

TEXARKANA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Texarkana, Texas

Office of the Superintendent
Minutes - Official REGULAR MEETING - Board of Trustees
Texas High School - CTE 1 Building, 4001 Summerhill Road,
Texarkana, Texas
Wednesday, May 27, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Texarkana Independent School District met in official REGULAR session on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Texas High School - CTE 1 Building, 4001 Summerhill Road, Texarkana, Texas.

Board Members Present

Mrs. Wanda Boyette, President
Mrs. Amy Bowers, Vice President
Mr. Bryan DePriest, Secretary
Mr. Bill Kimbro
Mr. Richard Benjamin King
Pastor Ronald Ruffin

Board Members Absent

Mr. Paul Miller

School Officials Present

Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent
Anita Clay, Chief Financial Officer
Todd Marshall, Chief Operating Officer
Brad Irvin, Chief of Police
Ben Renner, Chief of Secondary Schools/Texas High School Principal
Christy Tidwell, Chief of Elementary Schools
Kay Stickels, Executive Director of Human Resources
Lakesha Taylor, Executive Director of Student and Family Support Services
Kelly Bixler, Director of Communications and Marketing
Kim Lee, Virtual School Coordinator
Gabrielle Matthews, Staff Accountant
Julius Anderson, Director of Student and Family Support Services
Christopher Rixon, Information Technology
Rhonda Crass, TISD Attorney
Gayle Hale, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

Meeting Called to Order

President Boyette called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and announced that a quorum of the Board Members was present, the meeting had been duly called, and the notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551. Pastor Ronald Ruffin led the audience in a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Administration of Oath of Office

Ms. Gabrielle Matthews, Notary Public for Bowie County, Texas, administered the Oath of Office to Board members Amy Bowers, Richard Benjamin King and Pastor Ronald Ruffin.

Recognition

The following students were presented with the TISD Board of Trustees Achievement Medal and Certificates of Award:

Nirav Neupane- 2025 Congressional App Challenge for Texas First District
David Mayo- 2026 All-State Academic Team by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals
Gavin Ingham- 2026 Texas First Program Graduate
Spencer Frances Hays- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
Aiden Harris- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
David Mayo- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
Nirav Neupane- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
Grace Raley- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
Griffin White- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
Reese White- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
Sanders Wiggins- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
Mackenzie Wiley- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
Sydney Woods- 2025-26 Texas High School Student Council National Gold Council of Excellence
Aadyn Hayes- 2026 BPA National Leadership Conference Finalist
Mareana Williams- 3rd Place in Interpersonal Communications at the 2026 FCCLA State Leadership Conference
Leah Crow- First Place: "Peak Performance" 2026 Jostens North America Photo Contest
Annabelle Davis - not attending- Second Place: "It's-a Me!" 2026 Jostens North America Photo Contest
Annabelle Davis - not attending- Third Place: "Splintered Sorrow" 2026 Jostens North America Photo Contest
Mariel Estrada-Galvan-First Place: "The Weight of Will" 2026 Jostens North America Photo Contest
Lillie Orgeron- Third Place: "Haunted" 2026 Jostens North America Photo Contest
Annie Smith- Third Place: "T-Ball Scores!" 2026 Jostens North America Photo Contest
Sam McGinnis- 2026 Student Spaceflight Experiment Program Finalist "The Effects of Microgravity on Mold Growth"
Logan Morris- 2026 Student Spaceflight Experiment Program Finalist "The Effects of Microgravity on Mold Growth"
Rhett Simpson- 2026 Student Spaceflight Experiment Program Finalist "The Effects of Microgravity on Mold Growth"
James Williams- 2026 Student Spaceflight Experiment Program Finalist "The Effects of Microgravity on Mold Growth"
Lizzy LaGrone- 2026 Grand Prize Winner in the Save Texas History Essay Contest

Pastor Ronald Ruffin exited the meeting at 5:25 PM.

The Dual Credit Update was moved up in the agenda so the students present would not have to stay so late. The report was provided by Mr. Ben Renner, Chief of Secondary Schools and Texas High School Principal.

Open Forum

President Boyette conducted an open forum; there was no participation from the audience.

Closed Session

At 5:34 PM the Board of Trustees adjourned into a closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

§ 551.071	Private consultation with the Board's attorney
§ 551.072	Discussing or deliberating purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property
§ 551.073	Discussing or deliberating negotiated contract for prospective gift or donation to the school district
§ 551.074	Discussing or deliberating appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee
§ 551.076	Discussing or deliberating the deployment or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel or devices or security audit

At 6:08 PM the Board of Trustees reconvened into open session. President Boyette stated there was no action taken on items discussed in closed session.

