Harris County Department of Education
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
May 20, 2026

The Harris County Board of School Trustees met in called session on May 20, 2026, in the Board Room, at 6300 Irvington Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77022. Amy Hinojosa, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and declared a quorum present, that the meeting was duly called, and that notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Gov't. Code §551.041 and §551.051.

Board Members Present:	Amy Hinojosa, Board President; Richard Cantu, Board First Vice President; Erica Davis, Board Second Vice President; Eric Dick; John McGee and Silky Joshi
Board Members Absent:	Andrea Duhon
Board Attorney:	Sarah Langlois
Administration:	James Colbert, Jr., County School Superintendent;; Jonathan Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Support; C.J. Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent for Education & Enrichment; Ann Westbrooks, Chief Financial Officer for Business Services Joyce Akins, Director, Center for Grants Development; Danielle Bartz, Chief of Staff; Jessica Bermea, Executive Assistant to Board of Trustees; Joe Carreon, Director Construction; Lisa Caruthers, Senior Director, CASE for Kids; Danielle Clark, Chief Communications Officer; Carie Crabb, Senior Director School-Based Therapy Services; Curtis Davis, Director Records Management; Stephanie De Los Santos, Director Client Engagement; Jeff Drury, Director Choice Partners; Leslie Edwards-Ethridge, Director, Center for Safe and Secure Schools; Chris Hoesel, Director Information Technology; Eduardo Honold, Senior Director Adult Education; Edna Johnson, Director of Purchasing; Marcia Leiva, Chief Accounting Officer; Charles Ned, Senior Director Schools; Venetia Peacock, Senior Director Head Start; Yolanda Pyrtle, Director Research and Evaluation Institute; Lindsey Sanders, Director Communications and Creative Services; Tyrone Sylvester, Chief Human Resources Officer; Trina Silva, Director Education Foundation Community Development
Visitors:	None.

The Board of Trustees
May 20, 2026
Agenda of Regular Meeting

1. **Invocation -** Donald Mims, Records Center Tech / Driver, Records Management

2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the US flag -** Luis Sanchez, Coordinator, Client Engagement

3. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag** - Luis Sanchez, Coordinator, Client Engagement

4. **Open Forum** - Gov't Code 551.007 - Public Participation. Pursuant to Policy BED (Local), a citizen who wishes to speak may do so by completing a participation request card available at the Board room at least 10 minutes prior to a regular Board meeting.

   None.

5. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

   A. **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

   Communications presented a brief recognition video.

   B. **Teacher Appreciation Month**

   Communications presented a brief recognition video.

   C. **Employee of the Month -** Dr. Tyrone Sylvester, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources

   Dr. Sylvester presented the May Employee of the Month, Larry Moses II, Project Program Coordinator, CASE for Kids. Communications showed a brief video showing his role and impact.

   Richard Cantu, First Vice President arrived at 1:15 p.m.

   D. **Superintendent Monthly Report -** James Colbert, Jr.

   Superintendent James Colbert updated the Board of Trustees on several items as HCDE concludes the 2025–2026 school year. He reported that on May 13, 2026, the Education Foundation hosted the 2026 Heart of Education Luncheon; he recognized Education Foundation Director Trina Silva and noted the remarkable transformation of the Foundation as well as the event's strong attendance, organization, and coordination. On May 15, 2026, ABS East held its graduation ceremony, recognizing every student on campus; Mr. Colbert noted that it was powerful to see families and members of the ISDs celebrate. On May 18, 2026, Superintendent Colbert, Mr. Jonathan Parker, Dr. Michelle Williams, and Ms. Danielle Clark traveled to Laredo, Texas, to participate in the Laredo Youth Conference led by former HCDE CFO Dr. Jesus Amezcua, an event focused on high school juniors and seniors. He also noted that the Celebration of Excellence event on May 20, 2026, will honor Employees of the Month and other employee recognitions and awards. ABS West graduation will take place on May 21,2026 followed by the Fortis Academy graduation on May 22,2026. On May 28, 2026, the Teacher of the Year and Teacher Assistant of the Year will be honored at a recognition dinner. Finally, Superintendent Colbert shared brief information regarding the upcoming HCDE Convocation, scheduled for August 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Kingdom Builders Center, noting that this year's theme will be NFL and a draft has been held where each Division was drafted a team.

E. **Annual Division Update** - Curtis Davis, Senior Director, Records Management

F. **Annual Division Update** - Stephanie DeLosSantos, Director, Marketing & Client Engagement and Kristoffer Smith, Director, Communications & Creative Services

G. **Other reports from Board members** concerning attendance or participation in a board or HCDE-related conference, event, activity, or committee; accolades for an HCDE staff member or other deserving person.

