



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.

March 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:

- **Campus Safety:** As the school year concludes, the Superintendent emphasized the requirement for all campuses to maintain consistent situational awareness regarding school safety.
- **Brennan HS Basketball:** The Brennan High School boys' basketball team finished their season as the State runners-up. The Superintendent recognized the team for their performance in the state finals.
- **Soccer Playoffs:** Multiple NISD high school soccer teams have advanced to the postseason as playoff competition begins.
- **Los Leones Art Festival:** The annual event saw high attendance and featured a wide array of student artwork. Recognition was given to Executive Director of Fine Arts Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez, her department, and campus staff.
- **PTA Elections:** The Northside Council of PTAs elected a new slate of officers, with Candy Baumann continuing her role as Council President.
- **CLASS Conference:** The district held its annual CLASS Conference, providing professional development specifically for classified and auxiliary staff members.
- **NEF Golf Tournament:** The Northside Education Foundation (NEF) completed its annual golf tournament. The Superintendent congratulated the NEF Board and the title sponsor, JLA, on the event's success.

Video Moment. Meet the newest team member of the NISD Transportation Maintenance Department. Khailou Becerra, a student at the Nellie Reddix Center, is both legally blind and hearing-impaired, but he doesn't let that slow him down. With the help of a mentor, he is learning everything he can about the fine art of auto repair and maintenance. [Watch the video about this young man inspiring others to do the unexpected.](#)

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

- **Trustee David Salcido** was honored to attend the Los Leones Art Festival at **O'Connor HS**, an event he has supported over the years. He expressed appreciation for the diverse range of talent on display, from chalk art to paintings and ceramics. Salcido extended his gratitude to Executive Director **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez** and her entire department for their work in fostering the event.
- **Trustee Sonia Jasso** shared her excitement about serving as a judge at the Los Leones Art Festival, where she was thoroughly impressed by the caliber of student artwork. Looking ahead, she announced that the annual Special Education Resource Fair will soon be hosted at the **Holmgreen Center**, providing vital support for the community. Additionally, Trustee Jasso highlighted her recent attendance at the 2026 Governance Camp, where she gathered valuable resources.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** congratulated the **Brennan HS** boys' basketball team for advancing to the state finals and thanked the coaching staff for their work. She attended a recent Safety & Security Committee meeting, noting the high attendance from community members. Additionally, Trustee Duran recognized the Northside Education Foundation (NEF) and Director **Teri Diaz** for a successful golf tournament. She concluded by expressing her hope that students and staff had a restful Spring Break as the district enters the final weeks of the school year.

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** stayed busy celebrating literacy participating in Read Across America at various campuses, including **Langley Elementary**, where he also participated in their Career Day. He took part in the distribution of Team Grants with the Northside Education Foundation (NEF), directly supporting classroom innovation. Trustee Blount reminded the Board that the Great SA Reading Challenge is currently in its "Sweet 16" phase, with the Final Four culmination set for April 20 at the NISD Sports Gym. Finally, he invited the community to the annual Solar Cars event on April 11.
- **Trustee Laura Zapata** shared her pride in the student award recipients honored during the Board recognitions. She extended her congratulations not only to the students for their achievements but also to the dedicated coaches and teachers whose guidance made these successes possible.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** served as a judge at the Los Leones Art Festival, noting that the high quality of the artwork made the selection process a difficult task. She also attended a literacy event at **Chumbley Elementary School**, where students had the opportunity to meet and read with several guest authors. Additionally, Freeman expressed her appreciation for the Board Recognitions, describing the numerous student awards as a sampling of the success occurring throughout the district.

Trustees approve Summer Programs

Trustees approved the 2026 Summer Programs which includes learning experiences for students at all three levels. The intent is to focus on critical needs of students, whether through remediation or meeting the needs of special populations and economically disadvantaged students. Information about summer learning opportunities will be posted on the NISD website soon.

Recognitions

- **Marshall LMS Mock Trial Team.** The LMS Mock Trial Team placed first at the YMCA Youth and Government Texas Conference. This all-seniors team will be competing at the national level for the second year in a row. Two students also placed in the top tier of the County Judge Competition.
- **CREST State Award Winners.** The Texas School Counselor Association recognized 37 Northside ISD schools with 2024-25 Awards for Counseling Excellence. CREST stands for Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas. Schools receiving the CREST award have demonstrated a commitment to using their school guidance and counseling programs to improve students' lives and academic, career, and social achievement.
- **CAST Teach and Clark HS, TAFE Award Winners.** CAST Teach and Clark High School students competed at the Texas Association of Future Educators conference, recently receiving several state awards and qualifying to compete at the national level.
- **Academic Decathlon Teams.** Three NISD Academic Decathlon Teams advanced to the state competition, and for the second year in a row, two NISD teams secured spots in the upcoming national competition.
- **TMEA All-State Musicians.** Thirteen NISD Fine Arts students from six schools were selected to the Texas Music Educators' Association (TMEA) All-State Band, Choir, Orchestra, and Jazz bands. All-State is the highest individual honor that a student can receive in public school music education. It represents the top one percent of student musicians in Texas. Over 25,000 students engage in the audition process, with only 870 students selected.
- **Thespian Scholars.** The International Thespian Society has named O'Connor and Taft HS the 2026 Thespian Scholars for their academic achievement. Each of these students has met or exceeded the academic and theatrical standards required for this distinction. These scholars represent the powerful intersection of artistry, scholarship, and character. We are thrilled to celebrate their accomplishments.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Daisy Ponce**, formerly Assistant Principal at O'Connor HS, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Taft High School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for building upgrades for Knowlton ES – Waterman Construction, LLC
- Contractor for energy controls upgrades for Neff MS – Automated Logic Contracting Services, Inc.
- Contractor for flooring replacement at Leon Valley ES – R.L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Contractor for fume hood replacements at Warren HS – Flo-Aire Services
- Contractor for lighting upgrades at Hatchett and Michael ES – Central Electric Ent. & Co., Inc.
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Howsman ES – Jerdon Enterprise, LLC
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Stevenson MS – Jerdon Enterprise, LLC

- Contractor for paving upgrades at Villarreal ES – R.L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Contractor for roof replacement at Evers ES – Port Enterprises
- Contractor for roof replacement at Pease MS – Advantage USAA, Inc.
- Consultant for electrical improvements for summer portables – Calculated Legacy Consulting Engineers
- Change Orders
 - Fire Alarm upgrades at Brandeis HS -- \$70,863.16 (credit)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: copier equipment leases and services districtwide; library books and learning resources; dust and wet mop rental; Special Education supplies, equipment, therapy products, and related support services; utility management software; science supplies and equipment; commodity processing for Child Nutrition; and virtual and hybrid learning.

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.)*

- April 14, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- April 28, 2026, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center, 7001 Culebra Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- May 12, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- May 26, 2026, 6 p.m. Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- June 9, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- June 23, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)