

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
BOARD PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
November 18, 2022

1. Call to order

Brenda Lee called to order the meeting of the TSBVI Board Committee on Programs at 8:00 a.m. on November 18, 2022, from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1100 West 45th Street, Austin, Texas.

Board members Beth Jones, Maghan Gautney, and Elaine Robertson were present.

TSBVI staff members participating in the meeting were: Miles Fain, Comprehensive Programs Principal; Sara Merritt, Short-Term Programs Principal; Kate Borg, Outreach Director; Angela Wolf, Curriculum Director;

2. Consideration of approval of minutes of the September 30, 2022 meeting

Brenda Lee asked for consideration of approval of the minutes from the September 30, 2022 meeting. Maghan Gautney motioned and Elaine Robertson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Report from Comprehensive Programs Principal, Miles Fain

a. Consideration of approval of Safe and Supportive Schools Team and procedure

Miles Fain discussed the request to add a new member to the Safe and Supportive Schools team. Maghan Gautney motioned to approve Stacey Correa to the Safe and Supportive Schools Team. Elaine Robertson seconded and the motion passed.

b. Consideration of adoption of a resolution to convene the TSBVI School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to recommend curriculum materials for instruction relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, and dating violence

Mr. Fain discussed the partnership with the SAFE organization to provide education in healthy relationships. They would like for TSBVI to help them pilot their *My Rights, My Life* curriculum that focuses on boundaries, consent, and healthy relationships. Maghan Gautney made a motion to adopt a resolution to recommend that the SHAC convene to recommend materials for instruction relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, and dating violence. Beth Jones seconded the motion and the motion passed.

4. Report from Curriculum Director, Angela Wolf

a. Report on curriculum sales

Angela Wolf reported that the curriculum sales for fiscal year 2022 totaled \$215,790.46 with the highest sales occurring in January. *Essential Tools of the Trade* and *Braille Fundamentals* (primary level) were the top sellers. *Making Evaluation Meaningful and Braille Fundamentals* (junior and high school) were updated to reflect UEB (Unified English Braille) training. Beth Jones asked how much of the total sales is profit and Ms. Wolf discussed many of the cost-saving changes she plans to implement.

5. Report from Short-Term Programs Principal, Sara Merritt

a. Short-Term Program update

Sara Merritt reported that the number of students attending Short-Term Programs this school year, not including the most recent class, totaled an unduplicated count of 112 students and 68 as a duplicated count.

b. Update on Summer 2023 Programs

Ms. Merritt outlined the Summer 2023 Program plans:

June 9 (No Students)	June 11-16	June 18-23	June 25-30	July 2-7	Staff Closedown
Friday, June 9th Prep	SWEAT	SWEAT	SWEAT	SWEAT	July 7th
Friday, June 9th Prep	WALIC	WALIC	WALIC	WALIC	July 7th
Friday, June 9th Prep	ESE WEEK 1	ESE WEEK 2			July 10th
Friday, June 9th Prep			SE WEEK 3	SE WEEK 4	July 10th

Summer Projection 2023
Secondary: 108
Elementary: 102
SWEAT: 15
WALIC: 15
TOTAL: 240

Ms. Merritt explained that applications for summer programs open on February 9th and close on February 14th.

6. Report from Outreach Director, Kate Borg

a. Outreach Program Update

Kate Borg reported on many activities occurring in Outreach Programs:

- SWOMA (Southwest Orientation and Mobility Association Conference) had record-breaking attendance with 262 attendees. Dr. Merabet Lotfi, the keynote speaker, gave a presentation on neurological visual impairment.
- In the Driver’s Seat: This workshop was held the same weekend as SWOMA. Ms. Borg shared an article written by a parent about their son’s experience at the program.
- Tech Team Time: An average of about 40 people participated per session for the last six weeks.
- Childfind: Committee work under the Texas Action Committee/TEA (Texas Education Agency) is moving forward. Mary Shore and Alexa Poynor are co-chairing and the committee has met three times.
- Outreach is gearing up for the VI Registry and Deafblind Child Count. A couple of changes have been made to the VI Registration; namely removing the eye report requirement and some language changes in definitions of readers.

- Outreach has been partnering with the Western Regional Early Intervention Conference to present several early childhood specific Coffee Hour session. The last collaborative Coffee Hour ended but three additional presentations will be given at the conference in June in Cheyenne.
- Outreach has partnered with Cathy Smyth from the Anchor Center in Colorado and will be receiving training on the Neonatal Assessment of Vision European Grid (NAVEG) in the spring. This is a screener used in NICUs to identify babies who are at-risk for neurological visual impairment.
- Work continues on the Teacher of Students who are Deafblind certification through SBEC (State Board of Educator Certification) and TEA.
- Outreach partnered with Education Service Center Region 13 to provide a playdate in April at the Little Land Play Gym for families with children ages 0-5.

b. Family engagement

This agenda item was moved to the February meeting of the Board.

7. Adjournment

Elaine Robertson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Maghan Gautney seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

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