Richard Cantu, First Vice President, recognized the administration, staff, and the Education Foundation of Harris County for their work on the Heart of Education Luncheon. He expressed his pride in the Foundation's achievement of raising more than $100,000 and commended the team for their dedication and hard work in making the event a success.

H. **Report of Board Committees** - Committee Chairs

None.

I. **Monthly Financial Reports through 04/30/2026 -** Ann Westbrooks, CFO

Motion made by Second Vice President Davis, seconded by Trustee McGee to approve all Consensus agenda items.

Motion passes with 6-0 voting to approve.

6. **ACTION ITEMS - CONSENSUS**

A. Consider approval of the following Board Meeting Minutes:

1. April 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

B. Consider ratification/approval of the following Interlocal Contracts:

1. **Consider approval of Interlocal (Revenue) Agreements for FY 2027 with School-Based Therapy Services in the aggregate amount of $154,100 with the following districts:** Columbia-Brazoria ISD (86 students served in FY2025) in the amount of $130,500 and Brazos ISD (7 students served in FY2025) in the amount of $23,600, for the period of 08/16/2026 through 08/15/2027.

2. **Consider ratification of the amendment to the Interlocal (Revenue) Agreement with School-Based Therapy Services and UT Austin-UT Charter Schools in the amount of $2,850 for FY 2026 for the period of 08/16/2025 through 08/15/2026.** The contract amount is proposed to be amended from $1,710 to $2,850 (an increase of $1,140) for additional days of physical therapy services.

3. **Consider approval of Interlocal (Revenue) Extended School Year (ESY) Agreement for FY 2026 in the aggregate amount of $70,400 for ABS East with the following district:** Clear Creek ISD for 11 in-county ESY (Summer School) contracts ($6,400 each) for the period of 06/10/2026 through 07/09/2026.

4. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Revenue) Monthly Agreements for FY 2026 in the aggregate amount of $62,775 for ABS West with the following districts:** Angleton ISD for one out-of-county monthly contract ($4,650 each) for the period of 02/23/2026 through 06/04/2026; East Bernard ISD for one out-of-county monthly contract ($4,650 each) for the period of 04/15/2026 through 06/04/2026; Royal ISD for one out-of-county monthly contract ($4,650 each) for the period of 02/09/2026 through 06/04/2026; and Willis ISD for one out-of-county monthly contract ($4,650 each) for the period of 02/11/2026 through 06/04/2026.

5. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Revenue) Agreement for FY 2026 in the aggregate amount of $59,500 for ABS East with the following district:** Splendora ISD for two out-of-county annual contracts ($29,750 each) for the period of 08/25/2025 through 06/04/2026.

6. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Revenue) Agreement for FY 2026 in the amount of $29,750 for ABS West with the following district:** Magnolia ISD for one out-of-county annual contract ($29,750 each) for the period of 08/25/2025 through 06/04/2026.

7. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Revenue) Monthly Agreements for FY 2026 in the aggregate amount of $15,000 for ABS East with the following district:** YES Prep Public Schools for student #2 for one in-county monthly contract for a total of $7,500 ($3,750 each) for the period of 04/06/2026 through 06/04/2026; YES Prep Public Schools for student #3 for one in-county monthly contract for a total of $7,500 ($3,750 each) for the period of 04/13/2026 through 06/04/2026.

8. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Expenditure) Agreement for FY 2026 CASE for Kids Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center(s) Cycle 11, Year 5 grant, in the aggregate amount of $135,000 with the following entities:** Alief ISD in the amount of $90,000 (220 students served) and Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans in the amount of $45,000 (92 students served) for the period of 08/04/2025 through 07/31/2026.

9. **Consider ratification of the amendment to the Interlocal (Expenditure) Agreement for FY 2026 CASE for Kids Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center(s) Cycle 12, Year 3 grant, to extend the date of grant from the period of 08/04/2025 through 08/31/2026 with Houston ISD.**

10. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Expenditure) Agreement for FY 2026 CASE for Kids Project CASE Debates in the amount of $2,500 with Crosby ISD** (a maximum of 25 students served) for the period of 09/01/2025 through 08/31/2026.

11. **Consider approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Harris County Department Head Start and the Lawson Academy** to provide pre-kindergarten services in the Head Start Pre-K classrooms for the period of 08/01/2026 through 07/31/2027.

12. **Consider ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding between Head Start and The Harris Center for Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services** for the period of 01/01/2026 through 07/31/2028, to ensure the transition of children with disabilities or developmental delays from ECI to Head Start and referrals of EHS students to ECI.

13. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Revenue) Agreement for Records Management and the Harris County Toll Road Authority in the amount of $45,000** for Records Management Services for the renewal period of 05/03/2026 through 05/02/2027.

C. Consider approval of the following items for the HCDE Choice Partners Cooperative:

1. **Consider approval of the Contract Award for job no. 26/009LL for Roofing, Waterproofing, and Masonry Maintenance Component (TEC 44.031) and Component for Single Trade Job Order Contracting (TGC 2269) for the period of 05/20/2026 through 05/19/2027 with the following vendors:** ABC Restoration, Inc. (26/009LL-01); A.W. Farrell & Son, Inc. dba Farrell Roofing (26/009LL-05); Brazos Urethane, Inc (26/009LL-08); R. B. Hash & Associates, Inc. (26/009LL-19); and TADCO Houston, LLC dba TADCO Roofing and Waterproofing (26/009LL-22).

2. **Consider approval of HCDE Interlocal Agreements with:** Alfalfa County, Cherokee, OK; Clifton Water District, Clifton, CO; Dewey County, Taloga, OK; Faithbridge Church, Spring, TX; and Harrisburg School District, Harrisburg, PA.

D. Consider approval of the following items for Internal Purchasing:

1. **Consider approval of Contract Award for job no. 26/001IA-2 for CASE for Kids Youth Services for Afterschool and Summer for the period of 06/01/2026 through 05/31/2031 with the following proposers:** Arab American Cultural & Community Center (ACC/CPRE/Coalition for Peace Relief and Equity); Animation Station, Inc., (dba American Robotics Academy); Basketball Essentials; Braintrust Tutors Inc.; Coach Mercer LLC (Christopher Mercer); EB-C Group West LLC (Erica Benson); Emerging Roots HTX; Friends of the Children - Houston; I.T.S. Fatherhood (Innovative Technology Services); iHeartHTX (Daisies and Pancakes); Innovation Learning LLC; KIDS ROBOTIC ACADEMY LLC; Legends of Learning, Inc.; Lit for Life, LLC (Natasha McDaniel); Little Scholars, LLC; MBSB (Mind, Body, Spirit Is Your Business); Money Mentor, LLC; Multicultural Literacy Center, LLC (Ethel Lewis); The Brown Book Box, LLC; Tears To Cheers Handwriting Clinic, LLC; Teen KICK (Kisha Simmons); Tender Loving Care Foundation; and YEAT UP ORGANIZATION (Utricia Randolph).

2. **Consider approval of Contract Award for job no. 26/018TD for Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships for the period of 07/01/2026 through 06/30/2027, with four (4) one-year options to renew, to the following proposers:** EB-C Group West, LLC and Mrs. Nikki's Childcare & Academic Center.

3. **Consider approval of Contract Award for job no. 25/047GM-03 Advisors, Coaches, Consultants, Counselors, Speakers, and Trainers for the period of 06/01/2026 through 05/31/2031 with the following proposers:** Alexandria Harrison (Geaux Guidance LLC); Array Education, Inc.; Bonfire Leadership Solutions LLC; CapacityED; Comrades Consulting; Counseling In Color; Dorian Valentina Wesley (Teacher Study Hall LLC); First3Years; Harris-Jones Staffing & Recruiting, LLC (HJ Staffing); HR&Co., LLC; Jessica Lamb (Lamb Consulting LLC); Journey to Achievements; KIDS ROBOTIC ACADEMY LLC; KIM GERMANY (GERMANY CONSULTING GROUP); Krystal Soularie (Resilience Clinical & Educational Services); Maiers Educational Services Inc; Peolocity LLC; Pope Audit Group LLC (Pope Consulting); Tanesha Townsend; The Clarity Coach Enterprises; The Tristen Johnson LLC; True Voice, LLC; and Upfront Solutions for Education.

President Hinojosa pulled item 7.5 from the Non-Consensus agenda.

7.5 Consider approval of a Temporary Surface Use Agreement over Department property located at the Coolwood Head Start Center to Targa Gulf Coast NGL Pipeline LLC *for the installation of a pipeline in an existing easement and delegate authority to the Superintendent to negotiate, finalize, and execute all document related thereto.*

No action was taken on this item.

7. **ACTION ITEMS - NON-CONSENSUS**

1. **Consider approval of (Expenditure) Agreement for Head Start and Age of Learning (Choice Partners Job No.24/030SG-01), in the amount of $207,196, for the period of 01/01/2027 through 12/31/2029** for My Math Academy and My Reading Academy software subscription for Head Start students and Professional Learning for Head Start staff.

