

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees La Vernia Independent School District

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of La Vernia ISD was held Monday, November 10, 2025, beginning at 6:30 PM in the High School Cafeteria, 225 Bluebonnet Road, La Vernia, TX 78121.

Attendance:

Ryan Doege:	Absent
Drew Herley:	Absent
Stewart Krisch:	Present
Jimmy McFadin:	Present
Eryn Pierdolla:	Present
Shawn Strey:	Present
Jeff Towns:	Present

I. Call to Order, Quorum, Pledge, and Invocation

As Stated on the Notice of Regular Meeting, the Board may convene into Closed Session at any time they deem necessary, under any applicable provision of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, including the provision permitting closed session consultation with legal counsel.

The Board President may elect to address any items listed on the Agenda in any sequence.

President Shawn Strey called the meeting to order at 6:30PM, declared a quorum present and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Jimmy McFadin led in the Invocation.

II. Recognition

(1) SkillsUSA - Washington Leadership Training Institute - Statesmen Award

Ms. Amber Hilburn, Health Science Instructor HOSA and SkillsUSA Advisor

(2) Cross Country Teams

Ms. Season Caughlin, Head Cross Country Coach

III. Public Comment

No one signed up to speak.

IV. Board Member Welcome and Remarks

Trustee Jeff Towns made the following remarks.

- Thanked parents, students, staff, and partners supporting bond projects.
- Acknowledged the recent community vote; the board respects the decision and will explore ways to

reward teachers/staff and fund repairs for legacy buildings.

- Construction progress noted at Primary, Intermediate, Junior High, and High School sites; board visits planned for next week.
- Athletics recognition: congratulated programs entering playoffs; praised transportation, teachers, and support staff; "Go Bears."
- Veterans Day: expressed gratitude to veterans in the district and community; recognized strong local support for veterans.

V. Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Cone made the following remarks.

- Primary School Open House:
 - Open to the public on the 19th at 6:00 PM.
 - Board sneak peeks are scheduled for the 17th and 18th.
 - Invitations will go to the original bond committee and the broader community; light refreshments are planned.
- Veterans Week:
 - District-wide activities across mornings, midday, and after school to honor veterans; noted La Vernia ISD's exceptional support.
- VATRE (Voter-Approved Tax Rate Election):
 - Thanked the community for support despite the outcome.
 - Emphasized educating broader segments of voters not reached by typical channels (non-parents, non-social media users, changes in local newspapers).
 - Committed to competitive teacher pay and ongoing maintenance needs (roofs, HVAC, doors); noted basic funding is insufficient without VATRE.
 - Plan to analyze voting data via public information requests; consider returning VATRE in November (only eligible month).
 - Observed first-time VATREs often fail while second attempts more frequently pass due to better public understanding and different voter turnout.
 - Clarified intent was to reduce the tax rate by one cent (about \$50 savings for most taxpayers) despite "tax increase" labeling barriers on ballots.

VI. Canvassing of the November 4, 2025 Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election

Dr. Hensley Cone, Superintendent

Jimmy McFadin moved to approve canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the VATR election. Jeff Towns seconded. This motion, made by Jimmy McFadin and seconded by Jeff Towns, Passed.

Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

VII. Discussion and REPORT Items

(1) Bond 2023 Monthly Construction Update

Mr. Christian Cortes, Senior Project Manager, Bartlet Cocke and Mr. Alexander Ragland, Assistant Project Manager, Bartlett Cocke

VIII. Discussion and ACTION Items

(1) Pending Bond Payments over \$50,000

Ms. Belinda Raindl, Chief Financial Officer and Ms. Catherine Blackler, Senior Project Manager, AG|CM

A. AG|CM - Inv 12891R1 (\$115,697.75)

B. Bartlett Cocke - PA 13 (\$2,059,341.00)

C. Meteor - Inv 129220 (\$326,138.99)

Jimmy McFadin moved to approve the invoices over \$50,000 as presented. Eryn Pierdolla seconded. This motion, made by Jimmy McFadin and seconded by Eryn Pierdolla, Passed.

Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

IX. Discussion and REPORT Items

(1) Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Belinda Raindl, Chief Financial Officer

(2) Review Investment Policy

Ms. Belinda Raindl, Chief Financial Officer

X. Discussion and ACTION Items

(1) Consent Agenda: Items to be approved in one all encompassing motion. If discussion is desired on a particular item, it will be removed from the consent agenda

A. Minutes of the October 20, 2025 Meeting

Jeff Towns moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Jimmy McFadin seconded. This motion, made by Jeff Towns and seconded by Jimmy McFadin, Passed.

Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

(2) Consideration of District Library Book Purchases

Ms. Dana Grubb, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Jimmy McFadin moved to approve the proposed list of new library materials as presented. Jeff Towns seconded. This motion, made by Jimmy McFadin and seconded by Jeff Towns, Passed.

Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

(3) Child Nutrition Update and Meal Price Adjustment

Ms. Angela Rodriguez, Child Nutrition Director

- Item shifted from "Discussion and Action" to "Discussion and Report"; no action requested
- Consideration of a small breakfast price increase for reduced-price students is on hold.
- Due to USDA withholding federal funds, the district will not request a reduced-meal price increase at this time and is covering the cost of free/reduced meals at the high school.
- Next steps: monitor USDA reimbursement; continue tracking participation/costs/staffing; support training; adjust operations and pricing as needed.

XI. Adjourn – 7:51PM

Jeff Towns moved to adjourn the meeting. Stewart Krisch seconded. This motion, made by Jeff Towns and seconded by Stewart Krisch, Passed.

Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea