

**NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
5900 EVERS ROAD, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78238**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, August 22, 2023  
6:00 PM**

**Members present**

**Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran**

**Staff members:**

**Dr. Craft, Ray Galindo, Janis Jordan, Rene Barajas, Tiffany Contreras,  
Leroy San Miguel, Barry Perez, Kelly Rasti, Lori Jones, Ben Muir, Nicole Franco,  
Jacob Villarreal, Eric Tobias, Jessica Palomares**

**1. Notice of Meeting**

A: No Virtual Link Required

**2. Meeting Opening**

Procedural: A. Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance  
K. Freeman

Procedural: B. Call Meeting to Order  
6:04 p.m.

**3. Public Hearings**

Discussion, Information: A. Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate for 2023-2024

In compliance with Section 44.004 of Texas Education Code, a notice of a public meeting to discuss budget and proposed tax rate was published in the San Antonio Express-News. Public participation in the discussion is invited. Adoption of the budget and tax rate will take place later in the agenda.

A public hearing was held to discuss the budget and proposed tax rate for 2023-2024.

Suggestions:

Freeman - We don't control appraised values and cont. increasing

Harle - Tax Info - to be placed on website to have available to the public

ADA - last year

**4. Superintendent's Report**

Information, Reports: A. The Superintendent will report about current events, announce achievements or special recognitions, and share other information that may be of interest to Trustees or citizens. No action is required.

- Support Leadership Institute. The Support Leadership Institute held on July 26 went well. The event included a successful Stuff the Bus school supply drive thanks to donations from staff and special thanks to Southwest Research Institute who dropped off a truck load of supplies.
- Servant Leadership Summit. Working collaboratively, the NISD Athletics and Whole Child departments hosted a great Servant Leadership Summit with hundreds of hundreds of students, coaches, and parents participating. With the theme, "We Are F.A.M.I.L.Y." (Forget About Me I Love You), the focus was on mental health, hope, and family. Students shared helpful tips and insights, and speakers from the world of Athletics and our Counseling Dept. provided priceless strategies. Special thanks to Assistant Superintendent of Athletics Stan Laing and Assistant Superintendent of Whole Child Dr. Kimberly Ridgely for helping to organize the event.
- Enrichment Academies. NISD kicked off the school year on Aug. 7 at two Enrichment Academies - Cable and Westwood Terrace elementary schools. Principals Tom Knapp (Westwood Terrace) and Debra Pinon (Cable) and their staff had a great start to the year. Texas Land Commissioner Dr. Dawn Buckingham had the opportunity to visit Cable ES during their first day.
- Leadership Institute. The school year began for District leaders at the annual district-wide Leadership Institute hosted at Warren HS. The video of this institute presentation has been made available on the District website.
- Northside Education Foundation (NEF). The Superintendent had the opportunity to meet with the NEF Board, including NEF Board President Emily Persyn.
- Safety First. The Communications Dept. has launched the 2023-2024 Safety First campaign that includes vaping information for parents and students.

- Custodial & maintenance team meeting. Dr. Craft enjoyed meeting custodial and maintenance department team members and thanked dept. directors Jeremy Deck and Micky Hansen.
- Internship Program. Dr. Craft joined in celebrating numerous district interns as a part of SA Works at the Witte Museum.
- Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (TXGRG) Backpack & Resource Fair. TXGRG held a backpack and resource fair at NAC on Aug. 12 providing the opportunity for grandparents to start the year with a backpack filled with school supplies, and the opportunity to talk to several agencies about various resources.
- Jay HS Cluster Event. The Jay HS cluster hosted a back-to-school event at the San Antonio Food Bank. The event was well-attended and provided numerous resources to those who attended. 2 BOARDTalk 2023-2024 published by the Communications Department, Northside Independent School District
- New Teacher Academy. District staff hosted two New Teacher academies at Brandeis HS for both elementary and secondary staff.
- Block Walk. Dr. Craft joined approximately 500 teachers from Ross MS and Esparza, Linton, Martin, Powell, and Villarreal elementary schools as well as NISD Board members, and invited elected officials to walk the community. Their goal was to visit as many families as possible and greet students before the first day of school.
- Convocations 2023. The first day of District Convocations began Aug. 22 with the theme: Team Northside: One Team, One Vision. Convocation will continue Aug. 23-24. Convocation pictures can be found on Employee Connection under "Announcements."
- Staffing Update. Dr. Craft provided an update to the Trustees on the current staffing situation in the District. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Ben Muir and his dept. have made significant progress in ensuring vacancy numbers continue to drop.
- First Day of School. NISD schools will be open and ready to welcome approximately 102,000 students on Aug. 28

