



# Inside Northside **BOARD** *Talk*

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

**May 27, 2025**

## **Two incumbents and two new Board Members take the oath of office**

Dr. Sonia Jasso and Laura Zapata are officially members of the Board of Trustees. Jasso represents Single Member District 2, a seat previously held by Trustee Dr. Homer Guevara, Jr. Zapata represents Single Member District 5, a seat previously held by Trustee Corinne Saldana. In addition, Dr. Carol Harle, District 6 Trustee, and Karen Freeman, District 7 Trustee, were re-elected for additional four-year terms. All four were sworn in by Judge Sid Harle.

## **Trustees elect Duran as new Board President**

Trustees elected Dr. Karla Duran as the president of the School Board, with Dr. Sonia Jasso elected Vice President, and David Salcido as Secretary.

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

### ***Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:***

- **School is almost out.** There are only two more school days left in the 2024-25 school year.
- **Graduation season begins.** Our graduation season kicks off on Thursday, May 29, with the Health Careers Graduation at the Northside Sports Gym beginning at 6:30 p.m. Then, we will hold 12 graduation ceremonies at The Alamodome, with three a day from June 3 through June 6.
- **H-E-B Educators of the Year.** Along with Trustee Harle, Craft had the opportunity to judge finalists for the H-E-B Excellence in Education awards.
- **Award Ceremonies.** ASTA hosted its FFA Awards event on May 15 and awarded student scholarships that evening. Many of the scholarship funds were generated at the Gerlach Livestock Show, which raised over \$1 million.
- **NEF 5K Run/Walk.** The annual Northside Education Foundation (NEF) 5K Run/Walk was a tremendous success. Held at Northwest Vista College, hundreds of students, staff, and community members participated in this fundraising event.
- **Retirement & Recognition celebration.** NISD held its annual Employee Retirement and Recognition event at the Northside Sports Gym.
- **Student Voice.** The last session of Student Voice was held and proved to be a bittersweet event with a phenomenal group of students.

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

- **Trustee David Salcido** attended several campus events, including the **Construction Careers Academy (CCA)** Tiny Homes Showcase, the **Pease MS** dinner theatre, and the **Jefferson MS** dance showcase held at Sotomayor HS.
- **Trustee Sonia Jasso** thanked everyone for the opportunity to be on the Board, including her husband **Jeffery Jasso**, **Rosie Castro**, **Rick Galvan**, and the Northside and Texas AFT.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** thanked Northwest Vista College and its President, **Dr. Amy Bosley**, for hosting the annual NEF 5K Fun Run. She also thanked all district and college staff who assisted with the 5K event. Duran shared her appreciation to teachers, administrators, and all staff for a great school year.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** found his recent visit to the **Nellie Reddix Center** enlightening. Blount provided the Trustees a brief history of Northside's Solar Car event and said he enjoyed the use of the new video boards this year. After completing his goal of reading at all 83 NISD elementary schools, Blount shared his appreciation to the principals, librarians, and students.
- **Trustee Laura Zapata** expressed her gratitude and excitement about being elected to the Board. She thanked her family and friends and expressed her excitement to represent the Northside community.

- **Trustee Carol Harle** congratulated **Marshall LMS** Senior **Ryan Almanza** for hosting a mental health summit. Harle congratulated Trustee Blount on reading to all 83 elementary schools. She attended a Senior Walk event at **Taft HS** – one of many such events at schools across the district. She read to ALE students at **Sotomayor HS**, attended a celebration for clinical teachers, and enjoyed a dinner theatre at **Pease MS**. Harle also enjoyed the Story Fest event held at NAC, Project Acorn at **O'Connor HS**, the district's Retirement & Recognition Ceremony, and the **Rawlinson MS** NJHS induction. Harle was excited to attend a recent CIS Luncheon with her **NSITE** mentee.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** congratulated Trustee Blount on reading at all district elementary schools. Freeman enjoyed several district events, including the annual Solar Cars races, Project Acorn, Story Fest, and the Retirement & Recognition Ceremony. She recognized Director of Library Services **Lisa Kulka** on a successful Story Fest and the event's featured author **Suzanne Lang**. Freeman publicly recognized Assistant Superintendent of Athletics **Stan Laing** on his pending retirement, she recognized the **ASTA** FFA on awarding over \$100,000 in student scholarships, and congratulated Director of Fine Arts **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez** on a successful Electrify Your Strings event. Freeman closed by sharing she was honored and proud to be able to serve the community of Northside as a Trustee. She expressed her belief that the Board will continue to build on a legacy of excellence.

