Meeting Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:00 PM

Canutillo ISD Administration Office
7965 Artcraft
El Paso, TX 79932

1. **GENERAL FUNCTIONS-OTHER**

1.A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 PM**

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

1.C. Texas Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge were led by the Band students in the audience.

1.D. Roll Call

Trustees Present: Barnes, Borrego, Maldonado, Martinez, Ortega, Rodriguez, Zuniga.

Student Advisors Present: Maison Gosette, Moises Aguirre

1.E. CISD Vision and Mission Statements

Trustee Martinez led the CISD Vision Statement, followed by Trustee Borrego with the Mission Statement.

2. **BOARD HONORS**

2.A. Recognition of the Canutillo High School Marching Band for their Outstanding Performance at the 2025 Socorro ISD Marchfest Band Competition and a Successful Marching Season.

2.B. Recognition of CISD Principals for their Contributions to the District During October, National Principals Month

2.C. Recognition of the Canutillo ISD Human Resources Dept. During Texas Education Human Resources Day for their Important Contributions.

Mr. Gustavo Reveles led board honors, and a photo-op followed.

3. **OPEN FORUM-OTHER**

Any person wishing to address the Board during the period reserved for public comment at a Board meeting must sign up to be heard, in accordance with District policy BED(LOCAL):

Each participant will be limited to THREE MINUTES to make comments to the Board.

The Board is NOT permitted to discuss or act upon any issues that are not posted on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

For further information on those policies, contact the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant.

No Community members signed up to be heard.

4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION-OTHER**

4.A. Lonestar Governance Goals 1 & 2

Ms. Ruby Palacios and Mr. Shawn Legget from Curriculum & Instruction presented the board with an update for Lonestar Governance Goals 1& 2
Ms. Palacios and Mr. Legget answered board questions regarding student outcomes, KG student reading fluency deficits, and comparisons between dual and monolingual students. Trustee Martinez emphasized the importance of having parental involvement with reading for student development. Trustee Maldondo mentioned that this is the first year using Stem scopes and that the previous year was only optional. Trustee Barnes asked if the new curriculum is being used at 100% district wide. (Ms. Palacios mentioned it is not being used 100% yet, but the district is moving in that direction.

4.B. School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Annual Report

Ms. Julie Scott and Dr. Monica Reyes presented the board with the SHAC Annual Report for compliance purposes.
Ms. Scott mentioned that they encourage parental and student involvement to promote mental health wellness initiatives.
Trustee Borrego thanked Ms. Scott for volunteering to be a part of SHAC, and Trustee Maldonado suggested for administration consider bringing back the mental health days for employees to take without being docked from their sick days.

Trustee Borrego motioned to accept the SHAC report. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion passes.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING**

5.A. A Public Hearing Will Be Held Regarding the Canutillo ISD's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). The Public is Invited to Attend and Provide Public Comment.

Ms. Cristy Pulley presented the board and the community with information on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas. She explained to the board the contributing factors that influence the rating received, and she also answered questions from Trustee Maldonado concerning administrative costs and projected fund balance for the end of SY 2025.
Trustee Martinez asked the administration (Dr. Arellano) if the district could work on improving the FIRST rating for future years.

Mrs. Pulley explained that since the district has operated at a deficit for the past couple of years, it has consumed fund balance and reduced the amount of available days. She stressed the importance of making sure F.Y. 27 concerns are addressed and figuring out a way to adopt a balanced or surplus budget.

Board President Rodriguez and Trustee Maldonado expressed concerns over having a reduction in force in the past and having the administration request positions during the year.

No Community members addressed the board during the hearing.

5.B. Discussion and Possible Action of Approval of the Canutillo ISD's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST)
Trustee Borrego motioned to approve the acceptance of the FIRST rating.
Seconded by trustee Martinez.
Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes.

All in Favor, Motion Passes.

6. **BOARD OF TRUSTEE BUSINESS**

6.A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Allocation of a Percentage from Property Sales Proceeds to a Fund for Future Builds
Trustee Ortega requested that Dr. Rico and Ms. Pulley approach the board for advice on the idea of using proceeds from land sales towards the creation of a future build account.
Mrs. Pulley explained how the idea would allocate funds and it would hurt the district financially. Dr. Rico explained to the board that it could be an idea to analyze in the future and that, at this time, money influx is being used to address current needs such as deferred maintenance.
Board President Rodriguez addressed the board, explaining that they should not be telling the administration how to manage funds. Trustee Maldonado explained that this is not telling the administration how to manage money, but a reminder on how to remain frugal on expenses. Trustee Ortega expressed concern about reaching a time when there is not going to be any additional land to sell for the district.

No Action Taken

6.B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding District Compliance With Senate Bill 10.

Dr. Arellano addressed the board regarding the acceptance of the donation of 10 Commandments posters. Mr. Steve Blanco mentioned that after accepting the donation, the board needs to decide whether posters will be posted.

Trustee Martinez explained that "The law is the law", everyone has different religions and asked if the donation could be returned to the donor. Trustee Borrego expressed her concerns over the separation of church and state, as there are many different beliefs, and everyone feels that their belief is the right one. The board members also talked about the Attorney General's ongoing litigation and how only the districts that are part of the litigation are excluded from posting at this time. The student Advisors provided feedback and explained that from the student body perspective, it won't make a difference whether they are posted and that students won't care.

Trustee Barnes explained that posters can be posted, and if there are changes with the attorney's general litigation, they can simply be taken down. She also shared that if they are posted and there are any lawsuits, the attorney general would take the case.

Board President Rodriguez asked legal if the board could vote to postpone the decision until litigation is settled. Mr. Blanco explained that ultimately, that is a board decision.

