APPROVED

TEXAS CENTER FOR ARTS + ACADEMICS

# Texas Center for Arts + Academics

# Minutes

## TCA+A Session of the Board

**Date and Time**
Monday December 7, 2020 at 5:30 PM

**Location**
Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88369976841

Meeting ID: 883 6997 6841

One tap mobile
+13462487799,,88369976841# US (Houston)
+16699006833,,88369976841# US (San Jose)

**Video/Audio Conferencing Notice**: *Pursuant to Governor Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020, the December 7, 2020* ***TCAA Special Session of the Board*** *will be conducted via video conference on the Zoom Video Conference platform, which will be audible to the Board and public and allow for two-way communication. The Board Chair, presiding officer, or trustees will not be physically present at one location, but a quorum will be required for the meeting on the video conference or phone.*

**Directors Present**
Charles Reid (remote), Daniel Bates (remote), Leslie Scott (remote), Leslie Wade (remote), Mary A. Zimmerman (remote), Melissa Goodroe (remote), Michael Wellbaum (remote)

**Directors Absent**
*None*

**Ex Officio Members Present**
Paul Gravley (remote)

**Guests Present**
Betsy Compton (remote), Janelle Grau (remote), Nancy Vaughan (remote), Penny Clay (remote), Phillip Garrott (remote), Sheyna Ferraro (remote)

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance and Guests

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

Melissa Goodroe called a meeting of the board of directors of Texas Center for Arts + Academics to order on Monday Dec 7, 2020 at 5:43 PM.

## II. Public Comments

### A. Public Comments

- No Public Comments were made.

## III. Consent Agenda

### A. Approve 11/17/2020 Minutes

Michael Wellbaum made a motion to approve the minutes from TCAA Board Meeting on 11-17-20.
Mary A. Zimmerman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### B. Approve 11/20/2020 Minutes

Michael Wellbaum made a motion to approve the minutes from TCAA Session of the Board on 11-20-20.
Mary A. Zimmerman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## IV. Closed Session

### A. Convened to Closed Session at 5:46pm.

- Opened in Closed Session at 5:49pm.

- Closed Closed Session at 6:39pm.

**B. Reconvened Open Session at 6:42pm.**

## V. Academics

### A. TeSA

Discuss and consider grade level structure at TeSA regarding 6th grade

Removal of 6th grade reasoning:

- Financial
  - in order for the school to break even with 2 teachers we need 29.6 sixth grade students enrolled
  - currently there are 32 fifth grade students
  - we've seen a loss of 32% of 5th graders moving into 6th grade each year so that means there would only be 22 students in 6th grade which does not meet the 30 student minimum needed
- Education
  - 6 graders' needs are better met by multiple teachers teaching core subjects
  - other local middle schools start at 6th grade
  - social emotional needs are better met with same-age peers
- Intangible
  - 3 TeSA teachers currently have 5th graders
  - the current class of 5th graders are mostly audition-based students vs complete lottery-based students which may make turn over less for the coming school year
  - time line is tight with open enrollments already happening at other schools

Options:

- 1 - Make TeSA a true elementary campus by 2022-2023 year; keep 6th grade for 2021-2022 with the following caveats:
  - best educationally for students to have 2 teachers
  - hit break even point with 30 students enrolled
  - no final decision until auditions are complete
- 2 - Make TeSA a true elementary by 2021-2022 by not filling 6th grade at all
- 3 - Continue with 6th grade for 2021-2022 regardless of enrollment numbers; make decision the year after
- 4 - Continue with 6th grade indefinitely

Recommendation:

- Mr. Gravley recommends Option 1 due to financial and educational reasons
- He feels those buckets out weigh other reasons that are just as valid and knows these are real people, real students who love TeSA
- We need to ensure long term viability of TeSA and plan for the best educational options for all students

Charles Reid made a motion to approve Option 1 which makes TeSA a true elementary campus by 2022-2023, keeping 6th grade for 2021-2022 with caveats listed above as well as any TEA caveats.
Mary A. Zimmerman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## VI. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Goodroe

### B. CERTIFICATE AS TO POSTING OR GIVING OF NOTICE