HUNTSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Trustees — Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 · 6:00 PM Central

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

Members Present:

Trustee	Office	Attendance
Ken Holland	President	Present
Tracy Stoudt	Vice President	Present
Cathy Schweitzer	Secretary	Present
Amanda Burris	Member	Present
John Hendricks	Member	Absent
Sherry Odom	Member	Present
Rissie Owens	Member	Present

Present: 6; Absent: 1. **Also present:** Travis Fanning, Superintendent of Schools; district staff and members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Holland called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

President Holland announced that a quorum was present and noted that Mr. Hendricks was absent.

1.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

Superintendent Fanning certified that public notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Texas Government Code. The agenda was posted October 8, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

2. OPENING EXERCISES

2.A. Invocation

Given by President Holland.

2.B. Pledges

Led by members of the Stewart Elementary School Flag Crew/Safety Patrol (pledges to the United States and Texas flags). Family members and guests of the students were recognized.

3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

No Board comments were offered. President Holland invited Superintendent Fanning to give an extended briefing.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEFING

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

Superintendent Fanning reported on the following:

- Observances in October: Hispanic Heritage Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Principals Month. The principals present were asked to stand and be recognized, and a special celebration for principals was announced for later that week.
- Hornet Welding: previewed that evening's recognition and news of recent accomplishments (see Item 6.B).
- Arts and writing: Huntsville High School graduate Aubrie Jaeger placed fourth in the 2026 I Am Texas Writing Competition for her story "Sketching the Texas Sky," and HHS student Citally Jimenez and Scott Johnson Elementary student Emmalin Weiser had artwork selected for the Texas Art Education Association's statewide exhibit in Houston.
- Fourteen students graduated from the Hornet Success Academy on October 1.
- Upcoming events: the cross country district meet on Thursday at 8:30 AM in College Station, and the Hornet Band's regional competition on Saturday at 1:30 PM at Woodforest Bank Stadium in The Woodlands.
- Partnership with the Sam Houston State University College of Education: during a recent visit, university faculty and students heard from HISD educators, SHSU alumni and students interested in careers in education, with student groups, including student journalists, showcasing their talents.
- Fair on the Square: the district booth connected with families, alumni, employees, trustees and community members; student groups performed and the baseball booster club sold merchandise.

Superintendent Fanning also introduced Dr. Aneka VanCourt, who joined HISD on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Dr. VanCourt has 30 years in education, including more than 10 years in human resources. Most recently she served as executive director of secondary staffing and compliance for Galena Park ISD, and she has served as a campus principal. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Texas Southern University, a master's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Houston.

5. MONTHLY DIGITAL REPORT produced by Matthew Lahey

In recognition of October as Principals Month, the Board viewed "Principal Picks," a compilation of highlights from videos featuring all eight HISD principals. The individual videos are being shared on the district's social media platforms throughout the month.

6. RECOGNITIONS

6.A. Staff

October honorees recognized:

- **Educator of the Month:** Terrence Bell, Huntsville High School. Coach Bell, who also teaches and coaches, took on a new role this year mentoring a group of students two class periods each day.
- **Employee of the Month:** Laura Willis, PEIMS Specialist, Huntsville High School. Mrs. Willis plays a vital role in campus attendance reconciliation and has already managed more than 65 early release rosters this school year.
- **Technology Department Employee of the Month:** Dominic Francisco, Network Administrator. Mr. Francisco led network equipment upgrades to improve system reliability while expanding his expertise in cybersecurity and infrastructure.

Gift cards for the honorees were donated by Texas Roadhouse and Walker County Ace Hardware.

6.B. Student

- **Pledge Leaders:** Stewart Elementary School Flag Crew/Safety Patrol, introduced by Principal Ashley Fisseler: Daniel Rodriguez, Ja'dise Walton, Braxton Smith, Caroline Mallory, Ivy Harig and Allie Holloway
- **Huntsville High School Hornet Welding and Ag Mechanics:** introduced by Mr. Sockwell. The students were recognized for building a custom parade trailer, made with donated metal, for the Board and Superintendent to use in parades in place of a fire truck no longer in service; it debuted at last month's Homecoming parade. They were also recognized for recent results: the Build-Off Team was named Champion Team at the S.A.L.E. Jr. Ag Mechanics Build-Off Challenge in San Antonio, the first team to receive the challenge's new $20,000 team scholarship, to be presented at a Scholars Night at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo; senior Joel Williams, the team's safety captain, received the Top Hand award; and 8 of the 9 Hornet welders passed the Level 2 1G weld test at the Arclabs TXHSWS State Qualifier in Houston and qualified for the State Finals in May at Lincoln Tech in Houston, where the Build-Off Team will also compete.
- Honorees per the recognition script: Seniors Joel Williams, Marco Alvarado Rodriguez, Grant Benner, Wesley Heinemann, Arturo Ramirez, Fernando DeLa Cruz, Joel Borbor and Brody Clanton; Juniors Cason Miller, Dylan Svatek, Geovanny Martinez and Lance Cano; Sophomores Easton Johnson, Halley O'Banion and Kyrbi Thorp. Several team members could not attend because of work and other commitments; students identified on the recording as present were Joel Williams, Arturo Ramirez, Fernando DeLa Cruz, Brody Clanton, Easton Johnson and Kyrbi Thorp.
- **Attendance Award:** Huntsville Elementary School, highest staff attendance for September 2026 (96.91%).

