

**University of Texas-University Charter School
Advisory Board
Austin, Texas
October 9, 2024**

Attendees

- Board Members:
 - Present: Dr. Jennifer Maedgen, Chair, Ms. Vanessa Davila, Ms. Christine Nishimura, Ms. Suzon Kemp, Dr. Eboni Calbow, Dr. Judith Loredo
 - Absent: Dr. Cynthia Franklin
 - Non-voting board associates present: Dr. Melissa Chavez, Dr. Nicole Whetstone, Mr. Will Moak, Mr. Joe Fulp, Mr. Chris Hutto
 - Non-voting board associates absent: none
- Guests: none
- UT-UCS Staff: Jenny Davis, Sharon Yarbrough, Dr. Autumn Leal-Shopp, Bob Micks, Giovanni Cantoran, Dr. Janina Roberts, Jazmine Leon-Wing, Lori Acrea

I. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

Dr. Maedgen called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM and noted that a quorum was present.

II. Welcome and Recognition of Special Guests

III. Citizen Comments

No comments from the public.

IV. Items for Consideration by Consent

- a. Consider approval of the Consent Agenda.

A motion that the Consent Agenda be approved was made by Dr. Loredo and seconded by Ms. Davila

For – 4 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 3

V. Action Items

- a. Consider approval of a resolution to submit an Armed Security Good Cause Exception

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Davila and seconded by Ms. Nishimura

For – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 1

Discussion:

Autumn Leal-Shopp – As a reminder HB 3 requires that all of our campuses have at least 1 armed security guard during school hours. However, there is a “Good Cause Exception” that may be claimed by a district, but our board must develop alternative standard. We worked with UT Legal to determine that our campuses operate under limited licenses and are not subject to this law.

We have chosen to create an alternative standard that includes: weekly door checks that consists of over 200 doors, participation in all state-mandated drills (again, over 200 a year), invite local first-responders for walk throughs so they may familiarize themselves with our campuses and coordination with facility leadership.

- b. Consider approval a non-expansion amendment to update campus name Nexus Children's Hospital, CDN 227806060, to Nexus – Woodlands

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Kemp and seconded by Dr. Loreda

For – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 1

Discussion covers both c and d:

Jenny Davis – TEA requires submission if we change the name of a campus. Nexus started with one campus but the need to truncate the name has become apparent as we add their campuses. We will refer to them Nexus with location dropping “Children’s Hospital.”

- c. Consider approval of a non-expansion amendment to update campus name Nexus Children's Hospital - Houston, CDN 227806061, to Nexus – Houston

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Kemp and seconded by Dr. Loreda

For – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 1

- d. Consider approval of a non-expansion amendment to update the address for Helping Hand Home, CDN 227806032

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Nishimura and seconded by Dr. Calbow

For – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 1

Discussion:

Jenny Davis – In the summer of 2023 Helping Hand Home renovated their facility, dedicating space for our school. It came to our attention that during Intruder Detection Audits that are now being performed by TEA that there was a need to have our school address be differentiated from the rest of the facility. The school has now been given a new, separate address by the City of Austin. New address to be reflected with TEA.

VI. Reports/Discussion Items

- a. Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent’s report, ESL Report 5

Dr. Janina Roberts reported on:

- Emergent Bilingual Program report 2023-24
 - ESL Program Review
 - 150% increase in students who qualify
 - TELPAS results

Dr. Nicole Whetstone reported on:

- HB 3 Early Childhood Goals
- HB 3 College, Career and Military Readiness Goal
- Enrollment discussion
 - Most of our students are in 9th grade
- Instructional Program Report
 - 90% of students are at-risk
 - 40% Special Ed
 - 30% Foster Care
- State Assessment Scores
- Exact Path Growth Comparison Rates for School Years 2021 to 2024

b. Report on student enrollment, Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and Turnover Data

Discussion

Jenny Davis reported on

- Audit
 - Annual Financial Audit is in the field works
 - Will be reported in January 2025
- Charter Expansion Update
 - Houston opens January 2025
 - Pending: Nexus Dallas and Shenandoah set to open August 2025
- Compliance
 - ESSER year 5 comprehensive reporting
 - Sentinel safety grant reporting
 - Federal Fiscal Compliance and Reporting division random validations
 - Jenny will report on any results at the next board meeting
 - Charter FIRST Rating
 - Passed
 - Hearing 10/9/2024 following this board meeting
- Enrollment Trend
 - Goal is 530 – surpassed at 570
 - Some staffing needs have been brought to our attention and will be considered at the next finance committee meeting
 - Goal of 98% attendance rate is being met
 - 10 of 19 campuses reached the goal

c. Monthly Financial Report

VII. Adjournment

A motion that the meeting be adjourned was made by Dr. Loreda and seconded by Ms. Nishimura

For – 6 Opposed – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 1

Dr. Maedgen adjourned the meeting at 12:13 PM

VIII. Public Hearing on the Charter FIRST Report

- a. 2023-2024 Charter FIRST Report
- b. Public comments on the Report
- c. Adjournment of Public Hearing