



Harmony Public Schools

Minutes

February 28, 2026 HPS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Saturday February 28, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Location

Harmony Public Schools - Central Office
1255 Enclave Pkwy
Houston, TX 77077

****We will serve breakfast following the conclusion of the board meeting****

Directors Present

H. Koc (remote), H. Sherwood (remote), K. House (remote), M. Argin (remote), O. Celepcikay

Directors Absent

L. Gonzalez, S. Koch

Guests Present

C. Lambert, E. Altun, E. Cavusoglu, Eugene Eski, F. Ay, J. Hoffer (remote), Jennifer Sabin, M. Baca, N. Bayhan, Ramazan Coskuner, Serif Mercan, U. Alpaslan, Y. Akyildiz

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

O. Celepcikay called a meeting of the board of directors of Harmony Public Schools to order on Saturday Feb 28, 2026 at 9:05 AM.

II. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

Ms. Suraiya Kamal, parent from Harmony School of Discovery - Houston addresses the board. Ms. Kamal speaks about school culture and how it shows up during various grading practices. Ms. Kamal references Texas Education Code 25.807 that discusses students who are absent may not be penalized for the absence. She has a concern regarding certain teachers putting automatic zeros in the grade book if there is an excused absence and an assignment that day. This practice contradicts the Texas Education Code. Ms. Kamal commends the teachers that do work with students and parents regarding these assignments when students are absent.

III. Consent Agenda

A. i. Consider Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes of January 31, 2026

M. Argin made a motion to approve the minutes from January 31, 2026 HPS Board Meeting on 01-31-26.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. ii. Consider Approval/Ratification of the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on February 7, 2026

M. Argin made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on February 7, 2026.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. iii. Consider Approval/Ratification of the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on February 7, 2026

M. Argin made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on February 7, 2026.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. iv. Approval of Resolution Authorizing the purchase, lease, lease renewal/extension/amendment, sublease, or sell land/real property for school/office facilities in Harris County and delegating certain matters related thereto.

M. Argin made a motion to approve Resolution Authorizing the purchase, lease, lease renewal/extension/amendment, sublease, or sell land/real property for school/office facilities in Harris County and delegating certain matters related thereto.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

E. v. Approval of Resolution Authorizing the purchase, lease, lease renewal/extension/amendment, sublease, or sell land/real property for school/office facilities in Bexar County and delegating certain matters related thereto.

M. Argin made a motion to approve Resolution Authorizing the purchase, lease, lease renewal/extension/amendment, sublease, or sell land/real property for school/office facilities in Bexar County and delegating certain matters related thereto.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Consider Approval of Amendment to the

A. Consider Approval of Amendment to the Harmony Public Schools-South Texas Charter District (CDN: 015-828) 2025-2026 Academic Calendar for the below listed campuses: i. Harmony Science Academy-San Antonio ii. Harmony School of Innovation- San Antonio iii. Harmony School of Science- San Antonio iv. Harmony Science Academy-Brownsville v. Harmony School of Innovation- Brownsville

Mr. Emin Cavusoglu, Deputy Superintendent of Programs for Harmony Public Schools, presented the proposed amendment to the 2025–2026 Academic Calendar for Harmony Public Schools South Texas campuses, including Harmony Science Academy–San Antonio, Harmony School of Innovation–San Antonio, Harmony School of Science–San Antonio, Harmony Science Academy–Brownsville, and Harmony School of Innovation–Brownsville. He explained that the amendment is necessary to ensure eligibility for Additional Days School Year (ADSY) funding.

Mr. Cavusoglu stated that the proposed change designates May 28, 2026, as an instructional day instead of a teacher workday for the listed campuses. This adjustment aligns the academic calendar with ADSY requirements, allowing the district to qualify for additional state funding tied to extended instructional time. He noted that Harmony Public Schools South Texas has consistently implemented extended learning and summer programming, and that ADSY funding will provide supplemental resources to support academic interventions, enhance athletic and extracurricular opportunities, and promote overall student well-being.

The Board reviewed the proposed calendar amendment and the associated benefits related to ADSY funding eligibility. The Board then considered approval of the amendment to the 2025–2026 Academic Calendars for the Harmony Public Schools South Texas Charter District (CDN: 015-828) as presented.

