

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 recited by the students in the audience.

1.D. Roll Call

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

1.E. CISD Vision and Mission Statements

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

2. BOARD HONORS

2.A. Recognition of "A" and "B" Campuses in the 2025 Texas Education Agency Accountability Ratings

Mr. Gustavo Reveles introduced the campus, which received an A or B rating by the TEA Agency.

A campus: RES, NWECHS, DDE

B Campus: BCE, GES, JDE, CES, AMS

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.

Coach Scott Brooks Addressed the Board Regarding the District Rebranding. He expressed dissatisfaction on the "New" eagle logo redesign. Mr. Brooks questioned why the logo needs to be changed. He stated that the logo represents Canutillo and that it will lead to money spending. He mentioned that 58 districts use eagle mascots

in Texas. He also mentioned that this decision will lead to the need to replace current uniforms.

Mr. David Esquivel addressed the board regarding the rebranding efforts and micromanaging.

Mr. Esquivel mentioned that current logos are old and do not belong to the district. He also stated that some of the official letterhead being used are not professionally made and do not convey a professional appearance for NWECHS. Mr. Esquivel also mentioned that the current board has changed policies to allow any trustee to add items to the meetings' agendas and that this has allowed micromanagement from the board. Mr. Esquivel mentioned that board members were unable to come out with a solution to balance the budget and that the administration was tasked to find a possible solution. He also mentioned that the board needs to focus on student outcomes.

Ines Andrade - Junior Student at NWECHS- Regarding Redesigning of School Logos. Ms. Andrade mentioned that she has attended both Bond and Logo Redesign meetings since 2024. Ms. Andrade believes that there has already been efforts and money spent on redesigning the logo and updating it to today's standards. She also feels like dropping the redesign idea would cost the district.

Heather Vizcaya - Logo Redesign – Ms. Vizcaya is addressing the board as a parent of a student currently attending NWECHS. She feels like NWECHS deserves a professionally designed logo to rally behind. She also stated that since NWECHS's opening, there has never been an official logo, and there are currently different variations of the logo.

Natalie Ashton Martin - NWECHS - She feels that she owes a lot of her personal growth to NWECHS and that the logo redesign is more than just aesthetics. She believes this new logo will enhance the sense of community and help establish a legacy for future generations to come.

Yelena Kapilevich – Logo Redesign – She explained that students are excited about new buildings and the possibility of having an official logo for their campus. She mentioned that this process has brought students closer together.

Julie Scott – Expressing Gratitude and Change. Mrs. Scott wanted to thank the district as a parent of students from CHS and CMS. She expressed gratitude for all the work PROCEDEO has done for the Bond Projects, as well as staff members from Student Support and Canutillo High School for various supporting roles they play for our students. Mrs. Scott also addressed the board about “change”. Mrs. Scott mentioned

that even though change can be a hard thing and may not be easy, it is necessary. She mentioned that change can boost unity in the student community.

Miguel Martinez - Expressing Gratitude - NWECHS Social Studies Teacher
Mr. Martinez expressed his gratitude, and he asked the board to consider doing what is right for the students and the schools. He wants to express gratitude for being included in the logo redesign planning process alongside other students and staff. He stated that the process is beyond a simple logo; it also entails creating a greater sense of community.

Trustee Borrego asked Board President Rodriguez if item 5.E. could be moved to the front of the agenda for discussion.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

4.A. A Public Hearing Will be Held Regarding the 2025-2026 Property Tax Rate. The Public is Invited to Attend and Provide Public Comment.

Mrs. Cristy Pulley presented to the board a new presentation on the 2025-26 Property Tax Hearing. She clarified that this was a correction to the original publication, which was not correct.

No audience members commented on the tax rate presentation.

5. BOARD OF TRUSTEE BUSINESS

5.A. Consider approval of Tax Rate for the FY 2026 School Year.

5.A.1. Consider approval of the 2025-2026 Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate.

Motion to approve Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate of 0.7525 per \$100 dollar valuation. Trustee Borrego Seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passes

5.A.2. Consider approval of the 2025-2026 Interest and Sinking fund Tax Rate.

Motion by trustee Maldonado to approve the 2025-2026 Interest and Sinking fund Tax Rate of 0.40 per 100 dollar valuation. Trustee Borrego seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passes

Trustee Ortega stated the following during her motion, “for the record, um, I feel that it's too high. I feel that a 0.38 would be um better suited for our community.”

5.A.3. Approval of Resolution Which Officially Levies the Tax Rate for the FY2026 School Year.

Motion by trustee Barnes to “approve the resolution adopting the district's tax rate, specifically that the property tax rate will be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$1.1525, which is effectively an 11.44% increase in the tax rate”.

Trustee Martinez seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passes

Trustee Barnes stated the following for the record: “I just want to make it clear, just like last time. This is a tax increase for the district as the revenue that is coming in, not a tax increase that will be passed down to our taxpayers”.

