

The Board of Trustees of Denton Independent School District, State of Texas, met in a Regular meeting at the Denton ISD Central Services building, 1307 N. Locust St., Denton, Texas, on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Burns who announced that a quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Burns, Dunworth, English, Martinez-Strickland, Petolick, Stafford, and Wright

Board Members

Absent:

Arrived Late:

Left Early:

School Personnel Present: Bible, Bolton, Bonner, Brownell, Cobb, Liewehr, O’Bara, Parham, Petito, Pierce, L. Rainey, Robinson, Schulz, Stewart, E. Smith, T. Smith, and Thompson

Others: Cindy Breeding, *Denton Record-Chronicle*; citizens, staff, and students

Pledges The Pledges to the flags were led by Sam Houston Elementary School students.

Presentations/ Recognitions Denton ISD is proud to recognize Cheek Middle School as a 2025–2027 National PTA School of Excellence. The PTA and school leadership developed an action plan with the goal of meeting families where they were and creating more opportunities for them to feel connected to the school. That work led to the launch of the Family Talent Directory in April 2026, which invited families to share their professional expertise, bilingual abilities, and other talents so the campus could turn to its own Charger community first when seeking volunteers, guest speakers, or classroom support.

Catherine Bell Elementary has also been recognized as a 2025–2027 National PTA School of Excellence. To strengthen communication, the PTA partnered with campus leadership to expand outreach, ensuring school updates, events, volunteer opportunities, and important information were shared consistently across multiple platforms. To create a welcoming environment, the campus hosted a free Spring Family Dance celebrating its ten-year anniversary, bringing together students, families, staff, and local businesses for an evening of celebration and connection. These efforts expanded participation, strengthened community partnerships, and set a model for inclusive engagement.

Three Denton ISD students earned selection to the 2026 Texas Choral Directors Association (TCDA) honor choirs, performing at the association's annual convention. The 2026 TCDA honor choir members from Denton ISD are:

- Allison Taylor, Hawk Elementary (Now at Crownover Middle School) – Elementary Honor Choir
- Alex Owens, Hawk Elementary (Now at Crownover Middle School) – Elementary Honor Choir
- Mia Smart, Crownover Middle School – Middle School/Junior High All-State Choir

Three Denton ISD high school musicians earned the Outstanding Performer Award at the 2026 University Interscholastic League (UIL) Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest (TSSEC), the highest individual honor available to a Texas student musician. Denton ISD's 2026 Outstanding Performers (State UIL Gold Medalists) are:

- Mark Eads, Guyer High School Orchestra – String Bass Solo
- Nicholas Schiller, Braswell High School Band – Bass Trombone Solo
- Wesley Duesenberg, Braswell High School Band – Percussion Solo

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Open Forum

Community members that addressed the Board: Rebecca Bertoni, and Sharon Kramer

Discussion of PTA Annual Update

Natalie Seville, Council President, and Amy Terrell, Aide to the President, provided the State of the PTA Council Annual Report. The objective of the report is to closely monitor the PTA membership numbers and how the Council supports family engagement at each Denton ISD campus with support and resources, as needed. There are currently 41 PTAs working with Denton ISD, and the Council received the Outstanding Council Platinum Award for the 25-26 school year. Additionally, 279 total local awards were awarded to school PTAs. District PTA membership has increased year after year and reached a record high of 9,802 individuals. The partnership between Denton ISD and PTA gives families an opportunity to stay engaged and connected to their students.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of Fine Arts Update

Eddy Russel, Director of Fine Arts, provided the departmental activity for the 2025-26 school year including student enrollment data, awards, and goals achieved. Extra-Curricular Fine Arts Clubs and Activities included: Marching Band, Drill Team, Dance Club, Step Team, Ballet Folklorico, Choir, Honor Choir, Show Choir, Instrumental Club, Drum Club, Jazz Band Club, Mariachi Club, Fiddle Club, Color Guard Club, Art Club, National Art

Honors Society, Thespian Society, Theatre, Drama Club, Theatre Club, Yearbook, and Cheer.

