

**TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**  
**BOARD PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**February 18, 2022**

**1. Call to Order**

Brenda Lee called to order the meeting of the TSBVI Board Committee on Programs at 8:03 a.m. on February 18, 2022, in person and via Zoom videoconference from Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1100 West 45<sup>th</sup> 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; and Debra Sewell, Curriculum Coordinator;

**2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of the November 18, 2021 Meeting**

Beth Jones moved that the minutes of the November 18th, 2021 meeting be approved. Ms. Guatney seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**3. Consideration of Approval of Board Policies**

Miles Fain briefly reviewed the proposed changes to Policies BDF – Board Internal Organization: Citizen Advisory Committees, EHAA – Basic Instructional Program: Required Instruction (All Levels), and FFAF – Wellness and Health Services: Care Plans.

Three minor typographical errors were noted and recommended to be changed. Beth Jones motioned to approve the amended policies with the errors corrected and Brenda Lee seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor of the motion.

**4. Report from Comprehensive Programs Principal, Miles Fain**

- a. Fundamentals of Computer Science Course and Assistive Technology Innovative Course Update - Sue O'Brien reported on the Tech Apps class she is teaching. She shared an update of what her students are working on including a small business as a class project. The Fundamentals of Computer Science class has been working on digital citizenship, keyboarding, and 3D printing. She demonstrated the software that students are using to create 3D products. She also shared a video of students presenting products they created to solve a real-world problem in the Wildcat Coffee Shop. The Assistive Technology class initially worked on building keyboarding skills before moving on to 3D printing.

Board committee members suggested marketing the School's STEM programs to bring more students to TSBVI.

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

- a. Short-Term Programs update – Sara Merritt reported that the school year programs are still occurring online. Individualized Instruction is occurring for much longer intervals of at least 16 sessions.

- b. Update on Summer 2022 programs – Ms. Merritt stated that summer 2022 will be held in person and on campus. The number of projected students has increased from 178 last year to 238 for this summer. The Practical Experiences in Expanded Core (PEEC) program is being absorbed into the elementary and secondary programs in order to align with inclusive language in the service delivery model. The new 11-month employment for Teacher Aides and Residential Instructors is a great boost for summer planning.

## **6. Report from Outreach Director, Kate Borg**

- a. Ms. Kate provided the following Outreach Program update:
- VI registry data - statewide data indicated a drop in reporting of individuals again this year to 10,650 which is the second year in a row it has gone down. The deafblind student count went down from 804 to 778. Outreach will continue to disaggregate the data and determine trends.
  - Outreach is getting feedback from the TVIS community that staff are interested in more in-person programs.
  - The Texas Focus Conference had 370 attendees and was a great success.
  - Outreach has rebranded the Texas Families Together to Family Recharge Zone and there will be new opportunities in the future. Twenty families participated in the last program.
  - The Braille Challenge will be held next weekend.

## **7. Adjournment**

Beth Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting and Megan Gautney seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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