

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

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 24, 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. J. Woods, Jessica Palomares, Dr. Trevino,
Kris Trejo, Lori Gallegos, Valerie Sisk**

1. Recognitions

A. Swearing in of Chief of Police Richard B. Palomo

Chief Richard Palomo brings more than three decades of law enforcement experience guided by a deep belief that policing is, at its core, about people. Throughout his career, he has been recognized for leading with integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to service. Chief Palomo is known for building trust through relationships, investing in his officers, and working alongside educators and families to create safe, supportive school communities. As he takes this oath of office, Chief Palomo pledges to lead with courage, wisdom, and heart, serving the students, staff, families, and community of Northside ISD with distinction and devotion.

B. Sherry Mireles, TSCA Campus Administrator of the Year

Sherry Mireles, the principal at Rawlinson Middle School, was named the Rhosine Fleming Campus Administrator of the Year by the Texas School Counselor Association (TSCA).

The Rhosine Fleming Professional Awards recognize and honor individuals' commitment to implementing and/or supporting the comprehensive school counseling program on campuses.

She was recognized at this year's CREST/TSCA awards dinner on Sunday, February 1, at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

2. Public Hearings

A. 2025 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and House Bill 3 Annual Report

NISD's Academic Performance Report was presented by Dr. Janis Jordan, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and a public hearing was held, as required by Texas law. All school districts are required to publish an annual report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), district accreditation status, student enrollment and

academic performance, PEIMS Financial Standards Report, a report of violent or criminal incidents, and information received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for each high school campus. The report will be available online on the NISD website, and copies of specific reports will be available upon request through the Communications Department.

3. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent 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.

- Marshall HS 75th Anniversary: A wonderful evening honoring the rich traditions and lasting culture of the Marshall community.
- Council of PTA Founders Day: Hosted at Sotomayor High School, this event brought dedicated PTA members together. Special thanks to Principal Ada Bohlken and her staff for their hospitality.
- School Connect Summit: NISD proudly participated in the second annual summit, fostering meaningful dialogue between the district and community partners.
- TIA Designation: In a major win for educators, NISD has been accepted into the state's Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) program. In its inaugural year, over 1,300 educators have already met the criteria for these merit-based monetary awards.
- CAST Teach Scholarships: In partnership with St. Mary's University, 25 future teachers were awarded scholarships totaling approximately \$2 million.
- NEF Clay Shoot: This annual event hit the mark, setting a new record for funds raised to support innovative classroom practices across the district.
- Career Day at Straus MS: Kudos to Principal Wendi Peralta and her team for a successful day of professional inspiration for students.
- Disability Awareness Day: Kallison Elementary hosted impactful demonstrations, providing students with a deeper understanding of the lives and experiences of individuals with disabilities.
- Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE): Out of 1,700 entries, 573 NISD artists earned the highest possible ranking, with 50 students advancing to the state level.
- Brennan Lady Bears: Congratulations to the team on advancing to the Regional Semifinals!
- Aquatics: Best of luck to our district swimmers who have officially qualified for state-level competition.
- Video Moment. Each month, David Norris in the NISD Communications Dept. produces a Story of Northside episode after he spins the wheel to see where in the District he will go. It is a popular series for our principals, and all the videos produced thus far can be found on our website. This month, he finds himself at Jordan Magnet School. Take a look to see what he discovers at this new middle school magnet program and where he will go next month.

