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

Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
6:00 PM

Members present
Carol Harle, Bobby Blount, Laura Zapata, & Sonia Jasso

Staff Present
Dr. Craft, Dr. Fey, Dr. Jordan, Barry Perez, Ben Muir, Jacob Villarreal
Dr. J. Woods, Jesica Palomares, Kr. Trevino, Kris Trejo, Lori Gallegos
Megan Bradley, and Valerie Sisk

1. **Reports**
   A. Citizens Bond Committee (CBC) Presentation

Presenter: Dr. Craft provided an overview of the two recent Citizens Bond Committee (CBC) meetings and introduced three citizen co-chairs: Dave Gannon, Richard Delgado, and Cathy Naiser.

2. Committee Recommendations & Proposition Options
   - Overall CBC Recommendation: A total program package of $911 million (comprising Option 3 plus three additional propositions).
   - Option Details & Group Consensus:
     - Option 3 ($765M): Identified by Mr. Delgado as the most favored baseline option. The committee reached consensus to propose additional separate propositions for:
       1. Classroom Technology
       2. George Block Natatorium
       3. Outdoor Learning Center
     - Option 2 ($660M): Highlighted by Mr. Gannon, whose group favored this lower baseline amount.
- Bond & VATRE Structure: The co-chairs discussed whether to present the Bond and the Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE) together or split them.

3. Committee Co-Chair Feedback & Insights
- Teacher Engagement & Project Feedback (Ms. Naiser):
  - Reported that many teachers in her working group opposed both the Outdoor Learning Center and the Natatorium.
  - Emphasized the critical need to secure teacher support for whichever propositions are ultimately placed on the ballot.
  - Advised that targeted messaging will be essential for campuses where lifecycle projects are put on hold.
- Community Voice & Lifecycle Transparency (Mr. Gannon):
  - Provided historical context on the CBC as a vital vehicle for community engagement.
  - Recommended framing lifecycle projects to the public by highlighting the percentage of campuses receiving bond projects, rather than focusing solely on specific campus names.

4. Board Discussion & Inquiries
- Outdoor Learning Center Discussion (Dr. Harle):
  - Dr. Harle asked how the Outdoor Learning Center was framed to the working groups.

  - Mr. Gannon and Mr. Delgado clarified that group members recommended keeping the Outdoor Learning Center as a standalone proposition on the ballot to give voters a specific item to vote against if desired, rather than jeopardizing the main package.
  - Dr. Harle further inquired whether decisions would have differed had specific campus names been explicitly listed for lifecycle projects.
- Voter Turnout & Election Timing (Mr. Blount):
  - Mr. Blount inquired whether the committee evaluated the impact of higher overall voter turnout in a November election compared to a May election.

5. Documentation Provided

- An Executive Summary detailing the CBC meetings and findings was distributed to the Board for review.

2. Curriculum and Instruction

A. Discussion of P-TECH

Program Summary: Presentation and discussion regarding the potential implementation of a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) model within Northside ISD (NISD).

- Student Benefits: P-TECH is a specialized high school model designed to allow participating students to simultaneously earn:
  1. A High School Diploma
  2. An Industry-Standard Certification
  3. An Associate Degree

2. Timeline & Funding Considerations

- Implementation Schedule: If approved by the Board, the program is slated to launch for the 2028–2029 school year.
- Financial Impact: Program implementation would generate an additional $150 per student in funding.

3. Board Discussion & Recommendations

- Campus-Level Funding Allocation (Dr. Harle): Dr. Harle inquired whether the additional $150 per-student funding would be allocated directly to the host campus for local discretionary use, requesting that this explicit funding specification be formally incorporated into the final agreement.

4. Next Steps

- This item was presented for discussion only and will be brought back to the July 28th Board meeting for consideration and action.

B. 2026 STAAR and EOC Accountability Forecast

Presenter: Susan Cleveland presented performance data and updates regarding the 2026 STAAR and End-of-Course (EOC) results.

- Special Education Population: Continuing to grow, currently approaching 20% of total enrollment.
- Emergent Bilingual Population: Decreased as a percentage of total enrollment for the first time in several years.

2. Campus Performance & Accountability Ratings

- Turnaround Plan Campuses:
  - Mead, Neff, and Martin: Successfully improved performance from "F" ratings to "B" or "C" ratings.
  - Glass Elementary: Expected to achieve a "C" rating following score resubmission/rescoring.

- Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) Campuses:
    - Improvements: Eight campuses previously rated "D" or "F" are anticipated to achieve "B" or "C" ratings.
    - Retained on TIP: Passmore, Carlos Coon, and Rhodes will remain on the Targeted Improvement Plan.
- Campuses Requiring New Support: Five campuses dropped in performance this year to "D" or "F" ratings: Glenoaks, Hull, Adams Hill, Oak Hills Terrace, and Valley Hi.

3. Support Strategies & Targeted Interventions

- Administration highlighted key targeted support actions for campuses, including:
    - Data review and strategic planning with campus principals
    - Strategic staffing allocations
    - Focused staff professional development
    - Campus visits centered on Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

4. Board Discussion & Recommendations

- Rezoning Impact Analysis (Mr. Blount): Requested detailed demographic data and academic results for campuses impacted by recent rezoning.
- Celebrating Campus Successes (Ms. Zapata & Dr. Craft):
    - Ms. Zapata inquired about strategies for celebrating academic turnarounds and accomplishments with local communities.
    - Dr. Craft asked whether funds are currently available within campus budgets to support these celebrations.
- Focus on Student Growth (Dr. Harle): Recommended that district recognition emphasize individual student growth rather than strictly focusing on state-assigned letter grades.

C. 2026-2027 School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

Presentation regarding the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), a Board-appointed advisory committee dedicated to overseeing and supporting the District's health, wellness, and related programs.

2. Council Membership Review

- Roster Review: The proposed roster of members for the 2026–2027 school year was submitted to the Board for formal review.

3. Action & Next Steps

- Consent Agenda Placement: This item will be presented to the Board for formal consideration and approval on the July 28 Consent Agenda.

D. Discussion of DM Group Contract

Program Description: The District Management Group (DMG) implements the Breakthrough Results (BTR) Program, a structured model designed to improve student outcomes in high school STAAR courses and boost overall district accountability results.

- Methodology: Achieves targeted, measurable performance gains through dedicated coaching and real-time, integrated professional learning for staff.

2. Program History & Performance (2025–2026)

- Focus Area: Implementation began in January of the 2025–2026 school year, focusing on 365 specific students at John Jay High School and Oliver Wendell Holmes High School for targeted progress monitoring.
- Execution: Executed in close collaboration with Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) specialists.

- Results: All four participating teams achieved a significant increase in the percentage of students meeting academic expectations.
- Recognition: Dr. Fey commended Kathleen Cuevas and Erika Dillon for their detailed campus-level efforts, as well as Val and Kara for their dedicated intervention work with struggling secondary schools.

3. Proposed Expansion & Funding

- Expansion Scope: The proposed contract continuation would expand the BTR Program to include John Marshall High School and John Paul Stevens High School.
- Funding Source: Title IV Federal Grant Funds.

4. Board & Administrative Discussion

- Campus & Leadership Feedback: The principal of Holmes High School and Jerry Woods addressed the Board, sharing firsthand experiences and positive feedback regarding the program's impact.
- Program Structure (Ms. Zapata): Ms. Zapata submitted inquiries regarding the operational structure and day-to-day framework of the BTR model.
- Vendor Evaluation & Quality Assurance (Dr. Jasso): Dr. Jasso raised several questions regarding DMG customer service survey metrics, research white papers, and performance evaluation data.

5. Action & Next Steps

- Consent Agenda Placement: The proposal to expand the DMG Breakthrough Results Program will be presented to the Board for formal consideration and approval on the July 28 Consent Agenda.

3. Superintendent

A. Consideration of the naming of the Finalist for the Interim Superintendent

Type: Possible Approval

This item will no longer be addressed during the July 21 Board meeting, as the Board took action on this matter during the July 19 Board meeting.
Action Item: No action taken

4. 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 Jasso announced that there are no items to be discussed in Executive Session

A. Sec. 551.071. and Sec. 551.074. Consultation with Attorney; Discussion of selected candidates for Interim Superintendent

This item will no longer be addressed during the July 21 Board meeting, as the Board took action on this matter during the July 19, 2026 Board meeting. The entire Board meeting was held in Open Session.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Approved on August 25, 2026