

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees

Graham ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Graham ISD was held Wednesday, September 9, 2026, beginning at 5:31 p.m. in the GRAHAM LEARNING CENTER, 701 TENNESSEE STREET, GRAHAM, TX 76450

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

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

VISITORS: Lori Brown

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one requested to speak during Public Comments.

RECOGNITIONS

Teacher Recognition:

Graham High School- Academic Achievement in Science

Dawna Gage

Bethany Wilson

Graham Junior High- Academic Achievement in Social Studies

Rebecca Browning

Trey Kramer

Woodland Elementary-Academic Achievement in Science

Gina Beauchamp

Jennifer Gilbert

Student Presentation: Graham High Students, Jennilee Bowman and Caden Joy, presented a donation check to the Michelle Lowrey Memorial Scholarship for \$1600.

Student Recognition:

Caden Joy was recognized for being named National Merit Semifinalist by the College Board.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 5:41 pm under Texas Government Codes 555.072, 551.076, and 551.074. The Board returned from Executive Session 6:37 pm.

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)

The Board Moved into Open Session:

The Board returned from executive session with no action taken.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Heart of Graham: T-shirt order deadline has been extended to September 11th.
- Curriculum Nights: There was great participation at the elementary curriculum nights.
- August Teacher of the Month: Dawna Gage
- August Paraprofessional of the Month: Stacey Jonas
- Substitute of the Month will start next month.
- Enrollment Update: 2096
- Upcoming Events: Bond Presentations to the community

ACADEMICS

Academics Update

Donna Gatlin, Chief Academics Officer presented to the Board of Trustees an update on Academics, including Curriculum Nights, the Curriculum Design Team, Curriculum implementation and support, and the district's action plan for tracking and using student data to inform instructional decisions and interventions.

STUDENT SERVICES

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF UPDATED GUARDIAN LIST

Reviewed in Closed Session.

A motion by John Brown, seconded by Dr. Brandon Bates, carried 7 to 0 to approve the updated Guardian List. 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			

CONSIDER REVISION OF POLICY DEC (LOCAL): COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

A motion by John Brown , seconded by Brandon Joy, carried 7 to 0 to approve the revision of policy DEC (Local): Compensation and Benefits. 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			

FINANCE

Facility Rental Update

Gary Browing, Chief Financial Officer presented a Facility Use Rental Update to the Board of Trustees.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Update on Graham ISD Grow Your Own Program

Robert Loomis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented an update on Graham ISD Grow Your Own Program to the Board of Trustees.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A CLASS SIZE WAIVER FOR GRAHAM ELEMENTARY

A motion by Dr. Brandon Bates, seconded by Brandon Joy, carried 7 to 0 to approve the Class Size Waiver for Graham Elementary. 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			

Personnel Report

Reviewed in Closed Session

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of Special Session held on August 5, 2026

Minutes of Regular Session held on August 11, 2026

Financial Information

- Enrollment Report
- District Financial Summary Report

A motion by John Brown seconded by Dr. Brandon Bates, carried 7 to 0 to approve the Consent Agenda. 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 of Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

A motion by Kristina Pettus, seconded by Lauren Mahaney, carried 7 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			

PUBLIC HEARING- 2025-2026 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST)

Gary Browning, Chief Financial Officer presented the 2025-2026 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report.

Board Policy CFA LEGAL states that each school district is required to report information and financial accountability ratings to parents, taxpayers, and other stakeholders by implementing the reporting procedures below. 19 TAC 109.1001(q)

In compliance with the applicable Board policies and Administrative Code sections and subsections referenced above, the Administration presents the 2025-2026 FIRST report for Graham Independent School District to the Board of Trustees at a public hearing to be held on September 9, 2026. A digital copy of the FIRST report can be found on the Graham ISD Business and Finance department webpage.

The following is a brief summary of the 2024-2025 FIRST report:

- Graham ISD received an A = “Superior Achievement” rating – the highest rating available.
- Graham ISD’s “District score” equals 100, a perfect score.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one requested to speak during Public Comments.

PUBLIC HEARING 2025-2026 SENATE BILL 12 COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

The certification requires districts to identify the policies and procedures required by Texas Education Code 11.005(c) and 28.0022(h) and to describe how employees and contractors were notified of these policies and procedures as well as existing policies, programs, procedures, or trainings that were altered to ensure compliance with Sections 11.005 or 28.0022.

Graham ISD has modified the appropriate policies as part of recommended policy updates 119, 122, 126, and 127.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one requested to speak during Public Comments.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL 12 COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

A motion by Dr. Bates seconded by, Brandon Joy carried 7 to 0 for the Approval of Senate Bill 12 Compliance Certification. 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 Kristina Pettus, seconded by Lauren Mahaney carried 7 to 0 to adjourn the Public Hearing. 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