4. Board Member's Report

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 opened his remarks by extending congratulations to Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez, the Executive Director of Fine Arts, for her role in the success of Clark High School's Freaky Friday event. He spoke about his recent attendance at the Special Olympics opening ceremony. Salcido took a moment to personally praise Shawn Settles, Special Education Lead Specialist, for her leadership and coordination of the festivities. To conclude his presentation, he proudly showcased a commemorative Fiesta medal currently for sale.
- Trustee Sonia Jasso began her comments by expressing sincere gratitude to City Councilman Ric Galvan for his participation in a recent Platicas event at Zachry Middle School. She emphasized the value of his involvement in addressing the critical issue of mental health awareness within the community. Furthermore, Trustee Jasso 2 Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez for her collaboration in bridging the gap between the district and local Homeowners Associations, a partnership that strengthens neighborhood connections. Looking ahead, Jasso shared her excitement about attending the district's annual. Library Palooza for the first time. She noted that this year's celebration of literacy will be hosted at Brandeis High School on Saturday, February 28, and encouraged the community to join her.
- Trustee Karla Duran began her report by extending her gratitude to Trustee Harle for her dedicated representation of the Board during the Marshall High School 75th Anniversary celebration. She offered congratulations to the recent graduates during the Mid-Year Graduation Ceremony. Duran noted her successful participation in the annual Northside Education Foundation (NEF) Clay Shoot and expressed her satisfaction with the event's overall outcome. She described the PTA Founders Day event as an impressive showcase of student talent and performance. During her remarks, she took a moment to specifically thank Sotomayor High School Principal Ada Bohlken for her leadership. Duran also highlighted her rewarding experience during a recent Student Ambassador training, where she engaged directly with the district's emerging student leaders. She acknowledged the Cub Scout Troop at Locke Hill Elementary and congratulated NISD Police Chief Richard Palomo on his official swearing-in ceremony. She shared a highlight regarding a visit from Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor to Tomlinson Elementary School, where the Justice read her new children's book—a tribute to her mother—to two groups of students. Furthermore, Dr. Duran attended the PTA meeting and Open House at Colonies North Elementary, noting the impressive results of the extensive renovations at the campus. On a personal note, she shared that she recently completed a mental health awareness training hosted by the Texas School Safety Center, strongly recommending the program to her colleagues and the community. To conclude, Dr. Duran offered the collective

condolences of the entire Board of Trustees to the families of district community members who have recently passed away.

- Trustee Bobby Blount centered his remarks on a theme: the mission to establish Northside ISD at the national level. He shared an encouraging anecdote from a recent visit to Ott Elementary School, noting that a guest speaker was so impressed by the students' exemplary behavior and engagement that they felt compelled to personally commend the campus atmosphere. Blount highlighted a high-energy pep rally at Brennan High School held in honor of Bella Flemings, who achieved the prestigious distinction of being named to the McDonald's All-American Team. He praised the district's science department staff for their coordination in hosting the National Science Bowl. To conclude his report, Trustee Blount expressed his gratitude to the Bernal Middle School PTA and the Learning Tree Advisory Council for their hospitality and hard work in hosting a recent community event he was honored to attend.
- Trustee Laura Zapata opened her remarks with an acknowledgment of the retirement of Ross Middle School Principal Faustino Ortega, honoring his dedicated service to the district. Her reflections on community engagement continued with a note of appreciation for the Sotomayor High School community and Principal Ada Bohlken, who served as gracious hosts for the annual Council of PTAs' Founders Day event. Zapata highlighted her recent visit to Oak Hills Terrace Elementary, where she thanked Principal Stacey Winton for organizing a beautiful PTA gathering. She also celebrated the creativity of students at Clark High School for hosting its annual Freaky Friday event, which showcased a variety of impressive student performances. Finally, Zapata expressed her gratitude to NISD Police Chief Richard Palomo and the NISD Police Department for their successful inaugural Cowboy Breakfast.
- Trustee Carol Harle opened her report by reflecting on the Marshall High School 75th Anniversary celebration, noting that it was an amazing event and especially enjoyed witnessing the reunion of five former principals who have shaped the school's history. She praised Clark High School for their successful Freaky Friday and specifically highlighted a commercial produced by Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez that showcased the district's fine arts programs. Harle recently served as a mentor at an SA Smart event where she engaged with talented students from the Jay Science & Engineering Academy. She also extended her gratitude to Clark High School Librarian Lucy Podmore for hosting a meaningful Holocaust Remembrance Week event. Harle honored the memory of Bob Lewis, a former NISD band director and campus namesake, following his recent passing. She spoke of his legendary influence and the lasting impact he left on generations of NISD musicians and students. To conclude her remarks, she thanked Trustee Jasso for her leadership in encouraging the Board to proactively reach out to City Council members, ensuring the district remains well-represented at local civic events.
- Trustee Karen Freeman opened her remarks with a tribute to the late Andy Green, a steadfast district supporter and volunteer whose dedicated advocacy during numerous bond elections left an indelible mark on the community. She celebrated the remarkable

success of the Walter Gerlach Livestock Show and Sale, which raised an impressive \$1.4 million to fund student scholarships. Trustee Freeman also highlighted a milestone for the Agriculture Science and Technology Academy (ASTA), noting that the program now operates a dedicated on-site store to sell products directly connected to its specialized curriculum. She praised Colonies North Elementary School for hosting an Open House to showcase its recently rebuilt facility to the neighborhood. She shared her enjoyment of the 3 BOARDTalk 2025-2026 published by the Communications Department, Northside Independent School District, Marshall High School 75th Anniversary event, expressing a sincere wish that the campus's rich and storied history could be captured for future generations. Freeman cheered on the district schools that have successfully advanced to the state-level Academic Decathlon competition. She concluded her report by commending Helotes Elementary School for their innovative parent panel, which featured families sharing their positive experiences transitioning from charter schools to the Northside ISD community.

