

Castleberry Independent School District
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
November 10, 2025
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education met in Regular Session on Monday, November 10, 2025. Members present were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. Board Members absent were Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, and Linda Aguillon. 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.”

Mary Lou Martinez, Board Vice President, gave the invocation.

The Board then heard citizen communications: Sayeda Bilqees Syed, Eric Crile, and Daniel J. Bennett spoke about the Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors election.

There were no questions regarding the consent agenda.

Damon Cooper with Hankins, Eastup, Deaton, Tonn, Seay & Scarborough presented the 2024–2025 Fiscal Year-End Financial Audit Report and answered questions from Board Members.

Kristen Schmitt, 3rd–5th ELA Coordinator, presented an update on House Bill 3 Third Grade Early Literacy Implementation and Progress.

Jennifer Garcia, Secondary RLA Coordinator, and Darla Barnes, CHS Academic Dean, presented an update highlighting the progress and strategies related to the English I and II priorities within the 2025–2026 District Improvement Plan and answered questions from Board Members.

Kathryn Walker, Director of Talent Acquisition and Development, provided a recap of the Teacher Incentive Allotment and preliminary designations for the 2025–2026 school year and answered questions from Board Members.

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

Board President Dewey Taliaferro called the Board into Closed Session at 7:16 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 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 7:20 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 7:30 p.m.

Amelia Gandara, a 4th grade student from Joy James Academy of Leadership, led the pledges of allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.

Joy James Academy of Leadership students recognized students and staff who are en route to Destination Success.

Kelly James, Social Studies Coordinator, recognized the veterans present at the Board meeting and shared how veterans are being recognized at the campuses.

William Wooten, Chief Financial Officer, provided a snapshot of the 2025–2026 revenue collections and expenditures by fund and function, as of October 20, 2025. This report provided an overview of district finances, ensuring transparency in revenue generation and expenditure alignment with budget projections.

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

- Consider approval of Board Minutes from October 6, 2025, for a Regular Meeting.
- Consider approval of the Depository Contract extension with the Bank of Texas.

The Board considered approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Ariela Martinez made a motion, seconded by Mary Lou Martinez, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried with a vote of 4–0.

The Board considered approval of the 2024–2025 Annual Financial Audit Report. Janice Carrell made a motion, seconded by Ariela Martinez, to approve the 2024–2025 Annual Financial Audit Report as presented. The motion carried with a vote of 4–0.

Lenny Lasher, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Facilities, and Operations, discussed the portable HVAC rental equipment at Castleberry High School not to exceed the amount of \$60,000 and answered questions from Board Members.

The Board considered approval from HVAC RNTL for portable HVAC rental equipment at Castleberry High School not to exceed the amount of \$60,000. Janice Carrell made a motion, seconded by Ariela Martinez, to approve the portable HVAC rental equipment at Castleberry High School not to exceed the amount of \$60,000 as presented. The motion carried with a vote of 4–0.

The Board considered approval of the list of Castleberry ISD library books to be purchased or donated. Mary Lou Martinez made a motion, seconded by Janice Carrell, to approve the list as presented. The motion carried with a vote of 4–0.

The Board considered approval of the resolution allocating votes for an appointment to the Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors. Mary Lou Martinez made a motion to split the votes and give three votes to Wendy Burgess and three votes to Eric Crile. The motion was seconded by Ariela Martinez and carried with a vote of 4–0.

Board members reviewed key dates.

Board Members discussed sending out an email regarding Longevity Checks.

All other Board discussion items were tabled until the next Board meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2025, for a Regular Board Meeting.

The Board adjourned at 8:15 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



Cathy Gatica
Board Secretary
Castleberry Independent School District

Date: December 15, 2025

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