



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

July 22, 2025

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

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Crisis Counseling.** Several NISD Professional School Counselors stepped in and volunteered their time to assist in the Kerrville ISD and Alamo Heights ISD communities following the recent July 4th floods. Both communities were impacted by the flooding. The NISD Counselors acknowledged include **Dr. Kim Ridgley, Elizabeth Flores, Tania Perez, Stacey Griggs, Marida Salinas, Jorge Ramos, Angel Ramos, Monica Leyva, Katie Westbrook, Georgeann Garza, Adriana Felts, Margaret Larson, Brenda Silva, and Tania Mendoza.**
- **Harlan Athlete Honored.** Harlan HS student **Tate Taylor**, a state track & field record holder, was recently named the Gatorade Athlete of the Year.
- **Summer Graduation.** On July 23, approximately 100 students will walk the stage at the District's Summer Graduation event at the Paul Taylor Field House.
- **Event Kickoffs.** Several annual district events, including the Servant Leadership, the Coaches Summit, and the NISD Ambassadors' orientation, will soon kick off, signaling the start of another school year.
- **Grandparent Event.** The Grandparents Raising Grandkids organization will be hosting an event at Northwest Vista College on July 26.
- **Hall of Honor.** The District's Athletic Department will host the first annual Hall of Honor reception on July 28 to recognize eight inaugural alumni inductees.
- **Video Moment.** Exercise isn't always limited to gyms, tracks, stadiums, or even swimming pools. And many times, it only takes one special person to get something "rolling." [Click here to watch this unique after-school club.](#)

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

- **Trustee David Salcido** informed the Trustees that Jay HS and Jay SEA will be hosting a Back to School Bash on July 26, which will feature free haircuts, immunizations, and other giveaways. He congratulated **Sotomayor** and **Clark** high schools for being nominated for KSAT's annual Pigskin Classic showcase.
- **Trustee Sonia Jasso** attended the Great Northwest and Thunderbird Hills HOA meetings. She shared plans to begin visiting schools in September after the start of the school year. Jasso is scheduling meetings with members of the District's Senior Staff to meet them and learn about each of their respective departments.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** thanked those who worked the various summer school programs. She also thanked the NISD Counselors who assisted in providing counseling services following the recent flooding and offered condolences to all those who lost loved ones. Duran shared that she had the opportunity to meet **Harlan HS** student **Tate Taylor** and congratulated him on being named the Gatorade Athlete of the Year. Duran thanked Communities in Schools (CIS) for the various Stuff The Bus events hosted in preparation for back to school.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** shared that the Air Force Cryptologic Group, which has partnered with the District through the Northside Education Foundation (NEF), will continue supporting initiatives, including the annual solar cars event, STEM Sisters, and the robotics competition. Blount recently visited with former NISD Athletic Director **Dub Farris**.
- **Trustee Laura Zapata** shared that **District 8 Councilmember Ivalis Meza Gonzalez** is hosting a back-to-school event. Zapata welcomed back District administrators and staff from their summer.

- **Trustee Carol Harle** announced that the San Antonio Leaders & Teachers (SALT) Educators Network is hosting a free event at the Witte Museum on July 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. She also shared that the San Antonio Film Festival will showcase and screen *Stitched*, the work of several NISD alumni from **Marshall HS**. She thanked Deputy Superintendent of Instruction **Dr. Janis Jordan** and the Curriculum & Instruction team for all of the summer programs offered.

Recognitions

- **TASB Media Honor Roll.** Trustees recognized **Scott Huddleston** from the San Antonio Express-News who was named to the Media Honor Roll by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). The TASB Media Honor Roll was created to recognize journalists and media outlets for reporting fair, accurate, and balanced stories on our schools.

Trustees hear update on 2025-2026 Budget

Deputy Superintendent of Business & Finance **Megan Bradley** presented a fiscal year 2026 budget planning update that included, among other items, budget projections, a comparison of tax rate information for area school districts, and a look at key assumptions in the budget development process.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Dr. Jo Ann Fey**, currently the Superintendent of Killeen ISD, was appointed **Deputy Superintendent for Administration**.
- **Paul Ramirez**, formerly Principal at Rudder MS, was appointed **Principal at Marshall High School**.
- **Suzanne Lansdale**, formerly Associate Principal at Nichols ES, was appointed **Principal at Nichols Elementary School**.
- **Kevin Vanlanham**, formerly Associate Principal at Rudder MS, was appointed **Principal at Pease Middle School**.
- **Elena Rose Zavala**, formerly an ESL Teacher at Jones MS, was appointed **Associate Principal at Rhodes Elementary School**.
- **Vanessa Martinez**, formerly an English Instructional Coach at Jay HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Jay High School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Change Orders:
 - Return of contingency and allowance(s) for mechanical and roofing upgrades at Allen ES (\$100,828.30 credit)
 - Unforeseen conditions above the ceiling for lighting upgrades at Ross MS (\$286,772.32 add)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: Professional Development in Special Education, Physical Education, Gifted and Talented, Family Engagement, Bilingual Services, and related materials Districtwide; Curriculum and Instructional Supplies Districtwide; Voluntary Permanent Life Insurance; Aquatic Program Equipment, Uniforms, Supplies, and Services; Concert Apparel; Professional Development Services, Consulting Services, and related materials Districtwide; Food, Restaurants, and Catering Services; Employee and Substitute Attendance Tracking System; Fine Arts Consultant Services; Custodial Supplies; Groceries and Concessions for Schools and Departments; Casualty Insurance Third-Party Administrator; Kitchen Equipment, Parts, Supplies, Rentals, Repairs, and Services; and Basic and Voluntary Term Life AD&D Insurance. Purchase Orders were approved for: Exemplars, Inc., for the purchase of online K-5 supplemental resources; and Mind Research Institute for the purchase of the ST Math Site subscription. 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

David Salcido, Trustee, District 1
Sonia Jasso, Ph.D., Trustee, District 2
Karla Duran, Ph.D., Trustee, District 3
Bobby Blount, Trustee, 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 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.)*

- Aug. 12, 2025, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center, 7001 Culebra Road (Called Board Meeting)
- Aug. 26, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)