



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

BOARDTalk is published to help keep staff and citizens informed about actions of the Northside Independent School District Board of Trustees.

February 25, 2025

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Student Ambassadors.** NISD Student Ambassadors attended a recent PTA Rally Day in Austin and had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol. Dr. Craft commended the students for doing a great job representing the District. The group is facilitated by Assistant Director of Communications **Monica Faulkenbery** and Communication Specialist **Kailey Loza**.
- **Special Olympics.** Special Olympics events kicked off this week.
- **Health Awareness Days.** Friday, Feb. 28, is American Heart Disease Day and Rare Disease Day.
- **Sphero Olympics.** Students recently participated in Sphero Olympics, an engaging STEM event highlighting coding and robotics.
- **Basketball Playoffs.** Congratulations to three NISD basketball teams that competed in playoff competition: the **Brennan HS** Girls basketball team and the boys' basketball teams from **Sotomayor** and **Jay** high schools. Competing on the evening of Feb. 25 were the boy's teams from **Harlan** and **Brennan** high schools. (Update: both teams won and will be advancing to the next round of playoffs.)
- **Students Recognized.** Several NISD students will be recipients of the Texas Thespian Scholar Award next month.
- **NCAA Reading Recognition.** Several NISD elementary schools have been recognized in the NCAA Read to The Final Four literacy challenge. They are **Wernli**, **Ott**, and **Burke** elementary schools.
- **LibraryPaloosa.** The 12th annual LibraryPaloosa was a success and featured several engaging authors. Attendance was high despite poor weather conditions, with 30 percent of attendees being from outside the district.
- **CREST Award.** Congratulations to the multiple NISD schools that earned the CREST Award, a recognition by the Texas School Counselor Association. Appreciation was shared for the district's counselors.
- **Successful Luncheon.** An annual luncheon for former NISD Trustees and Superintendents was held, and many former district leaders attended.
- **FFA & Gerlach Livestock Show.** Congratulations to the District's agricultural and FFA programs and the Walter Gerlach Livestock Show and Sale for raising \$1.3 million to support NISD students.
- **Academic Decathlon.** Several NISD schools, including Warren, O'Connor, Marshall, Health Careers, and Clark high schools, placed or participated in a recent Texas Academic Decathlon competition. Congratulations to Diana Johnston from Health Careers HS, who was named Small School Coach of the Year.
- **Aquatics Success.** Several NISD students wrapped up their swimming and diving season as state competitors.
- **Cheer Competition.** Congratulations to the **Sotomayor HS** Cheer Team on their success at competition.
- **Sotomayor Visit.** U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Sonia Sotomayor** recently visited the NISD high school named in her honor. Justice Sotomayor spoke with students and staff on campus in several assemblies. Thanks to the administration, staff, and students at **Sotomayor HS** for successfully hosting this visit.
- **PTA Rally Day.** The PTA Rally Day in Austin was an opportunity for PTA members and others to engage in advocacy and dialogue with legislators.
- **Legislative Session.** The 89th Legislative session is underway, and the district continues to monitor the session and proposed legislation.
- **Video Moment:** The video moment highlighted the NISD Even Start Program. This federally-funded Title 1 program utilizes a family-centered education model that empowers families to support their child's social, emotional, and academic success by integrating early childhood education, adult education, parent enrichment, interactive literacy activities, and home visits into a unified family literacy program. [Click here to view the video.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** commented that the District hosted the 23rd annual regional science competition. He updated the Trustees that the Board's teacher scholarship had a total of 23 submissions. Blount said the PTA Rally Day was a great event that afforded an opportunity to talk to legislators. He reminded Trustees of the NCAA Read to the Final Four literacy competition and set a personal goal to read at all of the district's 83 elementary schools by the end of April.