## 5. Board Member's Report

Reports: A. Board Members who wish to speak will report about current events, announce achievements or special recognitions, and share other information that may be of interest to Trustees or citizens. No action is required.

- Trustee David Salcido attended and enjoyed the first two Convocation events and had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Board at one.
- Trustee Gerald Lopez participated in the recent TXGRG community event where over 250 backpacks were distributed and various service providers were on hand to help families. He thanked the following individuals: TXGRG Executive Director Mercedes Bristol, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning Diana Ely, Assistant Superintendent of Whole Child Dr. Kim Ridgley, Dr. Craft, Trustee Bobby Blount, Ross MS Principal Faustino Ortega, and Ross MS Family & Community Liaison Irene Zinsmeister. Lopez also attended the Ross MS Block Walk which was featured by local media and even included a surprise visit by the Spurs Coyote. Following the first day of Convocation, Lopez shared appreciation to the Fine Arts Dept., Assistant Superintendent of Communications Barry Perez and the Communications Dept., as well as the Athletics and Police departments for their contributions to the event.
- Trustee Karla Duran attended the Summer Graduation event and thanked staff who worked summer school and helped to prep summer graduates. Duran thanked community members for supporting the various back-to-school supply drives and acknowledged, in particular, the efforts of Communities in Schools (CIS) in "stuff the bus" events. She also acknowledged the efforts of all those working to hire staff in preparation for the new school year.
- Trustee Bobby Blount complimented Dr. Craft on two great Convocation events. He thanked Trustee Lopez for his work with the recent TXGRG backpack event. Blount participated in the Ross MS Block Walk and enjoyed connecting with staff and community members.
- Trustee Corinne Saldana enjoyed attending the Servant Leadership Summit and the Ross MS Block Walk events. She also enjoyed day one of Convocations and acknowledged the Fine Arts and Athletics departments for their work. Saldana also enjoyed attending the New Teacher Academies. She reminded Trustees that volleyball season is off to a great start and that football season will open on Aug. 24.
- Trustee Carol Harle thanked Assistant Superintendents Stan Laing (Athletics) and Dr. Kim Ridgley (Whole Child) for their efforts in organizing the Servant Leadership Summit and acknowledged event speaker Stephen Mackey. Harle attended a recent Bexar County Education Coalition meeting and briefed fellow Trustees.
- Trustee Karen Freeman congratulated Dr. Craft on his first day of Convocations. She made Trustees aware of a future Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards (TASA/TASB) convention. Freeman congratulated Trustee Saldana on being accepted to Leadership TASB.

## 6. Recognitions

Information: A. There are no items for this meeting.

## 7. Reports

Information: A. Reports

## 8. Citizens to be Heard

Procedural: A. Citizens wishing to address the Board regarding matters not listed on the posted agenda will be heard at this time.

W. Longoria - AFT  
TXGRG - Donation

Concerns:  
HB114 - Vaping - new guidelines w/out funding  
Consider intervention piece - get to the root of the issue.  
Grace period to adjust to consequences

Caesar Campos Luna Parent - Follow up with Ray Galindo

Issues: Safety

- Feb 4 - Struck by vehicle
- 50 miles per hr.
- No sidewalks on Grossenbaucher
- No street lights
- No crossing guards
- Request consider Weston Oaks
- bus routes or a school zone for drivers

Grace Garza - Parent/Employee

- ECC- too high of a cost PreK 4 SA -
- Suggestion: Discount rate Parents who work in the district
- Unpaid leave for Paid time off

## 9. Consent Agenda

Approval: A. The Consent Agenda includes items that are considered routine and/or are of a recurring nature. All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be acted upon in one motion.

