

**Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
August 3, 2016**

5:32

In attendance: Adam Burris, Kim Winward, Audra Parent, Emma Bullock, Denae Pruden - Excused: Chris Johnnie

Welcome/Conducting: Adam Burris

Pledge of Allegiance: Kim Winward

Charter Highlight- Audra Parent - Audra highlighted the portion of the regarding parent involvement in the schools.

Adoption of Agenda - Adam Burris:

Motion to approve the agenda: Adam Burris

Second: Denae Pruden

Unanimous

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes – Adam Burris:

None

Achievement Report – Denae/Emma/Scott/Melani/Angela/Shem:

Angela:

DIBELS data looked really good overall, especially grade 2. Utah averages did not seem to be available online. One site found that a typical school should have about 40% below, or well below, benchmark at any given time. With the exception of the first test in first grade, the schools were well above the typical.

SAGE is looking really strong. Angela explained to the new board members how the school is implementing a year by year change to math classes to more closely match the tests that are given statewide. In 6th grade students no longer take tests for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math. All 6th graders take the 6th grade test. Next year it will change with all 7th graders taking the 7th grade math class.

The only test below the Utah average is 3rd grade ELA. They were 27% proficient and the state was 41% proficient. It provides better information to compare the cohort proficiencies than what a specific grade did the previous year.

The Data Gateway has a tool where 20 schools with similar demographics may be compared.

Shem asked what the interim scores represented. Angela replied that it showed who was proficient at that point. The tests at the beginning of the year were given before many of the units had been covered.

Adam asked if DIBELS is the same test every time during the year. No, it increases in complexity each time. He specifically wondered why 3rd grade's level of proficiency declined with each test. Jamie explained that there were a couple of students who did not grow as much as they should have.

Library Report – Noelle Harrild: This is done annually to let the board know what the library had hoped to accomplish for the last year and what the goals are for the future. She reiterated some statistics for the library.

Noelle listed her professional achievements:

- Part of the USOE elementary library standards revision committee
- Professional development training in the northern part of Utah
- Attended professional conference in Sandy
- Member of Children's Literature Association which does the Beehive Awards
- Member at large for Cache Valley Library Association, school library liaison representing all of the school librarians in the valley

Noelle explained all of the incentives and activities she is doing to entice students, and parents, to love coming to the library and to read.

Principal Evaluation Policy – Chris/Denae/Kim:

Denae - Tirzah had written up a policy before she left the board and she helped lead the discussion during the meeting. It is not quite ready to vote on, but overall the idea is to have a tier based raise each year for administrators. It could be tied to the increase in the WPU so that principals receive the same percentage raise as teachers. The board hopes that after the discussion in the spring, principals take the summer to decide on goals and areas of improvement they want to work on for the next year.

The principals already have their own goals that they are working on, but the board wants it presented to them showing the goals are obtainable and can be tracked throughout the year. They will be given bonuses once they achieve their goals.

Some goals will be for both schools, some are school specific. Since some of the goals may take multiple years, it was suggested that there be benchmarks for those. Shem mentioned that the school already has improvement goals in LAND Trust and UCA. Those goals could be incorporated.

The executive committee will do the interviews with the principals. Tirzah will add Jim's suggestions regarding legislative funding for draft 5. It should be ready for a vote by next board meeting.

Medical/Dental/Vision Insurance Renewal - Audra Parent:

The committee recommends that the school stay with same provider, but with a new prescription plan. They recognize that it will affect some employees, but it saves the school about \$17,000. It is a 9.4% increase over what the school was paying for health insurance last year. Most of the vision and dental will stay the same, with a slight increase in family dental.

Melani has spoken with some employees who it will affect. She and Adam both realize that some will be hurt by this, but they have to look at the big picture. The increase is very good compared to other quotes that were received. Steve remarked that the last three years the schools did not have an increase.

Motion to approve the finance and audit subcommittee's recommendation regarding health, dental and vision insurance: Adam Burris

Second: Audra Parent

Unanimous

Finance Report – Jim Peterson:

Status on end of year FY16. Both schools throughout the year were hovering below the budget projection through May. Both schools spent quite a bit at the end of the year. Shem asked how it compared to last June. Jim replied that it broke all records. Much of it was technology.

There have been some significant updates since the budget was passed last June for FY17. The biggest change is that Jim found out more information from Jamie Barrett at USOE, who is over the minimum school program. He found out how they are dealing with ADM and the differentiated WPU. It is looked at in each category of the differentiated WPU and the growth is based on the October 1 count.

Jim updated the budget with the new insurance and other benefits cost, so there are changes from the June budget to the August budget. As a result, South's projected cash surplus has gone down somewhat, but it is still good.

Principal Reports – Scott/Melani/Shem:

Scott:

- Scott referenced his written report. One of the issues with the building is having people come in to finish their work. Carpeting has been scheduled. The construction has been somewhat of a frustration since they are waiting for items and are at a standstill. The wiring in the middle school rooms is still incomplete.
- Edison North has almost 80 students on the waiting list.
- Kim asked where new students are finding out about the school. Scott explained that people have mentioned the theater ad. Most parents knew about the school, but it reminded them to come and register.
- Summer school is going well. This year there is a summer program for middle school students who want a head start of their science fair projects. The class is full.
- Audra asked how long students on the waiting list say yes when called later. Scott replied that parents of students, who want a challenge and have studied the school very well, will wait forever. Some parents are anxious about being on a waitlist and don't stay on the list as long.

Melani:

- Enrollment is looking quite good. Everything, with exception of 8th grade, should be full.

- Most people here find out about the school by word of mouth. Two of three families from out of state have found the school online, but have talked to others for their recommendation. Melani agrees that the schools should keep advertising.
- A man from CVTD came in today and told Melani he was going to Nibley City to tell them how to work through the traffic by the school. He was going to ask them to paint the south curb red all of the way across. Melani explained to him why that would not be good for the school. He is trying to plan a meeting with the city planner. There are also more concerns that the congestion will get worse. They are planning on some crossroads in our neighborhood that will bring more growth and more traffic. The school might have to buy some more property for parking.

Vendor/Contractor Approvals – Scott/Melani:

Melani:

There have been problems with the roof with leaking and water damage as a result. The highest and lowest bids were dropped. Mt. Peak and Island Heights are the ones that were researched further. The recommendation is to go with Mt. Peak at \$162,682.

Audra asked why recommendation for Mt. Peak. Melani let the board know that Mt. Peak returned calls faster, were more excited to do the job and were easier to work with.

Emma is uncomfortable approving something that the finance committee has not been able to look at in detail.

Adam asked Melani to send the bids and they would review them.

Scott:

Scott met with engineers of two major companies, Cache Landmark and Skyline. Scott wants each of them to bid on the conceptual part of it of the project. The Cache Landmark engineer said they could provide several different ideas.

Motion to contract with the two companies give concept designs to be presented at a board meeting:

Audra Parent

Second: Adam Burris

Unanimous

Training Objectives – Adam Burris: They will be mailed out.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Adam Burris