



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

July 28, 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:

- **School Year Preparation:** District staff are actively preparing to welcome students back for the new school year, and Dr. Craft expressed gratitude for their hard work and dedication.
- **Pending Retirement:** As he prepares for his retirement, Dr. Craft shared his appreciation for his time with Northside ISD, describing his three years as Superintendent as a great experience working alongside the district's students and staff.
- **Video Moment.** One special student at Folks Middle School doesn't let any roadblocks stop her from excelling, and her hard work paid off in accomplishing something that is difficult for many of her classmates, despite her disability. Tatiana Starks is the first ALE student at Folks Middle School to be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. [Click here to watch the video](#) about this amazing student.

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

- **Trustee Sonia Jasso** expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Craft for his service to the district, congratulating him on his retirement and wishing him well in the future.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** expressed appreciation for staff efforts during summer school and congratulated the 2026 summer graduates. She recognized Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance Megan Bradley and her team for their work on the upcoming budget, praised the board members for working through a weekend on difficult decisions, and highlighted back-to-school preparations, including the Stuff the Bus initiative for classroom supplies. Additionally, Duran commended NISD Police Chief Richard Palomo and the HEB Foundation for supporting mental health initiatives within the department, acknowledged the contributions of NISD Student Ambassadors and facilitating staff, and thanked Superintendent Dr. Craft for providing trustee training and leading the district.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** attended the Athletics Department's Hall of Honor event, noting how the honorees' stories reflected the district's culture. He announced the upcoming launch of the Great SA Reading Challenge, which aims to include at least 200 participating schools this year. Blount also recognized Dr. Craft for his service to the district as he prepares for retirement.
- **Trustee Laura Zapata** thanked teachers, staff, and administrators for their work throughout the summer to prepare for the new school year following summer school and back-to-school events. She expressed appreciation to the NISD community for its continuous engagement and feedback, specifically during the Citizens Bond Committee process, and thanked Dr. Craft for his three years of service to the district.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** recognized Dr. Craft on his upcoming retirement and commended the strong turnout at the summer graduation event. She represented the Board at the Secondary New Teacher Academy and joined local law enforcement agencies, including the Northside ISD Police Department, at the Strategic Tactical Approach to Relational Systems (S.T.A.R.S.) Matrix Training. Harle thanked Chief Richard Palomo for advancing mental health awareness initiatives within his department, and she acknowledged Executive Director Conrad Hernandez and his staff for hosting the NISD Athletics Servant Leadership event.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** shared that during a recent family vacation, she met two individuals who were connected to her either as a fellow trustee in the state or through NISD. She congratulated the honorees recognized at the Hall of Honor event and acknowledged Dr. Craft's retirement, wishing him well in his future endeavors.

Recognitions

- **Brennan HS, FCCLA National Award Winners.** Brennan High School competed at the National FCCLA competition, with one student earning a gold medal and placing in the top 10. Two others received silver medals.

Trustees approve administrative appointments and assignments:

- **Mateo Macias**, formerly Associate Principal at Hector Garcia MS, was appointed **Principal** at **Hector Garcia MS**.
- **Kayla Westling**, formerly a teacher at Cable ES, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Cable ES**.
- **Dominique Sifuentes**, formerly an Academic Support Teacher at Mead ES, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Cole ES**.
- **Brandy Shoemake**, formerly a math specialist at Michael ES, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Michael ES**.
- **Brynn Caddell**, formerly a Newcomer Program Coordinator for NISD, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Hobby MS**.
- **Francesca Parker**, formerly Assistant Principal at Briscoe MS, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Briscoe MS**.
- **Bettina Melton**, formerly a Social Studies Dual Credit teacher at Health Careers HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Health Careers HS**.
- **Rafael Garza**, formerly Assistant Principal at South San HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Sotomayor HS**.
- **Sandra Ostrowski**, formerly an English teacher at Brandeis HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Sotomayor HS**.
- **Carrie Lewis**, formerly Associate Principal at Blattman ES, was assigned **Associate Principal** at **McAndrew and Helotes elementary schools**.
- **Lynda DeSutter**, formerly Associate Principal at Pease MS, was assigned **Associate Principal** at **Hector Garcia MS**.

Trustees hear Efficiency Audit Report

House Bill 3 (86th Legislature, 2019) requires school districts to undergo an efficiency audit prior to holding a voter-approval tax rate election (VATRE). An efficiency audit provides the voters with information regarding a school district's fiscal management, efficiency, and utilization of resources before an election to adopt a Maintenance and Operations property tax rate.

Defeasance Resolution

Trustees discussed a defeasance resolution, which allows the district to pay off bonded debt faster than originally planned, thus saving interest costs. They will vote on it on Aug. 11.

Trustees discuss proposed VATRE and bond election proposals

At the July 21 meeting, Trustees reviewed recommendations from the Citizens' Bond Committee regarding potential VATRE and bond propositions. Deciding whether to call a November 2026 election directly impacts the District's upcoming budget, tax rate adoption procedures, and required public notices—including a notice scheduled for the San Antonio Express-News on July 31. The Board will consider calling the election and formally adopting the budget and tax rates at its August 11 meeting.

Trustees approve P-TECH program

Trustees approved establishing a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH), a specialized program that gives students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, an industry-based certification, and a recognized associate degree at no cost to families.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for IDQ roofing repair projects at various campuses and facilities – American Roofing & Metal Co.
- Contractor for a library dehumidification unit at Leon Valley ES – Comfort-Air Engineering, Inc.
- Construction Manager-at-Risk Contract for cafeteria/kitchen and Athletic replacement at Holmes HS – Bartlett Cocke General Contractors

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: food, restaurants, catering services and concessions; sheet music and music materials; Chromebook replacement parts; custodial supplies; groceries for schools and departments; kitchen equipment, parts, supplies, rentals, repairs, and services; Fine Arts uniforms and accessories; guard, dance, spirit

uniforms and miscellaneous items; water quality, detention pond service, and inspection. Trustees also approved the following purchase order: District Management (DM) Group for the purchase of teacher coaching and instructional support for Holmes, Jay, Marshall, and Stevens high schools. 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.)*

- Aug. 11, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- Aug. 25, 2026, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)