H. Koc made a motion to approve the Amendment to Harmony Public Schools South Texas Charter District (CDN:015-828) 2025-2026 Academic Calendars as presented.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. Review and consider approval of a vendor pool

- A. Review and consider approval of a vendor pool and contract awards for RSP #HPS2627_PREK for the Prekindergarten Program Partnership to the proposers offering the best value to Harmony Public Schools, in accordance with the specifications outlined in the proposal. This action would also authorize the CEO or designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute the agreement(s), amendment(s), renewal(s), and any other necessary documents through July 31, 2031.**

Mr. Eugene Eski, Director of Learning Initiatives for Harmony Public Schools, presented the recommendation to approve a vendor pool and contract awards for RSP #HPS2627_PREK for the Prekindergarten Program Partnership. He explained that this initiative is designed to expand access to PK3 instructional services by partnering with private, licensed daycare providers.

Mr. Eski stated that, under this model, eligible PK3 students will receive instruction at approved daycare centers during TEA-required instructional hours. Harmony Public Schools will maintain oversight of the program while sharing an agreed-upon percentage of ADA funding with participating vendors as funds are received from the State of Texas. He further explained that families may opt for additional afterschool care services through parent pay or the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) childcare subsidy program, if eligible.

Mr. Eski reviewed the planned initial rollout of the program, which will include implementation in El Paso, College Station, Austin, Lubbock, and Houston. He emphasized that this partnership model will allow the district to expand access to high-quality early childhood education while leveraging community-based providers to meet growing demand.

The Board reviewed the proposed vendor pool and contract awards and considered approval of RSP #HPS2627_PREK for the Prekindergarten Program Partnership, including authorization for the CEO or designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute all necessary agreements, amendments, renewals, and related documents through July 31, 2031.

M. Argin made a motion to approve the vendor pool and contract awards for RSP #HPS2627_PREK for the Prekindergarten Program Partnership to the proposers offering the best value, and authorize the CEO or designee to negotiate and execute all necessary agreements and renewals through July 31, 2031.

O. Celepcikay seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. Approval of Resolution for Employee Compensation During Winter Storm Closures.

A. Approval of Resolution for Employee Compensation During Winter Storm Closures.

Mr. Emre Altun, Chief Human Resources Officer for Harmony Public Schools, presented a resolution for employee compensation during winter storm closures. He explained that recent extreme winter weather conditions resulted in temporary campus closures across various regions, with closure dates and durations differing by location.

Mr. Altun stated that, during these closures, nonexempt employees were unable to report to work. The proposed resolution authorizes continued compensation for affected employees during these closure periods. He emphasized that this action reflects the district's commitment to supporting its staff, maintaining morale, ensuring operational stability, and continuing to effectively serve students.

The Board reviewed the proposed resolution and considered approval of employee compensation for nonexempt staff impacted by winter storm-related campus closures as presented.

M. Argin made a motion to approve Resolution for Employee Compensation During Winter Storm Closures as presented.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VII. Consider and take possible action on Certification under TEC 12.106(e-2)

A. Consider and take possible action on Certification under TEC 12.106(e-2)

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief Compliance Officer for Harmony Public Schools, presented a resolution to issue a certification in accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC) §12.106(e-2). She explained that Harmony Public Schools is applying for the Texas Education Agency (TEA) 2026–2028 State Facilities Incentive Grant (SFIG).

Ms. Baca stated that, under TEC §12.1058, open-enrollment charter schools may be treated as local governments and school districts for purposes of the grant if they provide written certification confirming that no administrator, officer, employee, board member, or their close relatives derive any financial benefit from real estate transactions involving the school. She emphasized that providing this certification is a required step in order for Harmony Public Schools to be eligible to apply for and receive SFIG funding.

The Board reviewed the proposed certification and considered approval of the resolution to issue the certification in accordance with Texas Education Code §12.106(e-2) as presented.

M. Argin made a motion to approve the Resolution to issue a certification in accordance with Texas Education Code Section 12.106(e-2), as presented.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VIII. Consider adopting a new policy in accordance with SB 1049; PG-3.52 Released-Time-Courses

A. Consider adopting a new policy in accordance with SB 1049; PG-3.52 Released-Time-Courses

Mr. Emin Cavusoglu, Deputy Superintendent of Programs for Harmony Public Schools, presented a proposed new policy, PG-3.52 Released-Time-Courses, in accordance with Senate Bill 1049 (SB 1049). He explained that SB 1049 requires school boards to adopt a policy allowing students to be excused for up to five hours per week to participate in external courses in religious instruction, upon request by a parent.

Mr. Cavusoglu stated that the proposed policy was prepared by legal counsel (SLHA) and outlines the conditions, procedures, and limitations under which students may be excused from regular instructional time to participate in such courses. He emphasized that the policy ensures compliance with state law while maintaining appropriate safeguards and accountability for student participation and academic requirements.

The Board reviewed the proposed policy and considered approval of Policy PG-3.52 Released-Time-Courses in accordance with SB 1049 as presented.