Motion made by Second Vice President Davis, seconded by First Vice President Cantu to approve the Expenditure Agreement for Head Start and Age of Learning (Choice Partners Job No. 24/030SG-01), in the amount of $207,196, for the period of 01/01/2027 through 12/31/2029 for My Math Academy and My Reading Academy software subscription for Head Start students and Professional Learning for Head Start staff.

Motion passes with 6-0 voting to approve.

2. **Consider approval of (Expenditure) Agreement with the Center for Educator Success (CES) and Protiviti Government Services, Inc., (Job No. 23/035SG-05) in the amount of $181,370, for the period of 06/01/2026 through 12/31/2026** to provide marketing services for the CES teacher certification program.

Motion made by First Vice President Cantu, seconded by Trustee Dick to approve the Expenditure Agreement with the Cener for Educator Success (CES) and Protiviti Government Services, Inc., (Job No. 23/035SG-05) in the amount of $181,370, for the period of 06/01/2026 through 12/31/2026 to provide marketing services for the CES teacher certification program.

Motion passes with 6-0 voting to approve.

3. **Consider approval of the Job Order Contract (JOC) with Quality Security Systems (Job No. 24/047TC-23)** for Fire Alarm Replacement at NPO in an amount not to exceed of $ 219,787 and delegate authority to HCDE Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute the Job Order Contract.

Motion made by First Vice President Cantu, seconded by Second Vice President Davis to approve the Job Order Contract (JOC) with Quality Security Systems (Job No. 24/047TC-23) for Fire Alarm Replacement at NPO in an amount not to exceed of $219, 787 and delegate authority to HCDE Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute the Job Order Contract.

Motion passes with 6-0 voting to approve.

4. **Consider approval of the Job Order Contract (JOC) with Atlas Universal (Job No. 25/035MR-07)** for Partial Roof Recover at NPO in an amount not to exceed of $ 1,218,903 and delegate authority to HCDE Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute the Job Order Contract.

Motion made by First Vice President Cantu, seconded by Second Vice President Davis to approve the Job Order Contract (JOC) with Atlas Universal (Job NO.25/035MR-07) for Partial Roof Recovery at NPO in an amount not to exceed $1,218,903 and delegate authority to HCDE Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute the Job Order Contract.

Motion passes with 6-0 voting to approve.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 2:15 p.m.

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** Under the Texas Government Code pursuant to any and all purposes permitted by Sections 551.001-551.084, including, but not limited to: 551.071; 551.074

A. **Deliberate the appointment and duties of Board officers and Board members and obtain legal advice regarding the same.**

B. **Deliberate** the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline and/or dismissal of HCDE employee

C. **Deliberate** the purchase, exchange, sale and/or value of real propert(ies) and obtain legal advice regarding the same.

The Board reconvened at 2:33 p.m.

9. **RECONVENE** for possible action on items discussed in executive session

1. **Consider election of President and one or more Vice Presidents of HCDE Board of Trustees.**

Motion made by Board President Hinojsa, seconded by Trustee Joshi-Malik, that Richard Cantu be elected as Board President, Erica Davis as Board First Vice President, and John McGee as Board Second Vice President.

Motion passes with 5-0-1 voting to elect Richard Cantu as Board President, Erica Davis as Board First Vice President, and John McGee as Board Second Vice President, with second Vice President Davis abstaining.

10. **Discussion and possible action regarding future agenda items**

None.

11. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Submission of grant proposal to Dollar General Literacy Foundation via the Education Foundation of Harris County in the amount of $4,125** for ABS-East and Fortis Academy, Special Schools Division. Requested funds will cover expenses to purchase technology (iPads), books/book sets, and novels for 161 students.

2. **Notice of correction: The vendor's name, MSV360, LLC was incorrectly spelled on the 04/15/2026 board agenda. The vendor's correct name is "MVS360, LLC".**

3. **Notice of acceptance of the Head Start (OHS) Program Performance Summary Report- 06CH013307 & 06HP000559 of the Harris County Department of Education Head Start Program.**

4. **Submission of grant proposal to Port of Houston via the Education Foundation of Harris County in the amount of $46,805** to support CASE for Kids' Port of the Future: Cultivating Future Maritime Leaders project. Requested funds will serve 100 middle and high school students to encourage them to pursue STEM careers related to the maritime industry.

A. **Human Resources**

1. Personnel

2. Employee Count

3. Chapter 21 and Non-Chapter 21 Contracts for FY 2026 - 2027

12. **ADJOURN** - Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Motion made by First Vice President Cantu, seconded by Trustee Dick to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passes with 6-0 voting to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Richard Cantu
Board President

Erica Davis, Ed.D.
Board First Vice President