

Terrell County Independent School District

Sanderson, Texas 79848

Meeting Minutes from July 23, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

The Terrell County Independent School District convened for the regular meeting on Wednesday, July 23, at 7:00 P.M., in the conference room at the Sanderson High School, 302 North Second Street, Sanderson, Texas.

Trustees Present:

Mrs. Lali Ortiz

Mr. Jon Lowrance

Mrs. Angela Duperrault

Mr. Wes Billings

Mr. Marco Fuentez

Mr. Fernando Sanchez

Trustees Absent:

Mr. Enrique Rivera

Administration and TCISD Staff Present: Tanna Lowrance, Superintendent; Blain Chriesman, Chief Financial Officer; Virginia Garza, School Counselor / CTE; John Burgess, Campus Behavior Coordinator; Gina Roberts, Teacher / Yearbook Advisor

Community Members:

None

Regular Meeting

A quorum was established with Mrs. Ortiz presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. The pledges were said, and a moment of silence was observed.

Public Comments/Audience Participation TCISD Policy BED (LOCAL) pursuant to Gov't Code §551.007:

No public comments

District Reports:

Yearbook Report (Gina Roberts)

Mrs. Roberts reported she is working on the 2024-2025 yearbook daily and has less than ten pages to complete. She will work on the 2020-2021 and 2025-2026 yearbooks next.

Counselor's Report (Virginia Garza)

Mrs. Garza reported all summer STAAR retesters passed. Seven students took dual credit classes from Midland College the first summer session. Ten students have signed up for fall dual credit classes. Midland College has provided the district with a specific degree plan for any TCISD student wanting to pursue their associates degree. Total scholarships for this year's graduating seniors is \$21,150. She suggested working with local scholarship donors to postpone issuance of scholarship funds until students are able to show proof of enrollment at an institution of higher education.

Athletic Director's Report (Jerry Garza)

Mr. Garza presented the 2025 Cross Country and Football schedules. He presented the athletic handbook for approval (changes are highlighted in blue). Summer workouts have gone well. He will begin football 'two-a-days' on August 4th.

Handbook updates (John Burgess)

Mr. Burgess presented the board with the updated Cell Phone policy and Dress Code Policy to comply with new legislation from the 89th Legislative Session and House Bill 2. The new cell phone policy will comply with house bill 2 legislation prohibiting students from using personal electronic devices during the school day on school property. Students will store their cell phones, smart watches and airpods in school issued Yondr pouches. Unlocking stations will be available at the end of the day and at the main office for any student leaving school before the dismissal bell. The new dress code policy prohibits students from carrying a pocket knife and instates a mandatory school uniform following the third dress code violation.

Financial Report (Blain Chriesman)

Mr. Chriesman presented the list of bills and financials, informed the board regarding BCBS insurance renewal rates (not final), legislative updates affecting budget planning (still waiting on final guidance for teacher pay raises), and budget amendments.

Superintendent Reports (Tanna Lowrance)

- a. Superintendent Reports (Tanna Lowrance)
 - i. Monthly Transportation and Facilities Report
 - all new doors have been installed
 - VGI still needs to key a few with card readers
 - Mrs. Salazar has repainted two classrooms, the office, and coach's office in the gym
 - Mr. Hernandez has installed a new electrical plug for Mrs. Rubio in the cafeteria
 - All floors have been scrubbed in the school and cafeteria. Next week we will work on the locker rooms, weightroom and field houses
 - Working on installing updated lighting and fans in the locker rooms at the gyms and field houses
 - new ceiling tiles (to replace damaged ones) and lights are going in
 - Mr. Truesdell has sprayed for insects, weeds and ground maintenance
 - Mr. Valentine has the football field looking good
 - installed new lights at breezeway
 - We will paint curbs and the JH fieldhouse trim before school starts
 - Meeting with Mr. Bryant to do repair work at Coach Burgess' and Superintendent House
 - Gym floor will begin on Monday if not sooner
 - ii. Meet the Teacher / Inservice / Meet the Eagles / Sport Pictures Updates
 - Meet the Teacher is scheduled for August 11th with Athletic Handbook updates first for all JH and HS parents and athletes
 - Inservice is filling up fast with a large focus on School Safety and TIA
 - Sport Pictures will be done 'inhouse' by Mrs. Roberts on August 12th
 - We are looking at dates for 'Meet the Eagles'
 - iii. Summer Projects Update
 - see above
 - iv. New Hires Update
 - Mr. Joe Hernandez will join us August 4th in the maintenance department
 - Mrs. Saddleback has started setting up her room and we have met to go over classroom TEKS and resources
 - v. 5 Year Student Outcome Goals Update
 - see update
 - vi. Middle School Advanced Math Program

