

Minutes of Special Session/ Board Workshop Meeting

The Board of Trustees Graham ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Graham ISD Board of Trustees was held Wednesday, August 5, 2026, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the GRAHAM LEARNING CENTER, 701 TENNESSEE ST. GRAHAM, TX 76450. President, Chris Blanton, called the meeting to order, announced the meeting had been duly called and posted in the time and manner as required by law, and announced a quorum of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Blanton, Lauren Mahaney, Jason Smith, Dr. Brandon Bates, Kristina Pettus, John Brown and Brandon Joy.

Kristina Pettus exited the meeting at 7:00pm.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Mary Johnston, Gary Browning, Robert Loomis, Joe Gordy, Adam Anderson, Audra Barrett, Jamie West, Donna Gatlin

VISITORS: Julie Thannum, CESO Communications, Bowie Franks, Lane Pendleton

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. under the Texas Government Codes 555.072, 551.076, and 551.074. The Board returned from Closed Session at 7:54 p.m.

Closed Session: Under the authority of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, the Board will enter into closed or Executive Session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property Gov't Code 555.072, Deployment or Specific Occasions for Implementation of Security Personnel or Devices Gov't Code 551.076, and Employment, Retirement, Resignation & Discussion of Personnel, Gov't Code 551.074, Consultation with Attorney Gov't Code 551.071

A. Real Property

To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Board's position in negotiations with a third person (Texas Government Code 551.072)

- B. Personnel
To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, including Board members, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee (Texas Government Code 551.074)
- C. Consultation with Attorney
To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, including Board Members, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee, (Texas Government Code 551.074)
- D. Security Devices or Security Audits
To deliberate the development, or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel devices or a security audit (Texas Government Code 551.076), Consultation with Attorney Gov't Code 551.071.

Reconvene in Open Session to take any necessary action on items discussed in Closed Session to discuss Employment, Retirement, Resignation & Discussion of Personnel, Gov't Code 551.074 and/or to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, Gov't Code 555.072 or Specific Occasions for Implementation of Security Personnel or Devices, Gov't Code 551.076, Consultation with Attorney Gov't Code 551.071

ACTION ITEM OPEN SESSION

There was no action to be taken on items discussed in closed session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Format of Board Meeting

Graham ISD has historically scheduled Closed Sessions at the end of its meeting agendas. This order often requires attorneys, consultants, new hires, and audience guests to wait until the end of the meeting before the Board takes action in Open Session on items discussed in Closed Session. To address this, the Administration recommends shifting Closed Session discussions earlier in the meeting. This change will optimize the order of the agenda for stakeholders, guests, and new hires, while also helping the Trustees minimize expenses related to hourly rates for consultants and attorneys. The Board President will call the meeting to order and establish a quorum, say the Pledges of Allegiance and the invocation, honor students and staff being recognized, and hear Public Comments before adjourning to Closed Session to discuss topics allowed under Texas law. The Board will then reconvene into open session to complete the rest of the agenda and take any necessary action.

Throughout the meeting, the Board continues to hold the authority to adjust the order of agenda items or transition into and out of Closed Session as frequently as required. This flexibility remains until all agenda items have been addressed and final decisions are officially concluded during the open, public segment of the meeting.

- Report on Community Survey Results

Julie Thannum, Senior Strategist from CESO Communications shared a report on the Community Survey results with the Board of Trustees.

- Report on the DRAFT Long-Range Facility Plan

Dr. Johnston presented the Long-Range Facility Plan in DRAFT form to the Board of Trustees.

FINANCE

- I. Review of Graham ISD's Bond Capacity by Jake Lawrence, Senior Vice President Government Capital Securities

There was no discussion needed for this topic.

- II. Potential Bond Election

There was no discussion needed for this topic.

STUDENT SERVICES

- I. Review of Student Code of Conduct

The SCOC reflects board policy and has been reviewed by Student Services and Human Resources along with campus and district administration for the 2026-2027 school year. As this is not a legislative year, there will not be substantive changes to the Student Code of Conduct.

- II. Review Policy Update 127

Per Board Policy BF (Local), "Policies may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Board at any regular or special meeting, provided that Board members have had advance written notice of the proposed change and that it has been placed on the agenda for such meeting. Local policies become effective upon Board adoption or at a future date

designated by the Board at the time of adoption. After Board review of legally referenced policies and adoption of local policies, the new material shall be incorporated into the official policy manual and into other localized policy manuals maintained by the District.”

Trustees received a review of Update 127.

III. Review DOI Affected Policies

Trustees received a review of GISD policies affected by the approval of the amendment to the Graham ISD District of Innovation Plan (June 3, 2026).

IV. Review Policy EIF (Local)

Trustees received a review of GISD policy EIF (Local), specifically private or commercial programs that allow for awarding state graduation credit.

HUMAN RESOURCES

I. Review the 2026-2027 GISD Employee Handbook

The Employee Handbook reflects board policy and has been reviewed by Human Resources. As this is not a legislative year, there will not be substantive changes to the Employee Handbook.

II. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION WAIVER**

A motion by John Brown seconded by Dr. Brandon Bates carried 6 to 0 to amend the request for approval of an application for certification waiver now including GJHS Counselor and Crestview Elementary Counselor.

This was approved by vote of the Board of Trustees as follows:

Trustee	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Chris Blanton	X			
Kristina Pettus				X
Lauren Mahaney	X			
Brandon Joy	X			
Jason Smith	X			

John Brown	X			
Brandon Bates	X			

A motion by John Brown seconded by Dr. Brandon Bates carried 6 to 0 to approve an application for certification waiver for GJHS Counselor and Crestview Elementary Counselor.

This was approved by vote of the Board of Trustees as follows:

Trustee	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Chris Blanton	X			
Kristina Pettus				X
Lauren Mahaney	X			
Brandon Joy	X			
Jason Smith	X			
John Brown	X			
Brandon Bates	X			

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Lauren Mahaney seconded by Brandon Joy carried 6 to 0 to adjourn the meeting.

This was approved by vote of the Board of Trustees as follows:

Trustee	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Chris Blanton	X			
Kristina Pettus				X
Lauren Mahaney	X			
Brandon Joy	X			
Jason Smith	X			
John Brown	X			
Brandon Bates	X			

APPROVED

Chris Blanton, President
Board of Trustees
Graham Independent School District

Dr. Brandon Bates, Secretary
Board of Trustees
Graham Independent School District