

**TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE  
January 31, 2025**

**1. Call to order**

Brenda Lee called to order the meeting of the TSBVI Board Committee on Programs at 8:02 a.m. on January 31, 2025 from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1100 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas.

Board members Brenda Lee and Elaine Robertson were in attendance in-person. Beth Jones and Maghan Gautney attended via Zoom.

TSBVI staff members participating in the meeting were: Angela Wolf, Curriculum Director; Miles Fain, Principal of Comprehensive Programs; Eden Hagleman, Principal of Short-Term Programs; Erica Cairns, Outreach Director; G’Nell Price, Assistant Principal; and Kim Conlin, Speech Language Pathologist.

**2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of the November 22, 2024 Meeting**

Brenda Lee asked for consideration of the minutes from the November 22, 2024 Program Committee meeting. Maghan Gautney motioned to approve the minutes and Beth Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

a. Calendar and Routines

Miles Fain introduced G’Nell Price and Kim Conlin. Ms. Conlin began by explaining what calendar systems are and how they are used with students. She stated that calendar systems are very helpful for students with complex access needs, including students who are deafblind, and how calendars use object, tactile, or picture symbols to support building concepts. Videos were presented to the Program Committee displaying how different calendars have been used with students at TSBVI. Routines have clear beginning, middle and end steps and are often used to help students develop work-related skills. Routines can also help build relationships and trust through their consistency, help students develop communication, and build independence. They can be built around IEP goals and also student interests.

**4. Report from the Curriculum Department Director, Angela Wolf**

a. Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution to Convene the TSBVI School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to Recommend Curriculum and Materials Related to Human Sexuality Instruction

Angela Wolf explained that the SHAC would like to review additional instructional materials for Human Sexuality. Texas Education Code states that any course materials and

instruction relating to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome shall be selected by the board of trustees with the advice of the local school health advisory council.

TSBVI's Policy EHAA requires the Board to adopt a resolution convening the School Health Advisory Council for the purpose of making recommendations regarding curriculum materials for the School's instruction related human sexuality.

After adoption of a resolution by the Board and prior to making recommendations to the Board, the SHAC must hold at least two public meetings before adopting their recommendations. The SHAC's recommendations must then be presented to the Board for approval by a record vote at a public meeting.

Prior to the Board's adoption of the curriculum materials for the School's human sexuality instruction, the Board must ensure that the materials are:

1. based on the advice of the SHAC;
2. suitable for the subject and grade level for which the curriculum materials are intended; and
3. reviewed by academic experts in the subject and grade level for which the curriculum materials are intended.

Ms. Wolf asked that the Board consider adopting the resolution provided in the Board's packet to convene TSBVI's School Health Advisory Council to recommend curriculum materials for instruction relating to human sexuality.

Elaine Robertson made a motion to adopt the resolution to convene the SHAC. Maghan Gautney seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Ms. Wolf next provided a brief update on the Curriculum Department including the status of the open ECC (Expanded Core Curriculum) position, book projects in progress, and training they have provided at Education Service Centers (ESCs) on the curriculum *Essential Tools of the Trade*.

## **5. Report from Short-Term Programs Principal, Dr. Eden Hagelman**

### **a. Short-Term Programs (STP) Update**

Dr. Eden Hagelman reported that STP held the Game of Life class last weekend and added that Elementary Access is scheduled soon. She has identified the low-referring regions of the state as Regions 2, 5, 8, 9, and 15. Region 8 has 81 students, whereas others have much larger student counts. She has communicated with each of the regions and is scheduling meetings to promote STP offerings.

### **b. Update on Summer 2025 Programs**

The application for students to attend the 2025 summer programs is open until February 14th. The Health Center is reviewing applications as they come in. A PE class for credit will be offered again with the same teacher from last year.

## **6. Report from Outreach Director, Erica Cairns**

a. Outreach Program update

Erica Cairns reported that the Outreach Department is wrapping up the VI registration and deafblind count. There have been a few glitches, but those have been resolved quickly. Details are being finalized for the Deafblind Symposium with registration closing February 14th. The Mentor Center is scheduled for Sunday-Tuesday of this week. Outreach has had many requests for student consultations as well as many districts reaching out with various questions. Some of the recent requests are specifically about routines and calendar systems. All Outreach positions are filled at this time. Ms. Cairns stated that she has been connecting with ESCs and she is also working on the Outreach needs assessment.

**7. Adjournment**

Elaine Robertson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Maghan Gautney seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.