K. House made a motion to approve new policy PG-3.52 Released-Time-Courses in accordance with SB 1049 as presented.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IX. Approval of Resolutions to submit non-expansion amendments

A. Approval of Resolutions to submit non-expansion amendments to TEA to postpone the opening date for Harmony School of Excellence-Fort Worth to the 2027-28 school year and Charter Amendment for transition of Campuses (HSA Waco and HSI Waco) from Harmony Public Schools - North Texas (CDN: 161-807) to Harmony Public Schools - Central Texas (CDN: 227-816) for 2026-2027 School Year

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief Compliance Officer for Harmony Public Schools, presented resolutions to submit non-expansion amendments to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to postpone the opening date for Harmony School of Excellence–Fort Worth and to approve a charter amendment for the transition of campuses between districts. She explained that, due to changes in the construction timeline, the opening of Harmony School of Excellence–Fort Worth under Harmony Public Schools North Texas will be postponed to the 2027–2028 school year. The campus had previously been approved by TEA to open in the 2025–2026 school year.

Ms. Baca further stated that the district is seeking approval to transfer Harmony Science Academy–Waco (HSA Waco) and Harmony School of Innovation–Waco (HSI Waco) from Harmony Public Schools North Texas (CDN: 161-807) to Harmony Public Schools Central Texas (CDN: 227-816) for the 2026–2027 school year. She explained that, to facilitate this transition, the campuses will be formally closed under the North Texas district and reopened under the Central Texas district with the same campus names and grade configurations.

Ms. Baca emphasized that these actions are administrative in nature and necessary to align district operations, construction timelines, and regional organization while maintaining continuity of services for students.

The Board reviewed the proposed amendments and considered approval of the resolutions to submit the non-expansion amendment and charter amendment as presented.

K. House made a motion to approve the Resolution to submit non-expansion amendments to TEA to postpone the opening date for Harmony School of Excellence-Fort Worth to the 2027-28 school year and Charter Amendment for transition of Campuses (HSA Waco and HSI Waco) from Harmony Public Schools - North Texas (CDN: 161-807) to Harmony Public Schools - Central Texas (CDN: 227-816) for 2026-2027 School Year as presented.

H. Koc seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

X. Approval of Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment

A. Approval of Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment to TEA to postpone the opening date for the additional site for Harmony Science Academy-San Antonio campus to the 2027-2028 School Year under Harmony Public Schools -South Texas Charter (CDN: 015-828)

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief Compliance Officer for Harmony Public Schools, presented a resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to postpone the opening date for an additional site for Harmony Science Academy–San Antonio under Harmony Public Schools South Texas (CDN: 015-828). She explained that, due to changes in the district’s construction plans, the opening of the additional site will be postponed to the 2027–2028 school year. The site had previously been approved by TEA to open in the 2025–2026 school year.

Ms. Baca noted that the amendment is administrative in nature and necessary to align project timelines with current construction schedules while ensuring compliance with TEA requirements. She emphasized that the request does not involve any expansion of enrollment or services beyond what has already been approved.

The Board reviewed the proposed amendment and considered approval of the resolution to submit the non-expansion amendment to TEA as presented.

H. Koc made a motion to approve the Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment to TEA to postpone the opening date for the additional site for Harmony Science Academy-San Antonio campus to the 2027-2028 School Year under Harmony Public Schools -South Texas Charter (CDN: 015-828) as presented.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

XI. Approval of Resolution to submit missed day waivers

A. Approval of Resolution to submit missed day waivers to TEA due to Weather or Student/Staff Health Safety related issues for all 7 HPS districts.

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief Compliance Officer for Harmony Public Schools, presented a resolution to submit missed day waiver requests to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for all seven HPS districts. She explained that several campuses experienced closures due to inclement weather and student and staff health and safety-related issues, resulting in a loss of instructional minutes.

Ms. Baca stated that submitting missed day waivers to TEA will allow the district to request forgiveness for the missed instructional time and remain in compliance with state attendance and instructional requirements. She emphasized that these waivers are necessary to account for circumstances beyond the district's control while maintaining operational and regulatory compliance.

The Board reviewed the proposed resolution and considered approval of the submission of missed day waivers to TEA for all seven Harmony Public Schools districts as presented.

