

**Governing Board Meeting
Thomas Edison Charter Schools
March 7, 2018
5:31**

In attendance: Emily Buckley, Audra Parent, Kyle Hancock, Adam Burris, Denae Pruden

Attending Electronically: Chris Johnnie will be calling in at 6

Conducting: Adam Burris

Pledge: Adam Burris

Charter Highlight: Denae Pruden highlighted the teacher schedule.

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt the agenda: Kyle Hancock

Second: Denae Pruden

Yes: Emily Buckley, Audra Parent, Kyle Hancock, Adam Burris, Denae Pruden

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes – Adam Burris:

Motion to approve the February minutes: Audra Parent

Second: Emily Buckley

Yes: Emily Buckley, Audra Parent, Kyle Hancock, Adam Burris, Denae Pruden

Achievement Report – Kyle Hancock:

LEA SAGE Interim Report. The board and administration discussed the SAGE testing results compared to the Utah averages.

DIBELS – The indicators look good. This is the first year for kindergarten tests. There were some kinks with kindergarten, but not great concern, since the 1st grade tests look great. By third grade, scores are similar to the state instead of higher.

Carolyn Larsen explained that this is the first year for reading interventions. Teachers are learning to use the tools with their data. Kyle Hancock pointed out that reading stabilizes by 3rd grade. Stability in the data by 3rd grade is much more effective.

The 3rd grade test has a lot of wpm, fluency and comprehension and is a pivotal point for students. They go from learning to read to reading to learn. With the MTSS model students are helped before they need special education. Teachers need to buy in to the model.

Melani explained that Thomas Edison teaches not just the five or so things SAGE tests in depth, but a broad knowledge of concepts.

Adam asked how teachers manage all of the data. Melani replied that the MTSS program is giving them more knowledge and structure. Shem explained that it lets them compare their intuition to the data.

The curriculum teaches to the top. That is why every student has a plan discussed at parent teacher conference. Even if a child is doing well, there may be one thing that is weaker.

Audra said that even her children who do well were challenged at Thomas Edison.

It is not intended to be more work, but work on a more challenging level.

Finance Report - Jim Peterson:

Edison North is \$6,000 per month in the black. Edison South is \$14,000 per month below. Since both schools have large expenses coming up this summer, it will be well used. Edison North's cash surplus pot is going down. If the parking lot upgrade/playground is more than estimated, it could really eat into it. The state likes to have 30 days minimum surplus, Steve likes to have 60 days.

Land Trust Plan Approvals – Shem/Brad:

Shem: \$54,125 was the amount. Edison North has been purchasing more and more technology. Three mobile labs will be replaced from the 1st year and that will go on a rotating basis. Other purchases are IXL, vocab.com, a few other subscriptions, MILA training and the math department will get graphing calculators. Some money will be used for an MTSS aide.

Brad: MILA classes, two more Chromebook carts, \$5,000 to replace and upkeep the older labs, \$6,000 for IXL, \$2,000 was to go to Spalding Reading Stars, but they unexpectedly offered it free since it was new (the \$2,000 will likely go to technology) and \$10,000 to an aide for MTSS.

Motion to approve both LAND Trust plans: Adam Burris

Second: Denaë Pruden

Yes: Emily Buckley, Audra Parent, Kyle Hancock, Adam Burris, Denaë Pruden

Chris Johnnie joined the meeting electronically.

Principal Contract Renewals – Denaë Pruden:

The charter dictates that principal contract be renewed in March. Evaluations will continue throughout the year.

Motion to renew the principal contracts for Shem and Melani for the upcoming year: Audra Parent

Second: Kyle Hancock

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

Marketing/Media Position Approval – Audra Parent:

A meeting was held with Rob Davis, current art teacher at Edison South, and asked what he would do as a marketing specialist. He will still teach art part time and will do marketing/media part time. His resume shows he has 19 years of graphic design and has worked with marketing books, magazines and companies like Ancestry. Overall, most liked what he brought to the table. There are some areas where he might not have expertise, but overall, the feeling is that he would be good. There is a possibility of pairing him with someone from Edison North.

