



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

September 29, 2026

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

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

- **Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Award: Warren High School** carpentry teacher **Chase Haecker** was selected as one of 25 national award recipients, securing \$75,000 for himself and his campus.
- **Purple Star Designation:** A total of 66 district schools earned the Purple Star Designation for demonstrating exceptional support for military families.
- **NEF Pillars:** The Northside Education Foundation honored its newest class of alumni as NEF Pillars during the President's Pillar Reception.
- **Community Bond Engagement:** Members of the Citizens Bond Advisory Committee and Citizens Bond Committee are meeting this month to evaluate past bond outcomes and review proposed projects for Bond 2026.
- **Northside Communication Network:** Representatives from across all district campuses attended the year's first NCN meeting to engage with district leadership, share feedback, and ask questions.
- **Upcoming Recognition Days:** Appreciation events will kick off with Custodial Appreciation Day on Oct. 2, followed by School Administrators Appreciation Month.
- **Video Moment: Jessica Lazaro** was doing what she loves most—teaching students at **Cole Elementary**—when a whole team of people barged into her classroom in the campus gym with an exciting announcement: she had been chosen as one of San Antonio's best teachers. Lazaro, a physical education teacher, is Northside ISD's 2026-27 EXCEL Award winner. [Watch the video here.](#)

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

- **Trustee David Salcido** acknowledged Family Engagement Coordinator **Yolanda Chapman** and the **Whole Child Department** for hosting a successful Strong Family Engagement Conference that drew a large audience.
- **Trustee Dr. Sonia Jasso** attended a community Tailgate event at **Warren High School** and recognized the district's participation with Up Partnership in their Future Ready event. Jasso also enjoyed attending the Holmes High School AP Scholars Recognition event.
- **Trustee Dr. Karla Duran** thanked the Northside Education Foundation for hosting the Pillar Reception to announce new alumni Pillars, while also expressing gratitude to NISD's community partners. She commended the district's athletic program for a strong start to the season across multiple teams and congratulated **Neff Middle School** on hosting a grand opening to showcase recent bond-funded campus renovations. Additionally, Duran recognized Hispanic Heritage Month, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur, and concluded by encouraging the community to follow the district's social media channels.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** highlighted community engagement, corporate partnerships, and public education support during his remarks. He shared his recent outreach efforts, which included reading at **Knowlton Elementary School**, speaking to both Republican and Democratic groups at Hill Country Retreat, and addressing employees at a new Frost Bank branch in far west Bexar County. He expressed gratitude to corporations such as Scripps and Scholastic for supporting district initiatives like the Great SA Reading Challenge, and noted that the district's annual solar car competition may have a new sponsor this year. Lastly, Blount recognized Bexar Builds and the Bexar County School Boards Association for their support of public education.
- **Trustee Dr. Carol Harle** noted that nominations for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards are open through Sept. 30 at heblovesteachers.com/nominate/ for teachers, counselors, principals, and other school staff. She thanked District 8 City Councilwoman Ivalis Meza Gonzalez for recognizing **Mead Elementary School** during a City Council

meeting for its efforts to improve student achievement. Harle also attended the NEF President's Pillar Reception honoring the newest alumni Pillars, invited **ASTA student Kash Bradford** to speak about the district's bowling program, and encouraged support for campus bowling teams. Lastly, she acknowledged **Principal Lou Medina**, along with the students and staff, at the **Stinson Middle School Magnet** program.

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** congratulated Dave Gannon on receiving the Heroes for Children Award from the State Board of Education, recognizing his long-standing service to the district in various volunteer capacities. Freeman also congratulated **Warren High School** carpentry teacher **Chase Haecker** for earning the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Educator Award.

Recognitions

- **Recognition of outgoing members of Northside Leadership Academy.** The Board recognized the outgoing members of the 2025-2026 Northside Leadership Academy (NLA).
- **Recognition of NISD Police Department, S.T.A.R.S. Matrix Certification.** The NISD Police Department was recognized for being the first law enforcement agency in the nation to achieve full S.T.A.R.S. (Strategic Approach to Relational Systems) Matrix Certification, a milestone that reflects our commitment to innovation, officer growth, and the safety of our students, staff, and community.
- **Recognition of Boone ES PTA.** The Boone Elementary School PTA received the Texas PTA 2026 Outstanding Local Elementary Family and Student Engagement Impact Award. Of more than 1,300 elementary school PTAs across Texas, this statewide honor is awarded to only one local elementary unit each year.
- **Recognition of Fine Arts Department (Theater).** NISD was one of only 28 in Texas to receive the Texas Educational Theatre Association Award of Distinction. This is the first time in NISD history to receive this prestigious honor.
- **Recognition of Fine Arts Department (Visual Arts).** For the seventh consecutive year, NISD was named the Texas Art Education Association District of Distinction.
- **Signing of Decision of Respect.** On Oct. 2, all NISD students and staff will be invited to sign a Decision of Respect as part of the District's anti-bullying initiatives. Counselors have been equipped with training, materials, and lessons for classroom presentations that teach necessary skills to students to promote a safe, respectful, and healthy school climate. Members of the Board of Trustees signed their own Decision of Respect as a show of support for the program spearheaded by the NISD Counseling Department, led by **Elizabeth Flores**. Ms. Palomares signed on behalf of NISD staff.
- **Signing of Code of Ethics.** Since 1991 (35 years), the NISD Board of Trustees signed a Code of Ethics, reaffirming its commitment to adhere to educational and ethical standards. Interim Superintendent Jessica Palomares signed on behalf of all NISD staff members.

Trustees hear report from NISD Council of PTAs

Candy Bauman, President of the NISD Council of PTAs, presented an update regarding PTA members and initiatives.

Board Selects TASB for Superintendent Search

The Board of Trustees voted to utilize the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) to facilitate and advise during the search process for a new superintendent.

Trustees approve administrative appointments and assignments:

- **Maria Perales**, formerly an Assistant Principal at Austin ISD, was appointed **Associate Principal at Blattman Elementary School**.
- **Brandon Rothermel**, formerly a PE teacher and coach at Rudder Middle School, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Hobby Middle School**.
- **Christina Ozuna**, formerly a math teacher at Jefferson Middle School, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Luna Middle School**.
- **Christina M. Lozano**, formerly an Associate Principal at Ross Middle School, was assigned to be the **Associate Principal at Bernal Middle School**.

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: classroom projectors and AV equipment; digital assessment library for the evaluation of referred students; printing supplies and related services; art supplies and equipment; PE equipment, supplies, and repair services; moving services; maintenance supplies and services; and high school band uniforms. Trustees also approved the following purchase order: Tiger Sanitation for the purchase of sanitation services for schools located within the City of Leon Valley; and Frontier Access, LLC for the purchase of sanitation services for schools located within the City of Helotes. 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
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Laura Zapata, Trustee, District 5
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Administration

Interim Superintendent Jessica Palomares
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.)*

- Oct. 27, 2026, 6 p.m., CO Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Nov. 17, 2026, 6 p.m., CO Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Dec. 15, 2026, 6 p.m., CO Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)