Action (Consent): B. Minutes from the Meetings of July Board Meetings

Action (Consent), Approval: C. Awarding of Bids, Request for Proposals, and Purchases over \$50,000

Action (Consent): D. 2023-2024 School Health Advisory Council

Action (Consent), Approval: E. 2023-2024 TEA Waiver for First Grade NWEA MAP Reading Fluency Assessment

Action (Consent): F. School District Teaching Permit

Action (Consent), Approval: G. 23-24 District Professional Development Plan

Action (Consent), Approval: H. 2023-2024 Memorandum of Understanding with Bexar County Juvenile Board

Action (Consent), Approval: I. Exterior/Interior Colors for Building Replacement - Westwood Terrace Elementary School

Action (Consent), Approval: J. Exterior Colors for Administration Suite Replacement & Energy Control Upgrades - Sam Rayburn Middle School

Action (Consent), Approval: K. Contractor for Athletic Upgrades - John Marshall High School - IDQ RFP #2022-164 Project #23-004-164

Action (Consent), Approval: L. Contractor for Boiler Replacement - Henry T. Brauchle Elementary School - RFCSP #2023-085

Action (Consent), Approval: M. Contractor for Chiller Replacement - W. Z. "Doc" Burke Elementary School - RFCSP #2023-074

Action (Consent), Approval: N. Second Reading and Adoption of AF(LOCAL)

Action (Consent), Approval: O. Change Orders

Motion by Carol Harle, second by Gerald Lopez.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

## 10. Curriculum and Instruction

Information: A. There are no items for this meeting.

## 11. Facilities and Operations

Action, Approval: A. Schematic Design for Addition/Renovation - Jack C. Jordan Middle School Magnet

Presenter: N/A

Budget Provisions: 2022 Bond Program

Committee: Building Committee - August 16, 2023

Recommended Action: Approval

The 2022 Bond Program provided for a new Digital Media Magnet at Jack C. Jordan Middle School. A schematic design has been developed by the architect and is ready for presentation.

Approval of the schematic design for the Jack C. Jordan Digital Media Magnet as presented by Pfluger Architects, Inc. is recommended.

Suggestions:

Salcido - Glass in foyer - is that a safety issue?

Response: Glass is for visibility, not a classroom students would be safe.

Decor, color will be added, display cases, monitors etc

This is still a work in progress

Window being removed if seen as a safety issue.

Lopez- Safety - line of sight

2nd floor - sliding door with swing door

Response - moved swing door to one side for added coverage

Sliding glass door -adding film to make it harder to see in and also make it bulletproof

Saldana - Backside - not being comfortable with long window

Recommendation - Film and can resize the window

Bobby - input from CCA

Fencing - will it have gates for parents to access games, maintenance, etc.?

Karla stepped away - no vote on her behalf

Motion by Corinne Saldana, second by Gerald Lopez.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido

Not Present at Vote: Karla Duran

Action, Approval: B. Schematic Design for Building Replacement - Gregorio Esparza Elementary School

Presenter: N/A

Budget Provisions: 2022 Bond Program

Committee: Building Committee - August 16, 2023

Recommended Action: Approval

The 2022 Bond Program provided for building upgrades related to cafeteria/gym and various renovations at Gregorio Esparza Elementary School. A schematic design has been developed by the architect consistent with previously approved master plan, and schematic design is ready for presentation.

Comments/Suggestions:

Duran - Pillars of colors will stay

Saldana - Liked it and motions

Bobby - flood plain question and explained by architect

Freeman - Comment - Revisit colors so there is no restraint on architect- ex: gray

Approval of the schematic design for the Building Replacement at Gregorio Esparza Elementary School as presented by Kaarlsen Noonan Rittimann Garcia Architecture is recommended.

Motion by Corinne Saldana, second by Karen Freeman.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Discussion: C. Colonies North Elementary School 2022 Bond Program Project

Presenter: Leroy San Miguel

Budget Provisions: 2022 Bond Program

Committee: Building Committee August 16, 2023

Recommended Action: Discussion

The 2022 bond program provided for a cafeteria/gym/classroom replacement project. After the 2022 bond program was authorized, it was noticed that an older part of an existing classroom building has experienced a substantial amount of foundation differential settlement between buildings. Subsequently, a structural engineer was employed to review the settlement and it was determined the facility appears to be safe for occupation.

