

# Minutes of Regular Meeting November 17, 2025

## Hays CISD Board of Trustees

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These minutes are a record of the actions taken by the Hays CISD Board of Trustees in the meeting held on the above date. The complete video of the meeting is accessible at [www.hayscisd.net](http://www.hayscisd.net) for those who wish to hear the specific details of the discussions on the agenda topics presented.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Hays CISD was held on Monday, November 17, 2025 beginning at 5:30 PM in the Merideth Keller Board Room at the Hays CISD Academic Support Center, located at 21003 Interstate 35, Kyle, TX 78640.

### CALL TO ORDER: Establish a quorum

Board Vice President Johnny Flores called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. All members of the Board were present with the exception of Trustee Vanessa Petrea.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND TEXAS FLAGS

Board Secretary Geoff Seibel led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US and Texas flags.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Board Vice President Johnny Flores read the Hays CISD Board of Trustees Mission Statement.

### SOCIAL CONTRACT

Trustee Esperanza Orosco read the Hays CISD Board of Trustees Social Contract.

### PUBLIC FORUM

There were four people present requesting to address the Board. Bonnie Wallace addressed the Board regarding library content. Helen Sue Carter addressed the Board regarding SB 13 and SB 412. John Carter addressed the Board regarding library books. Dee Ann Anderson addressed the Board regarding challenged books.

### CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:52 PM to deliberate regarding safety and security, including security personnel, systems, infrastructure, and/or devices, pursuant to Tx. Gov't Code Section 551.076, and to deliberate regarding the Superintendent's recommendations for employment, resignations, extended leave, and other personnel matters, pursuant to Tx. Gov't Code Section 551.071.

### RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Board Vice President Johnny Flores called the Board back to order to reconvene in open session at 7:16 PM.

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Eric Wright provided an update on enrollment of 25,082 students with an average daily attendance of 94.5%. Dr. Wright stated that information relating to the District's action after the failed tax ratification election would be announced at the March 30, 2025 Board meeting. Dr. Wright presented slides to note accolades, achievements, and activities around the District. There were no questions from the Board regarding Dr. Wright's report. Board President Byron Severance spoke to honor Coach Bob Shelton and his multiple contributions to Hays CISD and our community over his lifetime.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

President Byron Severance introduced the agenda item. Derek McDaniel, Executive Officer of Curriculum & Instruction, addressed the Board and presented slides. Mr. McDaniel responded to feedback and questions from Board Secretary Geoff Seibel, Trustee Raul Vela, and President Byron Severance.

## ACTION ITEMS

Consideration and possible action, if any, resulting from closed session

Board President Byron Severance moved that the Hays CISD Board of Trustees approve the Superintendent's recommendation to contractually employ the Principal of Lehman High School, as discussed. Trustee Esperanza Orosco seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed by a vote of 6-0 where trustees Courtney Runkle, Raul Vela, Byron Severance, Johnny Flores, Esperanza Orosco, and Geoff Seibel all voted YES. Trustee Vanessa Petrea was not present to cast a vote. Dr. Eric Wright, Superintendent, introduced James Cruz as the new Principal of Lehman High School. Mr. Cruz joined trustees at the dais for a photo.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Board President Byron Severance introduced each agenda item, noting that Item J.2a would be pulled from the agenda, taking no action, possibly being brought back to the Board for consideration at a later date.

Consideration and possible approval of meeting minutes

There were no questions from the Board, so no discussion was had regarding this agenda item.

Procurements

President Severance noted that the consent procurement for Consideration and possible approval of the purchase of library books was pulled from the agenda, taking no action, possibly being brought back to the Board for consideration at a later date.

Consideration and possible approval of Campus Improvement Plans containing Student Performance Objectives and Strategies

President Severance introduced the agenda item. There were no questions from the Board, so no discussion was had.

Consideration and possible approval of New Course Offerings for the 2026-2027 School Year

President Severance introduced the agenda item. Dr. Michael Watson, Deputy Academic Officer, responded to inquiries from Board Secretary Geoff Seibel, and received statements from Board Vice President Johnny Flores.

