

The Board of Trustees of the Midway Independent School District held a meeting on June 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Midway ISD Administration Building located at 13885 Woodway Drive, Woodway, TX 76712. The following members were present: Brad Alford, Jonathan Green, Pete Rusek, Rick Tullis, Susan Vick, Pam Watts, and Colin Witt.

1. Call to Order

President Pete Rusek called the meeting to order. 7:00 p.m.

2. Welcome and District Mission Statement

The District Mission statement was presented to the public.

3. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Rick Tullis.

5. Recognitions

5A. Counselor Awards

Two Midway counselors have been honored for their excellence in student support and leadership. Congratulations to Kendal Jarrett of Woodway Elementary who was selected as a Region 12 Elite Elementary Counselor. Cindy Cates of Midway High School, formerly at Midway Middle School, was recognized at the Texas School Counselor Association Conference, receiving the Rhosine Fleming Award for Middle School Counselor of the Year.

5B. Hunger Free Support Recognition

Midway ISD extends thanks to two groups whose dedication has been vital to the continued success of the Hunger Free Midway program. Jordan Johnson and Midway PALS have provided consistent support by organizing, packing, and delivering meals to students. Additionally, Jimmy Bennett and the Maintenance Dept. have helped with logistics, transportation and storage of food.

5C. MHS Softball State Championship

Midway High School Pantherettes softball team captured the 2025 UIL Class 6A Division I State Softball Championship. The team finished the season with a 31-3 record, marking their third UIL softball state title in school history. Congratulations to Coach Jordan Williams and the entire team-players and staff.

5D. MHS Baseball State Championship

The Midway High School Panthers baseball team won the 2025 UIL Class 6A Division I State Baseball Championship. The team closed out the season with a 33-8 record. This marks Midway’s second baseball state title. Congratulations to Coach Eddie Cornblum and the entire team-players and staff.

Midway is the first high school to win both baseball and softball state titles in the largest classification (6A Division I).

Both teams received proclamations from McLennan County and the City of Waco in recognition of their achievements.

6. Information Items

6A. Midway ISD 2025-2026 Proposed Board Meeting Calendar

The proposed Board Meeting Calendar for 2025-2026 was presented in the board packet and will be voted on at the July meeting.

6B. Texas House Bill 1481 – Cell Phone Legislation

The 89th Legislation passed House Bill 1481 which mandates that all public-school districts implement written policies prohibiting student use of personal communication devices during the school day on school property.

7. Presentation/Discussion Items

7A. Monthly Finance Report and 2025-2026 Budget

Wesley Brooks presented the monthly finance report. The current projection reflects the impact of House Bill 2. Overall, House Bill 2 provides an increased revenue of \$4.2 million for Midway ISD. Despite the increases, the proposed general fund budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 projects a deficit of \$3.4 million.

The proposed 2025-2026 General Budget is:

Total Revenues	\$94,471,825
Total Expenditures	\$97,963,657
Net Change in Fund Balance	(\$3,491,832)

The Child Nutrition Fund is budgeted with a \$59,512 deficit. The Debt Service Fund reflects a \$336,950 surplus.

Dr. Ashley Canuteson discussed the compensation plan for the 2025-2026 school year. Dr. Canuteson explained the teacher retention allotment component as follows:

Teachers who have completed 1-2 years of teaching in the state of Texas do not qualify for retention allotment. Teachers who will qualify have completed 3+ years in the state. The breakdown is as follows:

3-4 years = \$2,500 Current Teacher Step (approximately 5% increase on salary)
5+ years = \$5,000 Current Teacher Step (approximately 7-10% increase on salary)

All staff (including 1–2-year teachers) not included in Teacher Retention Allotment will receive a 2% GPI on midpoints. Health benefits from TRS will increase for “employee only” plan by \$63/month. The ISD contribution will increase by \$33 from \$446 (current) to \$479 (proposed).

7B. Facility Study Committee Recommendation

The Midway ISD Facility Study Committee (FSC) presented a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The recommendation is to consider calling a \$175.3 million bond election for November 4, 2025 (with no tax rate increase to residents). The Board will have special called meetings to analyze the recommendation from the FSC.

7C. Extracurricular Programs Annual Update

7C1. Athletics

Brad Shelton, Athletic Director, celebrated 13 district championships and three runner-up district champions. Water polo has been permanently adopted as a UIL sport and wrestling will also be added as a UIL sport next year. Approximately 909 high school students (about one-third of the student population) participate in athletics. Highlights include 25 students who signed letters of intent to play at the collegiate level.

7C2. Fine Arts

Darrell Umhoefer, Fine Arts Director, gave a Fine Arts department update. Fine Arts continues to provide excellent education, achieving 16 TMEA All-State members and other distinctions in art, band, choir, orchestra, and theater. The dance and band programs are seeing growth. Midway facilities hosted nearly 200 performances and numerous rehearsals. Mr. Umhoefer thanked the board and administration for the continued support of the arts.

8. Consideration Items

8A. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the May 20, 2025 Special Called Board Meeting
2. Minutes of the May 20, 2025 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
3. Proposed New Club for Midway High School – Girls in STEM
4. Budget Amendment
5. Depository Contract Renewal

President Rusek asked if anyone wished to remove any item(s) from the consent agenda. A motion was made by Susan Vick and seconded by Rick Tullis to approve Items 1-5 of the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried 7-0

8B. Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for 2025-2026

The district is required to hold a public hearing prior to the adoption of the budget according to the Texas Education Code 44.004.

President Rusek recessed the public meeting and opened a public hearing for the proposed budget for 2025-2026.

9:15 p.m.

No one addressed the Board during the public hearing. President Rusek closed the hearing and reconvened the public meeting.

