

**TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PROGRAM COMMITTEE
October 7, 2024**

1. Call to Order

Beth Jones called to order the meeting of the TSBVI Board Committee on Programs at 8:02 a.m. on October 7, 2024, from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1100 West 45th Street, Austin, Texas.

Board members Beth Jones, Elaine Robertson, Hillary Rodriguez, and Lee Sonnenberg were in attendance. Program Committee members Brenda Lee and Maghan Gautney were not in attendance.

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 Cairnes, Outreach Director; Jenny Wells, School Attorney; Emily Coleman, Superintendent; Ana Villarreal, ESL Coordinator; and Janet Bean, Assessment Coordinator.

2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of the May 24, 2024 Meeting

Beth Jones asked for consideration of the minutes from the May 24, 2024 Program Committee meeting. Lee Sonnenberg motioned to approve the minutes and Beth Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Report from Comprehensive Programs Principal, Miles Fain

a. Statewide Assessment Results:

Janet Bean provided the Board with information related to STAAR and STAAR Alt testing. TSBVI had sixteen students eligible to take the STAAR in grades 3-8. Seven of the students had to have the ELAR test read aloud to them, so they received a non-passing score. Eighteen students were eligible to take the End-of-Course (EOC) exams, and six students were eligible to take STAAR Alt.

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

Miles Fain introduced Ana Villarreal, who is taking over the ESL coordination for the school. This year, Janet is providing the data for the ESL program, but next year Anna will be taking over the reporting. Last year, there were nine Emergent Bilingual students and two graduated. All students at TSBVI are scored holistically because of the visual nature of the TELPAS. This year, there are 14 Emergent Bilingual students.

c. Plan to Promote Academic Excellence:

Mr. Fain reviewed the plan for academic improvement. He noted various professional development and instructional strategies that would be implemented. He also discussed the tutoring programming that students receive as needed.

d. Consideration of Membership to the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC):

Mr. Fain reviewed the recommendation to approve the members of the SHAC for the 2024-2025 school year. Proposed members include the following individuals:

- Parent/Guardian Representatives - Jennifer Schneider, Tamara Benford, Kilari Pavani, Elsie Medina, Brittany Nowakowski
- TSBVI staff member Representatives - Nancy Fitch, TSBVI School Counselor and Angela Wolf, Curriculum Director

Lee Sonnenberg moved to approve the recommendation as presented. Beth Jones seconded, and the motion passed.

e. Comprehensive Programs Update:

Mr. Fain reported on the recent Comprehensive Programs professional development day. He overviewed some of the topics that were offered including STAAR strategy training, Sensory Efficiency and behavior, and various technology trainings. Feedback was positive overall from teachers.

4. Report from Curriculum Department Director, Angela Wolf

a. TSBVI Student Progress Measure Results:

Angela Wolf reported on the Performance Measures for the 2023-2024 school year that are tied to accreditation by the Texas Education Agency. There are three measures that are reported to the TEA that are also reported to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). The rate of performance expected that is set with TEA versus the LBB may differ. Ms. Wolf focused on the Performance Indicator (PI) data. She noted that TSBVI did not meet the established measure for Performance Indicators in the 2023-2024 school year. The standard set was 85% with TEA and the School achieved 81.51%. She overviewed strategies that are being implemented to support meeting the criteria in the future. The Curriculum team is working on a PI revision project to better align the PIs with updated TEKS. The team is also working to better train teachers about administering the PI evaluations with fidelity.

Ms. Wolf stated that TSBVI received a TEA grant to help develop an ECC (Expanded Core Curriculum) evaluation tool and instructional materials aligned with the tool. They will be posting this position to hire someone to coordinate this effort.

5. Report from Short-Term Programs (STP) Principal, Dr. Eden Hagelman

a. Short-Term Programs Update:

Dr. Hagelman stated that summer programs were successful. The PE credit class was popular and will be offered again. The art course went well, but it may not be offered again because of the need for staff resources. Only three students were enrolled, and the certified teacher providing the instruction for the class was also a summer coordinator.

Currently, the Heart of Texas class is happening in Short-Term Programs. Students are working on community projects that they will be donating to different organizations. STP recently completed Elementary and Junior Access programs. Dr. Hagelman

reported that Short-Term Programs is fully staffed except for a 40% time teacher that will be posted. The Health Center is fully staffed.

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6. Report from Outreach Director, Erica Cairnes

a. Outreach Programs Update:

Erica Cairns stated that Outreach has had requests for 16 resources, 58 requests for training, and 45 requests for consultations since August 1st. There are a lot of questions about evaluations. The Deafblind Team is very busy supporting questions about communication. Outreach is continuing Coffee Hour and Tech Tea time presentations and is discussing how to expand the participant base. They are also considering whether to continue the Parent Recharge Zone program, as it has not been as well-attended as in the past. They have started a marketing committee in Outreach that is developing ideas of how to get the word out about the various programming events.

Ms. Cairns noted how many new teachers are in the field. There are 107 individuals who have started in one of the state VI certification programs. They are looking at how to provide training and support for all of these new teachers. QPVI (Quality Programs for the Visually Impaired) is still being offered.

Outreach is hosting study groups for professionals across the state including one with the Nordic Welfare Center's publication, *If You Can See It, You Can Support It*.

The SWOMA (Southwest O&M Association) Conference is coming up November 3-5 in Round Rock. Planning for the Deafblind Symposium in February continues. The Low Vision Conference will be on May 16th and Outreach is collaborating with ESC Region 11 for the Active Learning Conference.

Outreach still has an O&M position opening, but otherwise is fully staffed.

7. Consideration of Approval of Board Policies

DMBA (TSBVI) Special Programs Training: Training Related to Visual Impairments:

Jenny Wells introduced the policies that needed to be updated. Policy DMBA is related to the timeline for teachers seeking their TSVI certification. The amendment to the policy would allow a principal/director to give written approval to extend the timeline for an extra twelve months for extenuating circumstances.

EHAA Basic Instructional Program: Required Instruction (All Levels):

Ms. Wells explained that Policy EHAA includes sections related to the Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) that are proposed for amendment. TSBVI has been following requirements in Texas Education Code but the policy needs to be updated to reflect the practice.

Elaine Robertson made a motion to amend both policies and Hillary Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. Adjournment

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