5.B. SY 2024-25 Assessment Results Report

Ms. Jessica Harrison presented results to the board. She also answered board member questions regarding results for specific grade levels.

5.C. Healthcare Update Presentation

Mrs. Natalie Hasket from Gallagher delivered an update on the district’s healthcare plan alongside Ms. Julie Uranga, Benefits Coordinator. Ms. Hasket explained to the board that due to changes in the healthcare plan and enrollment numbers, the district has made some savings for the plan.

Trustee Martinez asked Dr. Arellano if there had been any complaints from staff regarding the changes to the healthcare plan. Mrs. Carrasco answered that there have been complaints, and they are being addressed between human resources and the insurance provider during this period of transition. Mrs. Hasket also explained that, as of right now, there are still some claims under Blue Cross & Blue Shield, as they will pay out claims for up to a year after the contract concluded.

5.D. Quarterly Update From PROCEDEO

Ernesto Ortiz presented the board with updates concerning the bond projects, groundbreaking, and other upcoming milestones.

The board had a discussion with Mr. Ortiz regarding the Alternate Project completion as well as what would happen if there is money left over at any of the sites, and whether it could be relocated to other projects.

5.E. Discussion and Possible Action to Address the District’s Process, Proposals, and Status of Efforts to Address the Rebranding of District Logos.

Trustee Maldonado remarked that she requested the item to be on the agenda, it is not to micromanage, but to make sure the logo redesign is being taken seriously and ensure that concerns over cost are addressed. Ms. Maldonado also added that the administration justified the rebranding as a gradual implementation needed to address potential copyright infringements. Trustee Maldonado mentioned that more community involvement needed to be provided to include more participation, as well as having the item brought up to the CBAC committee. Ms. Maldonado also feels like the money being spent on rebranding could have been used elsewhere, for example, the PreK Classrooms need furniture.

Trustee Borrego stated that she has personal experience on rebranding at a school district and she mentioned that “It is a Process” and that it rolls out when replacing existing items. She also mentioned that for PR reasons, we need uniformity on the “Eagle” logo. She also stated that ultimately, the community is the one who needs to decide.

Mr. Reveles gave the board a PowerPoint presentation on Rebranding, as to why it was necessary, as well as an implementation plan. Mr. Reveles stated that the current district logos are “Deficient” as they were not professionally made and they create challenges when they need to be used by current vendors, especially for the new builds. Mr. Reveles also explained that previous district administration felt that it was best practice to do it as a district-wide effort to create uniformity with the schools that are not getting a new building.

Trustee Borrego asked why the district is spending 99 thousand dollars on logos and whether the district had an in-house graphic artist. Mr. Reveles explained that we are currently in the middle of a process and that DLR was the only firm that was fit to work with the district.

Trustee Barnes expressed concerns over additional amounts described on the DLR contract. She mentioned that it requires the district to allocate additional funds, which would end up totaling around 120 thousand instead of 99 thousand. She also stated that she did research with online companies like 99 designs, which do give you ownership of your logo for a fraction of the current price (\$1,300). She mentioned that the issue is that the item was not brought to the board for discussion. She inquired about how much it would cost to cancel the contract at the current stage it is at.

Ms. Veronica Campbell mentioned that the district can ask DLR for a more detailed timeline.

Trustee Barnes also expressed concerns over not having language on the original bond order, which would include a rebranding project.

Trustee Ortega clarified that she is not against the rebranding item; however, she is concerned about the total cost of the project. Mrs. Ortega understands that it might have been necessary for the 4 new builds but feels like the other schools could have waited.

Mr. Reveles also explained that the architects stated it would be cheaper to have high-quality logos from the beginning and cautioned against using student work since the expectation is to have professional logos.

Trustee Martinez expressed concerns over changing the logos for all schools. Mr. Martinez also has concerns about why the Public Information Office didn't couldn't address the redesigned needs. He mentioned that the real concern would be over balancing the budget at the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Reveles explained that the PIO office has been reduced in staff.

Trustee Maldonado mentioned that several departments are currently understaffed to balance the budget. She would also like to receive information about how much it would have cost if only the new buildings were rebranded.

Board President Rodriguez expressed concerns over stepping into their roles and added that the CBAC committee only makes recommendations. Mr. Rodriguez added that if balancing the budget is a concern, they could address it at the time of the Superintendents/Interim Evaluation. He added that it is not the board's role to dictate how things get done.

Trustee Martinez expressed that he feels like DLR should have included the rebranding as part of their services.

Ernesto Ortiz mentioned that the DLR contract was negotiated, and they have saved about 2.3 million dollars from contract negotiations and RFI fees.

Student Advisor Moises Aguirre mentioned that they wished that there was more student involvement; however, Students do feel like a professional logo is needed to represent the student body at NWECHS.