Staff recommends a discussion regarding the sequencing of the existing Master Plan, scope of the project, reallocation of existing bond funds, and next steps.

## Comments/Suggestions

Saldana:

Changing things voters might not be happy about that.  
Have to meet with the community members to get final decision  
Spend money again on the fixes or build a brand new school

Craft:

Host a meeting at the campus  
Addressed sooner than later  
Long game in mind - feedback input and family engagement

Where do we place students?

Detour from original plan?

Timeline - decision on this

Duran -Done in phases

Harle -Land for portables and or limited playground

Bond - community demands specifics

## 12. Business and Finance

Action, Approval: A. Budget Amendment No 3 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Budget amendment No. 3 for the 2022-2023 budget will be presented for approval.

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Action, Approval: B. Commitment of Fund Balance Resolution

Per Board Policy CE (Local) the board shall approve all fund balance commitments by formal action before the end of the fiscal year, with the final amount(s) determined subsequent to the end of the fiscal year.

The resolution commits a portion of the General Fund's fund balance as well as commits special revenue fund balances from local sources for their stated purpose.

Trustees approved the 2023-2024 budgets for the General Fund, Child Nutrition Fund, and Debt Service Fund.

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Action, Approval: C. Consideration and action to approve an Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credits (Netting Chapter 48 Funding) [Option 3 Agreement] and to delegate contractual authority to the Superintendent

At the July 25, 2023, regular board meeting, Administration explained the reasons why the District has to approve an agreement with the Texas Education Agency ("TEA") to purchase attendance credits in the 2023-2024 fiscal year in order to reduce the District's revenue level. Based on the TEA's calculation, the District's Tier Two Level Two yield per weighted average daily attendance (WADA) will exceed the Tier Two Level Two guaranteed yield which will result in excess revenue.

However, TEA is using estimates that, by their own admission, are not current as TEA is using 2022 taxable values to estimate 2023 taxable values and an enrollment estimate for 2023-2024. Nonetheless, under statute school districts that have been notified by the TEA of local revenue in excess of entitlement must enter into an agreement with the TEA to reduce its revenue. Failure to comply with the statute will prevent a district from adopting its tax rate.

\*\*\*The District will not have excess revenue in 2023-2024 and will therefore not have to pay recapture\*\*\*

The Board approved an ordinance fixing and levying the ad valorem taxes for the 2023-2024 school year. The total adopted tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation is \$1.0117 (\$0.6762 for Maintenance and Operations and \$0.3355 for Interest and Sinking).

For the 2023-2024 school year, we delegated contractual authority to obligate the school district under Texas Education Code(TEC) §11.1511(c)(4) to the superintendent, solely for the purpose of obligating the district under TEC, §48.257 and TEC, Chapter 49, Subchapters A and D, and the rules adopted by the commissioner of education as authorized under TEC, 49.006. This included approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit or the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding).

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Corinne Saldana.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Action, Approval: D. Consideration and approval of a resolution by the Board of Trustees of the Northside Independent School District providing for the defeasance and calling for redemption certain currently outstanding obligations; directing that the board secretary, or designee, effectuate the redemption of these obligations; authorizing the execution of an escrow agreement; and other matters in connection therewith

Administration has identified certain outstanding debt issuances that can be defeased with interest and sinking(I&S) tax collections to be collected during the 2023-24 fiscal year. An amount of no less than \$79,775,000 will be defeased.

Lopez, second by David Salcido.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Action, Approval: E. Adoption of 2023-2024 Budget

The proposed 2023-2024 budgets for the General Fund, Child Nutrition Fund, and Debt Service Fund are presented for discussion and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Karen Freeman.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Action, Approval: F. Consideration and Approval of an Ordinance fixing and levying the Northside Independent School District advalorem taxes for the year 2023-2024; directing the assessment and collection thereof, and other matters in connection therewith

An ordinance fixing and levying the ad valorem taxes for the 2023-2024 school year is being presented for approval. The recommended tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation is \$1.0117; \$0.6762 for Maintenance and Operations and \$0.3355 for Interest & Sinking.