7. BRIEF RECESS

The Board recessed at approximately 6:31 PM and reconvened at approximately 6:36 PM.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

8.A. Non-Agenda Items

None

8.B. Agenda Items

None.

9. REPORT/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

9.A. Athletics Update — Coach Aaron Faith, Defensive Coordinator, presenting for Athletic Director Todd Moebes

Reported on fall sports: cross country's district meet that Thursday in College Station, where the top three teams and top ten runners advance to regionals; the varsity boys golf team's first fall tournament that morning, in which the team shot a 325, reported as the best team total since Coach Mims took over five years ago and 20 strokes better than last season's tournament average; more than 20 students in the Mance Park Middle School golf program; a three-set varsity volleyball win over Brenham and a 2–1 October record for varsity and JV; varsity football at 3–0 in district with a game that Thursday against Porter, JV at 2–1, Freshman Green at 2–1 and Freshman White at 2–0; first six-week attendance of 99.1% (varsity), 97% (JV) and 98.4% (freshmen); and the start of girls basketball on October 21 and boys basketball on October 28.

9.B. Teaching & Learning Update — Mr. Josh Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

Thanked the district's principals for their role in building strong instructional systems. Reported that the 2025–26 Extended Year PEIMS submission was completed; that Tier I Fidelity Inventory reviews were conducted with all campuses and their PBIS teams; and that draft Turnaround Plans and Targeted Improvement Plans were completed and posted to the campus and district websites the previous day, with a public meeting to revisit them on November 12 before the Board meeting. Reviewed seven school improvement focus areas (strategic staffing, instructional leadership capacity, observation feedback cycles, Bluebonnet and Tier I instruction, student achievement data tracking, targeted intervention and enrichment, and improving attendance), noting year-to-date and biweekly attendance gains and the 95% goal. Described campus-specific Emergent Bilingual support plans; thanked the team and Maintenance staff who moved and distributed Bluebonnet Learning materials; and distributed the 2026–27 HISD School Improvement Performance Playbook to trustees. Described instructional leadership work, including the Portrait of an HISD Administrator coaching cycle, the campus data coordinator role, LIFT observation calibrations with Region 6, a one-stop campus leader landing page on iPads purchased with LIFT funds, and the district's preparation for the TEA Instructional Insights app in January. No questions were asked.

9.C. Operations Update — Mr. Paul Trevino, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities & Operations

- **Child Nutrition:** Pizza Day Fridays at the elementary campuses, limited-time offerings and weekly specials, testing of new menus with student and staff feedback, a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at Samuel Walker Houston Elementary, National School Lunch Week (October 12–16, circus theme), rising meal counts with Mance Park Middle School showing the highest participation, free breakfast and lunch across the district, and a department focus on customer service.
- **Technology:** 93% SLA response and 305 of 383 tickets (80%) closed; 98.4% average network uptime with one unscheduled outage at one campus; 10,771 mailboxes protected, 3,131 attacks blocked and no high-severity email breaches; 570.5 million logs analyzed, 186.3 thousand endpoints monitored and 10 escalated alerts resolved safely; a fully staffed department; Cybersecurity Awareness Month; and monthly AI Cohort meetings on the second Friday of each month.
- **Transportation:** nightly routing updates with Tyler Technologies; four of the 30 buses approved for retrofit last spring completed and a fifth in progress at the Ellis Unit shop, while the district continues to route and transport about 2,000 students; and a new link to the RTA work-order system for district vehicles.
- **Safety & Security:** SRO intruder drills continuing; ZeroEyes AI weapon detection testing at the high school and Mance Park; fencing and gates completed at HHS and Mance Park; panic buttons tested on all campuses; ALERRT recertification for all SROs and multi-agency response training; CRASE training completed on all campuses; and three additional hand-held metal detectors purchased and placed on campuses. District nurse Lacy Bohan's immunization update reported rates above 90% for kindergarten and above 95% for seventh grade.
- **Maintenance:** thanked Larry Brown and his team for HVAC and compressor repairs; Paul Bohan Gym humidity project; band hall flooring and upper Mance Park roof project on schedule for Thanksgiving; high school elevator project on schedule for the Christmas holidays; chiller repair at the high school; ADA sidewalk project at the high school tennis courts; engineering inspection of the Mance Park fire alarm; SLC remodel under way; and other repairs across campuses.

