

**NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
5900 EVERS ROAD SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78238**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
6:00 PM**

Members present

**Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, David Salcido,
Karla Duran, Laura Zapata, Sonia Jasso**

Staff Present

**Dr. Craft, Dr. Fey, Dr. Jordan, Megan Bradley, Barry Perez,
Ben Muir, Deonna Dean, Jacob Villarreal, Dr. Jerry Woods,
Jessica Palomares, Kara Trevino, Kris Trejo, Lori Gallegos, & Valerie Sisk,**

1. Recognitions

Procedural, Recognition: A. Northside Citizenship Award Presentation

A parent volunteer at Ott Elementary sprang into action when a fourth-grade student began choking and was unable to speak or breathe. Students sitting near the student noticed and began yelling. Without hesitation, John Gomez rushed to the student and performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the obstruction and saving the young man's life. For this selfless act and decisive action, he will be awarded the Northside Citizenship Award.

Procedural, Recognition: B. Recognition of the Board by the Northside Council of PTAs

Candy Bauman from the Northside Council of PTAs made a presentation in honor of Board Appreciation Month.

Procedural, Recognition: C. Recognition of the Board by the Northside Museum Association

Linda Lieck from the Northside Museum Association will make a presentation in honor of Board Appreciation Month

Procedural, Recognition: D Recognition of the Board by the Northside Education Foundation

Secretary Jerry Lammers, from the Northside Education Foundation, made a presentation in honor of Board Appreciation Month.

Procedural, Recognition: E Recognition of the Board of Trustees

NISD Superintendent Dr. John Craft presented on behalf of the District in honor of Board Appreciation Month.

2. Superintendent's Report

- Board Luncheon. Former NISD Superintendents and Trustees joined current District leaders at an annual luncheon where past leaders were able to share conversation and learn about the state of Northside.
- Raba Anniversary. The Raba Elementary community, including Principal Cole Bader, staff, and students, gathered to celebrate the school's 25th anniversary alongside members of the Carl and Bunny Jean Raba family.
- STEM Lab. Principal Jennifer Bock and the Glass Elementary staff successfully hosted a mobile STEM bus, providing students with a variety of engaging, hands-on learning activities.
- School Summit. NISD is collaborating to host the second annual School Connect Summit at the NISD Sports Gym on Feb. 3
- Video Moment. School bus drivers are the first and last faces that many NISD students see each school day. What does it take to be a school bus driver? [Watch this video to find out.](#)

3. Board Member's Report

Reports: A. Board Members who wish to speak will report about current events, announce achievements or special recognitions, and share other information that may be of interest to Trustees or citizens. No action is required.

- Trustee David Salcido expressed gratitude for the new traffic signals at Jay High School, commending City Council Members Ric Galvan and Edward Mungia for their prompt efforts in securing these essential safety improvements. Additionally, he expressed gratitude for the various tokens of appreciation received during Board Appreciation Month.

- Trustee Sonia Jasso extended her appreciation to Council Members Galvan and Mungia for their assistance in securing school zone flashers at Jay High School, a project stemming from an ongoing traffic study that continues to assess campus access points. She also thanked the parents of Jose Torres III for their active advocacy for these safety improvements. Furthermore, Jasso highlighted a new pilot program at Ross Middle School that provides in-person tutoring for AVID students through a partnership with the Alamo Colleges District (ACD), specifically recognizing ACD Trustee Gerald Lopez for his instrumental role in launching the initiative.

- Trustee Karla Duran expressed gratitude to district mental health workers and counselors for their dedicated service. She thanked Principal Cynthia Barrera for hosting the Holmes High School scholarship night featuring the McDonald's Hacer Scholarship. She also commended the fine arts programs at Marshall High School and Evers Elementary for their holiday performances, including those at the San Antonio International Airport. Furthermore, Duran thanked Council Member Ric Galvan for his pre-holiday donations to several campuses and recognized Mayor Gina Ortiz-Jones and city leaders for soliciting input on shifting the city election cycle. She welcomed new NISD Chief of Police Richard Palomo, attended the Holmes Husky Breakfast hosted by Coach Pete Padilla, and offered congratulations to Raba Elementary on its 25th anniversary. To conclude, she reminded the community of the upcoming Marshall High School 75th Anniversary on Jan. 22 and thanked all participants in the city's MLK Day march.

