



Inside Northside

# BOARDTalk

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

**August 26, 2025**

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

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

- **Great Start.** Superintendent Craft shared appreciation to the entire Northside team for a great start to the 2025-2026 school year.
- **Convocation A Success.** The District's six Convocation events were very successful and thanks was given to the student performers, the numerous fine arts staff who assisted, and the Fine Arts Executive Director **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez**.
- **Jordan MS Magnet.** Northside's newest middle school magnet program opened this school year at **Jordan MS**. The magnet provides a specialized program in multi-media and design.
- **Legislative Update.** In the second Called Special Session, House Bill (HB) 8 passed the House floor. The Bill calls for a revamping of the State's standardized test, STAAR. It is still too early to know the impact of this legislative action.
- **Video Moment.** Harlan High School Coach **Eddie Salas** is known for being an "unstoppable" coach and teacher, always reaching new heights for his students. But recently, he fought a battle, not on the football field, but with a medical issue and his grit, determination, and faith saw him to the goal line. [Watch this unstoppable story.](#)

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

- **Trustee David Salcido** visited the **Hobby Middle School Magnet** program and was impressed by this specialized program. Salcido acknowledged the District's cafeteria staff for their efforts to maintain a summer feeding program for students as well as custodial staff who worked through the summer, including weekends, to prepare for the new school year.
- **Trustee Sonia Jasso** praised the recent annual Convocation events, describing them as "amazing." She recounted how she met with senior staff members to learn more about their respective departments and extended her thanks to Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Janis Jordan**, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources **Ben Muir**, and Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services **Kris Trejo**. Jasso also acknowledged the City Council members from Districts 1, 7, and 8 who took part in multiple Back to School events at **Jay** and **Holmes High Schools** and **Ross MS**. She then recognized Northside ISD, Northside AFT, and City Councilmember **Ric Galvan** for co-hosting a block walk event in the **Knowlton ES** community. During the event, participants knocked on approximately 300 doors to share positive news about the district and announce a public education forum to be held on Sept. 18 at **Holmes High School**, starting at 6 p.m.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** commented on the successful block walk and back to school events and thanked all who participated, including Rep. **Joaquin Castro**, City Councilmembers **Marina Alderete Gavito** and **Ric Galvan**, Bexar County Sheriff **Javier Salazar**, and the Spurs Coyote. Duran enjoyed the Convocation events, in particular the student performance of Wicked's *For Good*. She toured the renovations taking place at **Jay HS**, along with Principal **Teresa Cuellar**, and was impressed with the design on the facilities. Duran thanked Executive Director of Teaching and Learning **Diana Ely** and those involved in the facilitation of the Leadership Northside group. Duran echoed comments shared by Trustee Blount on the amazing performances by NISD students at a recent Tobin Center event, Renaissance with the Stars.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** thanked the Fine Arts Dept. and its Executive Director **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez**, along with student performers from **Briscoe MS** and **Brennan HS**, for their impressive showing at a recent non-profit event,

Renaissance with the Stars, at the Tobin Center. Plans are underway for the San Antonio city-wide third grade Reading Competition currently being organized. Blount shared that he has had the opportunity to visit 20 of the District's 90-plus Learning Tree sites with plans to visit all of them.

- **Trustee Laura Zapata** thanked teachers, students, and schools for a successful start to the new year. She shared that she visited several campuses, including **Ross MS** and **Jay HS**, while preparing for the start of the school year. She also participated in a back-to-school event at **Holmes HS** and acknowledged the City Council members and State Representative who were in attendance.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** shared her continued delight in the recent Convocation events, acknowledging the student performers who represented schools throughout the district. She highlighted a visit to **Locke Hill ES**, where she plans to join the ukulele club in anticipation of the campus's 50th-anniversary celebration. Harle also attended a pinning ceremony at **CAST Teach HS**, noting that the school will soon graduate its first class. She gave credit to the Fine Arts Department for Northside being named a District of Distinction by the Texas Art Education Association. Harle concluded by recognizing **Holmes HS** alum and 2020 Pillar of Character, **John Picacio**, on the publication of his book, *The Invisible Parade*.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** thanked fellow Trustee Blount for his help organizing the Great San Antonio Reading Challenge. She also recognized **Zinnia Bayardo**, an NISD Library Services Specialist, for her presentation to interested participants. Freeman praised the amazing Convocation event, highlighting the wonderful student performers. She concluded by expressing gratitude to everyone who made the first day of school a success.

## Public Hearing on Budget and Proposed Tax Rate

A public hearing was held to discuss the budget and proposed tax rate for 2025-2026.

## Defeasance Resolution

Trustees approved a defeasance resolution, which allows the district to pay off bonded debt faster than originally planned, thus saving interest costs.

## Budget Amendment & Adoption

Trustees approved the final amended budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year and, additionally, adopted the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget.

## Board Approves Tax Rates for 2025-2026

The Board approved an order fixing and levying the ad valorem taxes for the 2025-2026 school year. The total adopted tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation is \$1.0049 (\$0.6694 for Maintenance and Operations and \$0.3355 for Interest and Sinking.) The approved tax rate remains unchanged from the previous year with no increase for taxpayers.

## Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Jason Padron**, formerly Assistant Principal at Ross MS, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Rudder MS**.

## Trustees approved the following appointments at the Aug. 12 Called Board Meeting:

- **Jeanette Navarro**, formerly Academic Dean at Rudder MS, was appointed the **Principal** at **Rudder Middle School**.
- **Sallie McVay**, formerly a Reading Language Arts IST, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Mora ES**.
- **Manuel Villarreal**, formerly an Assistant Principal at Jay HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **O'Connor HS**.
- **Nancy Garcia**, the Associate Principal at Braun Station ES, was named **Associate Principal** at **Braun Station ES and Nichols ES**.
- **Lindsay Kent**, the Associate Principal at Helotes ES, was named **Associate Principal** at **Helotes ES and McAndrew ES**.

## Trustees review and approve policies

- First reading of Update 125 Local Policies
- First reading of CW (LOCAL) Policy – Naming of Facilities
- First Reading of EFB (LOCAL) Policy – Instructional Resources: Library Materials
- First reading of ELA (LOCAL) – Campus or Program Charters: Partnership Charters

## Board approves facilities items:

- Interior colors for District Baseball/Softball Complex – Alamo Architects
- Change Orders:
  - Return of contingency and allowance(s) for chiller replacement & lighting upgrades at Zachry Middle School (\$209,016.05 credit)

### Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: school bus equipment and supplies; Self-Insured Retention Casualty Insurance Program; instrument repairs; electrical equipment, parts, supplies, rentals, repairs, and services; vehicles-Model 2026; and vent hood cleaning. 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, 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 Administration Jo Ann Fey, Ph.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](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.)*

- Sept. 23, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Oct. 28, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Nov. 11, 2025 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Dec. 9, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)