Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees
Del Valle ISD

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Del Valle Independent School District was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, beginning at 6:39PM in the Edward A. Neal Administration Center, 5301 Ross Road, Del Valle, Texas 78617.

Present: President Elvia Guadian, Trustee Samuel Franco, Trustee Charles Burton, Vice President Melinda Cisneros, Secretary Darla Wegner, Trustee Chante Wright-Haywood, Trustee Susanna Ledesma Woody (left the meeting at 7:42PM, returned at 7:47PM), Trustee Jason Sierra, and Dr. Matthew Gutierrez, Superintendent. President Guadian noted that a quorum was present.

Absent: Trustee Damián Pantoja

Also Present: Dina Edgar, Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services; Dr. Mark Cantu, Deputy Superintendent of Governance and Education Services; Dr. Katrina Bailey, Chief of Leading and Learning; Danica Murillo, Chief Human Resources Officer; Robert Vela, Chief of Police; Stephen Gonzalez, Chief of Technology Officer; Mark Willoughby, Chief Operations Officer; Toni Cordova, Chief of Communications, Kimberly Jacobson, Board Governance Executive Assistant, and Sandi Rhodes Board Governance Coordinator

I. Call to Order

Board President Elvia Guadian called the meeting to order at 6:39PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Gilbert Elementary Choir

III. Recognition Items

A. Superintendent's Students of the Month

The Superintendent recognizes Students of the Month during the Board of Trustees meeting to celebrate student excellence and positive contributions. This recognition highlights students whose academic achievement, character, leadership, and commitment to learning reflect the values of Del Valle ISD and contribute to a nurturing, supportive, and high-quality educational environment across the district.

B. Recognition of Superintendent's Reading Challenge Winners

Dr. Katrina Bailey, Chief of Learning and Leadership

C. Recognition of Counselor Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas Award 2026

Nikki Elaine Bittings, Chief Student Services Office

The Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas (CREST) Award of Excellence is sponsored by the Texas School Counselor Association.

Del Valle ISD is recognizing Newton Collins Elementary Counselor as a recipient of the CREST

Award. Schools receiving CREST awards have demonstrated a commitment to using the Texas Model to improve the lives and achievement of students in academic, career, and personal social domains.
We are honored to recognize the accomplishment of Counselor Corey Hume; Principal Lucinda Fischer who has shown effective program designs and implementation to achieve outcomes that enhance student achievement and well-being.
We did not recognize this individual as the honoree was unable to be present.

D. Highest Teacher Growth - MOY

Dr. Katrina Bailey, Chief of Learning and Leadership

As part of Del Valle ISD's Lone Star Governance (LSG) continuous improvement process, the administration provides monthly updates to the Board on one district goal and its corresponding Goal Progress Measures (GPMs). These updates ensure strong alignment between the Board and administration around student outcomes through consistent, transparent, and data-informed monitoring of progress toward the district's long-term goals.
During this meeting, the Board will recognize and celebrate **one teacher from each campus** whose instructional practices contributed to strong middle-of-year (MOY) growth in **mathematics and reading**, aligned to Board Goals 1 to 3. This recognition highlights effective instruction that supports progress toward the district's academic goals in literacy and numeracy.
Honoring these educators reinforces the district's commitment to continuous improvement, high-quality instruction in **math and reading**, and shared accountability, while emphasizing the importance of ongoing progress monitoring and celebrating instructional practices that advance improved outcomes for all learners.

IV. Public Comment

Individuals who wish to participate during the public comment shall sign up before the meeting begins as specified in the Board's procedures on public comment and shall indicate the agenda item or topic on which they wish to address the Board. Except as permitted by Board Policy and the Board's procedures on public comment, an individual's comments to the Board shall not exceed three minutes per meeting.

Jessica Marquez addressed the board regarding the budget.

V. Information Items

A. Superintendent's Comments

Good evening Trustees, families, and staff:
Over the past month, we have continued our focused work to improve outcomes for students across Del Valle ISD. Every classroom visit, every partnership, and every opportunity to share our story reflects our commitment to building a strong, aligned system that prepares our students for long-term success. Recently, I had the opportunity to present in two sessions at the Texas Association of School Administrators Midwinter Conference. I was proud to highlight the intentional work happening right here in Del Valle ISD. One session focused on building a strong cabinet and leading organizational change, beginning with listening to understand our culture and conditions, and then aligning our work around students to drive action. The second session was presented to aspiring superintendents. It is exciting to see our district recognized statewide, and I am incredibly proud of our leadership

