



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

Dec. 9, 2025

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

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Fine Arts Events.** In this holiday season, there are numerous fine art events taking place across the District. For a complete listing, [click HERE to view events by date or location](#).
- **Athletic Season Begins.** The District is kicking off basketball season.
- **Golf Tournament.** Brandeis HS hosted one of the largest golf tournaments recently in support of Toys for Tots, a program hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps.
- **Campus Visits.** Dr. Craft had the opportunity to visit several campuses, including Valley Hi ES, where they hosted activities around seasonal holidays, and Wanke ES, where he visited the ALE classroom and read to students.
- **Anniversary Event.** Raba ES will be celebrating its 25th anniversary event on Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.
- **E-Sports Championship.** Competitors will participate in the e-Sports Championship, set for Dec. 13 at the Northside Activity Center.
- **Mid-year Graduation.** The date for the Mid-year Graduation event is Feb. 11 and will take place at the Northside Sports Gym.
- **College Board Event.** Dr. Craft participated in a recent College Board event and informed Trustees that the Board is making efforts to expand access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses for all students. Additionally, he shared that innovative coursework will be coming soon in the areas of cybersecurity and personal finance.
- **General Elections.** With San Antonio officials considering the possibility of moving city general elections to November, Dr. Craft briefed Trustees on the potential financial implications for the district as a result. Craft informed Trustees that the Bexar County Education Coalition (BCEC) and its Executive Director, **Julia Grizzard**, will address this matter on behalf of school districts to city officials. Craft thanked City Council members **Ivalis Meza Gonzalez** and **Ric Galvan**, both of whom were present at the meeting, for their support.
- **Special Performance.** Prior to and at the beginning of the Board meeting, students from Bear Harmony from Brennan High School, under the direction of **Jimmy Garrett**, performed seasonal music for the Board and those in attendance.

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

- **Trustee Sonia Jasso** attended multiple campus events, including a **Warren HS** Honors Choir performance, the **Bernal MS** Multicultural Event, and a musical production of *Once on This Island* at **Taft HS**. She also attended a Crown Meadows HOA meeting, the NEF Donors Appreciation event, and an event hosted by Snack Pak 4 Kids.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** acknowledged students at **Marshall HS** who helped deliver turkey meal bags to needy families during the Thanksgiving holiday. She thanked the **Brennan HS** Bear Harmony group for their performance. Duran participated in the NEF Grant Patrol and thanked all of the volunteers and partners who helped deliver grants to classroom teachers. She wished all patrons a Feliz Navidad and thanked fellow Trustees for their time and commitment.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** participated in a student podcast at **Communications Arts HS**, attended the **Bernal MS** Multicultural Event, and attended a solar car training event for sponsors. Blount completed his goal of visiting all 95 Learning Tree school sites and enjoyed meeting with site leaders and staff. He announced that the Great San Antonio Reading competition is progressing with students across San Antonio accumulating over 2 million minutes already.
- **Trustee Laura Zapata** commended the **Warren HS** Honor Choir on their recent performance which she attended. She also attended the musical production of *Once on This Island* at **Taft HS** and commended Theatre Director

Amanda Pyle on the incredible performance. Zapata wished all students and teachers good luck during the upcoming exam season and acknowledged the support of all teachers for students who are undoubtedly ready for a much-needed break. She acknowledged Executive Director of Fine Arts **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez** and recognized Dr. Craft and his Cabinet for all of their work and dedication.

- **Trustee Carol Harle** attended two NEF events – the Donor Appreciation event and a NEF Grant Patrol. She acknowledged the much-appreciated support from donors like **Cavender Cares**, **Katie and Jim Reed**, and **JLA Communications** – all of whom were honored in the event. She also thanked the members of the NEF Board, as well as the student groups that participated at the event, including the **Brandeis HS** choir and the **Stevens HS** jazz band. Harle enjoyed two additional events, including a choir performance at Ellison ES and the Fall Clinical Teachers celebration. Harle recognized the work of the clinical teacher's mentors, as well.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** shared that the NEF Gala was a great event, and she congratulated this year's Pillars of Character, who were recognized at the event. She attended the NEF Donor Appreciation & Annual Meeting event and thanked **Katie and Jim Reed** for their continued support of the district and NEF.

Recognitions

- **CPS Energy Check Presentation.** CPS Energy representatives presented NISD with a check for \$688,991.77 in recognition for participating in the Demand Response program and for rebates collected.

2026-27 and 2027-28 Calendars Approved

The Board approved the instructional calendars for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years. They are posted at <https://www.nisd.net/schools/calendars>.

Trustees vote to expand of PreK program

Trustees discussed the possibility of expanding the district's PK program to include a limited number of qualifying three-year-old students, with opportunities to blend eligible PK3 students into PK4 classrooms when developmentally appropriate and operationally feasible, beginning in the 2026-27 school year. In addition, this expansion would include the discontinuation of the NISD PK Tuition program at the end of the 2025-26 school year. Current enrolled students would be allowed to continue for the 2026-27 school year.

Trustees hear report on Virtual School

The Board heard a report on potentially establishing a 100% Virtual School with the purpose of retaining and recruiting students to increase enrollment. The phased-in approach would begin with grades 9 through 12. Starting in the 2026-27 school year.

Trustees consider the rename Colonies North Elementary

In accordance with Board Policy, Trustees will solicit community feedback regarding the potential renaming of Colonies North Elementary School. This decision follows the submission of name nominations by the community.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Richard Palomo**, formerly Chief of Police at Southwest ISD, was appointed **NISD Chief of Police**.
- **Brad Hebert**, formerly Principal at NSITE, was appointed **Principal** at **Health Careers High School**.
- **Mahntie Reeves**, formerly Academic Dean at Ross Middle School, was appointed **Principal** at **Ross Middle School**.
- **Paulette Jennifer Torres**, formerly Assistant Principal at Brennan High School, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Folks Middle School**.
- **Jason Havrda**, formerly Assistant Principal at Stevens High School, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Marshall High School**.
- **Frank E. Ogo II**, formerly Special Education Coordinator at Carnahan Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Burke Elementary School**.
- **Kim Martinez**, formerly a Principal at Victoria ISD, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Scobee Elementary School**.
- **Daniel R. Galdeano**, formerly a history teacher at Northside Alternative High School, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Northside Alternative High School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Construction Manager-at-Risk for the Marshall Administration and Classroom Replacement – Joeris General Contractors, Ltd.
- Contractor for the Jay HS canopy addition – SBM General Contractors, LLC
- Change Orders:
 - Evers and Galm ESs Boiler Replacement (\$98,800 credit)
 - PE locker and flooring upgrades (\$63,039.67 credit)

Trustees review and/or approve policies:

- First reading of DGB (LOCAL) Policy

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: apparel items; aggregate landscape materials; glass repairs, related parts, and services district-wide; Career and Technical Education simulators and related materials; medical and pharmacy reinsurance; equipment for Child Nutrition; and miscellaneous items for Child Nutrition. 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 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. 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.)*

- Jan. 13, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting/Workshop)
- Jan. 20, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Feb. 10, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- Feb. 24, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)