

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
BOARD PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
September 30, 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 September 30, 2022, at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1100 West 45th Street, Austin, Texas.

Board members Beth Jones and Maghan Gautney were also 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; and Suzanne Becker, Archivist.

2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of the August 5, 2022 Meeting

Brenda Lee asked for consideration approval of the minutes from the August 5th meeting. Beth Jones moved to approve the minutes and Maghan Gautney seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Report from Comprehensive Programs Principal, Miles Fain

a. Statewide Assessment results

Miles Fain presented a pre-recorded video from Janet Bean, TSBVI Testing Coordinator who reviewed the results of the statewide assessments for the 2021-22 school year. New types of test questions are now required for students and there is uncertainty about their accessibility for students. Paper tests will continue to be provided to TSBVI students.

b. Plan to promote academic excellence

Mr. Fain presented a plan for promoting academic excellence in the 2022-23 school year.

c. Report on English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Analysis

Mr. Fain briefly reviewed the results of the 2021-22 school year English as a Second Language program analysis.

d. TSBVI Student Performance Indicator results

Curriculum Director Angela Wolf reviewed the Student Performance Indicator assessment results for the 2021-22 school year.

e. Consideration of membership of School Health Advisory Committee.

Program Committee members were asked to consider approval of membership to the School Health Advisory Council to include parents Amy Potts, Barbara Knighton, and Mara LaViola and TSBVI staff members Ria Ferich and Angela Wolf. Beth Jones moved to approve the membership as recommended. Maghan Gautney seconded the motion and the motion passed.

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

a. Short-Term Programs update

Sara Merritt spoke about new classes this school year including remote Algebra classes, STAAR testing strategies for elementary and middle school and the “In Your Element Chemistry Program” being conducted in conjunction with Baylor University.

There is a new trend of fewer referrals for Access to Academics week classes and an increase in referrals for individualized remote instruction. Ms. Merritt also spoke about the Teacher Incentive Allotment Program.

5. Report from Outreach Director, Kate Borg

a. Media Minute update

Suzanne Becker, Digital Archivist reported on the Media Archive and the monthly Media Minute program. Currently, there are over 12,000 pieces of media (video, images, audio files, documents) that can only be accessed by staff on campus. This media is used for reports, training and courses, social media, graduation and retirement slideshows, Media Minute, and external partner projects such as those with the AFB and NCDB. Last year, Media Minute was introduced as a way to highlight media for staff across campus.

b. Outreach Program update

Kate Borg shared some of the upcoming calendar items:

- October 5-6: Intro to the Intervener Team Model Workshop
- October 12: White Cane Day
- October 20: CVI Study Group starts
- October 23-25: Mentor Center
- November 6-8: SWOMA Conference – 185 people registered
- February 23-25: Deafblind Symposium – “From Inspiration to Implementation”

Ms. Borg reported that there have been 61 consultations and trainings since August 1st. Outreach staff are working to get caught up on APH orders. The team will receive training this next week at the APH annual meeting in Louisville.

In the Coffee Hour sessions, a new Tech Tea Time is happening weekly on Thursdays. Donna Clemens, TSBVI’s new AT Consultant will be leading this. Family Recharge Zone meetings are continuing monthly with the next session scheduled for October 6th.

7. Adjournment

Maghan Gautney motioned to adjourn the meeting. Beth Jones seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

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