9.D. Discussion of Intruder Detection Audit Findings and District Corrective Actions

Mr. Trevino stated that the district continues to participate in the intruder detection audit conducted through the Texas School Safety Center and Region 6, and that because the discussion involves sensitive security information, the specific findings and corrective actions would be discussed in closed session under Texas Government Code Section 551.076. There was no further discussion in open session.

9.E. Human Resources Update — Dr. Aneka VanCourt, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Reported 77 teachers on DOI status, 39 at the secondary level and 38 at the elementary level; 16 participants in the Grow Your Own program, who held their first training with Sam Houston State University and Region 6 that day, 10 of whom have passed the TSI exam and all of whom have been placed at a campus with a mentor teacher; 65 vacancies, 13 of them teaching positions; 12 candidates under review with interviews and offers ongoing; a 77% September substitute fill rate and long-term substitutes serving across the district; job fairs on October 20, November 2 and November 5; breast cancer awareness webinars in the week of October 19; a reminder to employees of free EAP counseling and work-life consultations; and Texas Education Human Resources Day on October 14. No questions were asked.

9.F. Finance Update — Mr. Paul Brown, CFO

Reviewed 2026–27 revenues and expenditures as of September 30. General Fund: 14% of expected revenue received, the largest share from Foundation School Program funds from TEA ($16.7 million, or 21% of that line item), on target for this point in the year because tax collections do not pick up until November through January; expenditures totaled $6.2 million, on track for the first month of the fiscal year. Debt Service Fund: $37,000 collected, with revenue mainly from tax collections expected November through January and debt payments due in February and August. Food Service Fund: $21,000 in revenue, primarily catering, adult meals and à la carte items, with a lag in federal reimbursements, which are paid on reported meals at month end; expenditures include one month of payroll and are on track. Additional capital expenditures are expected throughout the year.

9.G. Annual Review of the 2025-2026 AP/Dual Credit Program — Ms. Racheal Branch

Reviewed advanced academic programs at Huntsville High School. AP participation grew from 221 students tested in 2022 to 410 in 2026 (about 86%); the share scoring 3 or higher rose from 32% in 2025 to 39% in 2026, and the number of students with qualifying scores rose from 119 to 159. Dual Credit pass rates have held between 98% and 99% over five years, with 342 course enrollments and 339 students earning college credit (99%) in 2025–26. In the first year of OnRamps results, there were 164 enrollments and 140 students earned college credit (85%). Explained differences among the three programs in cost, eligibility and how credit is earned, and presented 2026–27 priorities: expanding access, supporting student success and helping students choose the right pathway. In response to a trustee question, Ms. Branch said she had not reviewed data on college graduation rates for students who earn college credit in high school, but that the expectation is that it gives them a stronger start.

9.H. Annual Review of the 2025-2026 CTE Program — Ms. Racheal Branch

Reported that HISD offers 12 of 14 career clusters, 19 programs of study, 84 CTE courses and more than 35 industry-based certifications (IBCs). Mance Park Middle School will begin virtual reality career exploration (330 careers across eight high-growth sectors), with rollout expected next month. In May 2026, 87.5% of seniors had earned an IBC in their program of study and 118 seniors had earned two or more; as of October, 12 seniors have earned an IBC as program completers. Highlighted CTSO participation and student achievements, including a third-place finish by criminal justice students in the SkillsUSA state crime scene investigation competition,

and upcoming CTE events. In response to trustee questions, Ms. Branch said the clusters not offered are Information Technology and Energy; that the district does not currently track graduates working in their certified fields or have an organized way to bring alumni back, which she called a worthwhile idea to explore; and that the goal is to help qualifying students advance as far as possible in competitions, including nationals. Mrs. Owens thanked Ms. Branch for the report.

9.I. Report on Board of Trustees Continuing Education Hours for 2025-2026 School Year — Mr. Ken Holland

President Holland read the State Board of Education rule on trustee continuing education and announced that all seven trustees (Amanda Burris, John Hendricks, Ken Holland, Sherry Odom, Rissie Owens, Cathy Schweitzer and Tracy Stoudt) completed the required continuing education for 2025–2026, that Sherry Odom exceeded the requirement, and that no trustee was deficient.

