

TEXARKANA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Texarkana, Texas

Office of the Superintendent
Minutes - Official REGULAR MEETING - Board of Trustees
District Administration Building – 4241 Summerhill Road
Texarkana, Texas
Tuesday, August 25, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Texarkana Independent School District met in official REGULAR session on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the District Administration Building located at 4241 Summerhill Rd., Texarkana, TX 75503.

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

None

School Officials Present

Sherri Penix, Interim Superintendent
Anita Clay, Chief Financial Officer
Todd Marshall, Chief Operating Officer
Christy Tidwell, Chief of Elementary Schools
Kelly Bixler, Executive Director of Communications & Marketing
Kay Stickels, Executive Director of Human Resources
Kelli House, Business Office Comptroller
Amy Harrison, Texas High School Principal
Lakesha Taylor, Executive Director of Student & Family Support Services
D'Lisha Arnold, Coordinator of Student & Family Support Services
Brad Irvin, Chief of Police
Christopher Rixon, Information Technology
Rhonda Crass, TISD Attorney
Gayle Hale, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

Meeting Called to Order

President Bowers called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. 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 Ruffin led the audience in a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Forum

President Bowers conducted an open forum. Ashley Worley addressed the Board.

Closed Session

At 5:11 p.m. 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

1. Discussion of Personnel Issues

- a. Employment
- b. Retirement
- c. Resignation
- d. Reassignment
- e. Evaluation
- f. Discussion of the Board to employ a search firm for the Superintendent search
- g. Discussion of the Board to do a Superintendent search;
- h. Discussion of the Board to consider timeline of search; and
- i. Discussion of the Board to consider hiring a Superintendent

2. Discussion of Discipline of Students

3. Consultation with Attorney to receive legal advice

At 6:40 p.m. the Board of Trustees reconvened into open session. President Bowers stated there was no action taken on items discussed in closed session.

Special Reports & Superintendent's Information to Board

Superintendent Penix informed the Board that Ms. Lauren Nolen, fourth grade teacher at Morriss Elementary, was named Region 8 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve Consent Agenda

It was MOVED by Mr. Paul Miller, SECONDED by Pastor Ronald Ruffin, “to approve the consent agenda items as presented to the Board in its entirety.” The approved items are listed below:

- 1) Minutes of the July 28, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.
- 2) Monthly investment report.
- 3) Proposals for 1) Purchases Over \$50,000.
- 4) TISD T-TESS Appraiser List for 2026-2027.
- 4) Appointing Entity Number Application.
- 5) Amended TISD Employee Handbook for 2026-2027.
- 6) Audit Final Report during the 2023-2026 Audit Cycle.
- 7) Memorandum of Understanding between TISD and LifeWise Academy Program for the 2026-27 School Year.
- 8) Local School Advisory Council.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ayes 7 – Nays 0.

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

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve Monthly Financial Report

Mrs. Anita Clay, Chief Financial Officer, presented the monthly financial report. It was MOVED by Mrs. Wanda Boyette, SECONDED by Mr. Bryan DePriest, “to approve the monthly financial report as presented.” MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ayes 7 – 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 Pastor Ronald Ruffin, “that the monthly expenditures be accepted and filed for audit.” MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ayes 7 – Nays 0.

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

Consider and Take Possible Action to Contract with a Search Firm to assist the Board in the Superintendent Search

It was MOVED by Mr. Bryan DePriest, SECONDED by Mr. Paul Miller, “to approve hiring Arrow Educational Services to contract with the District to assist in the Superintendent Search.” MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ayes 7 – Nays 0.

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

Reports/Information/Review Items

President Bowers noted that personnel information was included in the Board packet. The list provided is as follows:

Resignations/Retirements

Johnson, Deliyamekia – Headstart PreK Teacher – Dunbar
Lockeby, Sherrie – Math Teacher – Texas High School
Nolen, Joe – Health Science Teacher – Texas High School
Oliver, Kaye – Director of Transportation
Renner, Ben – Chief of Secondary Schools
Renner, Jami – Coordinator of MTSS

Elections/Assignments

Anderson, Kahliyah – Teacher/Coach – Texas Middle
Berry, Dezi – PEIMs Coordinator – Virtual School
Bruce, Makinsey – Health Science Teacher – Texas High School
Dunn, Kerrigham – Teacher/Coach – Texas Middle
Garner, Jamie – 5th Grade Teacher – Waggoner Creek
Gow, Joley – PEIMs Coordinator – Virtual School
Gray, Nicole – English Teacher – Texas High School
Luna, Edgar – Teacher/Coach – Texas Middle
Merriman, Amber – School Nurse – Westlawn/Theron
Mitchell, Olivia – 8th Grade Math Teacher – Texas Middle
Nelson, Cori – Kindergarten Teacher – Wake Village
Russ, Abigail – 6th Grade Math Teacher – Texas Middle

Consideration/Approval of Proposed Contract Recommendations: Renewals, Non-Renewals, Terminations, Etc.

None

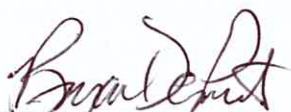
The Digital Academy of Texas (DATX) Kindergarten-Second Grade Student Handbook, 2026-27 was provided in the board packet.

The Athletics and Extracurricular Report was provided at the board meeting.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Board of Trustees, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.


MRS. AMY BOWERS, President


MR. BRYAN DEPRIEST, Secretary