

Huntsville ISD Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2026 6:00 PM Central

Hawkins Administration Building
441 FM 2821 East
Huntsville, TX 77320-9223

Amanda Burris: Present
John Hendricks: Present
Ken Holland: Present
Sherry Odom: Present
Rissie Owens: Absent
Cathy Schweitzer: Present
Tracy Stoudt: Present
Present: 6, Absent: 1.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

I.A. Announcement by the President as to the presence of a quorum

I.B. Certification that public notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the provision of Section 551.002 et. seq. of the Texas Government Code

II. 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET AND TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARING COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM

II.A. Presentation of the proposed 2026-2027 School Year Budget and Tax Rate
Presented by: Paul Brown, CFO

II.B. Public Hearing: 2026-2027 School Year Budget and Tax Rate-an opportunity will be provided for the district taxpayers to address the Board of Trustees regarding the Budget and Tax Rate as indicated in the proper notice given. If a taxpayer would like to address the Board regarding the 2026-2027 School Year Budget and Tax Rate, a public comment card should be completed prior to the start of the Public Hearing as well as signing in.

II.C. PUBLIC COMMENT

II.C.1. Budget and Tax Rate

Donna Pinon addressed the Board with concerns about property tax increases during a strained economy and their impact on homeowners and small businesses, which receive no exemptions. She asked the Board to consider a no new revenue budget.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing adjourned at 6:25 PM.

IV. CALL TO ORDER (REGULAR BOARD MEETING)

Meeting was called to order at 6:26 PM

IV.A. Announcement by the President as to the presence of a quorum

IV.B. Certification that public notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the provision of Section 551.002 et. seq. of the Texas Government Code

V. OPENING EXERCISES

V.A. Invocation- Amanda Burris

V.B. Pledges

VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS-Any Board member may make a comment during this portion of the agenda, without prior posting being required. Comment items may not pertain to the character of any students, staff or Board member and may not be discussed or deliberated upon at this meeting.

Comments were given by Cathy Schweitzer and Ken Holland. Trustees expressed appreciation for a successful start to the school year and the dedication of district staff, and extended birthday recognitions.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEFING

VII.A. The Superintendent will provide information regarding district events and items of community interest.

Good evening, President Holland and Members of the Board of Trustees, staff, and members of our Huntsville ISD community.

Welcome, everyone, to the August meeting of the Huntsville ISD Board of Trustees.

And if you smell anything in the room tonight, don't worry, it's just the smell of having duty at the dock, the car rider line, or on a bus route! And that smell lets us know one thing for sure: school is back in session!

On August 18, we welcomed back more than 5,500 students into our buildings and nearly 4,000 students into our online public school. The joy of welcoming students back was felt throughout our community. There was running, excitement, laughter, and thankfully, only a few tears radiating through our halls. It was a great reminder of why we do what we do every day.

I want to take a few moments tonight to highlight some of the amazing things that have happened and some of the exciting things happening across Huntsville ISD.

On August 5, we kicked off the school year with our annual Convocation. Our theme this year is "We Build Champions," and if the energy in that room was any indication, we are locked in and ready to go. I want to recognize our Communications Team and the Convocation Planning Committee for the incredible job they did in bringing our staff together and setting the tone for the year ahead. It was an exciting way to begin our journey together.

I also want to thank our campuses for the well-organized Meet and Greets they hosted to prepare our families for the start of the school year. Those events provided an opportunity for families to meet teachers, ask questions, see their campuses, and begin building relationships that are so important to student success. Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes and on the front lines to make those events successful and a thank you to our trustees and central office team for being highly visible for these events.

I also want to take a moment to recognize one of our outstanding students, Huntsville High School junior Aaron Powell.

Aaron has been selected for the Education in Action 2026 Lone Star Leadership Academy Alumni Council. This summer, he joined 128 outstanding student leaders from across Texas who are committed to making a positive impact in their schools and communities.

As a Youth Facilitator, Aaron served as a mentor, supported adult facilitators, and assisted camp directors. This is his third year on the council, and this summer he led a service project called "Stock the Shelves."

Through that project, Aaron organized a donation drive benefiting the Rita B. Huff Humane Society's community pet pantry. He raised more than \$600 and collected hundreds of pounds of pet food.

Reflecting on his experience, Aaron said, "I learned how to engage with people and organizations to achieve my goals."