9.J. Principal Monthly Reports — written only

9.K. Monthly Discipline Comparison Report — written only

10. ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

10.A. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. This motion, made by Tracy Stoudt and seconded by Rissie Owens, passed unanimously. Before the vote, President Holland commented on Item 10.A.18 and expressed appreciation for the partnership with Huntsville Memorial Hospital, which he noted relates to the sports medicine program.

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

10.A.1. Consider Board approval of minutes

10.A.2. Consider Board approval of Monthly Financial statement

10.A.3. Consider Board approval of Budget Amendment #1

10.A.4. Consider Board approval of Resolution #27-03 Walker County Texas 4-H Organization as approved extracurricular activity

10.A.5. Consider Board approval of the 2026-2027 Curriculum Committee Members

10.A.6. Consider Board approval of 2026-2027 Huntsville ISD Organizational Chart

10.A.7. Consider Board approval to adopt the Huntsville ISD Emergency Operations Plan

10.A.8. Consider Board approval of accepting private resale offer on Account Numbers 14139 and 44655 pursuant to Texas Property Tax Code Section 34.05.

10.A.9. Consider Board approval of accepting private resale offer on Account No. 24990 pursuant to Texas Property Tax Code Section 34.05.

10.A.10. Consider Board approval of the 2026-2027 TOPS HS Course Catalog

10.A.11. Consider Board approval of the 2026-2027 TOPS MS Course Catalog

10.A.12. Consider Board approval of the 2026-2027 TOPS Programs of Study

10.A.13. Consider Board approval of the TOPS Virtual School Reauthorization Application

10.A.14. Consider Board Approval of Amergis contract for 2026-2027 school year

10.A.15. Consider Board approval of Bryan ISD SPED Contract

10.A.16. Consider Board approval of the revised district grading guidelines for elementary campuses for the 2026-2027 school year

10.A.17. Consider Board approval of Texas Online Preparatory School HISD, Standards For Success, teacher evaluation system.

10.A.18. Consider Board approval of accepting a donation from Huntsville Memorial Hospital to Huntsville ISD

10.A.19. Consider Board approval of the posted library materials list for High School and Book Fair for all campuses

10.B. Consider Board approval to appoint a representative and an alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Representative: Motion to continue Rissie Owens as the Board's representative to the Houston-Galveston Area Council. This motion was made by Tracy Stoudt and seconded by Amanda Burris. Mrs. Owens recused herself from the vote. The motion passed.

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1, Absent: 1

Alternate: Motion to appoint Tracy Stoudt as the Board's alternate. This motion, made by Sherry Odom and seconded by Rissie Owens, passed.

11. NEXT MEETING NOTICE

11.A. Regular Board of Trustees Meeting - Thursday, November 12, 2026 - 6:00 PM

President Holland noted that this meeting is one week earlier than normal.

12. CLOSED SESSION

Superintendent Fanning noted that there might be one item to report out after the closed session. The Board convened in closed session at 7:33 PM.

13. CLOSED SESSION SUBJECTS (posted under Item 13, "Section 39.030")

13.A. Sections 551.071 and 551.129 — Consultation with school attorney concerning pending litigation concerning a special education student and possible settlement of matter styled N.C. b/n/f M.C. v. Huntsville Independent School District, TEA Docket No. 540-SE-0826 | SOAH Docket No. 701-26-28403 (Before a Special Education Hearing Officer)

13.B. Personnel (551.074)

13.B.1. Discussion regarding the Superintendent's personnel recommendations and resignations

13.B.2. Discussion regarding administrative personnel matters

13.C. Section 551.0821 — Deliberation concerning a public-school student wherein personally identifiable information will necessarily be revealed

13.D. Section 551.076 — Discussion of Intruder Detection Audit/Security Audit and Campus Security Measures

14. RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION

14.A. Announcement by the President that the Board has concluded its closed session discussions

President Holland announced that the Board reconvened in open session at 9:04 PM.

15. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

15.A. Consider and take possible action in the matter styled N.C. b/n/f M.C. v. Huntsville Independent School District, TEA Docket No. 540-SE-0826 | SOAH Docket No. 701-26-28403 (Before a Special Education Hearing Officer).

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the school district's attorney and to direct the Superintendent and the school district's attorneys to proceed as discussed in closed session in the above-styled matter. This motion, made by Sherry Odom and seconded by Cathy Schweitzer, passed unanimously.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

15.B. Consideration and possible action regarding Intruder Detection Audit corrective actions

No action was taken.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Rissie Owens and seconded by Amanda Burris. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

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Ken Holland, President Cathy Schweitzer, Secretary