South Texas ISD Safety and Security Committee Meeting
May 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The STISD Safety and Security Committee met on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, beginning at 12:00 p.m. in the Central Office Teaching and Learning Center.

<u>The following committee members were present:</u>

Marco Antonio Lara, Superintendent

Steven Cortez, STISD Chief of Police

Efrain Garza, Deputy Superintendent

Marla Knaub, Assistant Supt. for Finance & Operations

David Molina, STISD Captain

Henry LeVrier, Board President

Frank Sanchez, Mercedes Police Department Chief of Police

Eric Cantu (proxy), Hidalgo County Emergency Mgmt.

Hugo Valdez (proxy), Brownsville Police Department Lieutenant

Michael Cortez (proxy), San Benito Police Department Captain

Jaime Ayala, Edinburg Police Department Chief of Police

Tom Hushen, Cameron County Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator

Alan Alvarez, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office

Aaron Moreno, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office

Arturo Vasquez, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office

Cassidy Sanchez

<u>STISD Chief of Police addressed the following items on the agenda:</u>

1. **Approval of Minutes from the December 5, 2025 Committee Meeting.**

A motion was made by Chief Jaime Ayala, seconded by Chief Frank Sanchez, approving the minutes from the December 5, 2025 Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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2. STISD Police Departmental Updates.

- Chief Cortez introduced the newest member of the STISD Police Department, K9 Lea. Lea was sworn in at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD on April 29, 2026. Lea has been certified in Narcotics by the National Police Canine Association and has been busy searching lockers, classrooms, school buses, along with providing emotional support to the students of STISD.
- Police officers have stepped up traffic enforcement in the school zones in an effort to keep our students safe.
- With graduations and summer camps upon us, the officers will continue providing support even after the end of the school year.
- In support of HB33-Uvalde Strong Act, STISD police department is in compliance with providing breaching equipment, active shooter trainings, table top exercises and emergency planning.

3.**Intruder Detection Audits.**

Chief Cortez presented results from the 2025-2026 TEA Intruder Detection Audit conducted at all the STISD campuses. There were zero findings. The most frequently reported issues this year so far has been vaping.

4. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Chief Frank Sanchez, seconded by Chief Jaime Ayala, adjourning the meeting at 12:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.