Minutes of the October 5, 2026,
Workshop and Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Abilene Independent School District met in a Workshop and Regular Meeting at 5:00 p.m., October 5, 2026, in the Boardroom at One AISD Center 241 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas 79601. Mr. Blair Schroeder, President of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., observed that a quorum was present, and stated that notice of the meeting had been duly posted in the time and manner prescribed by law.

Trustees present for all or part of the meeting: Mr. Blair Schroeder, President; Dr. Taylor Tidmore, Vice President; Mrs. Angie Wiley, Assistant Secretary, Dr. Danny Wheat, Mrs. Alana Jeter and Mrs. Amanda Pittman. Members absent: Mr. Rodney Goodman, Secretary.

Administrators present for all or part of the meeting: Dr. Joseph Waldron, Superintendent; Mrs. Lyndsey Williamson, Chief Academic Officer; Mrs. Alison Sims, Chief Talent Officer; Dr. Gustavo Villanueva, Chief of Schools; Mr. Jay Ashby, Chief of Strategic Operations; Dr. Jordan Ziemer, Chief Communications Officer; and Mrs. Robin Jones, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees.

I. Call to Order

II. Board Workshop Agenda

Mr. Blair Schroeder asked Dr. Joe Waldron to give an overview of the Workshop portion of the agenda.

A. Group Medical Insurance 2027-2028

Mrs. Alison Sims provided an overview of AISD's current group medical insurance model and an evaluation of potential options including the return to TRS ActiveCare after five years outside of the program. Current enrollment, district contributions, claims experience, and the significant increase in premiums were reviewed. The current plan was compared with TRS ActiveCare rates as well. Key decision criteria has been identified which includes financial sustainability, employee affordability, risk management, and recruitment and retention.

B. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Mrs. Melissa Scott, Executive Director of Elementary Education, and Mrs. Keri Thornburg, Executive Director of Secondary Education, presented an overview of MAP Growth Assessment which is an adaptive test that changes for each student during the assessment depending on student performance. This allows student growth and progress to be tracked throught the year. Teachers use this data to plan instruction for whole group and individualized instruction.

III. Closed Session: A Closed Session may be held under the provisions of Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 including but not limited to Section 551.071, Section 551.072, Section 551.074, Section 551.076, and Section 551.082, and Section 551.0821.

Mr. Blair Schroeder announced that a Closed Session would be held under the provisions of Texas Code, Chapter 551. The Board convened in Closed Session at 6:02 p.m.

A. The Board may deliberate matters of Personnel, i.e. appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee. (Section 551.074)

I. Professional Employment Contracts

II. Board Procedures and Timelines - Evaluation and Goals

B. The Board may consult with Legal Counsel regarding Pending or Contemplated Litigation and/ or Privileged Legal Advice. (Section 551.071)

C. The Board may discuss matters of Safety and Security. (Section 551.076)

D. The Board may discuss matters pertaining to Students necessarily involving personally identifiable information, e.g. Student Discipline. (Sections 551.082, 551.0821)

E. The Board may discuss the Value, Exchange and/or Disposition of Real Property. (Section 551.072)

IV. Reconvene from Closed Session (Approximately 7:00 p.m.)

The Board reconvened at 7:17 p.m.

A. Invocation

Mr. Blair Schroeder asked Dr. Gustavo Villanueva to give the invocation and lead the pledges.

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas

C. Board/Superintendent Announcements

Dr. Joseph Waldron shared the following announcements:

- 10/8 – 10/11 TASB txEDCON26 Convention for School Board
- 10/8 – Human Resources Day

- 10/12 – Columbas Day (School Holiday)
- 10/16 – Texas Teacher of the Year Banquet
- AISD's new monthly newsletter, *Momentum,* is available to parents and staff through ParentSquare and by subscription for community members.
- Homecoming was very successful for Abilene High and Cooper High this year.
- Abilene High and Cooper High volleyball and cheer students had a 100% first six-weeks passing rate. More than half of AISD secondary students participate in athletic extracurricular activities.

Mr. Blair Schroeder shared the following:

- Highlighted resources available to help AISD families and community members stay informed about the work of the Board.
- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are publicly available and provide information about classroom instruction and what Texas public school students are expected to learn.
- Board meeting agendas, supporting documents, and meeting recordings are available on the district website at www.abileneisd.org.

I. Teaching Minute

The Teaching Minute highlighted TEKS Readiness Standard: 1.5(D) as being taught by Lauren Cole to her First Graders at Purcell STEM Academy.

II. Special Recognition

David Raughton, Stafford Elementary Custodial Supervisor, was recognized by Principal Christina Dooley for going above and beyond in his service to the campus. She praised him for the commitment and care he shows the campus and its staff, including recently stepping in to support a staff member during a time of need.