5. Citizens to be Heard

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

Reading Competition

1. Terry Zablocki - Student Achievement is the HEART of NISD
April 20 Sports Gym - WINNER Announced
Go to the greatreadingchallenge.com

Compensation for IAs – Livable Wages

1. Mary DeSouza - IA's Sub
Subs mainly in special education - IAs
In support of livable wages for all IAs that work for NISD.

Colonies North – Consideration of Name Change

1. Hannan Brazwell - former student/resident
Not in favor of name change

Ice Protest

1. Roy Mendoza – Upset by the protest. Dr. Craft followed up with Mr. Mendoza regarding his concerns.

Consider the reclassification of Interpreter for the Hard of Hearing/Deaf Community.

1. Jamie L. - Interpreter 25 yrs JMHS
Interpreters should not be classified as IAs.

No Show

1. Edward Perez
2. Jonah Perez

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.

- Minutes from the Meetings of January 2026
- Awarding of Bids, Request for Proposals, and Purchases over
- \$50,000 Bids, Requests for Proposals, and purchases over \$50,000 are presented to the Board in accordance with Board Policy CH(Legal) and CH (Local).
- 29-30 HB 3 Goals 2029-2030 HB 3 Goals.pdf
- Library Book List
- School District Teaching Permit
- Quarterly Investment Report for the Period Ending November 30, 2025
 - Per the Public Funds Investment Act, Government Code 2256, a quarterly investment report must be prepared and submitted to the Board. Attached is the investment report for the period September 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025. The primary objective of the report is to present and inform the Board of (1) changes in market values, asset allocation activity, and investment yield; (2) the District's compliance with investment strategies; and (3) the District's compliance with relevant provisions of the law.
- This report was reviewed with the Finance Committee on February 10, 2026
- Review of Contractor for Boiler Replacement - Allen ES - RFCSP #2026-013
- Review of Contractor for Civil Improvements - Holmes HS - 2026 Construction Portables - IDQ RFP #2022-164 Project #25-004-164
- Review of Contractor for Flooring Replacements - Michael ES - RFCSP #2026-017
- Review of Contractor for Paving Upgrades - Brauchle ES - RFCSP #2026-025
- Review of Contractor for Paving Upgrades - Thornton ES - RFCSP #2026-023
- Review of Contractor for Roof Replacement - Blattman & Meadow Village ESs - RFCSP #2025-061
- Review of Contractor for Roof Replacement - Neff MS - RFCSP #2026-036
- Review of Contractor for Roof Replacement - Warren HS - Phase 2 - RFCSP #2026-021
- Review of Contractor for Rooftop Unit Replacement - Support Services Center - RFCSP #2026-011
- Review of Contractor for Rooftop Unit Replacement & Energy Controls Upgrades - Hobby MS - RFCSP #2026-012
- Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy CCA (Local)
 - The recommended changes to Board Policy CCA (Local): Local Revenue Sources Bond Issues were reviewed at the January 14, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting and were on the January 20, 2026 board meeting agenda for first reading. The changes recommended delete unnecessary language that is covered in the legal policy and clarify bond defeasement language.

Recommended Action: Approval

Moved by: Karen Freeman

Seconded by: Bobby Blount

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

Motion Approved 7-0

7. Business and Finance

A. Resolution Regarding Weather-Related Closure of School

The district closed on Monday, January 26, 2026, due to inclement weather concerns. Board Policy DEA (Local) states, "During an emergency closure, all employees shall continue to be paid for their regular duty schedule unless otherwise provided by Board action. Following an emergency closure, the Board shall adopt a resolution or take other Board action establishing the purpose and parameters for such payments."

Board policy requires the board to take action via resolution to pay employees during a district emergency closure.

The action will allow all monthly and biweekly employees to be paid their standard pay for the district closure on January 26, 2026.

Recommended Action: Approval

Moved by: Sonia Jasso

Seconded by: David Salcido

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

Motion Approved 7-0

B. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment #1

Per section 44.006 of the Texas Education Code, and section 2.6.2 of the Financial Accountability Resource Guide, a district may amend a budget and must do so prior to fully expending any functional category. This budget amendment shows changes in the basic allotment for the variance of @675 students from the budgeted ADA to the 3rd six weeks ADA, along with real ADA changes for SPED, CTE, Early Education, and Bilingual. This amendment also realigns slay expenditures to the correct function codes from the function codes estimated during budget planning.

