

**Minutes
Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees
Monday, September 14, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM, in the Administration Building, 1096 N Waco, Van Alstyne, TX 75495.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice. For more information about public comment, see Policy BED. Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

The Board Meeting will begin at 6:00pm at the Van Alstyne ISD Administration building, where a quorum of the Board will be present. The Board of Trustees expects to return to the Open Session at 7:00 pm.

1. Call to Order

Description: The Board President to call the meeting of the Van Alstyne Independent School District to order. Let the record show that a quorum of board members is present, that this meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Meeting was called to order by Board President Beau Williams at 6:00pm where a quorum of board members was present: Brandy Schoener, Mark Freeman, Beau Williams, David Kerr, Matt Morris, and Sara Watson.

2. Closed Session, Government Code 551.071-551.084. The Board May Retire into Closed Session in Accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Description: At this time, the Board will go into Executive Session as allowed by the Texas Open Meetings Act.

A. Government Code 551-074

Description: 551-074 For the purpose of deliberating the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee. However, the Board may not conduct a closed meeting for these purposes if the officer or employee who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing.

A motion was made by Matt Morris for the board to move into Closed Session. Motion was seconded by David Kerr. Motion passed 6-0. Board ended Regular Session at 6:01pm and entered Closed Session at 6:02pm.

**B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes
Board Member Jared Ramsey arrived during Closed Session.**

Board exited Closed Session at 6:59pm

Board entered Regular Session at 8:00pm

3. Pledges and Invocation

Description: Williams Elementary will conduct the pledges and invocation.

**Pledges were led by Williams Elementary students along with their Principal Holly Haynes.
Invocation was led by board member David Kerr.**

4. Premier Spotlight

Description: A group or student is highlighted. This month, Gavin Ritchie and the VAJH Ambassador Club will be recognized.

This month's Premier Spotlight focused on Gavin Ritchie for his leadership in developing the VAJH Campus Ambassador Club. This club allows students to develop their own leadership, creativity, communication, and media skills

5. Administrator's Report

A. Campus Highlights and Updates

Description: A summary report from campus principals regarding recent student achievements, extracurricular activities, and campus initiatives. This item is for informational purposes only.

The board made encouraging comments to Debbie Cholette regarding VAJH's "Street Smarts" academic skills program in which staff will quiz students on various subjects throughout the day in the hallways as they switch classes.

B. Monthly Student Enrollment (Information only; No Action Required)

Description: Receive a presentation and data report summarizing district-wide student enrollment figures.

Student enrollment is at 3,019 with a current attendance rate of 96.3%-96.4%. 2026-2027 budget was built on an enrollment of 3,124 students which is anticipated to be met by the end of October.

C. Public Information Requests

Description: A summary report regarding recent Public Information requests from 8/13/2026-9/8/2026.

The district had four public information requests.

D. Alternative Education Update

Description: Discipline overview and executive summary of VAISD's alternative education programs.

Dr. Otto presented an update on DAEP, Panther Academy, and PAWS. The Board reviewed enrollment, placement, credit recovery, graduation, and transition data. Administration reported a significant decrease in DAEP placements and continued success in alternative pathways to graduation. Dr. Otto is partnering with Ms. Jensen to establish structured transition meetings for DAEP students returning to their home campuses. Board members commended Dr. Otto and his staff for preventing at-risk students from falling through the cracks and providing alternative pathways to graduation.

6. Public Comment

Description: Community members are given the opportunity to express their opinions, concerns, or suggestions related to or regarding items outlined in the Board meeting agenda.

Ryan Laing raised concerns regarding the sufficiency of the posted agenda for the August 17, 2026, Board meeting. The speaker stated that the agenda referenced "handbooks" generally but did not identify the specific handbooks or provide notice of significant proposed changes to student discipline, extracurricular, cheerleading, or agricultural program policies. He expressed concern that substantive policy changes were considered and acted upon under the general handbook agenda item, including changes related to athletic suspensions for students convicted of DWI or DUI offenses, cheerleading selection criteria, and agricultural program rules. The speaker stated that more specific notice would have provided the public with an opportunity to review the proposed changes and provide meaningful comment. The speaker requested clarification regarding whether the referenced changes were formally adopted and why the specific matters were not separately identified on the posted agenda.

Marshall Bell submitted written public comment regarding the Board's decision to reduce the athletic suspension for students convicted of DUI/DWI offenses from one year to two weeks. Bell questioned when the Board became aware of the proposed change, what information was provided to Board members before the vote, and whether the provision would be placed on a future agenda for public discussion. Bell emphasized the importance of transparency and meaningful public participation beyond the minimum legal notice requirements. Sara Watson raised the question of reconsidering, however the board is not allow to respond during public comment.

