

Castleberry Independent School District
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 14, 2026
6:19 p.m.

The Board of Education met in Regular Session on Monday, September 14, 2026. Members present were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, and Janice Carrell. Board members absent were Linda Aguillón and Dr. Ariela Martinez. Dewey Taliaferro, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:19 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.”

There were no questions regarding the Consent Agenda.

Renee Smith-Faulkner, Superintendent of Schools, presented the outcomes of the 2025-2026 House Bill 3 Goals and the draft of the 2026-2027 House Bill 3 Goals.

Dr. June Ritchlin, Executive Director of Educational Leadership, presented the 2026-2027 District Improvement Plan Strategies and answered questions from Board members.

Whitney Harper, Lead Elementary Coordinator, Kristen Schmitt, Elementary ELA Coordinator, and Stephanie Martinez, Director of CTE, presented the recommended HB3 Goals and performance measures in Early Literacy, Mathematics, and College, Career, and Military Readiness, and answered questions from Board members.

Cameron Hollomon, Bond Program Manager, presented the Construction Update on the 2024 Castleberry High School Bond Program and an Energy Savings Update.

Board President Dewey Taliaferro called the Board into Closed Session at 7:11 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 appointment, employment, property, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public office or employee or to hear complaints against a public officer or employee.

The Board came out of Closed Session at 7:18 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:27 p.m.

The Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags were led by Isaac Pinon de la Hoya and Aviana Gonzales, students at Castleberry Elementary.

Mr. Gideon, Principal of Castleberry Elementary, introduced students who recognized staff and students at Castleberry Elementary who are Leading Their Learning.

Kristen Schmitt, Elementary ELA Coordinator, recognized the Reading Partners site coordinators who support early literacy and reading confidence at all three elementary schools.

Lenny Lasher, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Facilities, and Operations, introduced Kenneth Patrick, the new Director of Auxiliary Programs and Facility Maintenance.

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

- Approval of Board Minutes from the August 17, 2026, Regular Meeting.
- Approval of Parameters for the District Calendar.
- Approval of Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) Appraisers in Castleberry ISD.

Tracy Gallman made a motion, seconded by Mary Lou Martinez, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried 5–0. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, and Janice Carrell. There were no votes opposed.

The Board considered the approval of the HB3 Five-Year Goals for Early Childhood Literacy, Mathematics, and College, Career, and Military Readiness along with the annual milestones. Janice Carrell made a motion, seconded by Mary Lou Martinez, to approve the HB3 Five-Year Goals as presented. The motion carried 5–0. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, and Janice Carrell. There were no votes opposed.

The Board considered the Superintendent's recommendation to hire teachers, librarians, nurses, and other professionals, per the attached list, subject to assignment. Tracy Gallman made a motion, seconded by Janice Carrell, to approve the new hires as presented. The motion carried by a vote of 5–0. Voting in favor were Dewey Taliaferro, Mary Lou Martinez, Cathy Gatica, Tracy Gallman, and Janice Carrell. There were no votes opposed.

Board Members reviewed Key Dates.

Board Members discussed the Homecoming Parade.

Board Members discussed the Board Workshop on October 19, 2026, and reviewed the draft of the agenda.

Board Members nominated a delegate for the TASA/TASB School Board Convention, October 9-11, 2026. Dewey Taliaferro, Board President, will be the delegate, and Mary Lou Martinez, Board Vice President, will be the alternate.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 5, 2026, for a Regular Board Meeting.

The Board adjourned at 8:20 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 Taliaferro
Board President
Castleberry Independent School District

Date: October 5, 2026



Mary Lou Martinez
Board Vice President
Castleberry Independent School District

Date: October 5, 2026