- Trustee Bobby Blount commended the productive dialogue between the Board and the NISD Council of PTAs and provided an update on the Greater San Antonio Reading Challenge, which concludes in April. He also highlighted the recent Juvenile Justice Jeopardy event at Second Chance Academy, thanking SASC Director Kathy Lyssy and teachers Jackie Escamilla and William Helmick for their leadership in this innovative program. Finally, Blount alerted Trustees to the upcoming National Science Bowl Competition and the Texas Education Policy Institute Conference.

- Trustee Laura Zapata attended the annual Holmes HS breakfast, thanking Athletic Director Pete Padilla and Principal Cynthia Barrera for their hospitality. She noted that this year's event marks the final breakfast held in the 2 BOARDTalk 2025-2026, published by the Communications Department, Northside Independent School District school's current gymnasium before it is rebuilt during upcoming campus renovations. Additionally, she commended the talented student performers and directors from two exceptional fine arts events: the Jefferson Middle School Advanced Band concert and the Stevenson Middle School Choir concert.

- Trustee Karen Freeman highlighted the district's legacy by attending the former Superintendent and Trustee luncheon, noting that current success is built upon the foundation laid by past leaders. She also celebrated the 25th anniversary of Raba Elementary, honoring the contributions of namesakes Carl and Bunny Jean Raba. Although Mr. Raba could not attend, his family was present to commemorate the milestone. Additionally, Freeman attended the grand opening of the ASTA general store and new meat processing facility, concluding with a reminder for Trustees regarding the upcoming annual Gerlach Livestock Show and Sale.

4. Reports

Information: A. PTA Council Report - Candy Baumann

24-25 Annual Report

NEF at a glance

- \$477,348-\$535,426
- Increase Endowment 6%

- Other Donations 22-24K

25-26 Highlights

- Pillar
- Annual Giving
- Community Support NEF Nights

Reviewing finances and spending due to an increase, and developing a plan for improvement

5. Citizens to be Heard

Procedural: A. Citizens wishing to address the Board regarding matters not listed on the posted agenda will be heard at this time.

5A -Naming of Facilities - Colonies North or ES campus

Speaking on behalf of Evangelina Riojas and listed various reasons as to why it should be renamed after her and the impact she had on students and families that she helped.

Board Members received a binder with letters from various community members

- Chris Rios - Son
- Susan Doux- Counselor
- Sylvia Suarez - Retired Reading Specialist
- Megan Riojas-Garza - Granddaughter/NISD Educator
- Nelda Alvarado - 30 yr educator

What NISD stands for:

- Terry Zablocki--Honored MLK tonight we honor BOT 75th anniversary JMHS - NISD story really is about foundation

Building what last-long view continues - Main. Renewing and updating structures. You can't measure everything - culture, communication, community, face-to-face interaction, listening. One standard - We don't define ourselves by comparison, look at what we are doing, what is working, and where we need to do better.

6. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda includes items that are considered routine and/or are of a recurring nature. All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be acted upon in one motion.

Action (Consent), Approval A-L

- A. Minutes from the Meetings of January 2026
- B. Awarding of Bids, Request for Proposals, and Purchases over \$50,000
- C. Resolution Approving Independent Sources of Instruction Relating to Investment Responsibilities
- D. Resolution reviewing Board Policy CDA (Local) Other Revenues: Investments
- E. Board Policy CCA (Local) Local Revenue Sources: Bond Issues
 - *Item 6. E. CCA - was pulled from Consent and the Finance Dept. will bring to next Board Meeting for First Reading, so all trustees can see the changes made to the policy.*
- F: Qualified Investment Brokers
- G. Cooperative Purchasing Membership
- H. Contractor for Boiler Replacement - Various ESs - RFCSP #2025-076.
- I Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades - Taft HS - RFCSP #2025-077
- J. Change Orders
- K. School District Teaching Permit (SDTP)
- L. Approval of Off-Campus Physical Education (OCPE)
 - *Trustee David and Trustee Sonia asked for clarification on Item 6. L.*

Motion by Karen Freeman, second by Sonia Jasso

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, David Salcido, Karla Duran, Laura Zapata, Sonia Jasso

7. Curriculum and Instruction

Information: A. Virtual School Program Design

Northside ISD will open a Virtual Academy serving grades 9-11 students beginning in the 26-27 school year. Plans are underway to design the program and an update will be provided.

[Virtual School Program Update.pdf](#)

The Board heard a report on plans to establish a Virtual Academy to retain and recruit students and increase enrollment. The phased-in approach would begin with grades 9 through 11, starting in the 2026-27 school year.

Information: B Mid-Year Progress Update

Dr. Susan Cleveland, Executive Director of Continuous Improvement, presented a mid-year update on the progress on several Northside campuses.

