

**MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
CLEAR CREEK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025**

The Board of Trustees for the Clear Creek Independent School District met in a regular meeting in the Board Room at the Education Support Center, 2425 E. Main Street, League City, Texas 77573, on September 22, 2025.

1. *Call to Order*

President Cottrell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. *Establishment of a Quorum*

President Cottrell established a quorum.

Trustees present: Jonathan Cottrell, President
 Jessica Cejka, Vice President
 Jeffrey Larson, Secretary
 Jay Cunningham, Trustee
 Arturo Sanchez, Trustee
 Jamieson Mackay, Trustee
 Rebecca Lilley, Trustee

Staff present: Karen Engle, Superintendent
 Members of the Superintendent's Cabinet

3. *Pledge of Allegiance, Texas Pledge, Moment of Silence, and District Mission Statement*

Two League City Intermediate students led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Texas Pledge. Dr. Engle led the Board and the audience in a moment of silence. The students also assisted Dr. Engle with the District Mission, Vision, Core Values and Value Statement.

4. *Recognitions*

A. *Hero in the Hallway*

Tonight, we honored two remarkable students from League City Intermediate: Edythe Tornwall and Malia Matthew. These young leaders created a campaign to raise awareness for Pediatric Cancer. The "Be Gold, Be Bold" initiative not only brought attention to a critical cause but also showcased our Core Values in action. It is their goal to have the Be Gold, Be Bold September Awareness month at all the school next year.

B. *National Math Star Finalists*

We are proud to recognize two elementary students who have been named the 2025 National Math Star Finalists, a distinction earned by only 200 students across Texas.

We congratulated Savannah Johnston from Wedgewood Elementary and Zerena Coyer from Stewart Elementary. These students will receive over \$100,000 in support over the next ten years through the National Math Stars program.

C. League City Intermediate Band Top 16 in the State of Texas

The League City Intermediate Wind Ensemble placed 2nd in Area H 3C Honor Band and advanced to the Semi-Finals at the State level where they ranked among the top 16 bands in Texas. They also earned the prestigious 2025 Mark of Excellence National Award from the Foundation for Music Education. We had several student musicians at the meeting and a few of them are in 9th grade now as this honor was earned in late spring. We extended our deepest thanks to directors: Bennett Parson, Cole Duhon, and Robert Fish.

D. Westbrook Intermediate PTA – 2024 – 2026 School of Excellence Designation

We recently recognized Stephanie Cooper, principal at Westbrook Intermediate, as the Texas PTA Principal of the Year and the team is back to celebrate another title. Westbrook Intermediate has earned the 2024 – 2026 National PTA School of Excellence designation. This honor reflects the PTA and the school's commitment to family engagement. Candace McCormick was in attendance for the Clear Creek Council of PTA's and shared a few words.

5. Community Input

The following members of the Community addressed the Board during the community input portion of the meeting:

- Mr. Thomas Davis – SB13 Tracking of Library Materials (3-minutes)
- Mr. Michael Harsen – Ensuring Compliance with Court Order and Educational Stability for his student (1-minute)
- Ms. Katherine Abbott – TX Bill SB12 (1-minute)
- Ms. Moth Strawser – TX Bill SB12 (1-minute)
- Dr. Laura DuPont – National Attendance Awareness Month (1-minute)

6. Closed Session

President Cottrell called the meeting into closed session at 6:28 p.m.

President Cottrell reconvened the meeting into open session at 6:47 p.m.

7. Action on Closed Session

A. Consider Approval of Recommendation of Director of Human Resources

Trustee Sanchez moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve Ms. Melody Hermes as Director of Human Resources. The motion carried unanimously.

8. District Update

Dr. Karen Engle, Superintendent of Schools, presented the Board of Trustees with a District Update regarding Teacher of the Year, STAAR Update, State Exemplar Presentations, and CCISD Ambassador Program.

9. Action

A. Consent Agenda

Vice President Cejka moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Consider Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
2. Consider Approval of Monthly Human Resources Board Report
3. Consider Acceptance of Monthly Financial Statements
4. Consider Acceptance of Donations
5. Consider Approval of the 2025 Tax Collection Report
6. Consider Approval of Library Materials
7. Consider Approval of Class Sizes over 22:1 for the Fall Semester 2025-26
8. Consider Approval of the 2025-2026 Team Operating Procedures
9. Consider Approval of Expenditures with ILA-Buyboard Vendor Professional Turf Products of Texas
10. Consider Approval of Expenditures with ILA-Sourcewell Vendor Ewald Kubota
11. Consider Approval of Construction Contract 2026.402 for the Technology Learning Center Priority Repairs Project
12. Consider Approval of Construction Contract 2026.403 for the Victory Lakes Intermediate School Priority Repairs Project
13. Consider Approval of FD(LOCAL) Admissions - FIRST READING

B. Consider Adoption of 2025 Tax Rate

Ms. Alice Benzaia, Chief Financial Officer, presented the information to the Board. Members of the Board made comments and had questions. Ms. Benzaia answered the questions. Trustee Mackay moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and adopt a 2025 tax rate of \$0.969. The 2025 adopted total tax rate of \$0.969 consists of a maintenance & operations tax rate of \$0.699 per \$100 taxable value and an interest & sinking tax rate of \$0.27 per \$100 of taxable value. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Closed Session

President Cottrell called the meeting into closed session at 7:00 p.m.

President Cottrell reconvened the meeting into open session at 7:32 p.m.

11. Adjournment

President Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Jonathan Cottrell, Board President

Jeffrey Larson, Board Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Minutes prepared by Greta McMahon