

**Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
January 3, 2017**

5:33

In attendance: Adam Burriss, Denae Pruden, Chris Johnnie, Audra Parent, Chris Johnnie
Late: Emily Buckley
Excused:

Welcome/Conducting: Adam Burriss

Pledge: Chris Johnnie

Charter Highlight: Kyle Hancock – Discipline - learning is a joy and school is a happy place.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Adam Burriss

Second: Denae Pruden

Unanimous

Public Comment: Shem agreed with Kyle giving some personal experiences.

Approval of minutes - Adam Burriss:

Motion to approve the December minutes: Adam Burriss

Second: Kyle Hancock

Unanimous

Audit Presentation – Squire/Audra:

The audit was pretty clean. With the help of Steve and Carol they were able to get all of the information they required.

Adam asked Steve if he had heard back from the state regarding the random audit. Steve had not.

Mike Bullock from Squire pointed out the rules of the auditing process. Schools are responsible for their own finances. Auditors have to adhere to government auditing standards and report on internal controls. They always test on the minimum school program.

Adam asked how the board could stay informed on the internal controls. Mike gave a few suggestions and will email Audra with information.

Audit Approval – Audra Parent:

Motion to approve the audit that was presented: Audra Parent

Second: Emily Buckley

Unanimous

Achievement Report – Denae Pruden/Kyle Hancock:

Carolyn Larsen – SAGE:

Utah wanted to change what was taught, so they changed the assessments.

The contract for SAGE will be over at the end of this year. Questar will develop testing for the next five years. The bank of questions, which are owned by Utah, will be the same, but the interface will be different.

The science core has just been updated, so there is not a practice test at this time.

The Directors of Instruction have asked all teachers to do testing with the SAGE Benchmark tests. Benchmarks allow teachers to talk about the test in real time. They can walk through the tests with students. The tests address one standard, so instruction can be adjusted according to the results.

Emily asked if doing the Benchmarks was teaching to the test. Melani replied that it was not. It gives students a chance to test what they know about the concept, look at the tools and see how the test functions. It is not teaching to the test by pounding in the concepts and ignoring the rest of the curriculum.

Emily also asked if teachers were being evaluated on the scores. Melani assured her they were not.

Carolyn pointed out that it tests the core standards and lets the teacher see if students are understanding what is being taught. Melani assured the board that this fits in with the curriculum mapping that is being done.

Finance Report – Jim Peterson/Audra Parent:

Audra - Both schools are well under the target running average.

Adam and Shem discussed the plans for the parking lot and cabinetry.

Brad is currently looking for engineers to create plans for the parking lot and drive through. Melani is currently working on the master plan committee for Nibley City. They are talking about 10th West connecting all of the way through. That will affect the school's drop off/pick up plans.

Vendor and Contract Approvals – Shem Smith/Melani Kirk:

None

Personnel Requests – Shem Smith/Melani Kirk:

Melani:

- The daytime custodian, Keaton, is leaving on a mission. His replacement is Braden Kelly. Both are former students.
- Ashley Sanders, special education aid, is also a former student and leaving on a mission. Amber Olsen is taking over Ashley's position of 15 hours. The position will have an additional 14 hours in elementary special education to work on reading and improve the DIBELS scores through a ramped up RTI program.

- Allison Stewart, who is over RTI, needs another 29 hour person for 4th and 5th grade.

Motion to approve personnel requests: Audra Parent

Second: Chris Johnnie

Unanimous

Principal reports – Melani Kirk/Shem Smith

Melani:

- There will be a unified charter spelling bee.
- Enrollment has increased to 765.
- The teacher evaluation meetings allow administrators to have good experiences with each teacher when meeting with them individually.
- Angela is spearheading a kindergarten preview night. Employees have contacted about 40 preschools in the south end of the valley and delivered flyers inviting parents. Melani, Jamie, Brad and Carolyn will speak. There will be several different tables set up and a couple of videos to show. Parents, teachers and aides have been invited to be advocates.
- Many of the history fair judges had affiliation with USU. They had many complements about the quality of the projects, how good the research was done and the presentations.

Shem:

- This year the geography bee will be different. The purpose was to get students who want to participate to do it, but not lose classroom time. During silent sustained reading, students will take a written test. The top 10 will compete during the next silent sustained reading. The winner of the school test takes a state test. If their score is high enough they can go on to the national test.
- Shem gave an update on the giving tree and winter parties. There is a spirit of giving and a culture of community that is being strengthened by what is happening. Mrs. Bennion and Mrs. Anderson reached out to CAPSA. Students were involved in making things for women at CAPSA and blankets for newborns in Primary Children's Hospital. They completed over 200 hours of volunteer work.

Calendar Approval – Adam Burris:

Melani sent a survey to parents and staff with calendar choices. The majority of respondents were parents and the preference was the one that is being presented.

Motion to approve the calendar: Adam Burris

Second: Denaë Pruden

Unanimous

Board Visit Day – Adam Burris:

Every year board members visit the schools. Principals will email dates to the board.

Adam, Chris and Emily will visit Edison South. Denaë, Audra and Kyle will visit Edison North.

Subcommittee Reports – Adam Burris:

Denae – the 2nd achievement committee meeting will be at the end of this month. They are currently needing to finalize what to do about revising the 5 year strategic plan's goal of measuring one year's growth.

Audra – Things are being finalized with Level 11 and they want to work with administration to point what is wanted in a marketing person. They are looking into debt payoffs, rules on who has to sign on certain things and are following up on the parking lots.

Melani mentioned that administration has an idea of a marketing person who can provide some consultation.

Adam – They will send out letters to potential candidates to fill his position. Carol brought up policy that needs to be changed.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Adam Burris

Second: Emily Buckley