

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

**Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, August 11, 2026
6:00 PM**

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

**Staff Present
Mrs. Palomares, Dr. Fey, Dr. Jordan, Megan Bradley, Barry Perez, Ben Muir,
Deonna Dean, Jacob Villarreal, Dr. J. Woods, Kr. Trevino, Kris Trejo, Lori
Gallegos, & Valerie Sisk**

1. Public Hearings

A. Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate for 2026-2027
In compliance with Section 44.004 of Texas Education Code, a notice of public meeting to discuss budget and proposed tax rate was published in the San Antonio Express-News on July 31, 2026. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

Adoption of the budget and tax rate will take place later in the agenda.

Tiffany Contreras delivered a presentation outlining the proposed district budget and tax rates for the upcoming fiscal year, encompassing the General Fund, Child Nutrition Fund, and Debt Service Fund, along with the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) and Interest & Sinking (I&S) tax rates.

- Budget & Tax Rate Overview: Presentation covered the proposed General Fund, Child Nutrition, and Debt Service budgets alongside the M&O and I&S tax rates.
- Student Enrollment Update: Debbie McNierney addressed questions regarding Day 2 student enrollment numbers.
- Department Recognition: Mr. Blount highlighted recent accolades for the Child Nutrition team, noting the kudos received from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) at their annual celebration.

2. Consent Agenda
Consent Action

Moved by: Laura Zapata; seconded by: Karla Duran
Yes: Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, David Salcido, Karla Duran, Laura Zapata, and Sonia Jasso
Not Present at Vote: Carol Harle
Motion Approved 6-0

A. Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Superintendent to Execute Various Facility-Related Documents for the Development of School Projects and Sites
Resolution.pdf

B. Bexar County 4-H Adjunct Faculty and Extracurricular Requests
Extracurricular Status Request 4-H Bexar County Extension Service.pdf

C. Second Reading of DC Local
DC Local Redline

3. Facilities and Operations

A. Proposed 2026 Bond Project Summary
Type: Discussion

2026 Bond Program - Preliminary Listing - detail.pdf
NISD 2026 Bond Program Summary.pdf

The Board heard public comment regarding bond and Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE) communications. Following public comments, Jacob Villarreal presented a detailed review of

individual proposed bond projects, including photographic visuals and a discussion of proposed propositions totaling \$886,245,000.

Citizens to be Heard: Bond & VATRE Messaging

Terry Zablocki

- Suggested explaining the Bond ("Thing 1") focused on building safety, simplifying VATRE terms (e.g., explaining the 2% tax rate clearly so voters do not have to decode information), and translating messaging into accessible, Dr. Seuss-style concepts.
- Community Outreach: Urged NISD to send clear factual documentation to every household prior to the start of voting, incorporating NEF (Northside Education Foundation) Pillars and district lessons.

Student & Program Highlights:

- o Emphasized that SAM (Student Achievement Matters).
- o Highlighted a Construction Careers Academy (CCA) project where students transformed a retired school bus into a tiny home, demonstrating high program return on investment.
- o Noted the impact of Student Ambassadors in questioning and reflecting on community feedback.

Bond Projects Overview: Jacob Villarreal reviewed individual proposed bond projects, sharing photographic documentation and addressing Trustees' questions regarding specific project details.

Financial Scope: The total proposed package encompasses two separate propositions totaling \$886,245,000.

Board Inquiry: Trustees inquired about building master plans, historical costs of similar prior facility renovations, and projected cost escalation factors.

4. Business and Finance

- A. Consideration and approval of a resolution by the Board of Trustees of the Northside Independent School District providing for the defeasance and calling for redemption certain currently outstanding obligations; directing that the board secretary, or designee, effectuate the redemption of these obligations; and other matters in connection therewith

The board will consider for approval a defeasance resolution to pay off bonded debt in 2026-2027. Administration has identified certain outstanding debt issuances that can be defeased with interest and sinking (I&S) tax collections to be collected during the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The amount of not less than \$84,000,000 will be defeased.

Recommended action: approval

Board members asked questions about building master plans, costs of previous similar renovations and escalation costs.

Action Item: K Duran --I move that the Board of Trustees adopt a Resolution approving the defeasance of certain outstanding obligations of the Northside Independent School District.

Moved by: Karla Duran; seconded by: Laura Zapata

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

Not Present at Vote: Carol Harle

Motion Approved 6-0

- B. Adoption of the 2026-2027 Budget

Board Policy BAA (Legal) lists as a specific responsibility of the board to adopt an annual budget for the district as required under Texas Education Code 44.004.