- see plan
- 60% of our JH students (grades 5,6,7) qualify for the Advanced Middle School Math Program
- vii. Student Personal Communication Device Plan Update
 - see plan (update from Coach Burgess)
 - Yondr pouch demonstration
- viii. TIA Update
 - more funding due to House Bill 2
 - I will have had several trainings during the summer and have several more already on the calendar
 - this will be our data capture year
- ix. School Supply Donations
 - we have school supply donations coming in and look to be able to provide all students with school supplies for the 4th year in a row

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Mr. Lowrance and seconded by Mr. Billings to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meetings of June 18, 2025 and budget amendments as presented. The motion passed 4:0 with Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Fuentez abstaining.

Property Value Discussion with the Board (FIRST requirement)

Mr. Chriesman presented Property Values to the board. He will have everything finalized by next week to use in budget planning.

-The Board took a break from 8:58-9:05.-

Action Items

- a. **Discussion and Possible approval of state funded staff pay increases funded through House Bill 2.**
Mr. Fuentez motioned to approve state funded pay raises as directed by TEA due to House Bill 2 funding Mr. Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- b. **Discussion and possible approval of the 2025-2026 School Board Meeting Calendar.**
Mr. Fuentez motioned to approve the 2025-2026 School Board Meeting Calendar. Mr. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- c. **Discussion and possible approval of policy changes FD (LOCAL) - homeschool or private school student participation in curricular or extracurricular activities.**
Mr. Lowrance motioned to keep FD (LOCAL) as is - denying homeschool students participation in curricular or extracurricular activities at TCISD. Mr. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- d. **Discussion and possible approval of policy changes FNCE (LOCAL) - prohibiting student use of personal electronic communication devices on school property during school hours.**
Mr. Fuentez motioned to approve policy changes FNCE (LOCAL) - prohibiting student use of personal electronic communication devices on school property during school hours and the TCISD Cell Phone policy changing the maximum fine to \$15. Mrs. Duperrault seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

- e. **Discussion and possible approval of establishing a school library advisory council.**
Mr. Fuentes motioned to not establish a school library advisory council. Mr. Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- f. **Discussion and possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 TCISD Staff Professional Development Plan.**
Mr. Lowrance motioned to approve the 2025-2026 TCISD Staff Professional Development Plan as presented. Mrs. Duperrault seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- g. **Discussion and Possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 Staff Daily Operations Handbook.**
Mr. Sanchez motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Staff Daily Operations Handbook as presented. Mr. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- h. **Discussion and Possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 Substitute Handbook.**
Mr. Sanchez motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Substitute Handbook as presented. Mr. Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- i. **Discussion and Possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct.**
Mr. Billings motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct as presented. Mrs. Duperrault seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- j. **Discussion and Possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 Student / Parent Handbook.**
Mr. Lowrance motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Student / Parent Handbook as presented. Mr. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- k. **Discussion and Possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 Student Dress Code.**
Mr. Fuentes motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Student Dress Code as presented. Mr. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- l. **Discussion and Possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 Dual Credit Handbook.**
Mr. Billings motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Dual Credit Handbook as presented. Mr. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- m. **Discussion and Possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 Athletic Handbook.**
Mr. Fuentes motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Athletic Handbook with changes as discussed during Mr. Garza's presentation. Mr. Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- n. **Discussion and Possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 Parent Family Engagement Plan.**
Mr. Fuentes motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Parent Family Engagement Plan as presented. Mr. Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- o. **Discussion and Possible acceptance of the 2025-2026 Parent Family Engagement Policy.**
Mr. Sanchez motioned to approve the 2025-2026 Parent Family Engagement Policy as presented. Mr. Lowrance seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Texas Governmental Code §551, the Board retired to closed session at 8:21 P.M., for discussion of the items listed below.

The board did not enter into executive session.

Adjourn:

A motion was made by Mr. Sanchez and seconded by Mr. Billings to adjourn the meeting. The adjournment was unanimously approved 6-0.

Mrs. Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 9:37 pm.

X 

Mrs. Lali Ortiz
President

X 

Mr. Jon Tom Lowrance
Secretary