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** has been participating in the NCAA Reading competition as a reader at multiple elementary schools. She particularly enjoyed witnessing the Dual Language program at **Howman ES**. Saldana said the visit by Justice Sotomayor was a special event, and she commended the campus staff and students for doing an amazing job hosting their school's namesake. Saldana attended the production of Cinderella at **Clark HS**, visited with the NISD Student Ambassadors, and attended the PTA Founder's Day and the Mid-Year Graduation ceremony. Saldana was impressed by first graders at **Cable ES**, who invited her to hear them read. Saldana also attended a Student Voice event, a chili cook-off at **Ott ES**, LibraryPalooza, and the PTA Rally Day in Austin. Saldana thanked all of the coaches whose teams have competed in recent playoff competitions. She congratulated the **Sotomayor HS** band on winning a \$20,000 award in a Metallica contest. Saldana closed by saying that she enjoyed attending Special Olympics.
- **Trustee David Salcido** thanked **Ott ES** Principal **Madeline Bueno** and her campus staff for inviting him to participate in the school's annual Chili Cook-Off. He enjoyed attending the opening ceremony of Special Olympics and appreciated hearing the **Fisher ES** mariachi's performance. Salcido asked Trustees to keep NISD employee **Evangeline Riojas** in their thoughts and prayers after she suffered an accident earlier this school year. Riojas has been an employee of the district for over 50 years.
- **Trustee Homer Guevara** thanked **Warren HS** for inviting him to attend a recent Signing Day event and **Holmes HS & NSITE** for inviting him to their Science Night. He also thanked **Ward ES** Counselor **Gladys Trevino** for inviting him to their campus Pillars of Character event. Guevara enjoyed participating in a recent TASA/TASB conference.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** thanked **Sotomayor HS** Principal **Ada Bohlken** and campus staff for successfully hosting Justice Sotomayor to the campus. Duran recognized students who graduated at the District's mid-year graduation ceremony. She reminded those in attendance of scholarships available through the Cesar E. Chavez Legacy & Educational Foundation (CECLEF). Information on the scholarship process can be found by visiting [the City of San Antonio's CECLEF website](#).
- **Trustee Carol Harle** encouraged Trustees to attend the **Jay HS SEA STEM Fest** event on Feb. 29 beginning at 10 a.m. She was honored to be the keynote speaker at an event that featured **Carnahan ES** and Principal **Lucy Gomez**. Harle acknowledged Elementary Curriculum & Instruction Specialist **Amalia Sollars**, who assisted with the event. Harle was at **Rawlinson MS** to help recognize the campus' Educators of the Year. Harle took a team to the State Capitol on Mental Health and School Support Advocacy Day to meet with Senate Public Education senators on best practices and ideas for students and staff. The team included Presiding Judge of Bexar County Probate Court 1 **Oscar Kazen**, Communities in Schools CEO **Jessica Weaver**, CIS Chief Development & Communications Officer **Jenee Gonzales**, **CAST Teach HS** Principal **Ericka Olivarez**, and two CAST Teach HS students. Harle had the opportunity to read at several elementary schools, including **Krueger**, **Locke Hill**, and **Ellison** elementary schools. She thanked educators **Cynthia Bayardo** and **Desmond DeLeon** for making the visits special. Harle attended **Clark HS's** production of Cinderella. She attended Library Palooza and thanked Director of Library Services **Lisa Kulka**, Clark HS librarian **Lucy Podmore**, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning **Diana Ely**, and all NISD librarians for organizing an incredible event. Harle commented that the visit by Justice Sotomayor was an incredible event and spoke of how the Justice attributed some of her success to libraries and a librarian. Appreciation was given to **Holmes HS** and the NISD Council of PTA for hosting an incredible Founder's Day event. Harle is working with district leaders, including Executive Director of Secondary Administration **Valerie Sisk**, to improve accessibility and participation in the NISD bowling program.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** has been reading at elementary campuses, including **Scobee**, **Steubing**, **Helotes**, and **Kuentz**. Freeman enjoyed the visit by Justice Sotomayor and thanked the **Sotomayor HS** Culinary Arts students for preparing a great lunch for the visit. She congratulated the **Sotomayor HS** band on recently winning a Metallica contest. Freeman cited several district events that she attended, including the PTA Founder's Day at **Holmes HS**, the Board Appreciation Dinner at **Warren HS**, and the annual former Trustee and Superintendents luncheon. She applauded the success of the Gerlach Livestock Show and Auction as well as the LibraryPalooza event. Freeman attended the PTA Rally Day in Austin and appreciated that the district's Students Ambassadors could witness the