Election of Officers for Board of Trustees for 2026-2027

It was MOVED by Mrs. Wanda Boyette, SECONDED by Mr. Bill Kimbro, "that Mrs. Amy Bowers serve as President of the Board of Trustees for the 2026-2027 school year, Mr. Paul Miller serve as Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the 2026-2027 school year, and Mr. Bryan DePriest serve as Secretary of the Board of Trustees for the 2026-2027 school year."

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes 5 – Nays 0.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEMBER VOTE						
Board Member Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Amy Bowers	X					
Wanda Boyette	X				X	
Bryan DePriest	X					
Bill Kimbro	X					X
Richard Benjamin King	X					
Paul Miller				X		
Pastor Ronald Ruffin				X		

The newly elected officers of the Board of Trustees for the 2026-2027 school year are as follows:

President – Amy Bowers

Vice President – Paul Miller

Secretary – Bryan DePriest

President Bowers presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Special Reports

Dr. Brubaker provided highlights about Texas High School's graduating Class of 2026:

- \$20 million in scholarship offers
- 50% of Texarkana College's dual credit graduates this year were Texas High School students
- 250 industry-based certifications
- 80,000 hours of community service completed
- 3 National Merit Commended Scholars
- 9 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 1 AP Scholar with Honor
- 8 AP Scholars
- 15 AVID students earned membership in National AVID for Life
- 41 first-generation college students

The Digital Academy of Texas (DATX) team was also attended the board meeting and Christy Tidwell, Chief of Elementary Schools, introduced them to the board:

- Julie Overholt – Senior Vice President, Portfolio 7
- Laura Condon – Senior Director - Operations
- Tricia Hamilton – School Director
- Lacy Blakley – Director of Student Services
- Juli Laechelin – Director of Accountability and instruction
- Lyndsey Witt – Senior Operations Manager, Texas Shared Services
- Paden Wood – Operations Manager
- Erica Kouros – Executive Director, DATX

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve Consent Agenda Items

It was MOVED by Mrs. Wanda Boyette, SECONDED by Mr. Bryan DePriest, "to approve the consent agenda in its entirety." The approved items are listed below:

- 1) Minutes of the April 28, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.
- 2) Minutes of the May 13, 2026 Special Board Meeting.
- 3) Monthly investment report.
- 4) Proposals for 1) Building Material, Hardware, Supply, and Equipment Vendors; 2) Educational Professional Development, Consulting, Coaching, and Facilitation Services Vendors; 3) Maintenance and Construction Contracted Services Vendors; 4) Purchases Over \$50,000; 5) Yearbook Publisher.
- 5) Partners in Education donations for the period April 2026 totaling \$8,471.00.
- 6) Revised FDA(LOCAL) Policy.
- 7) Amended District of Innovation Plan.
- 8) Amended 2026-2027 TISD School Calendar.
- 9) 2027-2028 TISD School Calendar.
- 10) Amendment to Educational Products and Services Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ayes 5 – Nays 0.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEMBER CONSENT AGENDA VOTE						
Board Member Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Amy Bowers	X					
Wanda Boyette	X				X	
Bryan DePriest	X					X
Bill Kimbro	X					
Richard Benjamin King	X					
Paul Miller				X		
Pastor Ronald Ruffin				X		

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve Monthly Financial Report

Mrs. Anita Clay, Chief Financial Officer, presented the monthly financial report to the Board. It was MOVED by Mrs. Wanda Boyette, SECONDED by Mr. Bill Kimbro, “to approve the monthly financials as presented.” MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ayes 5 – Nays 0.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEMBER VOTE						
Board Member Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Amy Bowers	X					
Wanda Boyette	X				X	
Bryan DePriest	X					X
Bill Kimbro	X					
Richard Benjamin King	X					
Paul Miller				X		
Pastor Ronald Ruffin				X		

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve Expenditures

It was MOVED by Mr. Bryan DePriest, SECONDED by Mr. Bill Kimbro, “that the monthly expenditures be approved and filed for audit.” MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ayes 5– Nays 0.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEMBER VOTE						
Board Member Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Amy Bowers	X					
Wanda Boyette	X				X	
Bryan DePriest	X					X
Bill Kimbro	X					
Richard Benjamin King	X					
Paul Miller				X		
Pastor Ronald Ruffin				X		