The proposed 2026-2027 budgets for the General Fund, Child Nutrition Fund, and Debt Service Fund are presented for discussion and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Recommended action: approval

The Board unanimously adopted the fiscal year 2027 budgets as presented.

Action Item: KD - I move to adopt the fiscal year 2027 budgets as presented.

Moved by: Karla Duran; seconded by: David Salcido

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

Not Present at Vote: Carol Harle

Motion Approved 6-0

C. Proposed Debt Service Tax Rate

The 89th Legislature passed Senate Bill 1453, effective on January 1, 2026. This legislation requires an additional action for Districts that plan to adopt a higher Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate for early defeasance of bonds. This action requires a 60% record vote (5 of 7) board members to pass.

Recommended action: approval

The Board reviewed the minimum required debt service tax rate alongside the calculated rate necessary to execute the bond defeasance plan discussed previously. Following review, the Board unanimously approved a Debt Service (Interest & Sinking) tax rate of \$0.3355 per \$100 of taxable valuation. This rate intentionally exceeds the statutory baseline rate under Texas Education Code §44.004(c)(5)(A)(ii)(b) to generate surplus revenue dedicated toward early debt retirement

Debt Service Tax Rate Approval: The Board unanimously approved a proposed Interest & Sinking (I&S) debt service tax rate of \$0.3355 per \$100 of taxable valuation.

Comparison to Statutory Baseline:

- o Approved Rate: \$0.3355 per \$100
- o Statutory Baseline Rate (TEC §44.004(c)(5)(A)(ii)(b)): \$0.2157 per \$100
- o Variance: Exceeds baseline by \$0.1198 per \$100

Utilization of Excess Revenue: Excess revenue generated from the \$0.1198 differential will be applied directly toward early defeasance and payoff of outstanding district debt prior to stated maturity dates.

Action Item: K DURAN -- I move that a proposed rate to pay debt service of \$0.3355 per \$100 of taxable value be approved. This rate exceeds the district's debt service rate determined under Texas Education Code section 44.004(c)(5)(A)(ii)(b) of \$0.2157 by \$ 0.1198. The excess revenue collected from the proposed rate will be used to pay debt service on outstanding debt prior to the stated maturity of such debt.

Moved by: Karla Duran; seconded by: Laura Zapata

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

Not Present at Vote: Carol Harle

Motion Approved 6-0

D. Consideration and Approval of an Order fixing and levying the Northside Independent School District ad valorem taxes for the year 2026-2027; directing the assessment and collection thereof, and other matters in connection therewith

In accordance with Board Policy BAA (Legal) and Texas Tax Code Section 26.05, an order fixing and levying ad valorem property taxes for the 2026–2027 school year was presented for Board consideration. The Board unanimously approved the recommended total property tax rate of \$1.0349 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which represents an effective 1.13% increase in the tax rate.

Legal Framework: Pursuant to Board Policy BAA (Legal) and Texas Tax Code §26.05, the Board holds the statutory responsibility to formally adopt a property tax rate each fiscal year.

- Underlying Assumptions: The recommended tax structure assumes:
 - o Calling a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE).
 - o Approval of the defeasance resolution and the associated debt service tax rate presented earlier in the meeting agenda.

Adopted Tax Rate Structure (per \$100 Assessed Valuation):

- o Maintenance & Operations (M&O): \$0.6994
- o Interest & Sinking (I&S): \$0.3355
- o Total Adopted Tax Rate: \$1.0349 (reflects an effective 1.13% increase)

Record Vote & Action: Tax rate adoption requires a 60% record vote (at least 5 of 7 Trustees). The Board unanimously approved the order fixing and levying the property tax rate at \$1.0349 per \$100 valuation.

Recommended action: approval

Action Item: K. DURAN-- I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$1.0349, which is effectively a 1.13% increase in the tax rate.

Moved by: Karla Duran; seconded by: Karen Freeman

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

Not Present at Vote: Carol Harle

Motion Approved 6-0

E. Consideration and approval of an Order calling a special election to be held by the Northside Independent School District regarding ratifying a voter-approval tax rate, making provision for the conduct of a joint election, and resolving other matters incident and related to such election
Approval of this item places consideration on the November 3, 2026 ballot to increase the maintenance and operation tax rate by \$0.03 from \$0.6694 to \$0.6994 generating approximately \$46 million in state and local revenue with more than half of this amount coming from Texas Education Agency in state aid.

The board unanimously adopted an order calling a voter-approval tax rate election.

Recommended action: approval

Action Item: K DURAN --I move that the Board of Trustees adopt an order calling a voter-approval tax rate election.