## Recognitions

- **National Academic Decathlon Winners**  
The Warren High School Academic Decathlon team placed third in the Nation at the United States Academic Decathlon National Finals. They competed against 75 teams from across the nation.
- **2025 Track and Field State Qualifiers**  
NISD student athletes in track and field participated in the 5A and 6A UIL State Track and Field Championships at the University of Texas in Austin, bringing home lots of medals and accolades. Tate Taylor from Harlan High School broke both state and national records.
- **2025 State Swimming and Diving Finalists**  
NISD swimmers and divers had an amazing season, with many going to the UIL State Competition and placing as finalists.
- **NISD Student Ambassadors**  
This school year, Northside ISD introduced an exciting new initiative aimed at amplifying student voices within its communications. The Northside ISD Student Ambassadors program brings together a select group of students chosen through a rigorous application process to become the "Face and Voice of the District." Facilitated by the Communications Dept., these ambassadors assisted with public relations and communications, representing NISD at school and community events while working alongside NISD Board members and the District's executive leadership team. Ambassadors gained valuable leadership experience, enhanced communication skills, and positively promoted NISD by engaging with students, families, staff, and the broader community.

## Trustees hear PTA Council Report

Trustees heard a State of the Council Report from PTA President Crystal Rivas.

## Trustees hear Budget Update

Trustees heard an update on current legislative proposals on funding and current staffing readjustments.

## Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Conrad Hernandez**, formerly an Assistant Director of Athletics, was appointed **Executive Director of Athletics**.
- **Brooke Mallard**, formerly Associate Principal at Ward ES, was appointed **Principal** at **Ward Elementary School**.
- **Reggie Ollendieck**, formerly Assistant Principal at Warren HS, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Northside Alternative Middle School**.
- **Ryan Brassell**, formerly Assistant Principal at Brennan HS, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Brennan High School**.
- **Cherie Ritch**, formerly Assistant Principal at Warren HS, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Clark High School**.
- **Gina Rodriguez**, formerly Academic Dean at South San Antonio ISD, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Taft High School**.
- **Carrie Moix**, formerly a staff development specialist, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Luna Middle School**.
- **Andrew Paltz**, formerly an Academic Dean at North East ISD, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Clark High School**.

- **Cristóbal Saldaña**, formerly an associate principal in Seguin ISD, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Sotomayor High School**.
- **Jose Gonzalez**, formerly a Student Success Advisor at Holmes HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Straus Middle School**.
- **Suzanne Lansdale** was named **Associate Principal** at **Nichols and McAndrew Elementary Schools**.
- **Jo Ann Armenta** was named **Associate Principal** at **Elrod and Valley Hi Elementary Schools**.
- **Jennifer De La Rosa** was named **Associate Principal** at **Carson Elementary School**.
- **Elleana Saloman** was named **Associate Principal** at **Passmore Elementary School**.
- **Nicole Wall** was named **Associate Principal** at **Behlau Elementary School**.
- **Mariela Martinez** was named **Associate Principal** at **Leon Valley Elementary School**.

At the Called Board meeting held on May 13, the following appointment was made:

- **Dr. J. Suzy Ponton**, formerly Leadership Development Specialist, was appointed **Director of State and Federal Programs**.

**Board approves facilities items:**

- Contractor for electrical improvements for portables at various campuses – Central Electric Ent. & Co., Inc.
- Contractor for MAC Telecommunications Cabling for portables at various campuses – JLA Communications, LLC
- Change Orders:
  - Mechanical upgrades at Nellie Reddix Center (\$125,519.69 credit)
  - 2023 door hardware replacement at various campuses (\$50,500 credit)

**Trustees review and approve policies**

- First reading of CFB (LOCAL) Policy
- Second reading and adoption of Update 124
- Second reading of Update FDA (LOCAL) Policy

**Bids for goods approved**

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: professional development services and related materials for private non-profit schools; food and grocery items for Child Nutrition; award, recognition, and miscellaneous items; S-S.T.E.A.M. Student Enrichment Program; supplies and materials; plumbing equipment, supplies, repairs, rentals, and services; and custodial equipment. Purchase Orders were approved for: The University of Texas at Austin for UT OnRamps student enrollment in the dual credit program and developmental trainings. 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](mailto:info@nisd.net).

For additional information, call 210-397-8770.

**Board of Trustees**

**David Salcido, Secretary, District 1**  
**Sonia Jasso, Ph.D., Trustee, District 2**  
**Karla Duran, Ph.D., Trustee, District 3**  
**Bobby Blount, President, District 4**  
**Laura Zapata, Trustee, District 5**  
**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](http://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.)*

- June 10, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- June 24, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- July 22, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)