anderson

Unanimous

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 25 meeting that began at 5:07: Adam Burris

Second: Tirzah Anderson

Unanimous

Motion to approve the minutes of August 18, 2014: Adam Burris

Second: Tirzah Anderson

Unanimous

Motion to approve the minutes of August 6, 2014, Adam Burris

Second: Kara Swensen

Unanimous

Grievance Policy - Tirzah Anderson: This reflects the changes to the policy which were discussed last month. It refers employee complaints to the personnel subcommittee.

Adam Burris read a statement from board handbook. Sometimes a member of the personnel subcommittee had to step back because they were too close to the situation.

Adams recommends, under board appeal, it say "board or assigned committee". Strike "board" out of next two sentences. The committee determines if it will go to the full board.

Motion to approve the grievance policy as amended: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Kara Swensen

Unanimous

School Fees Policy - Tirzah Anderson:

Motion to approve the school fees policy as written: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

Principal Employment Agreement - Tirzah Anderson: Tabled

ATP Report - Shem Smith: The final report of the ATP was completed. Shem thanked those who supported him during the process.

The ATP is program quite extensive. USU also had him create an additional 300 page portfolio. There is a synopsis of course work, total cost and an hourly breakdown of the work he performed. Another 100 hours or so were spent over the summer. The degree has been earned and posted.

Tirzah asked Shem what surprised him most in learning about the role of an administrator. Shem said that it was the discrepancy in experiences that people in the USU program had that he had also experienced.

Most thought teachers wouldn't get excited about anything and the experience was hard or frustrating for them. Shem's experience at Thomas Edison was good.

Adam asked Shem if he had any suggestions for improving the ATP. Shem thought there was a duplication of work. He loved the model of observing, participating, then taking on an assignment of his own at USU. He would prefer to see the leadership standards aligned with the teacher standards and evaluation procedure.

ATP Applicant Approval - Kara Swensen: A lot of time was spent looking over applications and interviewing candidates. There were some excellent candidates, but the board felt like Brad Larsen best fit what the school needed.

Motion approve Brad Larsen for the ATP: Kara Swensen

Second: Tirzah Anderson

Unanimous

UAPCS Renewal - Tirzah Anderson: The board feels it is important to maintain membership in the UAPCS. It is the only expense to come out of the board line item in the budget.

Motion to renew membership with UAPCS: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Kara Swensen

The UAPCS helps by lobbying, providing in-service training, holding monthly meetings and an annual UAPCS conference. They help schools understand how to better their relationship with state and state board of education.

Unanimous

UAPCS Delegate Authorization -Tirzah Anderson: A new delegate authorization needs to be submitted. It is recommended that for Edison South Melani Kirk be the delegate, Shem Smith the proxy and Carolyn Larsen the alternate. Edison North's delegate should be Scott Jackson, with Shem Smith as proxy and Jamie Lewis as alternate.

Motion to approve Melani as delegate, Shem as proxy and Carolyn as alternate for Edison South and Scott as delegate, Shem as the proxy and Jamie as the alternate for Edison North: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Sonny Tuft

Unanimous

Personnel Requests - Melani/Scott:

Scott:

Rehire Maria Meatoga as a kindergarten aide after an 18 month absence.

Melani:

Amily Luther, our first grade aide, Jennifer Luther's daughter for 18 hours and Julie Barson for 18 hours as special education aides.

Special education aide, Tracy Wagner, cut her hours and is splitting with Leica Merriam.

Bill Scott was hired as morning custodian.

Motion to accept personnel requests: Tirzah Anderson

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

Principal Employment Agreement - Tirzah Anderson:

Adam asked if the principals had any problems with the new agreement.

There was some discussion on intellectual property and the history of the agreement. Changes have been made periodically. The intellectual property clause is not as important as it once was. To duplicate Edison schools would be hard. What is done here is good for children. If someone can take some of it and make it better for more children all are better off.

Motion to approve the contracts as constituted for principals: Adam Burris

Second: Sony Tuft

Unanimous

Finance Report - Jim Peterson: Jim talked a little about the UAPCS for the newer board members. The last two UAPCS directors have experience working with the legislature. If charter schools do not have representation by an association, they are left to defend themselves against opponents of charter schools. Charters are focused on running schools instead of defending changes and adjustments to laws. Many people would like charters to go away. Opponents can take away the opportunity to run schools differently, or overwhelm them with paperwork and reports. To have someone representing charter schools in an association is key.

Jim discussed charts showing total state revenue and costs for each year since the school started. He explained trends in revenue and selected costs. Edison schools facility costs per student are lower than the state average. Jim has a goal to reduce facility expenses.

Principal Reports - Melani/Scott:

Melani:

- Opening of school was great. There are many new people, but things went smoothly. Parents and students seem very happy.
- Roof repairs have been started and should be finished by the end of the week. The estimate is \$4,750. This could allow us to put off replacing phase 1 and 2 roofs for about 5 years. Phases 3 and 4 look good.
- Google Apps permission notices have been sent to parents. It is used quite a bit in middle school.
- Fiber is in and a new wireless system is needed. Counseling funds may pay for part of it.
- Celebrate America asked, 3 days before the show, if 4th and 5th grades could sing. Jenna Oakey, new computer/music teacher, helped the students learn the songs and 45 of the students attended with their parents.
- The parent organization stopped supporting the school lunch program. The office is now taking it over.

Scott:

- Scott commented on how pleased they are with Firehouse catering their lunches. They are looking at trends, which are healthier.
- The budget was figured with enrollment of 529. As of today, the enrollment is 522.
- Scott gave accolades to the directors of instruction for doing such a good job training teachers this year. They focused on philosophy and what was important to the teachers that would benefit the students in the long run.
- The PO has been busy with fall festival and back to school night.
- The student council getting involved with a safety week. Nikyla will be working with student council and directors to do some leadership training.
- The UCA deadline is now November 7th. It asks for a needs assessment on data collected. Since SAGE information won't be available, the USOE provided trends in data over last three years.

Charter Workshop

The board discussed qualifications of professional staff. Jamie suggested leaving as it is since there are so many choices.

Motion to Adjourn: Adam Burris