Trustee Maldonado motioned to wait on the posting of the 10 Commandment posters until pending litigation is finalized. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion.

Barnes-No, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-No, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes.

Motion Passes.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA-VOTING**

7.A. *BUSINESS SERVICES*

7.A.1. Approval of the Monthly Donations

7.A.1.a. Board Acceptance of the October 2025 Donations Report

7.A.2. Approval of the Budget Amendments

7.A.3. Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price #1 (GMP) for Construction Manager-At-Risk (CMAR) Services for Earthwork and MEP at the New Alderete Middle School (AMS) RFQ 2025-02B, From Banes General Contractors in the Amount of $26,493,133.56.

Mr. Martinez expressed concerns over the total amount for earthwork. Mr. Ernesto Ortiz clarified that GMP includes Earthwork and MEP, which would

be about 25% of the work. He also mentioned that General Contractors will perform work in about 18 months, with unique challenges facing each site. Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Panahi from Banes General Contractors explain to the board that each site has unique groundwork needs and that their goal is to remain within or under the guaranteed maximum price.

Trustee Borrego motioned to approve both items 7.A.3 and 7.A.4 of the consent agenda. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion.

Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes.

All in Favor, Motion Passes

7.A.4. Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price #2 (GMP) for Construction Manager-At-Risk (CMAR) Services for Earthwork and MEP at the New Canutillo Middle School (CMS) RFQ 2025-02B, From Banes General Contractors in the Amount of $25,748,877.34.

7.B. *CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION*

7.B.1. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement between El Paso Child Guidance Center and Canutillo Independent School District.

7.C. *HUMAN RESOURCES*

7.C.1. Approval for 2025-2026 District and Campus Improvement Plans

Trustee Borrego motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee Zuniga seconded the motion.
After board discussion, Trustee Borrego amended her motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with the exceptions of items 7.A.3. and 7.A.4. and trustee Zuniga accepted the amendment.

Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes.

All in Favor, Motion Passes.

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** **Closed at 8:59 PM**
To Consult with Attorney Under Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.076 of the Texas Government Code:

(A certified agenda or recording of a closed meeting is confidential and is not available to the

public except by court order. A person who knowingly and without lawful authority makes a certified agenda or recording public commits a Class B misdemeanor. Any exceptions will be communicated in accordance with applicable policies and regulations)

8.A. Discussion Regarding the Potential Sale of District Owned Property Including Property Located at 7311 Bosque Rd. Canutillo, TX 79835 to El Paso County and Other Potential Sites.

8.B. Receive and discuss Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings for District campus.

8.C. Discussion Regarding the Recommendation of Administration to Terminate the Probationary Contract of G. R., Teacher at Jose Damian Elementary, for Job Abandonment Without Good Cause and Issue Appropriate Notice to SBEC.

8.D. Discussion Regarding the Status and Possible Mediation in the Matter of T. Avent v. Canutillo ISD; Cause no. 2024DCV2484.

9. **NEW BUSINESS (continued); OTHER** **Open at <u>10:03 PM</u>**

9.A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Potential Sale of District Owned Property Including Property Located at 7311 Bosque Rd. Canutillo, TX 79835 to El Paso County and Other Potential Sites.

Mr. Blanco mentioned that he and Dr. Rico briefed the board regarding the request from El Paso County with interest in the CMS site. Administration is asking for the board to authorize administration to go back to the County to continue discussions and request a proposal of price, which includes a plan from the county for the use of the property.

Trustee Borrego motioned to approve administration's recommendation. Second from trustee Ortega.

Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes.

All in Favor, Motion Passes

9.B. District Report: An Intruder Detection Audit was Conducted in the District by Region 19 ESC / Texas Education Agency (TEA). Findings Will Be Shared With the District School Safety and Security Committee and the Board of Trustees. A Plan of Action is in Place and Will Be Shared With the Board of Trustees.

The board received a briefing from Chief Martinez during the executive session No Action to be taken

9.C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Recommendation of Administration to Terminate the Probationary Contract of G. R., Teacher at Jose Damian Elementary, for Job Abandonment Without Good Cause and Issue Appropriate Notice to SBEC.

Mr. Blanco explained that the board has 2 options regarding this situation based on the discussion during the executive session. One is to make a motion to accept the administration's recommendation to terminate the probationary contract of G.R. for a good cause, which is job abandonment, and issue appropriate notice to SBEC. The second option is to accept the resignation that was tendered by G.R. and not make any report to SBEC.
Trustee Maldonado motioned for administration to accept the resignation of the probationary contract of G.R, teacher at Jose Damian Elementary, and not report to SBEC. Trustee Borrego seconded the motion.

Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-No, Zuniga-No.

Motion Passes

9.D. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Mediation in the Matter of T. Avent v. Canutillo ISD; Cause no. 2024DCV2484.
Mr. Blanco gave an update on the status of the lawsuit filed by T. Avent against the district. There's been a recent request by Mrs. Avent's counsel and the district insurance carrier to conduct mediation, which is non-binding in this matter.
Mr. Blanco stated that the administration recommends that the board authorize him and the administration to conduct the mediation and report to the board the results of the mediation if there is any agreement to be reached, it will have to be approved by the board at a later meeting. This will only allow him and the administration to go forward and conduct an action.
Motion to approve the administration's recommendation by trustee Barnes and seconded by trustee Borrego.

Barnes-Yes, Borrego-Yes, Maldonado-Yes, Martinez-Yes, Ortega-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Zuniga-Yes.

All in Favor, Motion Passes

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at **10:08 PM** under unanimous consent.

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Presented to the Board of Trustees for approval on **February 24, 2026**. The minutes reflect all agenda items in the order as originally posted and do not necessarily reflect the order in which they were discussed.