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Corinne Saldana.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

### **13. Human Resources**

Action, Discussion and Possible Approval: A. Consideration of Additional Police Officer Allocations

As a follow up to the school safety discussion at the August 8th board meeting, the following recommended action is being considered for your approval.

Recommended Action: Approval of 20 additional police officer units

Comments/Suggestions

Harle - Part-time offered for all positions or only PD

Retire rehire for PT PD for Elementary Schools

Saldana-

1 teacher as veteran, subs, IA, secretarial

Pass test by the end of the school year

Bobby - kudos to all the hard work and dedication to get safety covered

Freeman - glad we could add these positions

Recruitment Fee applied to all NISD vacant positions?

Motion by Carol Harle, second by Corinne Saldana.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

### **14. Technology Services**

#### **15. Administration**

Information: A. There are no items for this meeting.

#### **16. Superintendent**

Action, Discussion and Possible Approval, Information: A. Consideration of Endorsement for Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board of Directors- Rolinda Schmidt

Current is now deceased -Rolinda is running - no opposition - term is up - Will be President of TASB

Motion by Karen Freeman, second by Corinne Saldana.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Action, Discussion and Possible Approval, Information: B. Board Member Affiliated Memberships & Expenditures

EX: MASBA & TCBSBM

MASBA

Bobby-Confirmed attendance for MASBA

Freeman - Approving membership for MASBA AND TCBSBM and cost

Suggestions:

Lopez asked to bring info. forward NSBA - TX DROPPED OUT

Lopez - Suggestions: NALEO

Bring information to Board: Sept 26

Reminder: Local - cost is not covered

Motion by Karen Freeman, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Procedural: C. Future Agenda Items

### **17. Executive Session**

Information: A. If, during the course of any duly posted meeting, the Board of Trustees determines that a closed or executive session is required regarding an item posted on the Agenda, that session will be held on any or all subjects and purposes permitted by Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, 551.084 of the Government Code (the Open Meetings Law). If a final vote is required on any matter considered in the closed or executive session, it shall be taken either upon the reconvening of the public session covered by this notice or at a subsequent, duly posted, public meeting as the Board shall determine.

President Freeman announced that, in accordance with Texas GovernmentCodeSection551.071theBoard would convene in closed session at 9:17 pm.

Discussion: B. Pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code ("Texas Open Meetings Act"), consultation with the District's legal counsel regarding a settlement offer involving pending litigation numbered and styled as Cause No. 2021-CI-16149; Derina Williams and Larry Horn, Plaintiffs vs. Bexar County and Northside Independent School District, Defendants; In the 57th Judicial District Court of Bexar County, Texas. RECOMMENDED ACTION: CONSULTATION ONLY

Discussion: C. Appointment of Executive Director for Community Outreach/District Advocacy

Discussion: D. Appointment of Associate Principal at John Jay Science & Engineering Academy HS

Discussion: E. Appointment of Associate Principal at Oak Hills Terrace ES

Discussion: F. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Warren High School

Discussion: G. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Rudder MS

### **18. Open Session**

Information: A. Any required action by the Board concerning matters considered in closed meeting will be taken in open session.

The Board reconvened into open session at 9:53p

Action, Discussion and Possible Approval: B. Possible approval of settlement offer and adoption of Resolution pertaining to pending litigation numbered and styled as Cause No. 2021-CI-16149; Derina Williams and Larry Horn,

Plaintiffs vs. Bexar County and Northside Independent School District, Defendants; In the 57th Judicial District Court of Bexar County, Texas. RECOMMENDED ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

Motion by Karen Freeman, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Action, Approval: C. Appointment of Executive Director for Community Outreach/District Advocacy

Motion by Corinne Saldana, second by Gerald Lopez.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Action, Approval: D. Appointment of Associate Principal at John Jay Science & Engineering Academy HS

Action, Approval: E. Appointment of Associate Principal at Oak Hills Terrace ES

Action, Approval: F. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Warren High School

Action, Approval: G. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Rudder MS

Motion by Carol Harle, second by Gerald Lopez.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

## **19. Adjournment**

Procedural: A. Adjourn the Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 26, 2023