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve Second Reading of Budget FY 2026-2027

Mrs. Anita Clay, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed this item with the Board. It was MOVED by Mrs. Wanda Boyette, SECONDED by Mr. Bryan DePriest, “to accept the second reading of the budget FY 2026-2027.” MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ayes 5 – Nays 0.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEMBER VOTE						
Board Member Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Amy Bowers	X					
Wanda Boyette	X				X	
Bryan DePriest	X					X
Bill Kimbro	X					
Richard Benjamin King	X					
Paul Miller				X		
Pastor Ronald Ruffin				X		

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve Resolution for Texas Senate Bill 546 Reporting Requirement

It was MOVED by Mrs. Wanda Boyette, SECONDED by Mr. Bryan DePriest, “to approve the resolution for the Texas Senate Bill 546 Reporting Requirement.” MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ayes 5 – Nays 0.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEMBER VOTE						
Board Member Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Amy Bowers	X					
Wanda Boyette	X				X	
Bryan DePriest	X					X
Bill Kimbro	X					
Richard Benjamin King	X					
Paul Miller				X		
Pastor Ronald Ruffin				X		

Reports/Information/Review Items

Personnel information was included in the Board packet. The list provided is as follows:

Resignations/Retirements

Chambers, Dianna – SPED teacher – Parks
Chevallier, Taylor – Kindergarten Teacher – Parks
Coleman, Andrea – PreK Headstart – Dunbar
Cowley, Patrick – 7th Grade Social Studies – TMS
Dickerson, Amanda – PreK Headstart – Dunbar
Everett, Curtis – Teacher/Coach – Texas Middle School
Forte, Tracy – SDAEP Teacher – Goree

Resignations/Retirements (Continued)

Galvan, Giselle – Art Teacher – Texas High School
Graham, Jodi – 3rd Grade Teacher – Waggoner Creek
Harris, Cameron – 3rd Grade Teacher – Nash
Harris, Jalisha – 7th Grade Social Studies – Texas Middle School
Irving, Ashley – 2nd Grade Teacher – Parks
Jackson, Angela – Music Teacher – Dunbar
Kuplinski, Anna – 2nd Grade Teacher – Theron Jones
Lewis, Christian – Science Teacher – Texas High School
Lewis, Tregreanna – 4th Grade Teacher – Parks
Liles, Candace – 1st Grade Teacher – Waggoner Creek
Mason, Whitney – Assistant Principal – Wake Village
Moon-Sullivan, Christina – Choir Teacher – Texas Middle School and Texas High School
Oakes, Bobbie – 3rd Grade Teacher – Parks
Peck, Joseph – Science Teacher – Texas High School
Ratcliff, Julie – Interventionist – Waggoner Creek
Rains, Megan – Math Teacher – Texas High School
Rayburn, Kaley – Art Teacher – Wake Village
Rhodes, Thomas – 5th Grade Teacher – Waggoner Creek
Rierson, Kim – Kindergarten Teacher – Theron Jones
Ross, Monique – SPED Collaborative Teacher – Texas High School
Smolarz, Sarah – 8th Grade English – Texas Middle School
Sozen, Ayla – 1st Grade Teacher – Parks
Spence, Angela – History Teacher – Texas High School
Stuart, Kenisha – 4th Grade Teacher – Parks
Sturdivant, Donna – Interventionist – Wake Village
Whittington, Kasey – Spanish Teacher – Texas High School
Wilson, Lee Jaye – PreK Teacher – Dunbar

Elections/Assignments

Blaylock, Contessa – Teacher/Coach – Texas Middle School
Hadnot, James – Teacher/Coach – Texas High School
Hamilton, Tanner – Teacher/Coach – Texas High School
Harrison, Amy – Principal – Texas High School – effective July 1, 2026
Leible, Lainey – PreK Teacher – Dunbar
Pickering, Sherri – Choir Teacher – Texas Middle School and Texas High School
Roberts, Murphy – Teacher/Coach – Texas High School
Smith, Olivia – Kindergarten Teacher – Morriss
Smith, Sommer – Cheer Coach – Texas Middle School
Throneberry, Aiden – Teacher/Coach – Texas High School
Tisdale, Andrew – Teacher/Coach – Texas High School

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Board of Trustees, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

MRS. AMY BOWERS, President

MR. BRYAN DEPRIEST, Secretary