

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, September 29, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Texarkana Independent School District met in official REGULAR session on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the District Administration Building located at 4241 Summerhill Rd., Texarkana, Texas.

Board Members Present

Mrs. Amy Bowers, President
Mr. Paul Miller, Vice President
Mr. Bryan DePriest, Secretary
Mrs. Wanda Boyette
Mr. Bill Kimbro
Mr. Richard 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
Kelly Bixler, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing
Kay Stickels, Executive Director of Human Resources
Kelli House, Comptroller
Brad Irvin, TISD Chief of Police
Amy Harrison, Texas High School Principal
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 5:00 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. Mr. Fred Norton, Jr. led the audience in a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Forum

President Bowers conducted an open forum; there were no public participants.

Closed Session

At 5:02 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
 2. Discussion of Discipline of Students
 3. Consultation with Attorney to receive legal advice

At 5:42 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 the Tiger Tennis and Volleyball teams celebrated district wins, and Acasia Nelson was crowned Homecoming Queen. She also stated how much the district staff members appreciated receiving the new Texarkana ISD team jerseys.

Public Hearings

Texas High Principal Mrs. Amy Harrison addressed this item and the following information:

Dates:

Wed. May 28th - Teacher planning 4 hours
Mon - Thurs June 2-5
Mon - Thurs June 9-12
Mon - Tue June 15-16

Daily Hours:

Staff: 8:00 - 4:00, lunch 12:00-12:30
Students: 8:30-4:00, lunch 12:00-12:30

STAAR - EOC Testing

Mon - Fri June 22-26

Results:

<u>Test</u>	<u>Number of Students Tested</u>	<u>Approaches</u>	<u>Meets</u>	<u>Masters</u>
English I	72	12	2	0
English II	39	6	3	0
Algebra I	41	24	0	0
Biology	13	7	4	0
US History	14	6	1	1

President Bowers conducted a public hearing concerning the Accelerated Instruction Programs for High School Students at 5:48 p.m.; there was no participation from the audience, and the hearing concluded at 5:49 p.m.

Consideration/Approval of Consent Agenda

It was MOVED by Mrs. Wanda Boyette, SECONDED by Pastor Ronald Ruffin, “to approve the consent agenda in its entirety.” The approved items are listed below:

- 1) August 25, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.
- 2) September 15, 2026 Special Board Meeting.
- 3) Monthly investment report.
- 4) Proposals for 1) Prepared Food and Catering Vendors; 2) Purchases Over \$50,000.
- 5) Partners in Education donations for the period July and August 2026 totaling \$92,888.96.
- 6) Consideration/Approval of 2026-27 Texarkana ISD District and Campus Improvement Plans.
- 7) Texas Education Human Resources Day Proclamation.
- 8) School District Teaching Permits for Non-Core CTE Courses for Corey Graves (CTE Dental Hygienist) and Samantha Thacker (CTE Family Consumer Science).
- 9) Memorandum of Understanding between Trinity Valley Community College and Texarkana Independent School District.
- 10) Approve Policy Revision CE(LOCAL) ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET.

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				X	
Bryan DePriest	X					
Bill Kimbro	X					
Richard Benjamin King	X					
Paul Miller	X					
Pastor Ronald Ruffin	X					X

Consideration/Approval of Monthly Financial Report

Mrs. Anita Clay, Chief Financial Officer, presented the monthly financial report. It was MOVED by Mr. Bryan DePriest, SECONDED by Mrs. Wanda Boyette, “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					

Consideration/Approval of Expenditures

The financial reports were reviewed by Mr. Bryan DePriest and Mr. Bill Kimbro. It was MOVED by Mr. Bryan DePriest, SECONDED by Pastor Ronald Ruffin, “to approve the expenditures.” 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

Consideration of the No-New-Revenue (NNR) Tax Rate, Voter-Approval Tax Rate (VATR), and Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service and Approval of a Proposed Interest & Sinking Rate for Debt Service that Exceeds the Minimum Amount Required Background

Mrs. Anita Clay, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed this item. It was MOVED by Mr. Paul Miller, SECONDED by Pastor Ronald Ruffin, “that Texarkana Independent School District approve the proposal of an interest and sinking (I&S) 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 \$0.3896 per \$100 valuation, and that the proposed interest and sinking tax rate of \$0.45380 used to pay debt service exceeds the minimum debt service tax rate by \$0.0642 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, establishment or maintenance of prudent debt service reserves, and reduction of future interest costs to District taxpayers.” 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					
Bill Kimbro	X					
Richard Benjamin King	X					
Paul Miller	X				X	
Pastor Ronald Ruffin	X					X

Consider and Take Possible Action for Adoption of Tax Rate for 2026-2027 and Certified Values

Mrs. Anita Clay, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed this item. It was MOVED by Mr. Bryan DePriest, SECONDED by Mr. Bill Kimbro, “that the property tax rate be adopted at \$1.2090 per \$100 valuation, which is the same rate as the previous year. This rate consists of \$0.7552 for the purpose of maintenance and operations, and \$0.4538 for the purpose of payment of principal and interest on debt. THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S TAX RATE.” 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					X
Richard Benjamin King	X					
Paul Miller	X					
Pastor Ronald Ruffin	X					

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve the Digital Academy of Texas (DATX)
Reauthorization Submission to the Texas Education Agency

Superintendent Penix reviewed this item. It was MOVED by Mrs. Wanda Boyette, SECONDED by Mr. Paul Miller, “to approve the establishment of a “new” full time virtual campus and authorize the Superintendent or designees to finalize and submit the required Standard Authorization Application package to the Texas Education Agency under Texas Senate Bill 569.” 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					
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:

Information Items

Resignations/Retirements

Diaz, Axel – Spanish Teacher – Texas High School
Smith, Megan – 4th Grade Teacher – Wake Village
White, Ebony – 4th Grade Teacher – Parks

Elections/Assignments

Crawford, Evan – 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher – Texas Middle
East, Sommer – 4th Grade Teacher – Wake Village
Rodriguez, Magali Gallardo – Spanish Teacher – Texas High

Received a District of Innovation report on elementary class sizes exceeding the 22:1 student teacher ratio, as required by the District of Innovation guidelines, was also provided in the Board packet.

Received information that Chief of Police Brad Irvin was appointed as the Public Information Officer for TISD.

Information pertaining to the review of Bowie County Appraisal District Tax Year 2026 Certified Values was provided in the board packet as well.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Board of Trustees, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

MRS. AMY BOWERS, President

MR. BRYAN DEPRIEST, Secretary