H. Koc made a motion to approve the Resolution to submit missed day waivers to TEA due to Weather or Student/Staff Health Safety related issues for all 7 HPS districts as presented.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

XII. Approval of Resolutions to submit charter expansion amendment

A. Approval of Resolutions to submit charter expansion amendment requests to TEA for the following: i. Increase maximum enrollment and add seven additional sites for HPS- Houston North (CDN: 101-858) ii. Add two new campuses and three additional sites for HPS-Central Texas (CDN: 227-816) iii. Add an additional new campus for HPS- North Texas (CDN: 161-807) iv. Add an additional new campus for HPS-Houston South and an additional site (CDN: 101-846) v. Add two additional sites for HPS - Houston West (CDN: 101-862) vi. Increase maximum enrollment and add six additional sites for HPS- West Texas (CDN: 071-806) vii. Add an additional

campus, Harmony Science Academy- Research Park for HPS-South Texas (CDN: 015-828)

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief Compliance Officer for Harmony Public Schools, presented resolutions to submit charter expansion amendment requests to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for multiple Harmony Public Schools districts. She explained that these amendments seek to increase maximum enrollment capacity and add new campuses and additional sites across several regions.

Ms. Baca outlined the proposed expansions, which include increasing enrollment and adding seven additional sites for HPS–Houston North; adding two new campuses and three additional sites for HPS–Central Texas; adding an additional new campus for HPS–North Texas; adding an additional new campus and sites for HPS–Houston South; adding two additional sites for HPS–Houston West; increasing maximum enrollment and adding six additional sites for HPS–West Texas; and adding a new campus, Harmony Science Academy–Research Park, for HPS–South Texas.

She noted that the proposed amendments are supported by detailed business plans and supporting documentation, which were provided to the Board for review. Ms. Baca emphasized that these expansion requests are part of the district’s strategic growth plan to meet increasing student demand, expand access to high-quality educational programs, and support continued organizational growth across the state.

The Board reviewed the proposed charter expansion amendments and considered approval of the resolutions to submit the requests to TEA as presented.

H. Koc made a motion to approve the Resolutions to submit charter expansion amendment requests to TEA for i. Increase maximum enrollment and add seven additional sites for HPS- Houston North (CDN: 101-858), ii. Add two new campuses and three additional sites for HPS-Central Texas (CDN: 227-816), iii. Add an additional new campus for HPS- North Texas (CDN: 161-807), iv. Add an additional new campus for HPS-Houston South and an additional sites (CDN: 101-846), v. Add two additional sites for HPS - Houston West (CDN: 101-862), vi. Increase maximum enrollment and add six additional sites for HPS- West Texas (CDN: 071-806), and vii. Add an additional campus, Harmony Science Academy- Research Park for HPS-South Texas (CDN: 015-828. as presented.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

XIII. Closed Session Pursuant to Govt. Code

- A. i. Obtain legal advice on matters related to Senate Bill 11 (Education Code 25.0823) options for period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious texts during the school day**

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.072 Real Estate Transactions, 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)..

Closed Session begins at 10:13AM

B. ii. Obtain legal advice approving resolution for Harmony DC Public Charter Schools acquisition and financing for campus.

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.072 Real Estate Transactions, 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)..

Closed Session begins at 10:13AM

C. iii. Discussion of Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings for a campus under Harmony Public Schools – Houston South.

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.072 Real Estate Transactions, 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)..

Closed Session begins at 10:13AM

D. iv. Consider Staff Grievance Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – El Paso

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.072 Real Estate Transactions, 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)..

Closed Session begins at 10:13AM

E. v. Consider Parent Grievance Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Sugar Land.

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.072 Real Estate Transactions, 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)..

Closed Session begins at 10:13AM

XIV. Resume Open Session, act on items discussed in closed session:

A. i. Take possible action on proposed board resolution and associated policy related to a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious texts during the school day, in accordance with Senate Bill 11 (Education Code 25.0823)

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 11:20AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the items announced and no action was taken.

O. Celepcikay made a motion to I move that on February 28, 2026, the governing body of Harmony Public Schools not adopt a resolution or corresponding policy that would require a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious texts, as permitted under Senate Bill 11 from the 89th Regular Legislative Session, which took effect September 1, 2025. Further, this record vote of the governing body is taking place within six months of the bill taking effect, as required by law.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. ii. Take possible action approving resolution for Harmony DC Public Charter Schools acquisition and financing for campus.

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 11:20AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the items announced and no action was taken.

M. Argin made a motion to approve resolution for Harmony DC Public Charter Schools acquisition and financing for campus.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. iii. Potential action on Staff Grievance Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – El Paso.

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 11:20AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the items announced and no action was taken.

H. Koc made a motion to uphold the Level 3 Decision and Deny the Appeal.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. iv. Potential action on Parent Grievance Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Sugar Land.

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 11:20AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the items announced and no action was taken.

M. Argin made a motion to uphold the administrations decision and deny the grievance.

H. Koc seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

XV. Closing Items

A.

Adjourn Meeting

O. Celepcikay made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Lambert