



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

March 25, 2025

Superintendent's Report (Click [HERE](#) to view video of the Superintendent's full comments.)

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Basketball Playoffs.** Dr. Craft congratulated the NISD high school basketball teams who recently competed in state playoffs.
- **NCAA Final Four Reading Competition.** Congratulations to **Burke ES** on being named to the Final Four of the NCAA Reading competition and thanked the NISD Trustees for participating in this competition.
- **Straus MS Career Day.** Dr. Craft participated as a career day presenter at **Straus MS** and thanked the community members who also presented.
- **CLASS Conference.** District auxiliary staff participated in this annual conference and heard about generational leadership.
- **Model UN.** Students at **Clark HS** participated in a global model UN competition in New York City, where they were named Best Medium Size delegation. Congratulations to these students and their sponsor **Kevin Pumphrey**.
- **Legislative Update.** Dr. Craft provided Trustees with an update on the State's ongoing 89th legislative session.
- **Video Moment:** The video moment highlights two teachers and one principal who were selected as H-E-B Excellence-In-Education finalists. [Watch this video as the surprise announcements are made.](#)

Board Members' Report (Click [HERE](#) to view video of the Trustees' full comments.)

- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** thanked **Carson ES** for inviting her to read to students. She acknowledged **Cable ES** on their recent partnership with James Avery to fund a community library box. Saldana thanked **Clark HS** and recognized librarian Lucy Podmore for inviting her to witness a new lunchtime experience in the campus library that allows students to share their personal stories and experiences with others. She acknowledged Fine Arts Director **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez** and Fine Arts Supervisor **John Dominguez**, both present at the meeting, for their work with the Los Leones event. She was impressed with the high participation in the Special Education resource fair and thanked Assistant Special Education Director **Valerie Rodriguez** for her role in the fair. Saldana congratulated **Forester ES** student **Autumn Garcia** on the selection of her original artwork as a Fiesta poster.
- **Trustee David Salcido** congratulated Director of Fine Arts **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez** and her department for a successful Los Leones Art Fest.
- **Trustee Homer Guevara** has had the opportunity to visit several elementary schools and participate in various campus events. He acknowledged the following schools and their principals: **Northwest Crossing ES** (Principal **Priscilla Siano**), **Fernandez ES** (Principal **Rebecca Zamora Barraza**), and **Ott ES** (Principal **Madeline Bueno**). Guevara had the opportunity to serve as a judge of student artwork for the Los Leones event, and he acknowledged Fine Arts Director **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez** and her staff for a successful event. Guevara paid tribute to **Nick Gamboa**, a "super sub" at **Jones MS** who recently passed away, and shared sympathies to Mr. Gamboa's family.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** acknowledged district students and staff who participated in a City of San Antonio Cesar Chavez March on March 22. She also thanked the individuals running for the NISD Board of Trustee seats in the May 2025 election.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** is proud that NISD was able to host the San Antonio All-Star Basketball game at the district's Sports gym. She enjoyed judging submissions for the Los Leones Art Fest and thanked the **Clark HS** Jazz Band, under the direction of **Justin Murphy**, for performing at the event. She also enjoyed hearing a group of drummers from **Leon Valley ES** under the direction of music teacher **Eva Young**. Harle attended the Special Education Resource Fair, which hosted 180 families. She witnessed firsthand a recent GT field trip to the San Antonio Museum of Art attended by her grandchildren. Harle read at **Aue ES** and thanked Principal **Ursula Silberschlag**. Harle

enjoyed attending the **Jay SEA** STEAM Fest and the hands-on activities. She enjoyed the Academic Decathlon and congratulated **Warren** and **Health Careers** high schools on their performance and success. Harle commented on the success of the district's bowling teams and indicated that the Board will recognize the state winners at the April 8 Called Board meeting. While mentoring a student at **NSITE**, Harle had an opportunity to see students preparing for a Virtual Enterprises International (VEI) competition in New York City.

