



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.

May 26, 2026

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

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

- **Student Voice Session:** District leaders held the year's final session to gather feedback from graduating seniors across all comprehensive and magnet high schools.
- **Recognition & Retirement Event:** The district hosted an event honoring retiring staff members and employees reaching years-of-service milestones.
- **Nellie Reddix Center Transition:** The center held its annual event celebrating 71 young adults transitioning into the workforce, highlighting the collaborative efforts of students, parents, and staff.
- **2026 Graduation Season: Health Careers High School** kicked off the district's graduation season with the remaining 12 commencements to be held at the Alamodome later this week. Approximately 7,500 seniors will graduate this year.
- **Video Moment.** Each year, students in the **Construction Careers Academy** program showcase and sell projects they have worked on throughout the year. This year, the Tiny Homes Showcase included a student-built tiny home that was awarded to a local female veteran and her child, part of the school's new "Home for a Hero" initiative. [Click here to watch the emotional presentation.](#)

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

- **Trustee David Salcido** announced that this year's Rising Stars summer program is hosted at **Stevens High School**, where participating students will produce and perform the musical *Matilda, Jr.*
- **Trustee Sonia Jasso** met with **Burke Elementary School** Principal **Dr. Marissa Pena**, which led her to recognize Administrative Assistants **Denise Sanchez** and **JoEllen Garcia-Deluna** for their work and commitment. Both Sanchez and Garcia-Deluna serve in the **Elementary Administration** department.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** attended an event featuring the **Holmes High School** Mariachi group. She also attended the Northside ISD Police Department's recent swearing-in ceremony, where she expressed support for Chief **Richard Palomo's** goal to increase mental health training for frontline officers. Additionally, Duran welcomed the new and returning **Student Ambassadors**, thanked teachers and staff for completing the academic year, and recognized military veterans in observance of Memorial Day.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** expressed appreciation for the community's extensive utilization of district campuses and fields. He recognized the **Construction Careers Academy's** Tiny Homes Showcase, noting the substantial scale and quality of the project. Additionally, Blount highlighted the increasing frequency of academic signing events being hosted across the district alongside traditional athletic signings. He specifically mentioned the recent signing day for construction in partnership with Marek Bros.
- **Trustee Laura Zapata** highlighted the annual **Nellie Reddix Center** Transition event, noting the confidence of the participating young adults and acknowledging the work of the campus staff. Additionally, Zapata expressed gratitude to district parents and students for their role in completing the school year and wished all staff members a restful summer break.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** highlighted several recent district events and achievements. She recognized the **Nellie Reddix Center** Transition event, highlighting the local partners who provide training and employment opportunities for students. She attended a Communities in Schools event at the Tobin Center—which featured a performance by the **John Jay High School** Rockin' Strings, but unfortunately missed the Health Careers High School graduation. Harle successfully presented a workshop for the H-E-B Excellence in Education state finalists and encouraged the

community to nominate NISD educators for future awards. Additionally, Harle commended the **Construction Careers Academy** students for their work on a tiny home donated to a local veteran, congratulated the inaugural graduating class of **CAST Teach High School**, and attended the **NISD Police Department** Swearing-In and promotion ceremony. Finally, she met with the new cohort of **Student Ambassadors** and congratulated the **Northside Education Foundation** on its successful 5K event.

Recognitions

- **VFW Smart Maher Award. Sarah Olvera**, a third-grade teacher at **Braun Station Elementary School**, was selected by the Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars as the K-5th Grade Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year.

Trustees approve administrative appointments and assignments:

- **Ruth Benitez**, formerly Assistant Principal at South San ISD, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Fields ES**.
- **Joseph Hernandez**, formerly Associate Principal at Forester ES, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Linton ES**.
- **Stacie Garza**, formerly Special Education Coordinator at Villarreal ES, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Mireles ES**.
- **Kirsten Velasquez**, formerly Principal at Krueger ES, was assigned **Principal** at **Glenoaks ES**.
- **Julie Meneses**, formerly Principal at Ellison ES, was assigned **Principal** at **Howman ES**.
- **Traci Conteras**, formerly Associate Principal at Locke Hill ES, was appointed **Principal** at **Locke Hill ES**.
- **Michelle Fine**, formerly Principal at Glenn ES, was assigned **Principal** at **McDermott ES**.
- **Jill Chudej-Garcia**, formerly Associate Principal at Meadow Village ES, was appointed **Principal** at **Meadow Village ES**.
- **James Dominguez**, formerly Principal at Passmore ES, was assigned **Principal** at **Myers ES**.
- **Ursula Silberschlag**, formerly Principal at Aue ES, was assigned **Principal** at **Scarborough ES**.
- **Joe Bishop**, formerly Associate Principal at Briscoe MS, was appointed **Principal** at **Briscoe MS**.
- **Bea Ramirez**, formerly Interim Principal at Neff MS, was assigned **Principal** at **Neff MS**.
- **Lawrence Carranco**, formerly Principal at Hobby MS, was assigned **Principal** at **Rayburn MS**.
- **Madeline Bueno**, formerly Principal at Ott ES, was assigned **Principal** at **Passmore ES**.
- **Johnnie Fair**, formerly Assistant Principal at Stevens HS, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Stevens HS**.
- **Kelli Hall**, formerly Administrative Intern at Folks MS, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Folks MS**.
- **Frank L. Johnson**, formerly Principal at Holmgreen Center, was appointed **Executive Director of Elementary Administration**.
- **Nicole Esparza**, formerly CTE Specialist, was appointed **Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE)**.
- **Guadalupe Garza**, formerly Vehicle Acquisition Manager, was appointed **Director of Safety and Security**.

Trustees hear end of year report by the Northside PTA

Candy Baumann, President of the Northside ISD Council of PTAs, presented an end of the year report on the status of PTAs in NISD.

Trustees hear report regarding a Salary Study conducted by TASB

Amy Campbell, a representative from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), presented a report to the Board regarding a recent salary study, and related recommendations and associated costs.

Board receives training for Bond and VATRE elections

Representatives from the law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright provided information to guide the Board on communication regarding a potential Bond or VATRE election.

Board hears report on budget planning for 2026-27

The Board heard an update on budget planning for the next school year. The discussion included the projected results of operations for FY27 with and without a VATRE consideration, and a list of the \$17 million in program and staff reorganization efforts.

Board hears update on the Optimization Plan

Following a community-informed optimization process, the Board of Trustees approved four district priorities: academic achievement, leadership and staff, student experience, and resources and facilities. Trustees were also presented with a general overview of the next steps in this ongoing initiative.

Board reorganizes; Dr. Sonia Jasso elected as President

Trustees elected Dr. Sonia Jasso as the president of the School Board, with Laura Zapata elected Vice President, and Dr. Karla Duran as Secretary.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for electrical improvements for 2026 portables for various campuses – Consolidated Electric Service, Inc.
- Change Orders:
 - Synthetic Turf & Track Replacement at Gus Stadium (\$191,572 credit)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: Child Nutrition supplies; custodial equipment; administrative, library, and miscellaneous furniture; standard campus furniture; welding equipment and supplies; Fine Arts consultant services; keynote, motivational speakers, related services, and materials; and professional development services, consulting services, and related materials districtwide. 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.)*

- 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)
- July 28, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)