

Castleberry Independent School District
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
January 12, 2026
6:15 p.m.

The Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2026. Members present were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, Linda Aguillón, Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. Dewey Taliaferro, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. at the Castleberry Administration Building, 5228 Ohio Garden Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76114, stating the following:

“I call this meeting of the Castleberry Independent School District to order. Let the record show that a quorum of Board members is present, that this meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.”

There were no Communications from Citizens.

There were no questions regarding the Consent Agenda.

Castleberry ISD Fine Arts students recognized staff and students in Castleberry ISD Fine Arts programs for their achievements.

Michelle Strambler, Principal of A.V. Cato Elementary; Charles Gideon, Principal of Castleberry Elementary; Dr. Teresa Phelps, Principal of Joy James Academy of Leadership; and Kerissa Bearce, Principal of Irma Marsh Middle School, provided updates on Campus Improvement Plan goals. Campus principals answered questions from Board members.

Board President Dewey Taliaferro called the Board into closed session at 7:31 p.m. for the purpose of private consultation with the Board’s attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law and for the purpose of considering appointment, employment, property, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or to hear complaints against a public officer.

The Board came out of closed session at 7:51 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 7:55 p.m.

The Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags were led by Lenny Lasher, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Facilities.

Kathryn Walker, Director of Talent Acquisition and Development, recognized the Castleberry ISD Board Members on behalf of CISD students and staff for School Board Recognition Month.

Mayor Darren Houk presented a plaque of appreciation and a proclamation to the School Board from the City of River Oaks.

Mayor Jim Barnett, Jr., presented a plaque of appreciation and a proclamation to the School Board from the City of Sansom Park.

Mayor Pro Tem Carlos Flores presented a plaque of appreciation and a proclamation to the School Board from the City of Fort Worth.

Castleberry ISD students from kindergarten through 12th grade presented Board members with gifts as a small token of appreciation.

Kathryn Walker, Director of Talent Acquisition and Development, provided an update on educator recruitment and retention, as well as substitute recruitment and fill rates.

Cameron Hollomon, Bond Program Manager, presented a construction update on the 2024 Castleberry High School Bond Program and answered questions from Board members.

Zach Christensen, General Manager of Centrix, presented the Centrix assessment and possible remedies for overcoming challenges in funding facility improvements.

Monica Castillo of WRA Architects presented designs for the Castleberry High School Phase 1 Furniture Bid, which is to be awarded to Interior Resource Group (IRG) in the amount of \$599,204.83.

Ruben Molinar, Principal of Castleberry High School, provided an update on his Campus Improvement Plan goals and answered questions from Board members.

Sal Limas, Principal of REACH High School, provided an update on his Campus Improvement Plan goals and answered questions from Board members.

Dr. June Ritchlin, Executive Director of Educational Leadership, presented the Targeted Improvement Plans.

William Wooten, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Mid-Year 2025–2026 Revenue Collection and Expenditures by Fund and Function Report as of December 31, 2025. This report provided a snapshot of district finances, ensuring transparency in revenue generation and alignment with budget projections.

Board members recessed at 9:49 p.m. and reconvened at 9:58 p.m.

Dr. June Ritchlin, Executive Director of Educational Leadership, reviewed the Academic Planning Guides for the 2025–2026 academic year, including changes and additions.

Dewey Taliaferro, Board President, presented the Consent Agenda items as follows:

- Consider approval of Board Minutes from December 15, 2025, Regular Meeting.
- Consider approval of the purchase of metal detectors from CEIA USA in the amount of \$48,261.00.

Tracy Gallman motioned and Mary Lou Martinez seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

The Board considered approval of Board Policy Update 126. Ariela Martinez motioned and Tracy Gallman seconded the motion to approve Board Policy Update 126 as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

The Board considered approval of the 2025–2026 Budget Amendment #3. Tracy Gallman motioned and Ariela Martinez seconded the motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

The Board considered approval of the Castleberry High School Phase 1 Furniture Bid awarded to Interior Resource Group (IRG) in the amount of \$599,204.83. Tracy Gallman motioned and Janice Carrell seconded the motion to approve the bid as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

The Board considered the approval of proposed nonrenewal of the term contract of Taylor Dwyer. Dewey Taliaferro made the motion by stating: “I move to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation and to propose nonrenewal of the term contract of Taylor Dwyer, and I move that the record of this action reflect the following:

- before voting on this Motion, the Board considered a draft of the letter to this employee providing Notice of Proposed Nonrenewal;
- the Superintendent reviewed with the Board the reason or reasons for making his recommendation regarding the employee; and
- the Board considered the reason or reasons and any other information provided by the Superintendent; and that by passage of this motion, the Board:
 - directs the Superintendent to prepare for the Board President’s signature a final Notice of Proposed Nonrenewal for Mr. Dwyer and ensure that the Notice is delivered to him not later than the 10th day before the last day of instruction in the current school year, i.e., 2025-2026;
 - directs that the Notice of Proposed Nonrenewal include the time limitations and procedure for requesting a hearing before the Board;
 - agrees, if a hearing is timely requested, to engage an attorney to assist the Board in the conduct of the hearing on the proposed nonrenewal, including any pre-hearing matters necessary to ensure a fair, efficient, and expeditious hearing;
 - directs the Board President to notify Eichelbaum, Wardell, Hansen Powell, & Muñoz, P.C. of this action and request that office to designate an attorney on behalf of the District to assist the Board in the conduct of

- the hearing, if the employee requests a hearing; and
- authorizes Eichelbaum, Wardell, Hansen Powell, & Muñoz, P.C. to consult with the Superintendent to approve the final Notice of Proposed Nonrenewal and to take whatever actions are necessary and proper to present the case in support of the proposed nonrenewal; and
- directs that a copy of this Motion be attached to the minutes of this meeting and the final Notice of Proposed Nonrenewal sent to Mr. Dwyer.”

Mary Lou Martinez seconded the motion to approve nonrenewal of the term contract of Taylor Dwyer as presented. The motion carried 7-0.


The Board considered approval of the Resolution Regarding the Commitment to Plan and Support Activities in Recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States. Mary Lou Martinez motioned and Linda Aguillón seconded the motion to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

Board members reviewed key dates:

January 20, 2026, for a Special Board Meeting and February 9, 2026, for a Regular Board Meeting.

The Board adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Angela Branch, Executive Assistant and Public Information Officer to the Board of Education, and reviewed by Board Secretary Cathy Gatica.



Dewey Tahaferro
Board President
Castleberry Independent School District
Date: February 9, 2026



Cathy Gatica
Board Secretary
Castleberry Independent School District
Date: February 9, 2026