

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

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 25, 2025
6:00 PM**

Members present

**Carol Harle, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana,
David Salcido, Karla Duran, Homer Guevara**

Staff present:

**Dr. Craft, Ray Galindo, Janis Jordan, Ben Muir, Barry Perez,
Jerry Woods, Kris Trejo, Jacob Villarreal, Tiffany Contreras, Jessica Palomares,
Enrique Jimenez, Sandi Bonnett, & Valerie Sisk**

1. Meeting Opening

Procedural: A. Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance
C. Saldana

Procedural: B. Call Meeting to Order
6:04 PM

2. Public Hearings

Discussion: A. 2024 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR)

Texas Education Code Chapter 39 requires each district's Board of Trustees 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. A hearing will be held at a board meeting for public discussion of the report and should be available in the district.

B. Discussion: HB 3 Annual Report and Goals

TEC 11.185 and 11.186 in House Bill 3 requires districts to adopt plans in early childhood literacy and math, as well as college, career, and military readiness. These plans must include an annual review by the Board at a public meeting and Board approval of new targets as well as specific annual goals for five years at the Meets level.

3. Superintendent's Report

Reports: A. 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.

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.
- LibraryPalooza. The 12th annual LibraryPalooza 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 the 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.

4. 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 Bobby Blount commented that the District hosted the 23 rd 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 Howsman 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 2 BOARDTalk 2024-2025 published by the Communications Department, Northside Independent School District event. She attended an event hosted by RootEd founder Genevieve Sugalski that included Sophie Torres with Raise Your Hand Texas.

5. Recognitions

Information: A. Recognition of NISD Professional Learning Team, Recipient of the Learning Forward Texas Professional Learning Award
The NISD Professional Learning Team has been chosen by Learning Forward Texas, the professional organization for leaders of adult learning, as a 2025 Professional Learning Award winner, recognizing excellence in professional learning and educator development.

6. Reports

Information: A. Review Qualtrics Culture and Climate Survey Results

7. 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.

Patty Cantu- NISD Classroom Teacher Association
Thanks to Carol, Corinne, Karen, and Homer for attending meetings on Feb. 17, 2025.
NISD priorities aligned with Northside CTA's and NISD continued support
FYI: Northside CTA Testified at the Senate Hearing which was very empowering

Christina Infante - Grandparent

- Proposed changes to dual language program affecting 720 students
- They are devoted and committed to dual language. Promised they could continue through MS.
- Against the proposed "test out" to go on to MS Advanced Spanish.

Jordan Wagner- Parent/PTA Council

- Rally Day - Combined efforts with Council and Board of Trustees
- Partnerships keep everything going in the right direction
- Kudos to Dr. Woods for asking all schools to have PTAs on their campus during his superintendecy
- Thank you for your support

8. 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), Approval: C. Awarding of Bids, Request for Proposals, and Purchases over \$50,000
- Action (Consent), Approval: D. Quarterly Investment Report - November 30, 2024
- Action (Consent), Approval: E. Resolution on Investment Policy Review
- Action (Consent), Approval: F. Resolution Approving Independent Sources of Instruction Relating to Investment Responsibilities
- Action (Consent), Approval: G. Qualified Investment Brokers
- Action (Consent), Approval: H. Exterior/Interior Colors - Athletics, Lighting, & Energy Controls Upgrades - Sul Ross MS - RFCSP #2024-011
- Action (Consent), Approval: I. Contractor for Boiler & Air Handler Replacement - John C. Holmgreen & Nellie M. Reddix Centers - RFCSP #2025-018
- Action (Consent), Approval: J. Contractor for Civil Remediation at Randall H. Fields ES - Phase 2 - IDQ RFP #2022-164 Project #24-007-164
- Action (Consent), Approval: K. Contractor for Electrical & Lighting Upgrades - Alternative HS & Family Engagement Center - RFCSP #2024-100
- Action (Consent), Approval: L. Contractor for Lighting Upgrades - Julia Newton Ave, Carlos Coon, & Northwest Crossing ESs - RFCSP #2024-099
- Action (Consent), Approval: M. Contractor for New Magnet - Katherine Stinson MS - RFCSP #2025-013
- Action (Consent), Approval: N. Contractor for PE Locker and Flooring Upgrades - Various Campuses - RFCSP #2025-014
- Action (Consent), Approval: O. Contractor for Playground Shade Structure - Dr. Linda Mora ES - IDQ RFP #2022-164 Project #24-013-164
- Action (Consent), Approval: P. Contractor for Roof Replacement - Communications Arts HS - RFCSP #2025-007
- Action (Consent), Approval: Q. Contractor for Roof Replacement - William P. Hobby MS - RFCSP #2025-006
- Action (Consent), Approval: R. Contractor for Roof Replacement - Teicher Student Services - RFCSP #2025-028
- Action (Consent), Approval: S. Contractor for Tennis Court Upgrades - William J. Brennan HS, William P. Hobby MS, & Earl Rudder MS - RFCSP #2025-008
- Action (Consent), Approval: T. Change Orders
- Action (Consent), Approval: U. Consultant Appointments
- Action (Consent), Approval: V. Construction Delivery Methods
- Action (Consent), Approval: W. Targeted Improvement Plans
- Action (Consent), Approval: X. HB 3 Annual Goals

