

Castleberry Independent School District
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
August 17, 2026
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education met in Regular Session on Monday, August 17, 2026. Members present were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, Linda Aguillón, Dr. Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. 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.

Scott Hutchings, Lead Secondary Coordinator for Math and Accountability, presented the 2026 A–F Campus and District Accountability Ratings and answered questions from Board members.

Dr. June Ritchlin, Executive Director of Educational Leadership, presented the 2026–2027 District Improvement Plan Goals and Performance Objectives and answered questions from Board members.

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

William Wooten, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed 2026 tax rate of \$1.2469 per \$100 of taxable property value, consisting of a Maintenance and Operations (M&O) rate of \$0.7469 and an Interest and Sinking (I&S) rate of \$0.5000, which remains unchanged from the prior year. Mr. Wooten answered questions from Board members.

William Wooten, Chief Financial Officer, provided a snapshot of the 2026–2027 revenue collections and expenditures by fund and function as of July 31, 2026.

Board President Dewey Taliaferro called the Board into Closed Session at 7:27 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 or employee.

The Board came out of Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 8:17 p.m.

The Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags were led by Board Member Dr. Ariela Martinez.

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

Consider approval of Board Minutes from the July 20, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Consider approval of Board Policy Update 127.

Consider approval of the Vendor List of Possible Purchases over \$50,000.

The Board considered approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Mary Lou Martinez made a motion, seconded by Janice Carrell, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried by a vote of 7–0.

The Board considered the Superintendent’s recommendation to hire teachers, librarians, nurses, and other professionals, per the attached list, subject to assignment. Dr. Ariela Martinez made a motion, seconded by Mary Lou Martinez, to approve the new hires as presented. The motion carried by a vote of 7–0. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, Linda Aguillón, Dr. Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. There were no votes opposed.

The Board considered the designation of William Wooten as the employee designated for the TNT Calcs Designation Resolution, as presented. Janice Carrell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Ariela Martinez, to approve William Wooten as the employee designated for the TNT Calcs Designation Resolution, as presented. The motion carried by a vote of 7–0. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, Linda Aguillón, Dr. Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. There were no votes opposed.

The Board considered the no-new revenue/voter approved tax rates and propose I&S above minimum Tax Rates move that Castleberry Independent School District approve the proposal of an interest and sinking (/&SJ rate to pay debt service that exceeds the minimum debt service tax rate as defined by the Texas Tax Code and the Texas Education Code. The Board finds that the district's minimum debt service tax rate is \$0.4404 per \$100 valuation, and that the proposed interest and sinking tax rate of \$0.50000 used to pay debt service exceeds the minimum debt service tax rate by \$0.0596 per \$100 valuation. Additional revenue generated by the proposed rate will be used for lawful debt service purposes, including: Early Defeasance or Retirement of outstanding bonded indebtedness, payment of scheduled or anticipated debt obligations, and reduction of future interest cost to district taxpayers as presented. Janice Carrell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Ariela Martinez, to approve no new revenue/voter approved tax rates and propose I&S above minimum Tax Rates as presented. The motion carried with a vote of 7–0. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, Linda Aguillón, Dr. Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. There were no votes opposed.

The Board considered adoption of the 2026 Tax Rate Resolution. Dewey Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by Cathy Gatica, to approve the property tax rate by adopting a tax rate of \$1.2469 per \$100 of taxable property value, consisting of a Maintenance & Operations (M&O) rate of \$0.7469 and a Debt Service (I&S) rate of \$0.5000 as presented. The motion carried with a vote of 7–0. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, Linda Aguillón, Dr. Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. There were no votes opposed.

The Board considered approval of the WRA Architects Proposal for Bond Planning, which includes Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documents, Bidding/Negotiation, and Construction Administration for the Castleberry High School Construction Project, as presented. Mary Lou Martinez made a motion, seconded by Janice Carrell, to approve the WRA Architects Proposal for Bond Planning as presented. The motion carried by a vote of 6–1. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Linda Aguillón, Dr. Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. Voting in opposition was Tracy Gallman.

The Board considered approval of the AIA-B101 Contract for Architectural and Engineering Services with WRA Architects for the Castleberry High School Construction Project, as presented. Dr. Ariela Martinez made a motion, seconded by Mary Lou Martinez, to approve the AIA-B101 Contract for Architectural and Engineering Services with WRA Architects as presented. The motion carried by a vote of 7–0. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, Linda Aguillón, Dr. Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. There were no votes opposed.

The Board considered approval of the Certification of Compliance with Certain Laws under Texas Education Code §39.008, as enacted by Senate Bill 12, as presented. Mary Lou Martinez made a motion, seconded by Linda Aguillón, to approve the Certification of Compliance as presented. The motion carried by a vote of 7–0. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, Linda Aguillón, Dr. Ariela Martinez, and Janice Carrell. There were no votes opposed.

Board members reviewed key dates.

Board members discussed the School Board Christmas Dinner.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026.

The Board adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Angela Branch, Executive Assistant and Public Information to the Board of Education, and reviewed by Board Secretary Cathy Gatica.



Dewey Tahaferro
Board President
Castleberry Independent School District

Date: September 14, 2026



Cathy Gatica
Board Secretary
Castleberry Independent School District

Date: September 14, 2026