We will be in continuous contact with TEA and the Comptroller's Office. Optimistic that this will be resolved. Software being used for property taxes - Jake sent in an appeal, so they are documented and recorded.

Recommended Action: Approval

Moved by: Karen Freeman

Seconded by: Carol Harle

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

Motion Approved 7-0

8. Human Resources

A. Consider Approval of House Bill (HB2) New Teacher Certification Requirements - Application/Plan for Delay in Implementing House Bill 2 (HB2)

Background Information:

House Bill (HB) 2 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, included information on new limitations to Texas school districts' ability to waive teacher certification requirements for foundational curriculum courses within their district of innovation (DOI) plan. It included the process that districts must use if they wish to request approval from the commissioner of education to delay implementation of certification requirements for foundation curriculum courses until the beginning of the 2029-2030 school year. The process includes a Board approved district plan to address uncertified teachers.

Recommended Action: Approval

Moved by: Carol Harle

Seconded by: Laura Zapata

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

Motion Approved 7-0

9. Administration

- A. Discussion of Update 126 (C)
- B. First Reading of CH (LOCAL)
- C. First Reading of CV(LOCAL)
- D. First Reading of EIF (LOCAL)
- E. Designation of Prayer Time Information

In compliance with the mandates of Senate Bill 11, the Board of Trustees conducted a formal vote regarding the implementation of designated prayer time in schools. The Trustees voted unanimously not to adopt the measure, maintaining the district's current policy and schedule.

Recommended Action: Discussion and Possible Approval

Moved by: Bobby Blount

Seconded by: Karla Duran

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

Motion Approved 7-0

10. Superintendent

A. Northside Bond Timeline

The Board of Trustees recently reviewed the timeline and process for a potential bond and Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE). While no election has been officially called, the Board is evaluating a proposal for the November 2026 ballot.

B. Colonies North Renaming Survey

The Board of Trustees reviewed survey results gauging community sentiment regarding the potential renaming of Colonies North Elementary School. Following this review, the Board has officially slated the item for a future meeting of the Board's Building Committee.

Citizens to be Heard

1. Chris Riojas - Son of Evangelina Riojas - In favor of name change

Stated his is not trying to take away memories from previous and current students, but feels the school should be named after someone who had a positive influence, not a subdivision. "It's just a neighborhood, not something or someone significant".

2. Kathy Mochel- Not in favor of changing the name.

Colonies North is not just named after a neighborhood. It's a community that loves Colonies North. Kathy has lived in the Hidden Creek subdivision for 23 years. All three sons have attended CN ES. She has participated in PTA Board, Colonies Swim, etc. Colonies North is going on 60 yrs strong, and we love our school, and we don't want it to be changed. Another factor is that Ms. Riojas has zero connection to our campus, and we don't see why we would change it. The funds to rebrand a new name, that money could go back to the students and teachers.

3. DanCee Bowers- Not in favor of the name change. Email Board yesterday. Has lived in the neighborhood since 1977. Kids attended - it's not just a neighborhood or school, it's a community. Feels Ms. Riojas deserves something, but something that she can call her own, not our school.

C. Bandera CAD - Notice of Vacancy

Recommended Action: Discussion and Possible Approval

Moved by: Karen Freeman

Seconded by: Bobby Blount

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

Motion Approved 7-0

- D. Discussion of Community-Based Equity Audit
- E. Future Agenda Items

11. 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 10:35 p.m.

- A. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.076 and 551.089, consider and discuss TxSSC intruder and detection audit.
- B. Superintendent Evaluation
- C. Appointment of Principal at LMS Magnet High School
- D. Appointment of Principal at NSITE Magnet High School
- E. Appointment of Associate Principal at Construction Careers Academy HS.
- F. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Brennan High School
- G. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Stinson Middle School
- H. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Stevens High School

12. Executive Session Resources

Executive Attachments

13. Open Session

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 12:44 a.m.

- A. Superintendent Evaluation

Recommended Action: Approval

Moved by: Karen Freeman

Seconded by: Carol Harle

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

Motion Approved 7-0

Recommended Action: Approval for Consent Items B-G
Moved by: Karen Freeman
Seconded by: Carol Harle

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

Motion Approved 7-0

- B. Appointment of Principal at LMS Magnet High School
- C. Appointment of Principal at NSITE Magnet High School
- D. Appointment of Associate Principal at Construction Careers Academy HS
- E. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Brennan High School
- F. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Stinson Middle School
- G. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Stevens High School

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 a.m.

APPROVED ON MARCH 24, 2026