

The Board of Trustees of Denton Independent School District, State of Texas, met in a Regular Meeting at the Denton ISD Central Services building, 1307 N. Locust St., Denton, Texas, on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Burns who announced that a quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Burns, English, Price, Sosa-Sanchez, Stafford, and Tays

Board Members Absent: Bundgus

Arrived Late:

Left Early:

School Personnel Present: Brown, O'Bara, Parham, Pierce, Rainey, Robinson, Russell, Schulz, Stevenson, Stewart, Thompson, and Wilson

Others: Cindy Breeding, *Denton Record-Chronicle*; citizens, staff, and students

Pledges The Pledges to the flags were led by WS Ryan Elementary School students.

Closed Session The Board convened into Closed session at 6:05 pm

Open Session The Board convened into Open Session at 6:12 pm

Motion by Charles Stafford and seconded by Mia Price to name the Cosmetology salon at the LaGrone Academy, located at 1504 Long Road in Denton, to be the Brenda Buster Cosmetology Salon at the LaGrone Academy.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Presentations/ Recognitions Brenda Buster, a former cosmetology teacher at Denton High School and the LaGrone Academy, has been recognized as an Educator of Influence for the impact she had on thousands of students. Over the course of her more than 30-year career, Ms. Buster trained hundreds of local stylists while partnering with Sally Beauty to help open the LaGrone Academy.

Four Denton ISD ensembles received the Mark of Excellence Award from the Foundation for Music Education.

The Braswell High School Legacy One Jazz Ensemble, Braswell Wind Symphony and the McMath Middle School Jazz Ensemble were each named

National Winners. The Denton High School Lab Band 1 was named a Commended Winner.

In addition to being a Mark of Excellence Award National Winner, Braswell's Legacy Once Jazz Ensemble also performed at the Jazz Education Network (JEN) Conference in Atlanta last week. Braswell's jazz ensemble was one of only six ensembles from across the United States that were invited to perform at the largest jazz education conference in the world. Regarding the Mark of Excellence Award, only the top 25 percent of entrants from across the country are recognized as National Winners, with the second 25 percent named as Commended Winners.

Denton ISD was one of only two public school systems in the United States to receive a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The roughly \$9 million grant will provide students with limited or no internet connectivity access to devices with internet access. In addition, these devices will also include browsing security protections, just like those on the district network. Denton ISD was one of only 24 entities from across the United States to receive the grant, and the district was one of only eight educational organizations to be awarded. This funding comes from the \$1.25 billion Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program, one of three Digital Equity Act grant programs created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Brandon Boyter, Denton ISD's Executive Director of Construction, Planning & Growth, received the Pathfinder Award from the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). The award was developed to recognize members from facilities and operations for their use of innovative practices, response to unprecedented situations and connection to students and staff. Mr. Boyter has been in public education for more than 20 years and has been involved in construction for over 25 years. He has been a part of more than 75 new K-12 construction projects and countless renovation projects during his career.

Each year, the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) honors businesses, organizations and individuals for their support and exceptional advocacy of public schools. This statewide honor, as part of "Stand Up for Texas Public Schools," recognizes local businesses and community organizations that partner with school districts, making a difference in the lives of public-school students. Harvest Ministries has been a longtime supporter of Denton ISD, providing food to both students and staff, as well as donating hundreds of backpacks to the district's Back-to-School Fairs. Since 2023, Harvest Ministries has provided nearly 300 holiday meal boxes that have been distributed to students at multiple campuses.

Texas is home to more than 5.4 million public school children who are enrolled in more than 1,100 school districts. That translates into 7,200 volunteers who are elected by their local citizens to act as trustees – making effective and good decisions to benefit the education of our community’s young people. In Denton ISD, our seven elected trustees work many hours – often time representing us at community breakfasts, during their lunch hour and at evening events. They respond to parent phone calls and emails; they attend training with regard to policy and law and they strive every day to make effective decisions to benefit our community’s more than 33,335 young people and 5,000 employees.