Melani mentioned that he would be the marketing person for both schools. There should be a liaison with Edison North to convey information. Shem is trying to find a person who he can assign to do a .1 who would help with the writing, public communications and sticking to deadlines. Even though writing is not Rob's strong point, he feels comfortable writing articles for the newspapers and has ideas of how to promote by word of mouth.

Emily is concerned that he is not a marketing person and asked if he was interviewed because he needs the hours or can do the job.

Melani feels like it is a natural fit and that he can do the job. It would be more work and time to bring a marketer up to speed with our philosophy. It is easier for him to transfer his skills to marketing than to get a marketer to learn our philosophy. Emily disagrees. Melani would like to try it.

Emily thought it could be marketed to parents and at USU.

Brad explained that it is part of Rob's passion. He worked with Glenn Latham, loves the school and personally brought in several families. He is aware of the things on which you are commenting and is good with feedback. A parent with marketing experience has expressed interest in helping Rob.

Denae Pruden would like to try Rob as the marketing expert.

Audra pointed out that Rob was trained primarily as a project designer, but he was never just the designer. He headed up projects and has experience running different campaigns. Even though he does not have the exact skills, he does have many skills that do not show up on the resume.

Rob is currently in school for a marketing degree.

Motion to approve Rob Davis as the marketing special for TECS. Adam Burris

Second: Audra Parent

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

Principal Reports – Shem/Melani:

Melani:

- Parent Teacher conference was recently held. All parents of elementary students are required to attend. At Edison South, 98.7% attended and the rest are being contacted to set up times to meet.
- Middle School requires 6th grade parents to attend and parents of 7th – 9th grade students who have a C or below. Only 69% attended showing a clear lack of parental support. Teachers are working with the students to get their parents more involved by having level 4 and 5 conferences.
- Board members can read information about the history fair on the back of the report.
- The parent organization had a Family Circus Night. This was something new and fun.

Shem Smith:

- Parent teacher conference attendance was 94% for elementary and 57% for middle school. Edison North teachers are also working on those who missed their appointment.

- The parent survey participation was the highest yet.

Vendor/Contract Approvals – Shem/Melani:

Melani Kirk – As part of the ongoing plan to replace carpet, bids were recently requested. The lowest bid was from Hart Floor, which we think will do the best job. The cost is \$10,880.00.

Motion to approve the vendor contracts: Adam Burris

Second: Emily Buckley

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

Personnel Request Approvals – Shem/Melani:

Taylor Johnson will replace Taylor Johnson to teach 2nd grade.

Motion to approve the personnel request: Adam Burris

Second: Audra Parent

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

Legislative Update – Jim Peterson:

Tomorrow is the last day for this legislative session.

- HB 233 – S5 Discussion that teacher salary adjustment would go up to \$6000.
- SB 2 – already passed. Final MSP 2.5 % WPU increase. Also appropriates more money to the flexible spending pot, might be 2% additional WPU. They are unrestricted funds.
- SB 70 – Human resource requirements. Someone at the school must be trained. This bill has passed.
- SB 194 is on verge of passing last hurdle. It renames K-3 Reading Program to Early Literacy Program.

Disability Discussion – Audra Parent:

The finance committee is looking at the current short-term disability. The premiums paid out are typically more than the amount of the claims. The school could possibly save money by self-funding. It is open for other types of disability, but mostly used for maternity. Over the years, the school would have saved quite a lot. The break even point is seven claims per year. In the past several years there have only been 2 or 3 claims per year.

They propose the policy to pay 100% of salary for up to 5 weeks. PTO can be used for a longer time off. This equals out the way the policy is now. Now it penalizes people who have saved their PTO.

The finance committee would like to pursue it further. The school could have saved \$23,000 in three years.

Adam feels it is a small amount of money when you look at the overall budget. He does not want to become overexposed. Kyle would like to know more about risk of maximum exposure.

Closed Session: Pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205-1(a)

Motion to move to a closed session: Adam Burris

Second: Dena Pruden

Adam Burris - Yes

Dena Pruden - Yes

Chris Johnnie - Yes

Emily Buckley - Yes

Audra Parent - Yes

Kyle Hancock - Yes

Reconvene Open Meeting:

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Adam Burris

Second: Dena Pruden