8. Business and Finance

Action, Discussion and Possible Approval: A. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025

The Board approved the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) audit for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2025. The report consists of management's representations regarding the District's financial condition and operations, and the results of an audit performed by the certified public accounting firm of Whitley Penn. The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The auditors have issued an unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement, according to Tiffany Contreras, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance.

Motion by Karen Freeman, second by Sonia Jasso.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, David Salcido, Karla Duran, Laura Zapata, Sonia Jasso

9. Human Resources

Approval: A. RFQ 2025-152, Health & Wellness Benefits Consultant

The Board heard a report from Leticia Ramirez, Director of Benefits, regarding the selection of a Health and Wellness Benefits Consultant. This group is instrumental in providing guidance to the District as we continue to work through our self-funded medical insurance and provide optimal, affordable options for employees.

Rank Respondent

1. Alliant Insurance Services, Inc./DBA: Alliant
2. Universal Benefits Consortium, in partnership with First Financial Group of America
3. McGriff, a Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC Company

The Baldwin Group, LLC/DBA: The Baldwin Group Southwest 4 BKCW, L.P. Insurance 4 Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc./DBA: Gallagher

Motion by Laura Zapata, second by David Salcido.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, David Salcido, Karla Duran, Laura Zapata, Sonia Jasso

10. Administration

Information: A. District Optimization Development !

The Board heard a report about a process regarding District Optimization from Deputy Superintendent Dr. Jo Ann Fey. The purpose of District Optimization is to ensure effective use of resources to improve outcomes for students, teachers, families, and the community.

11. Superintendent

Discussion and Possible Approval: A. Board Operating Procedures !

Karen Freeman: Suggestion to consider postponing when all trustees are present. The board was in agreement and will bring it to the upcoming Board Meeting in February

**Discussion and Possible Approval: B. Board Internal Organization - Board Committees
BDB(LOCAL)**

Discussion regarding the new committee assignments for Committee meetings and the process that can be set in place for the Board members not present, such as a Google folder shared with all documents, presentations, and any other pertinent information that would be helpful for Board members to understand what was discussed during that meeting.

Motion is to approve the new assigned committee assignments with the following exception. Bobby will not be assigned to any committee meetings, but will give his RSVP 5 days before posting, so NISD can meet the state laws that have been implemented. Bobby will stay as the PTA rep. Trustee Zapata will be added to the Finance Committee, and President Karla will be added to the Technology Committee.

Motion by Laura Zapata, second by David Salcido.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, David Salcido, Karla Duran, Laura Zapata, Sonia Jasso

Information: C. Future Agenda Items:

12. Executive Session

If, during the course of any duly posted meeting, the Board of Trustees determines that a closed or executive session is required regarding an item posted on the agenda, that session will be held on any or all subjects and purposes permitted by Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, 551.084 of the Government Code (the Open Meetings Law). If a final vote is required on any matter considered in the closed or executive session, it shall be taken either upon the reconvening of the public session covered by this notice or at a subsequent, duly posted, public meeting as the Board shall determine.

President Duran announced that, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.071, the Board would convene in closed session at 9:55 p.m.

- Discussion and Possible Approval: A. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and 551.089, consider and discuss TxSSC intruder and detection audit.
- Discussion and Possible Approval: B. Superintendent Evaluation
 - ***No Action will be taken on the Superintendent's Evaluation due to one Trustee not being present. The Board will wait until the upcoming Board Meeting in February to discuss the evaluation.***
- Discussion and Possible Approval: C. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Brennan High School
 - ***Will not be considered for action in Open Session***
- Discussion and Possible Approval: D. Appointment of Assistant at Stevens High School
 - ***Will not be considered for action in Open Session***
- Discussion and Possible Approval: E. Appointment of Academic Dean at Sul Ross Middle School
- Discussion and Possible Approval: F. Appointment of Director at Stinson Magnet Middle School

14. Open Session

Information: A. Any required action by the Board concerning matters considered in closed meeting will be taken in open session.

The Board reconvened into open session at 10:41 p.m.

- Action, Approval: B. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Brennan High School
- Action, Approval: C. Appointment of Assistant at Stevens High School
 - ***No action will be taken in Open Session regarding Agenda Items B & C***
- Action, Approval: D. Appointment of Academic Dean at Sul Ross Middle School
- Action, Approval: E. Appointment of Director at Stinson Magnet Middle School

Motion by Sonia Jasso, second by Laura Zapata.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, David Salcido, Karla Duran, Laura Zapata, Sonia Jasso

15. Adjournment

Procedural: A. Adjourn the Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Approved on February 24, 2026