team and the progress we continue to make together. The most important part of this work, however, is what we see happening daily in our classrooms.
At Del Valle Middle School, I observed strong student collaboration, academic discourse, and purposeful small-group instruction. While small-group instruction is often more common at the elementary level, we are seeing it effectively implemented at the middle school level as well. Students were actively engaged in the learning experiences, a direct reflection of the dedication and skill of our staff. At Del Valle High School, I was impressed by the aligned instruction in English classrooms, demonstrating the collaboration happening through PLCs, and the intentional use of small-group instruction. This represents significant progress and is helping ensure our students are better prepared for life after graduation. The Del Valle ISD Education Foundation recently invited me to share all about our district at two Community Partners Breakfasts, which together drew well over 100 attendees. I shared an overview of DVISD and a little about our progress, programs, and opportunities we offer. These events showcased the incredible power of collaboration, from workforce development and scholarships to volunteerism and program support, as these partnerships are creating meaningful opportunities for students. I also want to congratulate our North Child Development Center for earning a 4-Star designation through the Texas Rising Star program. This recognition reflects their strong commitment to high-quality early childhood education and sets a powerful foundation for our youngest learners. All 3 of our CDCs have now earned this recognition. And finally, it was an honor to celebrate the 200th birthday of Newton Isaac Collins with the students and staff of Newton Collins Elementary, along with members of the Collins family. Moments like that remind us that we are part of something bigger, a history of courage, opportunity, and belief in the power of education. Thank you for your continued support of Del Valle ISD and for your partnership in this important work

VI. Presentation Items

A. Budget Development Dina Edgar, Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services

Budget planning for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is currently underway. This cycle marks the second year of anticipated revenue reductions following the continued expiration of funding derived from the District's Chapter 313 agreement.
Following the demographer's report received on January 15, campus and grade-level projections have been integrated into our preliminary revenue estimates using House Bill 2 formulas. Current data suggests a more conservative outlook than initially anticipated:

- *ADM Adjustments*: While the demographer initially projected an Average Daily Membership (ADM) of 12,198 (an increase of 267 students), current figures reflect a reduction of 145 students from that projection.
- *Current Enrollment Trends*: As of January 30, current-year enrollment is 178 students below projections and five students below the previous year's final count.

Administration is closely monitoring these metrics, as they directly influence 2026–2027 staffing allocations. Given that the 2025–2026 budget was built around a projected increase of 204 students that did not fully materialize, staffing adjustments will be a primary focus of this planning cycle. Budget development remains increasingly difficult due to the state's school finance structure and the Legislature's continued failure to increase the Basic Allotment, which has remained stagnant for seven budget cycles. Regular updates will be provided to the Board as the planning process evolves.

B.Goals 2 and 3: Early Mathematics - Goal Progress Measures (GPMs) 2.1-3.3
Dr. Katrina Bailey, Chief Learning and Leadership Officer
Background Information: As part of Del Valle ISD's Lone Star Governance (LSG) process, the administration reports regularly on at least one district goal and its corresponding Goal Progress Measures (GPMs) to ensure regular, transparent, and data-driven monitoring of student outcomes. This **Mid-Year (MOY)** update focuses on two long-range mathematics goals:
Goal 2 – Early Mathematics: The percentage of 3rd-grade students meeting grade level or above on STAAR Math will increase from 27% in June 2025 to 60% by August 2030.
- GPM 2.1: The percentage of Kindergarten students scoring at or above grade level will increase on MAP Growth Math from 23.7% to 38.5% by June 2028.
- GPM 2.2: The percentage of 1st grade students scoring at or above grade level will increase on MAP Growth Math from 13.2% to 28.2% by June 2028.
- GPM 2.3: The percentage of 2nd grade students scoring at or above grade level will increase on MAP Growth Math from 7.2% to 22.2% by June 2028.

Goal 3 – Mathematics Achievement (Upper Elementary to Middle School): The percentage of 7th-grade students meeting grade level or above on STAAR Math will increase from 6% in June 2025 to 40% by August 2030.
- GPM 3.1: The percentage of 4th grade students scoring at or above grade level will increase on MAP Growth Math from 17.1% to 32.1% by June 2028.
- GPM 3.2: The percentage of 5th grade students scoring at or above grade level will increase on MAP Growth Math from 25.6% to 40.6% by June 2028.
- GPM 3.3: The percentage of 6th grade students scoring at or above grade level will increase on MAP Growth Math from 12.6% to 27.6% by June 2028.

Together, these goals ensure students build strong early math foundations and sustain growth through upper elementary and middle school. Because STAAR is administered annually, MAP Growth Math (K–6) is used as the district's early-warning and progress-monitoring system. The GPMs serve as the leading indicators the Board uses to determine whether MOY performance and growth trends show the district is on track to meet its Grade 3 and Grade 7 STAAR targets.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Committee Updates by Board Trustees
A reminder that we do have a board workshop scheduled for February 24th and if all board members are in attendance this will qualify as our team of 10 training.
DW questioned ED foundation
SLW LSG committee pull from video

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes for:
January 6, 2026 - Special Board Meeting
January 20, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting

B. Policy Update District of Innovation (DOI)
Dr. Mark Cantú, Deputy Supt. of Governance and Education Services

In November 2025, the Board of Trustees approved the 2025–2030 Del Valle ISD District of Innovation (DOI) Plan. In December 2025, the District submitted a required DOI waiver to the Texas Education Agency, which was subsequently approved. The DOI Plan and waiver provide the district with specific flexibilities intended to support instructional effectiveness, staffing stability, and operational efficiency. Updating these policies ensures consistency between Board adopted direction, statutory flexibilities granted under the DOI Plan, and district practices. Alignment is necessary to fully implement the DOI Plan as approved and to maintain compliance with TEA requirements.

