# Minutes of Regular Meeting

## The Board of Trustees
## Argyle ISD

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Argyle ISD was held Monday, **October 19, 2026**, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Argyle ISD Board Room, 6701 Canyon Falls Dr, Flower Mound, TX 76226.

Board Members Present: Leigh Ann Artho, Board President; Dr. Leona McDade, Vice President; Matt Slaton, Board Secretary; Rich McDowell; Frank Dixon; Justin Ford; Sam Slaton

AISD Personnel Present: Dr. Courtney Carpenter, Superintendent; Dr. Chris Daniel, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Dawn Jordan, Asst. Superintendent; Liz Stewart, CFO; Austin Ince, Director of Technology Services; Rick Herrin, CCO; Yvolene McGarvey, Admin. Asst; Dona Lumsden, AHS Principal; Coby Pelt, AMS Principal; Whitney Wheeler, GMS Principal; Heather Van Noy, 6GC Principal; Katie Haydin, AWE Principal; Kristen Haynes, ASE Principal; Hillary Laird, JRE Principal; Holly Williams, Hilltop Principal; Phillips Humphries, AHS Asst. Principal; Lauren Tullos, Director of Staff, Student & Learner Services; Erin Lemish, District PEIMS Coord; Michael Lemish, Security & Emergency Management Coord.

1. 5:00pm Call to Order - Determine if a Quorum is Present

2. 5:00pm Executive Session as authorized by Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E:
   A. REAL PROPERTY: To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value 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. (Tex. Gov't Code 551.072)
   B. DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFT; CLOSED MEETING. A governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the state or the governmental body if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person. (Tex. Gov't Code 551.073).
   C. LEGAL COUNSEL: To consult with its attorney when the Board seeks advice about pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer, or when the attorney will have an ethical duty of confidentiality. (Tex. Gov't Code 551.071).
      1. 551.071, Texas Government Code – Receive legal advice regarding US Trinity Holdings, LLC v. Argyle Independent School District, in Cause No 26-10586-442 pending in the 442nd Judicial District Court in Denton County, Texas.
      2. 551.071 Texas Government Code – Receive legal advice concerning development of the District's approximate fifty (50) acres in the White Rock Farm fronting on Harpole Road and receive legal advice regarding land use entitlements and approvals from the city of Argyle to develop the property.

3. PERSONNEL MATTERS & PUBLIC OFFICERS: 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. (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074).

a. Personnel Report

b. Discussion regarding board reorganization and the duties and performance of individual Board Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary)

D. STUDENT & EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE: involving discipline of a public school child; or in which a complaint or charge is brought against an employee of the school district by another employee and the complaint or charge directly results in a need for a hearing. Subsection (a) does not apply if an open hearing is requested in writing by a parent or guardian of the child or by the employee against whom the complaint or charge is brought. (Tex. Gov't Code 551.082)

E. PHYSICAL SAFETY & SECURITY: To deliberate the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices, or to deliberate a security audit. (Tex. Gov't Code 551.076)

F. CYBER SECURITY: Security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; network security information as described by Section 2059.055(b); or the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices. (Tex. Gov't Code 551.089)

G. PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT: To deliberate a matter regarding a public school student, if personally identifiable information about the student will necessarily be revealed by the deliberation unless an open meeting about the matter is requested in writing by the student's parent (Tex. Gov't Code 551.0821)

6:45pm – Return from Executive Session #1

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas Flags ~ Argyle West Elementary

4. Opening Prayer

5. Recognitions

A. Education Human Resources Day

AISD Staff Services Department

- Dr. Chris Daniel, Deputy Superintendent
- Lauren Tullos, Dir. of Staff, Student & Learner Services
- Jessica Mayer, Admin Asst
- Tory Kindred, Benefits & Leave Specialist
- Bekah Lightner, Dist. Receptionist & Sub Coord.

B. National Principals Month

AISD School Principals

- Hilltop Elementary - Holly Williams
- Argyle West Elementary - Katie Haydin
- Argyle South Elementary - Kristen Haynes

- Jane Ruestmann Elementary - Hillary Laird
- Sixth Grade Center - Heather Van Noy
- Argyle Middle School - Coby Pelt
- Scott Gibson Middle School - Whitney Wheeler
- Argyle High School - Dona Lumsden

6. Public Hearing on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) - District Status Report

7. Public Forum/Comments to the Board. For Regular Board Meetings, the Board will hear public comments regarding agenda and non-agenda items. (limit 5 minutes each or 30 minutes total)

8. Consider and take any action deemed necessary upon discussion in the closed meeting

A. Discussion and possible action to conduct Board Officer reorganization, including the selection/election of Board President, Vice President, and Secretary

1. Regarding item 8-A, the Board will reconvene in closed session at the conclusion of the open session to continue its discussion of this matter.

B. Regarding Executive Session, Section C: 1 & 2 LEGAL COUNSEL: To consult with its attorney when the Board seeks advice about pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer, or when the attorney will have an ethical duty of confidentiality. (Tex. Gov't Code 551.071).

