

**TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PROGRAM COMMITTEE
April 4, 2025**

1. Call to Order

Brenda Lee called to order the meeting of the TSBVI Board Committee on Programs at 8:00 a.m. on April 4, 2025 from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1100 West 45th Street, Austin, Texas.

Board members Brenda Lee, Beth Jones, and Maghan Gautney were 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 (STP); Erica Cairnes, Outreach Director; Daniel Wheeler, Instructional Technology Coordinator; Joanne Rodgers, STP Teacher; John Rose, STP Teacher; and Patrick Healy, Dual Program Coordinator for Comprehensive Programs.

2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of the January 31, 2025 Meeting

Brenda Lee asked for consideration of the minutes from the January 31, 2025 Program Committee meeting. Beth Jones motioned to approve the minutes and Maghan Gautney seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Consideration and Vote on Proposed 2025-2026 School Calendar

Miles Fain reviewed the proposed calendar and highlighted some changes from the current calendar, including having an additional professional development date in April. In order to cover the operational minutes, there will be consideration of a waiver for staff professional development.

Maghan Gautney made a motion to approve the calendar and the submission of the waiver of operational minutes and Beth Jones seconded. The motion passed.

4. Report from Comprehensive Programs Principal, Miles Fain

a. Update on Professional Learning Communities

Miles Fain introduced Daniel Wheeler who has played a major role in the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in Comprehensive Program over the past few years. They are in the third year of implementation. He reviewed the history and intended purpose of the PLC structures, including addressing some of the concerns from the biannual employee engagement survey. There are a total of 16 PLCs that meet weekly. Staff have given positive feedback about the PLCs. Each year that input and feedback is considered to make iterative changes to the structure.

Daniel Wheeler introduced John Rose, Joanne Rodgers, and Patrick Healy to share their experiences as a leader of a PLC and the benefits and challenges they have encountered through the process.

Mr. Fain also reported on the number of students enrolled. Currently there are 143 students and, if more residential staff were available, the program would be able to enroll more. Mr. Fain added that another job fair will take place at the end of the year.

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

a. Short-Term Program update

Dr. Eden Hagelman reported that the Capitol Experience class is happening this week and there are five classes scheduled before the end of the school year.

b. Update on Summer 2025 programs

Dr. Hagelman reported that 262 completed applications were received for summer programs and 229 students were accepted. There are 122 students on the waitlist. Both the SWEAT and WALIC programs are full and have a waiting list. Only 9 students were determined to be ineligible.

6. Report from Outreach Director, Erica Cairns

a. Outreach Program update

Erica Cairns reported on the recent Deafblind Symposium. There were 267 attendees including 45 families. She also spoke about an Outreach Program needs assessment that she recently sent out to customers that included revised questions. Based on the results of the needs assessment, she is considering how to increase marketing efforts and how to offer training through online options. Outreach is also starting to build out a conference calendar for next year and considering when other professional conferences are taking place so there is not saturation at any given time.

b. Statewide VI Registry and Deafblind Child Count

Ms. Cairns stated that the VI registry had some issues and the system had to be reset. Ultimately, there were 898 deafblind students registered. The second phase for the VI registry closes at the end of April.

7. Adjournment

Beth Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Maghan Gautney seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.