That is leadership in action. Aaron, we congratulate you on representing Huntsville High School and our community with such commendable leadership. We are proud of you, and we look forward to seeing all that you accomplish as you continue into your junior year.

Our fine arts and athletic departments are also in full swing. From practices and performances to matches, tournaments, and scrimmages, our students are working hard in the classroom and competing at a high level.

Our volleyball teams are hosting a tournament here at home beginning today and continuing through Saturday, so I encourage our community to come out and support our Hornets.

And tomorrow, all of our football teams will travel to Lufkin to compete in scrimmages against Lufkin. It is exciting to see our students back on the field, in the gyms, on the stages, and representing Huntsville ISD with pride.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank all of the departments across Huntsville ISD that worked tirelessly to make the start of this school year as seamless as possible.

Transportation, Child Nutrition, Maintenance and Operations, Technology, Communications, Curriculum and Instruction, Human Resources, Finance, our campus teams, and so many others have worked behind the scenes and in the spotlight to make sure our students and staff were ready for day one.

A successful first day does not happen by accident. It takes thousands of people working together, and I am incredibly grateful for the dedication and commitment of our Huntsville ISD team.

Most importantly, thank you to our community. Thank you for trusting us with your children, for supporting our schools, for cheering on our students, and for being part of the Huntsville ISD family.

We are off to a great start, and I am excited about what this school year will bring as we continue to Build Champions together.

Thank you, and as always

Sting'em, Hornets!

VIII. MONTHLY DIGITAL REPORT produced by Matthew Lahey
Video focused on the first day of school.

IX. BRIEF RECESS

Recess 6:47 PM to 6:52 PM.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

X.A. Non-Agenda Items

Rolando Salazar, a Huntsville ISD teacher, requested a clear, consistent district-wide protocol for outdoor activities during extreme heat or cold. He noted that differing heat index readings from various weather apps have led to inconsistent decisions and suggested designating a single official weather source and involving an expert committee to set thresholds and procedures.

X.B. Agenda Items

XI. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

XI.A. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve 2026-2027 budget. This motion, made by Tracy Stoudt and seconded by Amanda Burris, Passed.

Rissie Owens: Absent, Amanda Burris: Yea, John Hendricks: Yea, Ken Holland: Yea, Sherry Odom: Yea, Cathy Schweitzer: Yea, Tracy Stoudt: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XI.A.1. Consider Board approval of minutes

XI.A.2. Consider Board approval of monthly financial statement

XI.A.3. Consider Board approval of Budget Amendment #8

XI.A.4. Consider Board approval of Texas Reading Academies through Education Service Center Region 6

XI.A.5. Consider Board approval of T-TESS Appraisers

XI.A.6. Consider Board approval of T-TESS Appraisers Calendar

XI.A.7. Consider Board approval of Special Education Staffing Services

XI.A.8. Consider Board acceptance of Purchasing Cooperative fees paid by Huntsville ISD for the 2026-2027 school year

XI.A.9. Consider Board approval of Contract Award for CSP 2616 SLC Renovation Project

XI.A.10. Consider Board Approval for the purchase of fuel for the Huntsville ISD Transportation Department

XI.A.11. Consider Board Approval for AIM Therapy, PLLC

XI.A.12. Consider Board Approval for Amergis contract

XI.A.13. Consider Board Approval of Region 6 Education Center eContracts for the 2026-2027 School Year

XI.B. Consider Board approval of the 2026-2027 School Year Budget

Presented by: Paul Brown, CFO

Motion to approve 2026-2027 budget. This motion, made by Tracy Stoudt and seconded by Amanda Burris, Passed.

Rissie Owens: Absent, Amanda Burris: Yea, John Hendricks: Yea, Ken Holland: Yea, Sherry Odom: Yea, Cathy Schweitzer: Yea, Tracy Stoudt: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XI.C. Consider Board approval of Ordinance 26-01 setting the 2026-2027 School Year Tax Rate

Presented by: Paul Brown, CFO

1. Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate

2. Debt Service Tax Rate

Motion to approve tax rate. This motion, made by Cathy Schweitzer and seconded by Sherry Odom, Passed.

