



Board Brief | December 15, 2025

Moving Forward with Confidence: Leadership, Learning, and Community

The Hitchcock ISD Board of Trustees met on Monday, December 15, 2025, for its Regular Meeting. The meeting opened with recognitions honoring:

- **Student of the Month**, Jamaine Spurlock (4th Grade)
- **Employee of the Month**, Ellen Gonzalez (Stewart Elementary School)
- **Christmas Card Design**, Sincere Johnson (Stewart Elementary School)
- **2025 Ida B. Wells Risk Taker Award by the National Alliance of Black School Educators**, Superintendent Dr. Darryl J. Henson (HISD)

Followed by principal and department updates highlighting holiday celebrations, academic progress, and continued momentum across all campuses as we close out the calendar year.

District Updates

Each campus and department shared updates reflecting strong year-end performance and community engagement across the district. Elementary campuses celebrated **collecting over 6,000 cans for the district food drive**, demonstrating the compassion and generosity of our youngest Bulldogs and their families. At Crosby Middle School, the **Superintendent Scholars program is becoming fierce competition** among students, with **Summit K12 Middle of Year (MOY) assessments successfully administered** districtwide. Hitchcock High School Lady Bulldogs brought home a tournament championship, winning the Peggy Whitley Tournament. Three choir students made Region Choir, with one advancing to Area competition.

The HHS HOSA class achieved a 100% passing rate for students who opted to take the Patient Care Technician exam. HHS also took 22 students in leadership to the Nerdy Girl Conference at College of the Mainland and four students to the LEADS Conference, expanding leadership development opportunities. Athletics continued strong momentum across the district with multiple teams in active competition.



Directors noted major progress across all departments, including advancing the district's Strong Foundations (SFI/LASO3) implementation, continuous data collection on academic performance and Bluebonnet implementation, PEIMS submission completion, continued efforts on Teacher Incentive Allotment, HVAC improvements across facilities, and Transportation successfully moving 650 students daily. The collective effort reflects the district's continued focus on instructional excellence, operational efficiency, and student support.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Darryl J. Henson provided an overview emphasizing continued instructional focus, operational improvements, and preparation for the spring semester. He highlighted the recent national recognition he received – the 2025 Ida B. Wells Risk Taker Award from the National Alliance of Black School Educators – for his previous work at Marlin High School, noting that the same commitment to high standards paired with strong support guides the district's transformation efforts. Dr. Henson reinforced the importance of maintaining momentum through the holiday break, celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of staff and students across all programs, and preparing for a strong second semester focused on academic growth and accountability.

Budget Process Update

The Board received a comprehensive budget process update outlining the approach for drafting the 2026–2027 budget. The presentation covered the timeline and process for budget development, the financial reality and limits facing the district, strategies to safeguard Hitchcock ISD while balancing fiscal challenges, planned allocation to each budget function compared to state averages, strategic considerations driving budget decisions, the district's commitment to full transparency throughout the process, and the guiding principles of fiscal responsibility, strategic planning, and an unwavering commitment to student success.

Action Items Approved

All action items on the December agenda were approved unanimously by the Board and are detailed below:



- **Financial Report – November 2025**
 - The Board approved the district's monthly financial statements, investments report, and expenditures. Updates included continued monitoring of revenue collections, tax receipts, and budget alignment following recent operational improvements.
- **Open Education Resources (OER) Transition Plan for Bluebonnet Learning Instructional Materials**
 - The Board approved the district's transition plan for implementing Open Education Resources aligned with Bluebonnet Learning instructional materials, ensuring high-quality curriculum resources while maximizing cost efficiency.
- **Board Officer Realignment**
 - The Board voted unanimously to elect Ted Robinson to serve as Vice President.
- **Superintendent Contract – Dr. Darryl J. Henson**
 - Following the required 21-day waiting period after naming Dr. Henson as the lone finalist in November, the Board officially approved the employment contract for Dr. Darryl J. Henson as Superintendent of Schools for Hitchcock ISD.
- **Personnel Report**
 - The Board approved personnel recommendations including one new hire.

Informational Items

- **SB 546 Update – School Bus Seat Belt Requirements**
 - Chief Rusk provided an update to the Board on Senate Bill 546, which requires the state to gather data from all Texas school districts on the costs associated with equipping school buses with three-point seat belts. The legislation mandates that districts report their current bus fleet composition and estimated costs for implementation by May 2026. This information will help the state determine funding needs to bring all districts into compliance with the three-point seat belt requirement by the 2029 deadline.



Hitchcock Independent School District

Dr. Darryl J. Henson
Interim Superintendent
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Meeting Adjourned: 8:11pm

Detailed minutes will be available within 60 days of the meeting. Supporting materials are available now by visiting the Board Book for this meeting at www.hitchcockisd.org/boardmeetings.