

**University of Texas-University Charter School  
Advisory Board  
Austin, Texas  
October 1, 2025**

**Attendees**

- Board Members:
  - Present: Ms. Vanessa Davila, Ms. Christine Nishimura, Ms. Suzon Kemp, Dr. Cynthia Franklin, Dr. Eboni Calbow, Dr. Judith Loreda, Dr. Claire Alvarado, Dr. Jane Gray, Dr. Nathan Clemens
  - Absent: Dr. Jennifer Maedgen, Chair
  - Non-voting board associates present: Dr. Melissa Chavez, Dr. Nicole Whetstone, Mr. Chris Hutto, Mr. Michael Schultze
  - Non-voting board associates absent: none
- Guests: David Clark from VPLA
- UT-UCS Staff: Jenny Davis, Sharon Yarbrough, Dr. Autumn Leal-Shopp, Bob Micks, Giovanni Cantoran, Dr. Janina Roberts

**I. Call to Order and Establish Quorum**

*Dr. Maedgen called the meeting to order at 11:33 AM and noted that a quorum was present.*

**II. Welcome and Recognition of Special Guests**

**III. Parent and 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 Ms. Nishimura and seconded by Dr. Alvarado*

*For –                      Opposed –                      0                      Abstain –                      0                      Absent –*

**V. Action Items**

- a. Consider approval of a resolution in support of compliance with Texas Education Code Sections 11.005 and 28.0022

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

*For –                      Opposed –                      0                      Abstain –                      Absent –*

Dr. Chavez began by reminding the board what each of the new requirements are and then walked the board through what compliance will look like.

Dr. Chavez walked the board through the new Parent Portal on our website and how concerns will be presented to the board at the beginning of every board meeting. Additionally, all parent rights and grievance process have been posted on the [utcharter.org](http://utcharter.org) website.

Dr. Whetstone expounded on the new parental consent forms that were created with the guidance of UT Legal Affairs and were sent out to current parents.

Dr. Chavez explained the changes to our employee handbook and the training to comply with the new SB12 prohibitions regarding parental engagement, DEI, student health curriculum, instructional content and student clubs. This policy has not been finalized and will be presented at the next board meeting.

Dr. Whetstone added that all of the principals were given training at the principal's meeting on 9/26/25.

Dr. Chavez further explained: Except as required by state and federal law, employees and contractors may not assign diversity, equity, and inclusion duties to any person, and the district hereby prohibits a district employee, contractor, or volunteer from engaging in diversity, equity, and inclusion duties at, for, or on behalf of the district. And an employee or contractor who intentionally or knowingly engages in or assigns to another person diversity, equity and inclusion duties or engages in prohibited instruction will be appropriately disciplined up to a termination. "I just want this board to know that UT Charter School, UT Elementary School, and UT High School have never had any assigned to diversity, equity or inclusion duties at our schools."

In addition, as an academic unit of the University of Texas at Austin, the school has been subject to Texas Education Code 51.3525, which contains similar DEI-related requirements and prohibitions since its effective date of January 1, 2024. "So we've been under this, policy for a very long time."

Policy 1.206 is Parental Engagement and Parental Rights. Dr. Chavez explained where parents, guardians or citizens may leave a comment (grievances) and that those comments will be presented at the next school board meeting after the comments are left, at the beginning of the board meeting to prioritize them. Beginning next school year, we will ensure that we schedule board meetings at acceptable "outside of typical work hours" to comply. Additionally, we have created a parent page specifically for Parent Rights.

Dr. Whetstone included that all parents and guardians have received consent forms around parental rights. This includes the option to opt in or out of particular mental health and health services. Note: UT Charter does not have a school nurse. Health services are provided by the facility partner.

Dr. Chavez added that we have updated our enrollment forms to include permissions to call the student by a nickname. Also, before a student may be provided with any human sexuality instruction, the district must obtain the written consent of the student's parents in a manner that's prescribed by law.

The policy is currently still with the Vice President for Legal Affairs office so once this policy is completed, it will be approved by the board - hopefully at the next meeting - and will be added to the employee handbook and notices will be sent to all staff, both physically and electronically. Ongoing training and support will be provided around these policies, such as we did at the monthly principals meeting last Friday.

We are still in the process of posting course syllabi, posting instructional plans or courses online.

Dr. Chavez noted that we are in the process of posting all syllabi online.

While we are not currently in full compliance, we want to follow the law and are taking steps to be in full compliance by the end of November. This is the general expectation of the TEA.

## VI. Reports/Discussion Items

### a. Executive Director and Superintendent's report

Dr. Whetstone turned it over to Dr. Roberts who present the annual Emergent Bilingual Data for Board review.

Dr. Whetstone next presented HB3 Early Childhood Goals and updated the board on our progress on the UT Charter District Improvement Plan goals.

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

### c. Monthly Financial Report

Jenny Davis provided updates regarding our upcoming audit and our Charter FIRST rating. UT Charter received a Pass and will schedule a public hearing on the results once it is finalized.

Ms. Davis next provided student data as of 9/29/25 and she explained that our attendance number is on track.

Ms. Davis presented the end of fiscal year financial information and explained that we have a few weeks to for it to be officially closed.

## VII. Adjournment

*A motion that the meeting be adjourned was made by Ms. Nishimura and seconded by Ms. Davila*

*For –                      Opposed –                      0                      Abstain –                      0                      Absent –*

Dr. Maedgen adjourned the meeting at 12:26 PM