Moved by: Karla Duran; seconded by: David Salcido

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

Not Present at Vote: Carol Harle

Motion Approved 6-0

E. Consideration and approval of an Order calling a bond election to be held by the Northside Independent School District, making provision for the conduct of a joint election, and resolving other matters incident and related to such election

Approving this order calls bond elections totaling \$886,245,000 with \$764,745,000 in a general proposition and two separate propositions of \$56,000,000 for instructional technology and \$65,500,000 for natatoriums, including replacement of the George Block Aquatics Center.

The board unanimously adopted an Order calling a bond election.

Recommended action: approval

Action Item: KURAN I move that the Board of Trustees adopt an Order calling a bond election.

Moved by: Karla Duran; seconded by: Laura Zapata

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

Not Present at Vote: Carol Harle

Motion Approved 6-0

5. Human Resources

A. 2027 Health Insurance Update

Type: Information

NISD - Board Meeting Presentation 2026.08.11 (1) (1).pdf

Agenda Item: Employee Health Insurance Plan Review & Defined Contribution Strategy

A representative from Northside ISD's insurance consulting firm presented an overview of the district's self-insurance health fund, current reserve status, premium rate trends, and plan structure recommendations. To address declining fund balances while maintaining premium stability, a transition from six health plans down to three core plans was recommended alongside a structured district-defined contribution model.

Self-Insurance Health Fund Balance & Reserve Trends:

- o The fund was established with an initial reserve balance of \$30 million.
- o Current projections estimate the reserve balance has decreased to \$3 million.
- o NISD employee health insurance premium rates have remained unchanged since 2025.

Recommended Defined Contribution Model:

- o Employee Only: District contribution of \$500 per month per participating employee.
- o Employee + Dependent(s): District contribution of \$651 per month if the employee selects coverage covering any dependents.

Plan Consolidation:

- Recommended streamlining coverage offerings from the current 6 health plans down to 3 plans.

Trustees requested that formal approval of employee health insurance plans and major structure changes be brought to the Board for official vote and authorization moving forward.

6. Superintendent

A. Committee Assignments

Type: Discussion

Dr Jasso had all board members sign up for the committees they are interested in serving on. All current chairs remain the same as last year.

B. Future Agenda Items

7. 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, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.071, the Board would convene in closed session at 8:09 pm.

- A. Pursuant to Tex. Gov. Code §551.071, attorney consultation regarding legal issues related to pending litigation, including but not limited to Ernesto Carrillo v. Northside Independent School District, Cause No. 2025-CI-14080, in the 225th Judicial District Court, Bexar County, Texas.

- B. Pursuant to Tex. Gov. Code §551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney Pending and/or Possible Litigation

- C. Appointment of the Director of Budget and Research

- D. Appointment of Briscoe Middle School Assistant Principal

*****This item has been postponed and will be brought forward for consideration at the August 25th Board meeting.***

- E. Appointment of Hobby Middle School Associate Principal

*****This item has been postponed and will be brought forward for consideration at the August 25th Board meeting***

- F. Appointment of Sotomayor High School Assistant Principal

*****This item has been postponed and will be brought forward for consideration at the August 25th Board meeting***

- G. Appointment of Warren High School Assistant Principal

8. Executive Session Resources

Executive Attachments

9. 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 8:52 pm

Consent Action B only

Moved by: Karen Freeman; seconded by: Karla Duran

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

Not Present at Vote: Carol Harle

Motion Approved 6-0

- A. Consider and take possible action regarding pending litigation, including but not limited to Ernesto Carrillo v. Northside Independent School District, Cause No. 2025-CI-14080, in the 225th Judicial District Court, Bexar County, Texas.

Action Item

Moved by: Karen Freeman; seconded by: Karla Duran

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

Not Present at Vote: Carol Harle

Motion Approved 6-0

- B. Appointment of the Director of Budget and Research

- C. Appointment of Briscoe Middle School Assistant Principal

****For the record, no action or motion will be taken on this item during the current open session. As previously stated, consideration of this item has been deferred and will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the August 25, 2026, Board meeting.***

- D. Appointment of Hobby Middle School Associate Principal

****For the record, no action or motion will be taken on this item during the current open session. As previously stated, consideration of this item has been deferred and will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the August 25, 2026, Board meeting***

- E. Appointment of Sotomayor High School Assistant Principal

****For the record, no action or motion will be taken on this item during the current open session. As previously stated, consideration of this item has been deferred and will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the August 25, 2026, Board meeting***

- F. Appointment of Warren High School Assistant Principal

****For the record, no action or motion will be taken on this item during the current open session. As previously stated, consideration of this item has been deferred and will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the August 25, 2026, Board meeting***

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2026