Trustee Franco made the motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A-B, it was seconded by Vice President Cisneros. The motion passes 8:0.

IX. Action Items

A. Prayer Time in School

Dr. Mark Cantú, Deputy Supt. of Governance and Education Services

SB 11 from the 89th Legislative Session adds Texas Education Code section 25.0823, which allows school boards to designate time each school day at every campus for students and employees to pray and read the Bible or other religious texts. The bill requires that within six months of the effective date (by March 1, 2026), each district's board must take a record vote either to establish the daily prayer time and reading of religious texts by adopting the resolution set out in the new statute or to decline to establish the daily prayer time. A board wishing to establish a daily period for prayer and reading of religious texts must do so by adopting the statutory resolution. A resolution complying with the statutory requirements is available.

Trustee Ledesma Woody made the motion to follow the districts recommendation not to move forward with implementing a designated prayer time pursuant to Senate Bill 11, it was seconded by Secretary Wegner. The motion passes 7:0:1. Sierra, Ledesma Woody, Wegner, Guadian, Cisneros, Burton and Franco, Wright Haywood nay,

B. School Attendance Areas

Dr. Mark Cantú, Deputy Supt. of Governance and Education Services

As Del Valle ISD prepares for the opening of North Del Valle High School, the District is undertaking a comprehensive review of school attendance boundaries to ensure balanced enrollment, efficient use of facilities, and continuity of instructional programming. This process includes the rezoning of elementary, middle, and high school attendance areas to align with current and projected student enrollment patterns. To support this work, the District will formally adopt Policy FC (Local) – Attendance Areas. Adoption of FC (Local) establishes the Board's authority and framework for defining and adjusting attendance zones in response to district growth and new campus openings. In addition, the District will revise Policy FDB (Local) – Admissions: Interdistrict Transfers to ensure alignment with the new attendance boundaries and to reflect updated enrollment priorities and operational considerations as rezoning is implemented.

Trustee Sierra made the motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A-B, it was seconded by Vice President Cisneros. The motion passed 7:1, Trustee Ledesma Woody voted against this motion.

C. Safety and Security Enhancements for DVHS
Robert Vela, Chief of Police
In keeping with our commitment to student and staff safety, these upgrades are necessary to proactively strengthen security at Del Valle High School. The recommended $500,000 investment includes student and visitor entry screening systems and facility improvements such as gate control arms, security booths, and alarmed doors. These measures will enhance safety by improving entry screening and providing real-time monitoring of secondary exits creating a more secure and controlled campus environment.

This item was pulled until after the closed session.

Trustee Burton made the motion to pass the Safety and Security Enhancement for DVHS, it was seconded by Vice President Cisneros. The motion passes 8:0.

X. Closed Session

A. TGC §551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel

B. TGC §551.072 Discussion of Real Property

C. TGC §551.074 Discussion of Personnel

D. TGC §551.074 Review and Approve Employment, Resignations, and Terminations of Professional Staff

E.. TGC §551.074 Consider Sanctions for Abandonment of Contract

F. TGC §551.076 Discussion of Intruder Detection Audit

G. TGC §551.076 Safety and Security Protocols

Closed Session begins at 8:23 PM
Closed Session ended at 9:40PM
Open Session begins at 9:42PM

XI. Approve Action Items Discussed in Closed Session

A. Discuss, Consider and Possibly Act on Superintendent's Recommendation Regarding Possible Hiring of Social Studies Coordinator
Secretary Wegner made the motion regarding the possible hiring of Megan Doughty as the Social Studies coordinator, Sierra seconded the motion. passed 8:0

B. Discuss, Consider and Possibly Act on Employment, Resignations, and Terminations of Professional Staff

Secretary Wegner made the motion motion to approve as presented, Trustee Burton seconded the motion 8:0

C. Discuss, Consider and Possibly act on Sanctions for Abandonment of Contract

XII. New Business/Future Board Agenda Items
Reminder about February 24th Board Workshop.

XI. Adjourn
AT THE END OF THE MEETING, THE BOARD WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO ADJOURN OR RECESS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION AT ANOTHER DESIGNATED TIME.

Trustee Ledesma Woody made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM on February 17, 2026 motion to adjourn was seconded by Trustee Wegner, motion carries 8:0.

President

Secretary