



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

October 27, 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:

- **Stinson MS Magnet:** Hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its newly opened magnet program. Magnet students **Alexis Green** and **Benjamyn Hall** presented their campus experiences to the Board.
- **Bowling Kick Off:** The district's bowling season kicked off for what promises to be a fun and successful year.
- **UIL Band Competition:** All 12 NISD marching bands received the highest rating of Superior (1st Division) at the UIL Region 29 contest at Farris Stadium on Oct. 17.
- **txEDCON:** Several Trustees joined the Interim Superintendent in attending the annual txEDCON event which is a statewide conference for school board members and district administrators.
- **Duran Named to TASB Board:** Board of Trustees Secretary Karla Duran was elected to the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board of Directors. She will serve a three-year term representing TASB Region 20, Position B.
- **ASTA National Runner Up:** The State Champion ASTA Nursery & Landscape team took National Runner-Up honors at the National FFA contest in Indianapolis. Team members **Ella Mathias**, **Rylie Wagner**, **Madelyn Zepeda**, and **Isaiah Orozco** competed under the guidance of Coach **Eileen Zinsmeister**.
- **Early Voting:** Early voting runs through Oct. 30; community members are encouraged to make a voting plan and participate.
- **Video Moment:** Students at **Connally Middle School** had a chance to participate in the Connally Club Rush, which gives the students a chance to take a peek at the many clubs that the campus offers. [Watch this video to find out more.](#)

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

- **Trustee Dr. Sonia Jasso** emphasized that Trustees serve as advocates for district students and staff. She explained that when individuals email all Trustees, standard practice calls for the Board President to respond on behalf of the entire Board. Additionally, Jasso reassured employees that the Board has heard their concerns regarding rising insurance costs.
- **Trustee Dr. Karla Duran** noted her attendance at txEDCON, an annual conference for Texas school board members and administrators. She also attended the SA Youth Literacy Gala alongside representatives from **Mead ES**. Additionally, Duran shared she had the opportunity to meet the President of Ecuador, noting his emphasis on the importance of studying history to understand the future. Finally, as a former **Connally MS** staff member, she expressed appreciation for the highlight video featuring the campus' Club Rush.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** noted meeting with various community groups to discuss the VATRE and bond components. He recognized the district's **Library Services** team ahead of the upcoming third grade Great SA Reading Competition. Additionally, Blount announced the upcoming kick off of the annual solar cars event.
- **Trustee Dr. Carol Harle** recognized the **Stinson MS Magnet** program, highlighting its focus on Exercise Science and Sports Medicine and expressing confidence the facility will be state of the art once construction is completed. She noted her attendance at the Freedom Walk event at **Clark HS**, pointing to strong participation from attendees. Additionally, Harle commended the annual Thrill-A-Mill event, which features middle school students performing dance routines.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** recognized **Chumbley ES** teacher **Melanie Gohn** for receiving an NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellowship, which provides her with the opportunity to attend professional training in Peru.

- **Trustee Laura Zapata** recognized the start and conclusion of various fall sports seasons, including the launch of bowling. She commended the district's Fine Arts program, specifically highlighting the theater and band departments. Additionally, Zapata encouraged community members to view the Fine Arts performance calendar on the district website to attend upcoming events.

Recognitions

- **Recognition of Leadership Northside.** The Board recognized the members of the 2025-2026 Leadership Northside Cohort who completed the year-long program.

Trustees hear report on School Turnaround Plans

Campuses with consecutive unacceptable ratings are required to submit a Turnaround Plan (TAP) to TEA by Nov. 20. Campuses with first unacceptable ratings are required to submit a Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) to TEA by Nov. 20. The TAP is a two-year improvement plan and TIP is a one-year improvement plan to achieve measurable improvements in performance with the goal of achieving an acceptable rating of "C" or higher. Trustees heard the plans for four TAP campuses and nine TIP campuses.

Public hearing: NISD earns highest financial rating 24 years in a row

Assistant Superintendent for Budget & Finance **Tiffany Contreras** reported that for the 24th year in a row, Northside ISD has received the highest rating of "Superior Achievement" under the state's financial accountability rating system, called the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). The primary goal of School FIRST is to improve the management of the school district's financial resources. The School FIRST rating is based on an analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2024-2025 school year and budgetary and financial data for the 2025 fiscal year. As required by state law, Northside ISD announced and held a public meeting to distribute a financial management report explaining the District's performance on each of the 20 indicators and the District's rating.

Trustees hear report on District and Campus Planning

Every public school district in Texas must annually develop, evaluate, and revise a District Improvement Plan (DIP) to direct and support the improvement of student performance across all student populations. Additionally, each Principal, along with a site-based decision-making committee, must annually develop, review, and revise a Campus Improvement Plan (CIP). Trustees also discussed the 2026-27 Board-Superintendent Goals.

Trustees hear report from TASB regarding Superintendent Search

Representatives from the Texas Association of School Boards presented an Executive Search Services (ESS) proposal regarding the search for a permanent NISD Superintendent.

Trustees hear report on the Northside Advocacy Network Program

Nicole Franco presented a report regarding the Northside Leadership Program and the next cohort that will start in January 2027. The Northside Leadership program empowers stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively advocate for continuous improvement of the education experience for Northside students. Board members were encouraged to submit nominations for the upcoming cohort.

Trustees hear a TIA Update

Trustees received an update about the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA), which provides extra funding per designated teacher to districts with more money for high-needs and rural campuses.

Trustees approve administrative appointments and assignments:

- **Lauren Pompa**, formerly a Special Education Coordinator at Kallison Elementary, was appointed **Associate Principal at Tomlinson/Kallison Elementary Schools.**
- **Jennifer Garcia**, formerly a first-grade teacher at Boldt Elementary, was appointed **Associate Principal at Boldt/Chumbley Elementary Schools.**
- **John Castillo**, formerly an Assistant Principal at Clark High School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Scarborough/Reed Elementary Schools.**

- **Carlos Perez**, formerly an Assistant Principal at Ross Middle School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Ross Middle School**.
- **Shelby Blackmon**, formerly an Assistant Principal at Taft High School, was appointed **Academic Dean at Harlan High School**.

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: law enforcement uniforms, apparel, duty gear, and tailoring services; uniform dry cleaning and alternations for middle and high schools; technology and related equipment recycling; musical instruments, equipment, and materials; districtwide consultants, professional speakers, support services, and related materials; graduation regalia and diploma materials; and law enforcement firearms, ammunition, tactical gear, 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

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.)*

- 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)
- Jan. 19, 2026, 6 p.m., CO Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)