Rissie Owens: Absent, Amanda Burris: Yea, John Hendricks: Yea, Ken Holland: Yea, Sherry Odom: Yea, Cathy Schweitzer: Yea, Tracy Stoudt: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII. REPORT/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

XII.A. Monthly Newsletters - Written report only

XII.B. Prime Contractors Update

Presenter: Mr. Dillon Brady

XIII. NEXT MEETING NOTICE

XIII.A. Regular Board of Trustee Meeting-September 17, 2026, 6:00 pm

XIII.B. September 23, 2026 - Homecoming Parade - 6 PM

XIV. CLOSED SESSION: The Board convened in closed session at 7:09 PM.

Closed session will be held for the purposes permitted in Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074 et. seq. of the Texas Government Code.

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board should determine that a closed or executive session of the Board should be held or is required to be held in relation to any item included in this Notice, then such closed or executive session as authorized by Section 551.001 et. seq. of the Texas Government Code ("The Open Meetings Act") will be held by the Board at the date, hour or place given in this Notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this Notice as the Board may conveniently meet in such closed or executive session concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Sections 551.071-551.084 and 39.030, inclusive, of the Open Meetings Act.

Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the Board with regard to any matter considered in such closed or executive session, then such final action, final decision, or final vote shall be at either:

- a. the open meeting covered by this Notice upon the reconvening of this public meeting, or
- b. at a subsequent public meeting of the Board upon Notice thereof, as the Board shall determine.

Section 551.071 For the purpose of a private consultation between the Board of Trustees and its attorney when the Board of Trustees seeks the attorney's advice with respect to pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, and matters where the duty of the Board of Trustees' counsel to his client pursuant to the Code of Professional Responsibility of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Open Meeting Act.

Section 551.072 For the purpose of discussion with respect to the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect of the position of the Board of Trustees in negotiations with a third person.

Section 551.073 For the purpose of deliberation regarding prospective gifts or to deliberate a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the Board of Trustees or the school district, if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the Board of Trustees in negotiations with a third person.

Section 551.074 For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee, unless such officer or employee requests a public hearing.

Section 551.075 To confer with an employee or employees where the conference is for the sole purpose of receiving information from the employee(s) or questioning of public business shall take place between the Trustees during the conference.

Section 551.076 To discuss the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel or devices.

Section 551.082 For the purpose of considering discipline of a public school child or children or to hear a complaint by an employee against another employee if the complaint or charge directly results in a need for a hearing.

Section 551.0821 For the purpose of considering a matter regarding a student if personally identifiable information about the student will necessarily be revealed by the deliberation.

Section 551.084 For the purpose of excluding witness or witnesses from a hearing during examination of another witness.

Section 39.030 For the purpose of discussing academic skills assessment instruments and individual assessment instruments.

XIV.A. Personnel (551.074): for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee

XIV.B. Deliberate regarding employee abandonment of contract and recommended termination (Tex. Gov't Code 551.071, 551.074)

XV. RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: The Board reconvened in open session at 7:57 PM.

XV.A. Announcement by the President that the Board has concluded its closed session discussions as permitted by Texas Government Code, Section 551-074 et. seq. of the Texas Government Code

XVI. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

XVI.A. Consider and take possible action to authorize superintendent to pursue sanctions for contract abandonment and/or propose mid-contract termination of probationary contract employee.

Motion to propose the mid-contract termination of the probationary contract of employee Eduardo Rodriguez and authorize the Superintendent to notify the employee. This motion, made by Tracy Stoudt, and seconded by Cathy Schweitzer, Passed.

Rissie Owens: Absent, Amanda Burris: Yea, John Hendricks: Yea, Ken Holland: Yea, Sherry Odom: Yea, Cathy Schweitzer: Yea, Tracy Stoudt: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Taxpayer Impact Statement

Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.043/cl/2

Fiscal Year (Tax Year)	Median-Valued Homestead	Tax Rate per \$100 of Value	Estimated Property Tax Bill
FY 2025-2026 (TY 2025)	\$234,445	Adopted 2025 Tax Rate: \$0.8548	\$2004
FY 2026-2027 (TY 2026)	\$236,995	Proposed 2026 tax rate based on the proposed budget for 2026-27: \$0.8548	\$2026

Notes:

*Remember that the tax year begins on January 1; tax year 2026 began on January 1, 2026.

Ken Holland, Board President

Cathy Schweitzer, Board Secretary
441 FM 2821 East
Huntsville, Texas 77320