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** congratulated student participants and coaches in the Academic Decathlon, an activity previously engaged in by her own daughter. Freeman enjoyed attending Los Leones Art Fest and enjoyed the opportunity to judge hundreds of student submissions. Freeman announced that **Burke ES** was named one of the competition's Final Four schools. She reminded the Trustees that the competition started with over 300 schools. She provided additional statistics for the competition, citing that over 900 students and 65 schools participated in the competition. Freeman recognized Trustee **Bobby Blount** for the idea of having school board Trustees engage in the competition by reading to students. A total of 32 trustees chose to participate and read to students in over 160 schools (grades K-5) for a total of 14,000 minutes. Blount and Freeman have both been named to the Trustee's Final Four group.

Recognitions

- **ESC Region 20 Dyslexia Service Provider of the Year**
Laura Stephenson, Dyslexia Instructional Specialist, was selected as the Region 20 Dyslexia Service Provider of the Year. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and effectiveness in the delivery of dyslexia services and in supporting students with dyslexia within the ESC Region 20 area.
- **ESC Region 20 Spanish Spelling Bee Winner**
Mateo Rawls, a fifth-grade student at Cole Elementary School, is the reigning ESC-Region 20 Spanish Spelling Bee Champion in the Elementary School Level Competition.
- **Texas School Social Worker of the Year**
The Texas School Social Worker Association established a prestigious award to recognize and honor excellence in school-based social work practice. The 2025 Kathy Armenta Texas School Social Worker of the Year Award recipient is Heather Thatcher, NISD Coordinator for the Connections Program serving students in homeless situations and foster care.
- **Smart Maher Elementary Educator of the Year**
Robert Klekar, a music teacher at Braun Station and Oak Hills Terrace elementary schools, was selected by the Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars as the K-5th Grade Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year.
- **Texas Theatre Scholar Award**
Seventeen thespian students from Taft, O'Connor, and Clark high schools have earned the prestigious Texas Theatre Scholar distinction.
- **TMEA All-State Musicians**
Nineteen NISD student musicians were selected as Texas Music Educators Association All-State Musicians. Selection to Texas All-State indicates student music achievement in the top 1 percent of student musicians in Texas. It is the highest individual student music award that can be achieved in public school music education.

Trustees hear budget update

Trustees heard a budget update, including a discussion of several factors impacting the budget development and a review of previously discussed measures to address the budget deficit. Additionally, Trustees reviewed enrollment and staffing data from the past several school years.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for drainage upgrades at Brennan HS – SBM General Contractor, LLC

- Contractor for drainage upgrades at Vale MS – SBM General Contractor, LLC
- Contractor for energy controls upgrades at Rawlinson MS – Yates Company, LLC
- Contractor for paving upgrades for Myers ES and Holmgreen Center – SpawGlass Contractors, Inc.
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Warren HS – R.L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Contractor for portable relocations at Stinson MS – Dodson House Moving
- Contractor for roof replacement at Rawlinson MS – Cram-A Pax Services Company
- Contractor for Security Upgrades at Holmgreen and Reddix Centers – Waterman Construction, LLC
- Contractor for Synthetic Turf and Track Replacement at Gus Stadium – Hellas Construction, Inc.
- Contractor for Tennis Court upgrades at Clark HS and O'Connor HS – R.L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Schematic Design for administration and classroom replacement at Marshall HS – Pfluger Architects

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: districtwide author visits and presentations; art supplies and miscellaneous items; districtwide auxiliary employee uniforms; and Athletic Hall of Honor equipment and services. Trustees also approved the following purchase orders: City of San Antonio for rental of Alamodome for 2025 NISD graduation ceremonies. 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.

Board of Trustees

Bobby Blount, President, District 4
Corinne Saldaña, Vice President, District 5
David Salcido, Secretary, District 1
Homer Guevara, Ed.D., Trustee, District 2
Karla Duran, Ph.D., Trustee, District 3
Carol Harle, Ph.D., Trustee, District 6
Karen Freeman Trustee, District 7

Administration

Superintendent John Craft, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Administration Ray Galindo
Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Janis Jordan, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance Megan Bradley
Assistant Superintendent of Communications Barry Perez

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.)*

- 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)
- May 13, 2025, 6 p.m., NAC, 7001 Culebra Road (Called Board Meeting)
- May 27, 2025, 6 p.m., NAC, 7001 Culebra Road (Regular Board Meeting)