OPENING:
The 6th meeting of the UTPB STEM ACADEMY was called to order at 12:07 P.M. on December 5, 2014 on the campus of UTPB, 4901 University Blvd, Odessa, TX, in room 4206 by Dr. Juli Ratheal.

PRESENT:
Dr. Juli Ratheal, Dr. Luis Trueba, Dr. Roy Hurst, Dr. Yolanda Salgado, Dr. Kevin Badgett, Dr. Tracie Gibson, Brandon Batte and Karey Grametbaur.

1. Call to Order – Confirm Quorum is Present:
Quorum was met.

2. Pledge:
Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag led by Makaleigh Niemann, Student Council Representative.
Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag led by Kacie Boone, Student Council Representative.

3. Cora Smith, Madison Peck, Meredith Daniels, Tyler White, Alexandria Ewing, Brinley Batte, Jonathan Rios and Anthony Castro gave presentations for the Garden. Makaleigh Niemann, Sarahann Adams, Makenzie Craig gave presentations for the Playground. Dr. Seybert stated that the Academy had applied for several grants to fund these projects.

4. Public Forum:
None

ACTION ITEMS:

5. A request for motion was made by Dr. Ratheal to approve minutes from the November Board Meeting. Dr. Hurst motioned to approve and seconded by Mr. Batte.
Dr. Ratheal asked for a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent Position under Sec. 551.074. Dr. Trueba motioned to move to Executive Session and Dr. Salgado seconded.

The Board moved to Executive Session at 12:32 p.m.

A request for motion to reconvene the open session was made by Dr. Ratheal. Mr. Batte motioned to reconvene at 1:12 p.m. and Dr. Trueba seconded.

6. Dr. Ratheal gave a brief summary of what was discussed in Executive Session. Dr. Badgett offered his resignation, he has decided to return to his faculty tenure track position.

Dr. Ratheal called for a vote to accept Dr. Badgett’s resignation. The board vote was 6 yes and 0 no, the motion to accept was carried.

Dr. Badgett stated he will continue in this role until December 31, 2014. January 1, 2015 he will continue to manage many of the duties he has in special programs. Dr. Badgett requested a vote to recognize Dr. Ratheal as Superintendent of STEM Academy starting January 1, 2015. A board vote was taken and the vote was 6 yes and 0 no. Dr. Ratheal will be the Superintendent starting January 1, 2015. Dr. Ratheal announced Dr. Seybert’s title will change from Principal and Curriculum Director to Deputy Superintendent, and Dr. Badgett will be Special Programs Facilitator/Special Education Teacher through May 29th. A position will be posted for Curriculum Director and Dean of Students. Dr. Ratheal announced she will step down as the Board President, and Dr. Christopher Hiatt, Associate Professor of Mathematics will assume the board president roles starting on the January Meeting.

Mr. Batte has asked to step out at 1:15 p.m. There is still a quorum represented, the board is beyond their decision making point in the board meeting and no decision will be made after Mr. Batte leaves.

BOARD INFORMATION

Dr. Ratheal asked that Board Information 7 and 8 be switched in order for Ms. Campbell to attend another meeting.

7. Dr. Seybert presented a screen shot of the report card and explained the grading process. The grading scale is 0 to 5, 5 being achieved advance mastery and a 0 needs complete reteach. Dr. Seybert stated we have an attendance rate of 96%. We have sent home letters for students with attendance and tardy problems. The STEM Academy needs to have a target population they are driving into the STEM field. The area we are nearest to fulfilling is the boy/girl ratio, we are currently 11 girls shy of meeting this target.
8. Lindsey Campbell handed a Financial Data Report to board members, she reiterated that the University still has not completed the People Soft conversion, and that the totals are just estimated until the programs are up and functioning. She reported a Foundation Allotment of $169,168.00 deposited on November 24, 2014 and $2,113.00, Smoothie Shop (5th grade PBL) deposited on November 17, 2014 totaling $171,281.00 deposits for November. Ms. Campbell stated the STEM Academy has $49,689.63 total expenses and $324,000.00 estimated Salaries through November making a total estimated expense of $373,689.63 leaving us close to $300,000.00 in reserve. Ms. Campbell explained that the University will now be charging us rent, janitorial service and utilities. Dr. Ratheal explained that we would be charged $10.00 a foot, totaling about $14,000.00 a month for rent.

9. Superintendent’s Update
   a. Dr. Badget reported we have identified a LEP student. The student has been assigned to a teacher with ESL certification. The student’s parent has volunteered to serve as the parent representative on the LPAC Committee.
   b. Dr. Badgett stated that Dr. Ratheal had asked Region 18 to come and look at our folders. They identified some things that we needed to be aware of. Region 18 recommended we have a special education teacher. Dr. Badgett will be moving into this role and provide some of these direct services. The Academy has selected the Barton Method for the Dyslexia program and Dr. Jeannine Hurst and Dr. Ann Marie Smith and several parents have agreed to support our Dyslexia program.
   c. The program should be available to student at the start of next semester.
   d. The board needs to set dates and times for the spring semester board meetings. The next board meeting will be January 15, 2015 at noon, room 4211. Decisions will be made at the next board meeting for future dates and times of board meetings.

Ms. Karey Grametbaur left the board meeting at 1:50 p.m., we still have a quorum.

ADJOURNMENT:

There were no additional comments or discussion so a motion was made by Dr. Tracie Gibson to adjourn seconded by Dr. Hurst. The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Next meeting:

TBD

Minutes submitted by: Kathy Holloway