During the Fine Arts Signing Day there were 57 seniors signed to collegiate Fine Arts programs and over \$2 million in Fine Arts scholarships were awarded. Denton ISD, for the 20th consecutive year, has been named one of U.S. 2025 “Best Communities for Music Education” by the NAMM Foundation. Denton ISD was named a 2025-26 Exemplary District of Distinction by the Texas Education Theatre Association and named a 2025-26 Premier Community for Theatre Education by Texas Thespians.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of
Athletics Update

Conroy Hines, Director of Athletics, provided an overview of Denton ISD’s athletic programs for the 2025-2026 school year. There were 20 programs at the high school level, 8 programs at the middle school level, 2 teams and 1 individual state champions, 77 students earning \$4.6 million in scholarship money, 845 scholar athletes, 19 1st team all-state or regional qualifiers, 211 1st team all-district, and 125 academic all-state recipients. Also presented were updates to athletic facilities, coaching staff, division alignments, and the RankOne portal for athletes.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of
Legislative
Priorities

Dr. Deron Robinson, General Counsel, provided a workshop to discuss and plan for the Board of Trustees legislative priorities in anticipation of the 90th Legislative Session. The proposed priorities include eliminating state-created bureaucracy that wastes taxpayer money, continuing and building upon recent compensation gains for all employees, and closing the gap between state-mandated security requirements and actual state funding.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

2026-2027
Registration Update

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with a summary of Denton ISD’s enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year and to compare this data to previous years. The analysis of Denton ISD’s enrollment data allows the district to ensure that all campuses remain in compliance with state class size requirements and to ensure that plans are developed to meet current and future.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Intruder Detection
Audit Report

The objective of this report is to communicate the recent audits that have been performed within Denton ISD. Region 11 is conducting Intruder Detection Audits pursuant to updated legal requirements. To date Zero (0) Denton ISD schools have been reviewed. Further details if any have been

provided to the Board in executive session and will be provided to the district's Safety and Security Committee in an upcoming meeting for the purpose of safety and security.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Sheryl English and seconded by Greg Petolick

To approve (the minutes for the August 11, 2026 board meeting; Matters related to personnel; Approval of leaves and absences; Budget amendments as of July 31, 2026; Total Probable Cost and Guaranteed Maximum Price for the New Build of Warehouse for Maintenance and Technology Facility; Ryan High School Tennis Court Revision; Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Juvenile Board of Denton County and Denton ISD for Joe Dale Sparks; Adjunct faculty status for County Extension Agents and Resolution for Extracurricular Status of 4-H Organization; HB 3372 Outside Employment Agreements; Resolution declaring approximately 0.469 acres of real property as surplus and authorizing a donation deed to the City of Denton; Consider approval of certification of compliance with certain laws required in accordance with Texas Education Code 39.008).

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

With approval of the consent agenda, Dr. O'Bara announced Melissa Cobb as Chief Human Resources Officer.

Consider Approval of Official Chapter 49 Notification for the 2026-2027 Election of Recapture Option and Agreement

Motion by Charles Stafford and seconded by Sheryl English

For the 2026–2027 school year, we delegated contractual authority to obligate the school district under Texas Education Code (TEC) §11.1511(c)(4) to the superintendent, solely for the purpose of obligating the district under TEC, §48.257 and TEC, Chapter 49, Subchapters A and D, and the rules adopted by the commissioner of education as authorized under TEC, 49.006. This included approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding).

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting

Closed Meeting

The Board convened into Closed Session at 7:44 pm

Open Meeting

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:41 pm

Motion by Sheryl English and seconded by Tanya Wright

That the board ratify and confirm the District's acquisition of the real property located at 6941 Burger Road, Aubrey, Texas 76227, from Cynthia

Lynn Bounds, Trustee of the Bobbie Mays Living Trust, for a purchase price of \$4,273,550.00, and ratify and confirm the Superintendent's execution of the closing documents in connection with that acquisition.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:53 PM

President

Secretary