9:15 p.m.

8C. Adoption of Budget for 2025-2026

A motion was made by Brad Alford and seconded by Jonathan Green to adopt the budgets for 2025-2026 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0

8D. Appoint Delegate and Alternate for TASB 2025 Delegate Assembly

Each year the Board appoints a delegate and alternate delegate for the TASB Delegate Assembly that is held in conjunction with the TASA/TASB Convention to be held September 13, 2025. Rick Tullis nominated Pam Watts as the delegate and Colin Witt as the alternate. Susan Vick seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0

8E. Consideration of Personnel

Professional Recommendations:

New Hires:	Castleman Creek Elementary	Alyssa Gorby, 2 nd Grade Teacher
		Elizabeth Helpert, Kindergarten Teacher
	Hewitt Elementary	Brenda Mohammed Alvarado, SPED Teacher
		Holly Landers, Kindergarten Teacher
	Midway High School	Blake Jimenez, Science Teacher
		Brian Janssen, Teacher/Coach
		Emma Raley, Social Studies Teacher
		Jana Sayman, English Teacher
		LeAnn Schneider, CTE Teacher
		Tanner Jacobs, Teacher/Coach
	Midway Middle School	Andrew Cantrell, SPED Teacher
		April Garon, English Teacher
		Haley Andrews, Career Connections Teacher
		Manning Thrower, Dance Teacher
		Samantha Swisher, SPED Teacher
Separations:		Sheryl Loera, English Teacher
		Stacy Rowley, English Teacher
		Stuart Haley, Teacher/Coach
	Park Hill Elementary	Erica Harter, Counselor
		Mollie Wilson, 5 th Grade Teacher
	River Valley Middle School	Ana Watson, Teacher/Coach
		Christopher Orr, Choir Director
		Dustin Thomas, Assistant Principal
		Mitchell Guerra, Social Studies Teacher
		Sandra Pineda Bohlin, Spanish Teacher
	Special Education Service	Alexandria Brushaber, Occupational Therapist
		Bexania Carpenter, Counselor
		Kristina Hornung, Speech Therapist Assistant
	Spring Valley Elementary	Scherrie Jones, 4 th Grade Teacher
	Woodway Elementary	Madison Bartley, 2 nd Grade Teacher
		Samantha Martinez-Villalobos, 2 nd Grade Teacher
	Castleman Creek Elementary	Valerie Harris, Kindergarten Teacher
	Chapel Park Elementary	Janice Whiting, Assistant Principal
	Hewitt Elementary	Tahlia Dishmon, Kindergarten Teacher
	Midway High School	Bruce Williams, CTE Teacher
		Cynthia Baxter, SPED Teacher
		Jodi Gillespie, Math Teacher
		Loren Losli, Teacher/Coach
		Martina Martin, CTE Teacher
	Midway Middle School	Dallas Driskell, Teacher/Coach
		Kylie Lucas, SPED Teacher
		Shane Allen, Science Teacher
	Professional Learning	Jeremy Morgan, Learning Coach
	River Valley Middle School	Cassia Cortez, Spanish Teacher
	South Bosque Elementary	Jennifer Cavezza, 3 rd Grade Teacher
	Speegleville Elementary	Heather Clark, 4 th Grade Teacher
	Spring Valley Elementary	Miranda Bennett, PE Teacher

Transfers:

Ashley Clark from Horizons/DAEP Academic Advisor to Counselor at MMS
Dee Ann Kleypas from Coordinator of Health Services at Admin to MMS
Garrett Brendham from Horizons/DAEP Teacher to Math Teacher at RVMS
Julie Seiler from Social Studies Teacher at RVMS to Science Teacher at MMS
Kristen McBee from Horizons/DAEP Teacher to 5th Grade Teacher at CCE
Megan Gackle from Head Choir Director at RVMS to Head Choir Director at MMS
Megan Overstreet from SPED Clerk at Admin to SPED Teacher at HE (Para to Pro)
Rose Rodriguez from SPED Assistant at MMS to SPED Teacher at MMS (Para to Pro)

Paraprofessional:

New Hires:	Administration	Maria Rodriguez, HR Specialist
	Chapel Park Elementary	Bri'tany Robinson-Brown, SPED Assistant
	Hewitt Elementary	Megan Watson, SPED Assistant (rescinded resignation)
	Midway High School	Charmaine Smith, Instructional Assistant
		Connor Cabot, BU Resident
	River Valley Middle School	Christina Hinojosa, Instructional Assistant
	South Bosque Elementary	Angela Davis, SPED Assistant
		Richard Perez, PE Assistant

	Special Education Service Woodway Elementary	Samantha Ponce, SPED Assistant Shyan Nelson-Steingrube, Pre K3 Assistant Hailey Griffin, Behavior Tech Carsyn Holmes, Campus Secretary
Separations:	Midway Middle School Park Hill Elementary Spring Valley Elementary	Shelby Lashombe, Teacher/Coach Elizabeth Freemyer, Pre K4 Assistant Carol Hill, Art Enrichment Assistant

Transfers:
Ashley Allman from AP/Counselor Secretary at MMS to Attendance Clerk at MHS
Megan Watson from SPED Assistant at HE to SPED Assistant at SVE

9. Superintendent Communication

Dr. Allen concluded the meeting by emphasizing the board and the district’s mission to “put kids first” in all decisions, acknowledging the challenges of current budget and funding issues. He thanked Jennifer Allison, principal at River Valley Middle School, for her time and best wishes to her as she relocates to Colorado.

10. Adjournment

President Rusek declared the meeting adjourned. 9:21 p.m.

Pete Rusek, President

Pam Watts, Secretary