Motion by Karen Freeman, second by Corinne Saldana.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran, Homer Guevara

9. Business and Finance

Action, Approval, Discussion: A. Budget Amendment No. 2

Budget Amendment No. 2 includes the General Fund and the Child Nutrition Fund. The Debt Service Fund is included but will not be amended.

General Fund revenues are amended to recognize a net decrease of \$3,008,300 for a reduction in SHARS Medicaid reimbursements. General Fund expenditures are amended to recognize a net decrease of \$440,143. The General Fund amendment will result in an increase to the budgeted deficit by \$2,568,157 bringing the deficit from \$93.9 million to \$96.5 million.

The Child Nutrition Fund revenues are amended to recognize a net decrease of \$1,000,000 as a result of less reimbursable meals served during adverse weather conditions. Child Nutrition Fund expenditures are amended to recognize a net increase of \$3,166,868 for the purchase of essential equipment, supplies, and other improvements as part of the fund balance spend down plan required by Texas Department of Agriculture. The Child Nutrition Fund Amendment will result in a budgeted deficit of \$4,166,868.

Motion by Karen Freeman, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran, Homer Guevara

B. Discussion: 2025-2026 Budget Planning Update

Administration will provide the Board of Trustees a budget update.

Ask from the Board:

- To provide detailed minutes for the ones who aren't able to attend.
- Called meetings for Budget Updates

10. Superintendent

Information: A. Announce Candidacy for May 3, 2025, Trustee Election

District 2

Sonia Jasso

May Olson

Richard Delgado

Homer Guevara

District 5

Corinne Saldana

Laura Zapata - not present to speak

District 6

Nicolette Arediente

Carol harle

District 7

Karen Freeman

Larissa Martinez

B. Procedural: Future Agenda Items

11. 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 Blount announced that, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.071 the Board would convene in closed session at 9:45p.m.

- Discussion and Possible Approval: B. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.076 and 551.089, consider and discuss TxSSC intruder and detection audit
- Discussion: C. Review Safety Security Initiatives
- Discussion and Possible Approval: D. Appointment of Academic Dean at Jordan Middle School
- Discussion and Possible Approval: E. Appointment of Associate Principal at Evers Elementary School
- Discussion and Possible Approval: F. Appointment of Associate Principal at Fisher Elementary School
- Discussion and Possible Approval: G. Appointment of Associate Principal at Wanke Elementary School

12. 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 10:17 p.m.

- Action, Approval: B. Appointment of Academic Dean at Jordan Middle School
- Action, Approval: C. Appointment of Associate Principal at Evers Elementary School
- Action, Approval: D. Appointment of Associate Principal at Fisher Elementary School
- Action, Approval: E. Appointment of Associate Principal at Wanke Elementary School

Motion by Corinne Saldana, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran, Homer Guevara

13. Adjournment

Procedural: A. Adjourn the Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

APPROVED ON MARCH 25, 2025