event. She attended an event hosted by RootEd founder **Genevieve Sugalski** that included **Sophie Torres** with Raise Your Hand Texas.

Trustees hold Public Hearing on Texas Academic Performance Report

NISD's Academic Performance Report was presented by **Dr. Janis Jordan**, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and a public hearing was held, as required by Texas law. All school districts are required to publish an annual report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), district accreditation status, student enrollment and academic performance, PEIMS Financial Standards Report, a report of violent or criminal incidents, and information received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for each high school campus. The report will be available online on the NISD website, and copies of specific reports will be available upon request through the Communications Department.

Trustees approve goals as required by HB3

HB3 requires districts to adopt plans for early childhood literacy and math, as well as college, career, and military readiness (CCMR). Annually, progress towards these goals must be presented to the Board of Trustees, where approval will be requested on the updated goals.

Recognitions

- **Learning Forward Texas Professional Learning Award**
Learning Forward Texas, the professional organization for adult learning has chosen the NISD Professional Learning Team as a 2025 Professional Learning Award winner. This award recognizes excellence in professional learning and educator development and celebrates the critical role that professional learning plays in strengthening educator effectiveness and ensuring student success.
- **TSCA Counseling Supervisor of the Year Award**
Roland Juarez, NISD Coordinator of Elementary Guidance and Counseling Services, was named the 2025 Texas Counseling Supervisor of the Year by the Texas School Counseling Association. This prestigious honor recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and effectiveness in their supervisory role of school counselors.

Trustees hear budget update

Trustees heard a budget update that included a discussion of several factors impacting the District's budget development. In April, the Board will analyze revenue estimates associated with projected enrollment and attendance, as well as consider employee compensation plans for next year.

Trustees hear results of Culture and Climate Survey

The Northside ISD Board of Trustees received a presentation from Qualtrics and Ibis Public Sector on the results of the second year of the Culture & Climate Survey. The findings provide valuable insights into staff, student, and family experiences across the district, helping to shape future initiatives. As part of this effort, [Northside ISD has also launched a public-facing dashboard](#), allowing the community to explore key survey data and trends.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Dr. Toby Walters**, formerly an Instructional Coach in Southwest ISD, was appointed **Academic Dean at Jordan Middle School**.
- **Christine M. Calcagno**, formerly a GT teacher at May Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Evers Elementary School**.
- **Erika Cedillo**, formerly the Administrative Intern at Martin Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Fisher Elementary School**.
- **Jennifer Platt**, formerly the Associate Principal at Scarborough Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Wanke Elementary School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for boiler and air handler replacement at Holmgreen and Reddix Centers – R.E.C. Industries, Inc.
- Contractor for civil remediation at Fields ES – RCO Construction, LLC
- Contractor for electrical and lighting upgrades at Northside Alternative HS and Family Engagement Center – CRI Electric, Inc.
- Contractor for lighting upgrades at Aue, Carlos Coon, and Northwest Crossing ES – Central Electric Ent. & Co., Inc.
- Contractor for new Stinson Magnet School – Guido Construction Company
- Contractor for PE locker and flooring upgrades at various campuses – SpawGlass Contractors, Inc.
- Contractor for a playground shade structure at Mora ES – SBM General Contractor, LLC
- Contractor for roof replacement at Communications Arts HS – Beldon Roofing Company
- Contractor for roof replacement at Hobby MS – Advantage USAA, Inc.
- Contractor for roof replacement at Teicher Student Services – Beldon Roofing Company
- Contractor for tennis court upgrades at Brennan HS, Hobby MS, & Rudder MS – R.L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- [Consultant Appointments \(PDF\)](#)
- Change Orders:
 - Mechanical upgrades at Steubing ES (\$409,459.32 credit)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: high school graduation ceremony photographs; engine-driveline chassis lubricants; miscellaneous parts, repairs, and services for Transportation vehicles; library databases, online resources, and subscriptions; CTE materials, inspections, and repairs; concession items for Athletic events districtwide; network core and data center E-Rate; wireless Wi-Fi equipment E-Rate; equipment, parts, rentals, repairs, and services for HVAC, boilers, chillers, and energy controls; and USDA commodity processing for Child Nutrition. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: ACM Body & Frame for the purchase of arts, services, and body repairs for Transportation fleet maintenance. For more information, contact the Purchasing Department at 210-397-8700.

You may mail correspondence to:

Trustees
c/o NISD
5900 Evers Road
San Antonio, TX 78238

You may email them at info@nisd.net.

For additional information, call 210-397-8770.

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Board meeting information

NISD Trustees meet monthly in regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month. They may also meet in Called Meetings for workshops, retreats, or to handle routine business. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. in the Board Room, 5900 Evers Road, unless otherwise posted. Meetings are open to the public. Agendas are posted on the NISD website, www.nisd.net. Citizens who wish to address the Board must sign up to speak just before the start of the meeting.

Upcoming School Board Meeting(s): (See posted agendas on the website as dates, locations, and/or times may change.)

- March 25, 2025, 6 p.m., **NAC, 7001 Culebra Road** (Regular Board Meeting)

- April 8, 2025, 6 p.m., **NAC, 7001 Culebra Road** (Called Board Meeting)
- April 22, 2025, 6 p.m., **NAC, 7001 Culebra Road** (Regular Board Meeting)