

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

**August 5, 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 August 5th, 2022, from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1100 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas.

Board members Beth Jones and Meghan Gautney 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; Jenny Wells, TSBVI Attorney; Angela Wolf, Curriculum Director.

**2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of the May 27, 2022 Meeting**

Brenda Lee asked for consideration of the minutes from the May 27th meeting. Beth motioned and Meghan Gautney seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

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

Jenny Wells presented Policy FD (TSBVI) – Admissions for amendment to Committee members.

Beth Jones motioned to approve and amend Policy FD as presented and Meghan Gautney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Miles Fain reported that all 12 of the teacher vacancies were filled to begin the school year. Two of the positions will be filled by long-term substitute teachers. Ten teacher aide and 11 residential instructor positions remain unfilled. This will be an ongoing challenge to begin the school year. Mr. Fain next presented three MOU's for the Committee's approval.

- a. Consideration of ratification of MOU between Dell Medical School at UT Austin and TSBVI for the provision of pediatric and adolescent behavioral health services via telehealth

Beth Jones motioned to ratify the MOU between Dell Medical School at UT Austin and TSBVI for the provision of pediatric and adolescent behavioral health services via telehealth. Meghan Gautney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Consideration of ratification of MOU between Texas Tech University Personnel Prep Programs and TSBVI

Beth Jones motioned to ratify the MOU between Texas Tech University Personnel Prep Programs and TSBVI. Meghan Gautney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Consideration of ratification of MOU between Stephen F. Austin State University Personnel Prep Programs and TSBVI

Beth Jones motioned to ratify the MOU between Stephen F. Austin State University Personnel Prep Programs and TSBVI. Meghan Gautney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Sara Merritt provided information related to the 2021-22 Short-Term Programs and the Summer 2002 program:

- a. Short-Term Programs school year numbers for the 2021-22 school year - 310 students attended or 119 as an unduplicated student count.
- b. Update on the Summer 2022 program. The program received 299 applications and, of those, 282 students were invited to attend summer in-person and online programs. Initial confirmed attendance was 240 students and 220 actually attended. Several students were unable to attend due to COVID.
- c. Angela Wolf and Ms. Merritt talked about the partnerships formed with families to discuss and address student behavior and health issues.

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

Kate Board provided information about Outreach Program activities:

- a. Outreach has already received several requests for consultations and training to start the school year.
- b. The Texas Action Committee for the Education of Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired formed a new subcommittee to target child find issues, with a focus on Early Childhood. Mary Shore (from Outreach) and Alexa Poyner (ESC 10) will serve as chairs. The first meeting is in August.
- c. Coffee Hour: Outreach will continue providing weekly Coffee Hour sessions. One change will be sessions that will kick-off study groups. CVI, Active Learning, and Deafblind studies will be the first groups.
- d. The SWOMA Conference and the Deafblind Symposium will be held in person this school year. Both will be in Round Rock.
- e. Kate shared some of the upcoming calendar items:
  - i. Sept 19: DBMAT
  - ii. Oct 5-6: Intro to the Intervener Team Model Workshop
  - iii. Oct 12: White Cane Day
  - iv. Oct 20: CVI Study Group starts
  - v. Oct 23-25: Mentor Center
- f. Cecilia Robinson won the COSB Outstanding Service Provider award and Miles shared that Dori Sanatori won the POSB Outstanding Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment award.

## **7. Adjournment**

Beth Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meghan Gautney seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:51 a.m.

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