1. 551.071, Texas Government Code – Receive legal advice regarding US Trinity Holdings, LLC v. Argyle Independent School District, in Cause No 26-10586-442 pending in the 442nd Judicial District Court in Denton County, Texas.
2. 551.071 Texas Government Code – Receive legal advice concerning development of the District's approximate fifty (50) acres in the White Rock Farm fronting on Harpole Road and receive legal advice regarding land use entitlements and approvals from the city of Argyle to develop the property.

1. Rich McDowell made a motion to formally withdraw the initial offer letter dated July 21, 2026 from the District Attorneys to US Trinity Holdings, LLC., which sought to purchase 35,040 square foot of the northern most 80 foot portion of the real property owned by US Trinity Holdings, LLC., located at 305 Harpole Road, Argyle, Texas 76226.
2. Matt Slaton seconded
3. Board voted 7-0

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|---|---|
| Leigh Ann Artho | Yea |
| Dr. Leona McDade | Yea |
| Matt Slaton | Yea |
| Rich McDowell | Yea |
| Sam Slaton | Yea |
| Justin Ford | Yea |
| Frank Dixon | Yea |

9. Consent Items
    A. Minutes
    B. Donations
    C. General Operating Checks and Financial Reports
    D. Texas Woman's University Educator Preparation Program MOU
    E. AEF MOU
    F. Good Cause Resolution
    G. Class Size Exception
        1. Frank Dixon made a motion that the Board approve consent items as presented
        2. Sam Slaton seconded
        3. Board voted 7-0

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| Leigh Ann Artho | Yea |
| Dr. Leona McDade | Yea |
| Matt Slaton | Yea |
| Rich McDowell | Yea |
| Sam Slaton | Yea |
| Justin Ford | Yea |
| Frank Dixon | Yea |

10. Reports
    A. AEF Presentation
    B. Construction Report
    C. Superintendent & Board President's Report

        1. At 7:34pm, Board Secretary Matt Slaton read his resignation aloud, effective immediately, and provided a copy to Board President Leigh Ann Artho.

    D. Collaborative Visioning Report - Year 2 Update

11. Information Only
    A. Budget Amendment #2 FY27
    B. Purchases Above $100,000
    C. District Improvement Plan
    D. New Position - Musical Arts Coordinator/Head Band Director at LHS
    E. New Position - Athletic Coordinator/Head Football Coach at LHS

12. Discussion/Action Items
    A. Consider and Approve Budget Amendment #1 FY27
        1. Sam Slaton made a motion that the Board approve action item 12-A as presented
        2. Dr. Leona McDade seconded
        3. Board voted 6-0

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|---|---|
| Leigh Ann Artho | Yea |
| Dr. Leona McDade | Yea |
| Rich McDowell | Yea |
| Sam Slaton | Yea |
| Justin Ford | Yea |
| Frank Dixon | Yea |

B. Consider and Approve Contingency Paraprofessional Positions

1. Frank Dixon made a motion that the Board approve action item 12-B as presented
2. Rich McDowell seconded
3. Board voted 6-0

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| Leigh Ann Artho | Yea |
| Dr. Leona McDade | Yea |
| Rich McDowell | Yea |
| Sam Slaton | Yea |
| Justin Ford | Yea |
| Frank Dixon | Yea |

C. Discuss & Consider Priorities for the 90th Texas Legislative Session

1. Frank Dixon made a motion that the Board approve action item 12-C as presented
2. Justin Ford seconded
3. Board voted 6-0

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| Leigh Ann Artho | Yea |
| Dr. Leona McDade | Yea |
| Rich McDowell | Yea |
| Sam Slaton | Yea |
| Justin Ford | Yea |
| Frank Dixon | Yea |

13. 8:07pm Leigh Ann Artho adjourned the Board to Executive Session #2.

10:12pm The Board returned from Executive Session #2.

Regarding item 8-A: Discussion and possible action to conduct Board Officer reorganization, including the selection/election of Board President, Vice President, and Secretary

1. Leigh Ann Artho nominated Sam Slaton for Board President
2. Board voted 6-0

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|---|---|
| Leigh Ann Artho | Yea |
| Dr. Leona McDade | Yea |
| Rich McDowell | Yea |
| Sam Slaton | Yea |
| Justin Ford | Yea |
| Frank Dixon | Yea |

1. Sam Slaton nominated Leigh Ann Artho for Vice President
2. Board voted 6-0

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|---|---|
| Sam Slaton | Yea |
| Leigh Ann Artho | Yea |
| Dr. Leona McDade | Yea |
| Rich McDowell | Yea |
| Justin Ford | Yea |
| Frank Dixon | Yea |

1. Sam Slaton nominated Dr. Leona McDade for Board Secretary
2. Board voted 6-0

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|---|---|
| Sam Slaton | Yea |
| Leigh Ann Artho | Yea |
| Dr. Leona McDade | Yea |
| Rich McDowell | Yea |
| Justin Ford | Yea |
| Frank Dixon | Yea |

President Sam Slaton adjourned the meeting at 10:14pm.

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Sam Slaton,
Board President

_____
Dr. Leona McDade,
Board Secretary

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*As of November 2, 2026, the AISD Board of Trustees has re-organized its officers. The current officers listed below are the individuals signing the October 19, 2026 meeting minutes.

_____
Rich McDowell, Board President

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Frank Dixon, Board Secretary