



Inside Northside **BOARD** *Talk*

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

February 24, 2026

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

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

Dr. Craft highlighted a series of milestones and events that showcase the vibrant culture and academic excellence of our district. They included:

- **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.

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

- **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

recognized **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 expressing 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 PTA's 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 their recently rebuilt facility to the neighborhood. She shared her enjoyment of the

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.

Trustees hold Public Hearing on Texas Academic Performance 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.

Recognitions

- **Swearing in of Chief of Police Richard B. Palomo.** Chief Palomo was sworn in as the Chief of Police for Northside ISD. As he took his oath of office, Chief Palomo pledged to lead with courage, wisdom, and heart, serving the students, staff, families, and community of NISD with distinction and devotion.
- **TSCA Campus Administrator of the Year. Sherry Mireles**, Principal at **Rawlinson Middle School**, was named the Rhosine Fleming Campus Administrator of the Year by the Texas School Counselor Association (TSCA). This award recognizes and honors an individual's commitment to implementing and/or supporting the comprehensive school counseling program on campuses.

Trustees do not designate prayer time

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.

Trustees discuss timeline for potential bond and VATRE election

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.

Trustees discuss 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.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Adrian Gonzales**, formerly Associate Principal at Marshall Law & Medical Services, was appointed **Principal at Marshall Law and Medical Services.**
- **Christie Szabo**, formerly Director of Design & Technology Academy in North East ISD, was appointed **Principal at NSITE.**
- **Cortney Trevino**, formerly Assistant Principal at Holmes High School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Construction Careers Academy.**
- **Sharon M. Rodriguez**, formerly Student Success Advisor at Brennan High School, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Brennan High School.**
- **Barbara Kwan-Bloomingtondale**, formerly Program Coordinator at Jay Science & Engineering Academy, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Stinson Middle School.**
- **Nicholas J. Hill**, formerly Assistant Principal in San Angelo ISD, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Stevens High School.**

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for boiler replacement at Allen ES – Jack Laurence Corporation
- Contractor for civil improvements for construction portables at Holmes HS – RCO Construction, LLC

- Contractor for flooring replacements at Michael ES – Jamail & Smith Construction, LP
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Brauchle ES – R.L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Thornton ES – SBM General Contractor, LLC
- Contractor for roof replacement at Blattman ES & Meadow Village ES – Topside Contracting, LLC
- Contractor for roof replacement at Neff MS – Advantage USAA, Inc.
- Contractor for roof replacement (phase 2) at Warren HS – Port Enterprises, Ltd.
- Contractor for rooftop unit replacement for Student Services – Jack Laurence Corporation
- Contractor for rooftop unit replacement and energy controls upgrades at Hobby MS – Comfort-Air Engineering, Inc.

Trustees review and/or approve policies:

- First reading of TASB Policy Update 126
- First reading of CH (LOCAL)
- First reading of CV (LOCAL)
- First reading of EIF (LOCAL)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: American Sign Language and Interpreting Services; security cameras, access controls, intrusion devices, and related supplies; landscape maintenance; uninterruptible power system preventive maintenance; and general facilities maintenance, installs, rentals, and services. 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.)*

- March 19, 2026, 5 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Academics Board meeting)
- March 24, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- April 14, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- April 28, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)