

**Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
December 6, 2017
5:30 pm**

In Attendance: Denae Pruden, Chris Johnnie, Adam Burris, Kyle Hancock
Late: Audra Parent
Excused: Emily Buckley

Welcome/Conducting: Adam Burris
Pledge: Audra Parent
Charter Highlight: Denae Pruden – Curriculum, Spalding and its importance.

Audra Parent arrived 5:32

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to accept the agenda: Denae Pruden
Second: Audra Parent
Yes: Denae Pruden, Chris Johnnie, Adam Burris, Kyle Hancock, Audra Parent

Public Comment: Brad Larsen attended training at Box Elder for least restrictive environment. A lot of what they talked about was in line with Glenn Latham. It speaks well of our program that we already do those things.

Approval of Minutes – Adam Burris:

Motion to approve the minutes from November: Chris Johnnie
Second: Kyle Hancock
Yes: Denae Pruden, Chris Johnnie, Kyle Hancock, Audra Parent
Abstain: Adam Burris

Land Purchase Approvals – Adam Burris:

The board previously approved the school to pursue purchasing two parcels of land, but did not approve the actual purchase.

Motion to approve both completed land purchases for Edison South: Adam Burris
Second: Audra Parent
Yes: Denae Pruden, Chris Johnnie, Adam Burris, Kyle Hancock, Audra Parent

Achievement Report – Denae Pruden/Kyle Hancock:

Brad explained the monthly testing reports in the packets.

SMI always shows below the average of the past performance because the test was changed a few years ago to be more difficult. It would take a lot higher level of understanding to achieve the same proficiency level. DIBELS, SRI and SMI are given three times a year.

Shem has been trying to identify a way to show that 90% of students make one year's growth in one year's time. He would like to use this report to do that. If students are gaining proficiency they should be able to prove they made one year's growth.

The board will work on changing the strategic outcome because it talks about students enrolled for one year. They will research the best way to measure it without it being too time consuming and should have a plan by February.

Carolyn mentioned that teachers are working at being more diagnostic and looking at data more.

Finance Report – Jim Peterson/Audra Parent: Jim discussed the monthly expenditures. Both schools are where they should be with the running average.

The October 1 count affects the growth factor. The hold harmless kicks in when enrollment is smaller, except for LRF. Jim prepared a sheet showing the budget updates since the preliminary budget was approved and included the largest items. Because ESA was actually lower than what was expected at Edison South, the cash surplus will be down.

Transportation Policy Amendment – Emily Buckley:

Carol found out that this policy must be changed to be in line with the insurance provider's requirements.

Motion to approve the proposed changes to the transportation policy: Adam Burris

Second: Denae Pruden

Yes: Denae Pruden, Chris Johnnie, Adam Burris, Kyle Hancock, Audra Parent

Health and Safety Policy Amendment – Emily Buckley:

Carol reviewed the changes.

Motion to approve proposed changes to the health and safety policy: Adam Burris

Second: Kyle Hancock

Yes: Denae Pruden, Chris Johnnie, Adam Burris, Kyle Hancock, Audra Parent

Marketing Update – Audra Parent:

Level 11 sent more information on the ad and are currently working on a kindergarten video because of the open house. Overall, it is agreed upon that there is as much activity as hoped with the marketing. Once the kindergarten ad gets going the four month trial period will be over. The subcommittee recommends taking a step back and discussing where the marketing should go.

Brad – The final ad is about an event while the other ads have been information. It would be good at the meeting to find out how many people saw the ad. It might give an idea of whether people are seeing the ad or learning about the school by word of mouth.

Audra – The blog is still being worked on so there will be more of an internet presence. Before doing more marketing the goal of the advertising needs to be determined.

Adam asked if Audra received answers to the questions asked of Level 11 during the last meeting. Audra received the answers and will forward them.

Audra will reach out to other schools with waiting lists. She contacted Tirzah for information and decided to contact other schools with a philosophy similar to TECS to find out what they think is attracting the students.

Jim Peterson - Since the early days of the school there has been an interest in marketing and finding out how other schools recruit. It was found that the culture in Cache Valley is different than it is along the Wasatch front. Until recently it had a small town atmosphere. People are less willing to accept something new. In the last 15 years many people have relocated to the valley and the culture mindset is changing.

Shem - Statistically, CCID opening in this area is equivalent to 11 new charters opening along the Wasatch front. In support of Jim's point, people in the area do not like to be on waiting lists.

There was a discussion on what reasons people leave are under the school's control and getting the word about the schools out to families. Adam is concerned that we haven't found a fit for marketing. He would like the school to have a full time consultant who works with administration, knows what types of advertising works and reports at board meetings every 3 months. The board changes too often and the administration is too busy. There needs to be a professional to deal with the marketing.

Vendor and Contract Approvals – Shem/Melani:

Shem Smith: Edison North is moving forward with electronic plans for the south parking lot. Red Apple will put the RFP together.

Melani Kirk: There is still leaking in the back music room. In the future Edison South will be looking for a civil engineer to help with the new parking lot.

Personnel Requests- Shem/Melani:

Marissa Stevenson was hired for a new position that was never filled. About a half dozen students with significant challenges have registered in various grades. Her position will to be available as needed.

Motion to approve personnel request Edison North: Adam Burris

Second: Audra Parent

Yes: Denaë Pruden, Chris Johnnie, Adam Burris, Kyle Hancock, Audra Parent

Principal Reports – Shem/Melani:

Melani Kirk:

The schools decided to have a kindergarten preview to try to help fill kindergarten next year. Administration is going to out preschools with personal invitations to invite them to the school on January 31st to ask questions and see the program.

Kyle suggested connecting TECS parents who use those preschools as ambassadors for the school. Audra thought those families could help deliver the invitations.

Shem Smith: TECS North brought in more canned food for the canned food drive than Edison South and Ridgeline.

Calendar Approval – Adam Burris: Tabled

Strategic Plan Review – Adam Burris:

Adam wanted to make sure everyone is good with the goals. He feels #2 needs some changes and asked if anyone had concerns. Audra agreed that #2 needs to be reviewed.

Adam asked Jim about paying off the debt by the end of 2020 (#7). Jim stated that there is a good chance for Edison South. Edison North may not be able to because of construction and the parking lot. Since Edison South's enrollment is down, paying USDA loan #2 would help a lot next year.

Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn: Adam Burris

Second: Kyle Hancock

Yes: Denae Pruden, Chris Johnnie, Adam Burris, Kyle Hancock, Audra Parent

Ending Time: 6:30