Consideration and possible adoption of the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 Hays CISD Academic Calendars

President Severance introduced the agenda item. Tim Savoy, Chief Communication Officer, addressed the Board and responded to feedback and questions from Board Vice President Johnny Flores, Trustee Raul Vela, Trustee Courtney Runkle, Trustee Esperanza Orosco, and Board Secretary Geoff Seibel.

Budget Amendments

President Severance introduced this agenda item. There were no questions from the Board and no discussion.

Board President Byron Severance moved that the Hays CISD Board of Trustees approve consent items J.1, J.3, J.4, J.5, and J.6, as presented. Board Vice President Johnny Flores seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed by a vote of 6-0 where Trustees Courtney Runkle, Raul Vela, Byron Severance, Johnny Flores, Esperanza Orosco, and Geoff Seibel all voted YES. Trustee Vanessa Petrea was not present to cast a vote.

## ACTION ITEMS

Consideration and possible adoption of a Resolution that will revise the prior August 2025 adopted rate and set the Rollback Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Board President Byron Severance introduced the agenda item. Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers addressed the Board to provide detail. President Severance moved that the Hays CISD Board of Trustees adopt a resolution to set the rollback property tax rate for tax year 2025 and fiscal year 2025-2026, as presented. The tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 4.25 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$0 annually. Trustee Raul Vela seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed by a vote of 6-0 where Trustees Courtney Runkle, Raul Vela, Byron Severance, Johnny Flores, Esperanza Orosco, and Geoff Seibel all voted YES. Trustee Vanessa Petrea was not present to cast a vote.

Trustee Raul Vela left the meeting at 8:28 PM.

Consideration and possible approval of the Upgrade of Hays CISD Telecom hardware, Software, and Licensing – Affiliated Communications

Board President Byron Severance introduced the agenda item. Chief Technology Officer Alan Duerr addressed the Board to provide summary. Mr. Duerr responded to questions from Board Secretary Geoff Seibel. President Severance moved that the Hays CISD Board of Trustees approve the upgrade of the Hays CISD telecom hardware, software, and licensing with Affiliated Communications for a 2025 Bond-funded amount not to exceed \$1,279,156.08, as presented. Board Vice President Johnny Flores seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0 where Trustees Courtney Runkle, Byron Severance, Johnny Flores, Esperanza Orosco, and Geoff Seibel all voted YES. Trustees Vanessa Petrea and Raul Vela were no present to cast a vote.

Consideration and possible approval of a Non-Standard Water Service Agreement with Goforth Special Utility District at Tom Green Elementary School

Board President Byron Severance introduced the agenda item. Chief Operations Officer Max Cleaver addressed the Board to provide a summary and update. Mr. Cleaver responded to questions from Trustee Courtney Runkle. President Severance moved that the Hays CISD Board approve the non-standard water service agreement with Goforth Special Utility District at Tom Green Elementary School for an amount not to exceed \$147,066.50, and authorize the Superintendent and/or Board President to execute documents necessary and convenient to complete the transaction, as presented. Trustee Courtney Runkle seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0 where Trustees Courtney Runkle, Byron Severance, Johnny Flores, Esperanza Orosco and Geoff Seibel all voted YES. Trustees Vanessa Petrea and Raul Vela were no present to cast a vote.

## INFORMATION ITEM

Update on District Safety & Security Initiatives

There was no report for this agenda item.

Update on District Bond, Construction, and Renovation Projects

Nathan Wensowitch, Executive Director of Facilities, Construction, and Bond Programs, addressed the Board and provided a document to update construction projects around the district. Board President Byron Severance, Trustee Courtney Runkle, Board Vice President Johnny Flores, and Board Secretary Geoff Seibel expressed their gratitude for a comprehensive document.

Financial Statements

There were no questions from the Board regarding this agenda item.

#### REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Vice President Johnny Flores requested information regarding accommodations being made for students at the Hays High School Welding shop. There were no further requests for information.

#### ADJOURN

Board Vice President Johnny Flores noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5:00PM. No further business was conducted, and Vice President Flores announced that the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.