7. Consent Agenda

Description: ACTION ITEM: These items are considered routine by the School Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussions on items unless a school board member so requests, at which time the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

A. Minutes

Sara Watson made a request to reconsider the prior month's Board action regarding this topic. It was discussed; however, the matter was not considered because it was not included on the posted agenda for tonight's meeting. A motion was made by David Kerr to move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Mark Freeman. Motion passed 4-0 with 3 board members abstaining.

B Schoener-Abstain, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-Abstain, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-Abstain

8. SB 12 Compliance Public Hearing

Description: Consider and Approve Certification of Compliance with certain laws under Texas Education Code 39.008, as enacted by Senate Bill 12 (89th Texas Legislative Session)

Mr. Coleman presented the district's annual compliance review related to Senate Bill 12 and applicable Texas Education Code requirements. The Board received information regarding policy, handbook, training, contract, and parental consent compliance.

A public hearing was held regarding the annual certification. No one spoke up or had questions regarding SB 12.

Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve the annual Certification of Compliance under Texas Education Code Section 39.008 and Senate Bill 12 as presented and authorize the Superintendent to electronically submit the official certification to the Texas Education Agency. Motion was seconded by Mark Freeman. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

9. State Accountability Review

Description: State Accountability Review to be presented by Dr. Martinez.

Dr. Jamie Martinez presented an overview of the state accountability system, including the three accountability domains, STAAR performance levels, CCMR measures, and the weighting used to determine overall district and campus ratings. Van Alstyne ISD received an overall rating of 87, with Domain 1 at 88, Domain 2 at 73, and Domain 3 at 84. Campus ratings ranged from 73 at Sanford Elementary to 96 at Van Alstyne High School

The presentation also reviewed upcoming changes to state accountability and testing, including the future five-year accountability refresh and the transition from the current STAAR system to a new state testing system. The district discussed additional academic support programs, including advanced math placement and the PASS tutoring program.

Administrators outlined improvement efforts focused on math and reading growth, instructional coaching, behavioral support, gifted and bilingual programs, personalized learning pathways, data monitoring, and Teacher Incentive Allotment implementation. Sanford Elementary has an improvement plan that includes additional behavioral and instructional support.

The district also described ongoing progress monitoring through MAP assessments, quarterly assessments, teacher data reviews, campus action plans, and parent reporting. Accelerated learners identified under HB 1416 are receiving required additional instruction and targeted intervention through personalized pathways and WIN time.

4-H Resolution

Description: Consider and approve a resolution allowing students that are not in high school yet to be counted as present when they attend 4-H contests.

The Board considered the annual 4-H resolution regarding student attendance for participation in approved 4-H contests.

Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to approve the 4H resolution allowing students under 4H to be counted under extra-curricular as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Jared Ramsey. Motion passed 7-0

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

10. Investment Resolution

Description: Consider and approve a resolution stating that the board has reviewed investment policies, investment strategies, and named investment officers.

The Board reviewed the district's annual investment policy requirements and designated investment officers. The Board's responsibility is to adopt investment policies, approve authorized investment instruments, and provide oversight, while day-to-day investment decisions remain with district administration. The district is not currently using outside investment pools or other external investment instruments. District funds are maintained in the depository bank because of its favorable liquidity rate, allowing funds to be moved as needed to support ongoing bond projects. The bank's rates are monitored and renegotiated when necessary to remain competitive. Investment activity is reported to the Board through the monthly financial report and a quarterly investment report presented under the consent agenda. Dr. Brown and Renee Chote are designated as the district's investment officers and are required to complete investment training every two years. A motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve the resolution concerning investment policies, strategies, and officer as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Sara Watson. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

11. Professional Development Calendar 2026-2027

Description: Annual review of the professional development clearinghouse and approve the District's professional development plan. Dr. Martinez will present.

Dr. Martinez presented the annual professional development calendar. The Board reviewed required state and district professional development, leadership academies, testing, curriculum, ESOL, and RTI training. Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to approve the PD calendar 2026-2027 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by David Kerr. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

12. Guardians

Description: Approval of guardians for the 2026-2027 school year.

Guardians must be approved for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve all guardians for the 2026-2027 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Mark Freeman. Motion passed 7-0.

***B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes
J Ramsey-yes.***

The Board discussed procedures for requesting discussion or reconsideration of consent agenda items and the process for placing items on future agendas. It was noted that there will be no separate discussions on items unless the school board member so requests. Clarification was provided on how to re-address a consent agenda item (such as the approval of minutes) in the future: 1. A school board member needs to put it in writing that they want to add it to the agenda and 2. Two people do it then it will be re-added to a future agenda.

13. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Jared Ramsey. Motion passed 7-0.

***B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes,
J Ramsey-yes***

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm. No other action was taken.

If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E or Texas Government Code section 418.183(f). Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting. [See TASB Policy BEC(LEGAL)]

The Board Meeting will begin at 6:00pm at the Van Alstyne ISD Administration building, where a quorum of the Board will be present. The Board of Trustees expects to return to the Open Session at 7:00 pm.

Date

Board President

Board Secretary