

Castleberry Independent School District
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 9, 2026
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education met in Regular Session on Monday, February 9, 2026. Members present were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. Board members absent were Tracy Gallman and Linda Aguillón. Dewey Taliaferro, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 questions regarding the consent agenda.

District leadership staff provided a progress monitoring update on the District Improvement Plan and answered questions from Board members.

Christi Patton, Executive Director of Special Programs, presented an update on the 2025–2026 District Improvement Plan focused on the Special Education priority and answered questions from Board members.

Whitney Harper, Lead Elementary Coordinator, and Scott Hutchings, Lead Secondary Coordinator, shared recommendations from instructional materials adoption committees for the 2026–2027 school year.

William Wooten, Chief Financial Officer, presented Budget Work Session I: School Finance. The session focused on the basic components of the school finance budget development process, including revenue projections, taxable assessed values, and the shared partnership with the state funding formula. Mr. Wooten answered questions from Board members.

William Wooten, Chief Financial Officer, provided a snapshot of the 2025–2026 revenue collections and expenditures by fund and function as of January 31, 2026. This report provided an overview of district finances and ensured transparency in revenue generation and expenditure alignment with budget projections.

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 findings of a needs assessment on LED lighting and HVAC equipment and controls, outlining potential funding opportunities to reduce long-term operational costs.

Board President Dewey Taliaferro called the Board into Closed Session at 7:27 p.m. for the purpose of private consultation with the Board’s attorney on matters authorized by law and for the consideration of the appointment, employment, 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 7:31 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 7:35 p.m.

The Lion News Crew from A.V. Cato Elementary led the Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

A.V. Cato students recognized students and staff who were en route to Destination Success.

Dewey Taliaferro, Board President, presented the consent agenda items as follows:

- Consider approval of Board Minutes from January 12, 2026, for a Special and Regular Meeting, and January 20, 2026, for a Special Meeting.
- Consider approval of the Castleberry ISD Library books to be purchased.
- Consider approval of the Campus Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP).
- Consider approval of the Academic Planning Guides for the 2026–2027 school year.

- Consider approval of the School Psychologist contract to exceed \$50,000.
- Consider approval of the Mindsphere Technology Group, CPA firm, possibly exceeding \$50,000.
- Consider approval of the Missed School Day Waiver.
- Consider approval of the Additional Day School Year Waiver.
- Consider approval of a Resolution of the Board Regarding Wage Payments During Emergency School Closings.

The Board considered approval of the consent agenda as presented. Mary Lou Martinez made a motion, seconded by Janice Carrell, to approve the consent agenda. The motion was carried by a vote of 5–0.

Wes Jackson, Director of School Policy and Student Support, presented information on Board action required by Senate Bill 11 regarding the adoption of a resolution to create a Daily Prayer Period and answered questions from Board members.

The Board considered approval of the resolution that the school not adopt a policy to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text, as made optional by Education Code 25.0823. Mary Lou Martinez made a motion, seconded by Ariela Martinez, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was carried by a vote of 4–0-1, with Cathy Gatica abstaining.

The Board considered adoption of instructional materials for K–5 Math, K–5 RLA, along with Algebra II, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus. Janice Carrell made a motion, seconded by Ariela Martinez, to approve the list as presented. The motion was carried by a vote of 5–0.

The Board considered the approval of 2026-2027 District Calendar Recommendation. Ariela Martinez made a motion, seconded by Mary Lou Martinez, to approve the 2026-2027 District Calendar as presented. The motion was carried by a vote of 5–0.

The Board considered the approval of the Proposed 2026-2027 Contract Recommendations for Cabinet Members, subject to assignment. Mary Lou Martinez made a motion, seconded by Janice Carrell, to approve the Contract Recommendations for Cabinet Members as presented. The motion was carried by a vote of 5–0.

Board President Dewey Taliaferro called the Board into Closed Session at 8:11 p.m. for the purpose of private consultation with the Board’s attorney on matters authorized by law and for the consideration of the appointment, employment, 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 8:53 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 8:55 p.m.

The Board considered approval of the Superintendent’s Contract. Ariela Martinez made a motion, seconded by Mary Lou Martinez, to approve the Superintendent’s Contract as presented. The motion was carried by a vote of 5–0.

Board members reviewed key dates and discussed Lonestar Governance and Team of 8 training.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27th and 28th for a Board Workshop and Monday, March 9, 2026, for a Regular Board Meeting.

The Board adjourned at 9:14 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 Taliaferro
Board President
Castleberry Independent School District
Date Approved: March 9, 2026



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