We want to acknowledge the work and volunteer efforts of our 2024-2025 Board of Trustees:

Barbara Burns, President
Mia Price, Vice President
Sheryl English, Secretary
Amy Bundgus, Trustee
Dr. Patricia Sosa-Sanchez, Trustee
Charles Stafford, Trustee
Lori Tays, Trustee

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Public Hearing for
Texas Academic
Performance Report
(TAPR)

Board President Barbara Burns opened the Public Hearing for the Texas Academic Performance Report at 6:35 pm

Becky Lloyd shared the annual 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) that is provided to Denton ISD by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Denton ISD is above the norm as compared to the State and Region 11. Attendance Rate is 94.5%; Annual Dropout Rate is .5%; 5-year Graduation Rate is 98.1%. Total Credit for College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR) was 76.1%.

No one wished to speak, and Board President Barbara Burns closed the Public Hearing at 6:52 pm.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of
Middle of Year
Progress Update

Dr. Lisa Thibodeaux, Executive Director for Secondary Academics, and Sandy Brown, Executive Director of Elementary Academics updated the Board on middle of year progress towards goals. MOY data will facilitate the necessary direction and support for all district employees to remain focused on student achievement and engagement.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of
Teacher and
Principal Residency
Grant Update

Jason Rainey, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources provided the Board of Trustees with information regarding the partnerships between Denton ISD, the University of North Texas, and Texas Woman's University on two unique Residency programs. Denton ISD was selected by the University of North Texas as the pilot district for the **Teacher Residency Program**. The program launched In August 2023 through the collaboration of university professors and Denton ISD administrators. Residents are paired with an exemplary teacher; teachers were hand-selected by the campus administrators. During the 2024-25 school year, the partnership with the University of North Texas continued while expanding our partnerships by adding a Texas Woman's University residency program.

Denton ISD was selected through a competitive grant process for the **Principal Residency Program**. The program launched In August 2024 through the collaboration of university professors and Denton ISD administrators. Interest is high with full-time employees being placed at multiple campuses around the district as Principal Residents. Residents are paired with an exemplary Principals at high needs campuses. Ten residents will be selected through an application process.

Exemplary teachers and principals were identified at each campus during the spring and assigned residents once residents were selected. Throughout the school year, meetings are held with mentors and residents to promote collective efficacy and engagement.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of
Childcare Update

The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Board of Trustees on the current Denton ISD childcare opportunities, the results of the employee survey regarding Denton ISD childcare opportunities, and recommendations for the future of Denton ISD childcare opportunities. The report is to provide recommendations on the future of Denton ISD childcare opportunities. A survey was sent out to all Denton ISD employees on November 4th. 730 participants responded that they would like to see more childcare offerings provided in Denton ISD for children birth through three years of age. Currently there is a waitlist of 55 at the Gallian Child Development Center and 20 at the Fred Moore Day Nursery School at Gonzalez.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of 2025-
2026 Budget

Jennifer Stewart, Executive Director of Budget, provided the Board with an overview of the budget calendar and the budget priorities for 2025-2026.

The priorities are:

- Allocate resources to meet our greatest needs
- Maintain our primary focus on teaching and learning
- Decision-making that affects the long-term viability of the district

- Consider the substantial impact to the overall budget

This item is for information only. No action is required.

3rd Period Attendance Report

Leslie Guajardo, Director of Student Support Services, provided the Board with the 3rd Period Attendance Report. This report is to provide campus and district ADA percentages for the 3rd reporting period (RP 3) of the 2024-2025 school year (November 4 – December 20, 2024) and to compare this data to prior years. There were 29 instructional days in the 3rd reporting period. The district ADA for 2024-2025 RP 3 is 94.57%. The district ADA% for RP 1 and RP 2 for this school year is 95.69% and 94.89%, respectively.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Targeted Campus Improvement Plan Report

Luci Shultz, Area Superintendent and Rachael Sullivan, Rivera Principal shared the “Road to Rivera Elementary” that included the work that is happening to enhance student achievement through the development of a Targeted Improvement Plan using the Effective Schools Framework. This is in partnership with the Texas Education Agency and the Education Service Center Region XI. Rivera has an enrollment of 625 Pk-5th grade and are 93% economically disadvantaged student population. Rivera Elementary has worked extensively to remove barriers and enhance systems of support. A Targeted Improvement Plan was designed with the aim of improving student outcomes through a specific area of focus. The plan focuses on evidence-based strategies tailored to meet the needs of the teachers and students.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Property Tax Report

