Minutes
Board of Trustees
Thursday, October 15, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, October 15, 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 6:02pm where a quorum of board members was present: Brandy Schoener, Mark Freeman, Beau Williams, David Kerr, Sara Watson, Matt Morris.
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 551-071
   Description: 551-071 For the purpose of a private consultation with its attorney only when it seeks the attorney's advice about pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the Board under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the requirement for open meetings.

B. Government Code 551-072
   Description: For the purpose of deliberating the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the District in negotiations with a third person.
   A motion was made by Matt Morris that the board move into closed session. Motion was seconded by Sara Watson. Motion passed 6-0
   B Schoener, M Freeman, B Williams, D Kerr, S Watson, M Morris. Board member Jared Ramsey arrived during closed session.
   Board moved into closed session at 6:03pm.
   Board entered regular session at 7:37pm

3. **Pledges and Invocation**
   Tonight's pledges were led by the Sanford Announcement Crew from Sanford Elementary. Hannah Veenstra, Magnolia Osborne, and Bentley Snead did a wonderful job.
4. **Premier Spotlight**
   Description: A group or student is highlighted. This month will be VAMS clubs and sponsors.
   This month's Premier Spotlight focused on VAMS clubs and their sponsors, along with a special student who initiated a club. MS Administration presented an overview of student engagement

initiatives. More than 650 club participation forms were received for Art, Chess, Writing, FCA, Crochet, and the Spider Man Comic Book Club by Harrison Bausell. An update to the newly formed Student Council was given stating the 80 students applied and 22 student leaders were selected.

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.

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

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

The administration provided campus and district updates, including fentanyl awareness presentations for seventh- and eighth-grade students, elementary reading achievements, superior ratings earned by district band programs, and the middle school's PAW program. The Board received an update on the Unstoppable Athletes adaptive athletics program, which offers bocce ball, basketball, and track and field opportunities. An upcoming event was scheduled for October 22. District enrollment was reported at approximately 3,024 students. Administration also discussed services provided to 11 students who receive specialized services but are not fully funded through standard state enrollment funding.

C. Public Information Requests

Description: A summary report regarding recent Public Information requests from 09/09/2026 - 10/02/2026.

D. ESL/EB Board Report

Description: A summary ESL report from the 2025-2026 school year. This item is for informational purposes only.

Mr. Craig Dennis presented an overview of the district's English as a Second Language (ESL) and Emergent Bilingual programs. Approximately 150 students, representing about five percent of district enrollment, receive services. The district currently serves students from 28 different home languages. The presentation addressed instructional support, English-language proficiency assessments, student reclassification, and academic performance. Fifteen students exited the program during the previous school year. Approximately 62 percent of current English Learners achieved the Approaches Grade Level standard on the STAAR Reading Language Arts assessment. Administration also discussed professional development and the district's Language Growth Map for monitoring language acquisition and supporting academic vocabulary development.

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.

Marchelle Bell signed up to speak. Speaker C addressed the Board regarding public participation guidelines and Policy 127. She emphasized First Amendment principles and urged the Board to reconsider previous public comment procedures that allowed citizens to address non-agenda items then requested a public review of Policy 127 and encouraged trustees to remain accessible to community members and receptive to criticism. She expressed concerns regarding the online public forum form, including the distribution of electronic submissions to trustees, the collection of personal information such as student names, identification numbers, and home addresses, and the 500-character limit for written comments. The speaker requested that written comments be read aloud during meetings and included in the official minutes. She also appealed to the Board

to demonstrate leadership, humility, integrity, and accountability, referencing faith-based principles and the responsibility of elected officials to act in the best interests of the community.

7. **Library Book Purchase**

   Description: Consideration and possible action to approve the proposed list of new library materials for purchase, as recommended and previously posted for a 30-day public review period on the District website (the list is attached as Exhibit A of the Board packet), in accordance with Board Policy EFB (Local) and Texas Education Code requirements.

   Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve the purchase of library books as recommended. 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

8. **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

B. Financials

   Motion was made by David Kerr to move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Matt Morris. 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. **Good Cause Exception Resolution**

   Description: The state requires is to have armed personnel on each campus at ALL times. This is not feasible or possible. To mitigate this we were required to develop a good cause exception resolution to describe what we are doing and how we plan to mitigate. This resolution was developed with other ISD police departments in the area.

   The Board considered the annual Good Cause Exception related to campus armed personnel requirements. Administration explained that staffing shortages, illnesses, training, and vacancies may affect personnel availability and described mitigation efforts, including staff reassignment and the use of trained guardian personnel when feasible.

   Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to approve the Good Cause Exception Resolution as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Matt Morris. 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. **WRA Contract**

    Description: Consider and take action to accept the proposal from WRA for design services for a new elementary school.

    The Board considered retaining WRA Architects to provide design services for Elementary School No. 4. The proposed contract included a negotiated fee of 4.0 percent, reduced from the standard 4.5 percent rate for repeat building prototypes.

    Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve the contract for WRA for design of Elementary #4 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

11. **Gallagher Construction Contract**

Description: Consider and take action to accept the proposal from Gallagher Construction for elementary school #4.

The Board considered awarding the construction management contract for Elementary School No. 4 to Gallagher Construction. The agreement included a $400,000 reduction in baseline construction management fees across the first $22 million of construction, with the standard rate applying to the remaining balance up to $42 million.

Motion was made by David Kerr to move to approve the contract for Gallagher Construction for the construction of Elementary School #4 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

12. **Budget Amendment**

Description: Two budget amendments are to be reviewed and approved.

The Board considered a budget amendment recognizing a $1,600 community donation and corresponding expenditure allocation for Unstoppable Athletes event materials and equipment. The amendment also included adjustments for UIL district fee reimbursements.

Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to approve the budget amendment as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion as 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

13. **A/C in Indoor**

Description: Discuss, consider, and possible action to add A/C unit to indoor scope of current project.

The Board is considering installing a complete air-conditioning system in the district's approximately 72,000-square-foot multipurpose indoor athletic facility. Administration explained that the existing facility's ventilation and heating systems did not adequately address updated UIL activity restrictions based on wet-bulb globe temperature measurements. The proposed system is designed to maintain indoor temperatures in the upper 70s to mid-80s during periods of extreme heat, supporting safer and more consistent use by athletics, band, dance, and other extracurricular programs. The estimated cost was approximately $1.5 million. Administration reported that the broader bond and facility project was approximately $2.3 million under budget, allowing the proposed addition to be funded within the original capital project budget authorization.

Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve the addition of an A/C in the indoor 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

14. **Adjourn**

Motion was made by Jared Ramsey to move to adjourn. 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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm. 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)]

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Date Board President

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Board Secretary