V. Recognitions

A. TEA Educator Review Committee

Mrs. Lyndsey Williamson recognized six Abilene ISD educators for serving on the Texas Education Agency assessment review committees this summer along with nearly 1,000 other educators across Texas. They reviewed test items and provided feedback supporting the development of STAAR, STAAR Alternate 2, and TELPAS Assessments. Those recognized were Sandra Henry, Abilene High School; Kerry Holland, Clack Middle School; Carlos Montez, Craig Middle School; Jordan Parker, Craig Middle School; Cristi Doll, Bassetti Elementary; and Barbara Carneiro, Taylor Elementary.

VI. Oral Communications from the Public

Mr. Blair Schroeder asked if anyone wishing to address the Board had completed a public comment card. There was none.

VII. Consent Agenda

Mr. Blair Schroeder asked if there was a motion regarding the Consent Agenda. Dr. Danny Wheat made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor Tidmore and passed 6 to 0.

Ayes: Jeter, Tidmore, Wheat, Pittman, Wiley, and Schroeder

Nays: None

A. The Board will consider approval of the Minutes of the September 3, 2026, Workshop and Regular Meeting.

B. The Board will consider approval of the Budget Amendments.

C. The Board will consider approval of the Investment Report for Quarter Ending August 31, 2026.

D. The Board will consider approval of TASB Policy Update 127.

VIII. Public Hearing on Bowie STEM Academy Turnaround Plan (TAP), Clack Middle School Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP), and Madison Middle School Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2026-2027

A. Open Public Hearing

Mr. Blair Schroeder opened the Public Hearing at 7:38 p.m. and invited Mrs. Lyndsey Williamson to give a brief summary of Bowie STEM Academy Turnaround Plan, Clack Middle School Targeted Improvement Plan, and Madison Middle School Targeted Improvement Plan for 2026-2027. The improvement plans are required by the Texas Education Agency for campuses based on certain accountability ratings or grant requirements. These plans provide measurable strategies for strengthening instruction and improving student achievement.

B. Receive Public Comment

Mr. Blair Schroeder asked if anyone from the public wished to address the Board regarding the Bowie Turnaround Plan and the Clack and Madison Targeted Improvement Plans. There was none.

C. Close Public Hearing

The Public Hearing closed at 7:54 p.m.

IX. Reports

A. Academic Performance

Mrs. Melissa Scott and Mrs. Keri Thornburg reviewed beginning-of-year MAP and mCLASS Assessment data in reading and math for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The results are being reviewed by campus and district instructional leaders to identify areas for growth so that instruction can be adjusted and to plan targeted interventions.

B. Communications – Marketing

Mrs. Kaitlin Paoness, Assistant Director of Communications, presented an overview of the District's marketing efforts highlighting the department's strategic focus on student enrollment and retention, employee recruitment, family and community engagement, and increasing awareness of programs and opportunities provided. Results from recent campaigns supporting registration, enrollment, and employee recruitment were also reviewed.

X. Business Items Requiring Board Action

A. The Board will consider and take action to approve the submission of the 2026-2027 Bilingual Education Exception and/or English as a Second Language (ESL) Waiver application to the Texas Education Agency.

Mrs. Erica Soto, Bilingual Program Officer, presented the annual program evaluation to fulfill the district's annual reporting requirements. Information regarding the effectiveness of the district's bilingual and ESL programs were provided. The Board was asked to approve an application for ESL waivers and bilingual exceptions for teachers with gaps in certification.

Mr. Blair Schroeder asked if there was a motion regarding the Bilingual Education Exception and ESL Waiver application. Dr. Taylor Tidmore made a motion to approve the submission of the 2026-2027 Bilingual Education Exception and/or English as a Second Langual (ESL) Waiver application to the Texas Education Agency as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blair Schroeder and passed 6-0.

Ayes: Schroeder, Pittman, Tidmore, Jeter, Wiley, and Wheat

Nays: None

B. The Board will consider approval of a TEA Class Size Waiver and Compliance Plan.

Mrs. Alison Sims provided an overview of Abilene ISD's 2026-2027 elementary class size waiver needs. The district identified 48 classes requiring waivers needed as a result of reviewing enrollment data and balancing classes to ensure every student had a teacher on the first day of school. The greatest concentration is in second and third grade.

Mr. Blair Schroeder asked if there was a motion regarding the TEA Class Size Waiver and Compliance Plan. Mrs. Angie Wiley made a motion to approve the TEA Class Size Waiver and Compliance Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Alana Jeter and passed 6-0.

Ayes: Wiley, Pittman, Wheat, Jeter, Schroeder, and Tidmore

Nays: None

XI. The Board may take action relevant to Items Covered During Closed Session.

A. The Board will consider approval of Personnel Recommendations, if any.

I. Professional Employment Contracts

B. Matters pertaining to Real Property, if any

C. Matters pertaining to Safety and Security, if any

D. Matters pertaining to Litigation, if any

E. Matters pertaining to Students, if any

XII. Adjournment

There being no further busness, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

APPROVED:

_____

President

ATTEST:

_____

Secretary