Greg Sawko, of Sawko & Burroughs Attorneys provided the Board of Trustees with an update on delinquent tax collections for the tax year 2023-24. Denton ISD partners with attorneys at Sawko & Burroughs for the purpose of collecting delinquent property taxes. For the 2023-24 tax year, and for the previous 12 tax years prior, the delinquent property tax collection rate exceeded 99%. The ongoing partnership with Sawko & Burroughs P.C. has been a successful factor in these exceptional collection rates.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Intruder Detection Audit Report

Region 11 conducts Intruder Detection Audits pursuant to updated legal requirements. To date 18 Denton ISD schools have been reviewed. Further details, if any, have been provided to the Board in executive session and will be provided to the district’s Safety and Security Committee in an upcoming meeting for the purpose of safety and security.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

1st Open Forum

No one wished to speak.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Lori Tays and seconded by Sheryl English

To approve (the minutes of the December 10, 2024 board meeting; personnel matters, leaves, and absences; Budget Amendments as of December 31, 2024; approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Region 10 Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative and the Denton Independent School District for school year 2025-2026; approval of RFP# 2412-14 CDL and Forklift Virtual Reality Simulators be awarded to Technical Laboratory Systems for both the CDL and Forklift Simulators; approval of purchases in accordance with Board Policy CH(Local) - Purchasing and Acquisition; approval of the Interlocal Cooperation Contract in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Denton and the Denton Independent School District, for reimbursement to the City in the estimated amount of \$832,231 for compensation and benefits of the Student Resource Officers assigned at Denton ISD for the Period of February 3, 2025 through June 30, 2025; and approval of the Oak Street – Mac and Cheese Festival donation in the amount of \$17,000 to Denton ISD to be applied directly to negative student account balances within the Child Nutrition Program).

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

With the approval of the Consent Agenda, Dr. O'Bara announced Dr. Sarah Critton as the first principal of Reeves Elementary School, which is slated to open August 2025 in the Denton High School attendance zone. Dr. Critton has most recently served as the principal of E.P. Rayzor Elementary School since 2022. She has 17 years of experience in education and will assume her role at Reeves Elementary after Spring Break.

Kascie Blough was announced as the first principal of Hill Elementary School, which is slated to open August 2025 in the Braswell High School attendance zone. Ms. Blough has most recently served as the assistant principal of Ashley Elementary in Frisco ISD since 2020. She has more than a decade of experience in education and will assume her role at Hill Elementary after Spring Break.

David Beaty was announced to be Denton High School's new head football coach and athletic coordinator. Most recently Coach Beaty was the wide receivers coach at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), Coach Beaty has nearly 30 years of experience coaching both collegiately and in high school, and from 2015-2018, was the head coach at the University of Kansas. Coach Beaty replaces Billy Miller, who was the head coach at Denton High from 2017-2024.

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| Consider Approval of Secondary Course Planning Guides | <p>Motion by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez and seconded by Lori Tays</p> <p>To approve the High School Course Planning Guide for 2025-2026 and the Middle School Course Planning Guide for 2025-2026.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.</p> |
| Consider Approval of Order for Trustee Election | <p>Motion by Mia Price and seconded by Sheryl English</p> <p>To approve the Order of Trustee Election to be held on May 3, 2025.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.</p> |
| Consider Approval of the Boundary Rezoning for Ginnings Elementary School | <p>Motion by Sheryl English and seconded by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez</p> <p>To approve the proposed attendance boundary modification beginning the summer of 2025 for Ginnings Elementary to allow for the rebuild of the new Ginnings Elementary on the same physical plot of land. Construction of Ginning will begin the summer of 2025 and conclude in the spring of 2027.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.</p> |
| 2 nd Open Forum | <p>The following community members addressed the Board: Stan Mercer, Brendan Hopper, Donna Smith.</p> |
| Adjournment: | <p>The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.</p> |

President

Secretary