Student Advisor Mason Gossette mentioned that he is in favor of having new logos; however, he doesn't agree with the process. He feels like students want something unique and that will represent their school. He understands there is a lot of money being spent; however, nostalgia is now allowing for changes to take place.

Dr. Arellano mentioned that she understands the current concerns over the process that took place and reiterates to the board that she will ensure that those concerns are addressed in future agreements. She also said that moving forward with redesigning will ensure we don't lose money already spent on the DLR contract.

Trustee Borrego added that the board needs to consider that money was saved through negotiations on the DLR contract, and \$100,000 is not substantial compared to the millions saved.

5.F. Discussion and Possible Action Over the Bond Interest Spending and CCA Regulation

Trustee Barnes mentioned that she requested the item to open up discussion. She mentioned that she did not realize that there was a regulation that addressed the Bond Interest usage.

Trustee Maldonado mentioned that even though bond interest regulation is very thorough, she feels like the administration's priority should be to complete projects on the bond, followed by reducing the debt. She would like to ensure all bond projects are completed accordingly.

5.G. Approval of the Recommendation to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Contract for RFP 26-013 Consulting Firm for Superintendent Search

Mrs. Veronica Campbell started the discussion, asking if trustee Borrego had a conflict of interest with a specific vendor. Trustee Borrego mentioned that she recused herself during the presentations since she was familiar with all the firms being interviewed.

Dr. Kazanas presented to the board with the schedule for the superintendent search timeline. Board President Rodriguez suggested accelerating the schedule to have the vote to hire, if possible before the Christmas break.

Mr. Rodriguez and trustee Barnes emphasized the importance of the community involvement sessions to get feedback from the community.

Mrs. Veronica Campbell suggested that the board not sign the final agreement with TASB until a new proposed timeline is provided to ensure it complies with board's request.

Motion to approve by trustee Martinez and second by trustee Borrego.

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

Motion Passes

Mrs. Campbell added that she conducted reference checks for TASB, and all references were favorable.

5.H. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Request for Staffing/Stipends for School Year 2025-2026

Mrs. Martha Carrasco presented the current Staffing needs as well as the stipend needed for the Lead Counselor. Mrs. Carrasco did specify that compensation for the Police Officer Position, the Pre-K Aide, and the Lead Counselor stipend would have to come out of the fund balance.

Trustee Rodriguez expressed concerns over the staffing request and whether additional staff would be requested later.

Motion to approve the request made by trustee Barnes and seconded by trustee Ortega.

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

Motion Passes

5.I. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Options for Homeschool Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities.

Mrs. Barnes mentioned that she wanted the item up for discussion during the last board meeting. She understands that the district has currently opted out of having homeschool students participate; however, she would like the item to be reconsidered in the future. Trustee Borrego mentioned that there are additional costs involved with adding those students to the district activities.

Mrs. Ortega suggested looking into the 3% of school districts that opted in and see if it created additional enrollment for them in the long run.

Mr. Rodriguez suggested the board stick with the administration's recommendation regarding homeschooling participation.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA-VOTING**

Trustee Lily Maldonado requested to pull items 6.A.1.a, 6.A.1.b. Trustee Barnes requested to pull 6.A.2 and 6.A.4 and 6.A.5

Motion to approve by trustee Barnes and second by trustee Maldonado.

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

Motion Passes

6.A. *BUSINESS SERVICES*

6.A.1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

6.A.1.a. Approval of the June 24, 2025 SBM Meeting Minutes

6.A.1.b. Approval of the July 15, 2025 SBM Meeting Minutes

Trustee Maldonado wanted to ask follow-up questions regarding the insurance committee and insurance information.

Mr. Steve Blanco provided guidance regarding the question. He stated that trustees cannot revisit items based on bringing up the discussion.

Pulling minutes can only be done to make corrections to what was said or happened.

Motion to approve minutes as presented made by trustee Barnes and second by trustee Ortega.

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

Motion Passes

6.A.1.c. Approval of the July 21, 2025 SBM Meeting Minutes

6.A.1.d. Approval of the August 19, 2025 SBM Meeting Minutes

6.A.2. Approval of the Monthly Donations

Trustee Barnes had a question about the 10 Commandment posters donated to the districts.

Mr. Blanco mentioned that the board needs to accept the donation first. Once the donation is accepted, the board can revisit the item and discuss what to do with the donation.

Motion to approve monthly donations by trustee Barnes and Second by trustee Ortega.

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

Motion Passes

6.A.3. Approval of the Budget Amendments

6.A.4. Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Construction Manager-At-Risk (CMAR) Services for New Build at Northwest Early College High School (NWECHS), RFQ 2025-028, from Jordan Foster Construction in the amount of \$30,074,639.00.

Trustee Borrego asked a question regarding the addition of building “C” and what is its purpose.

Mr. Ortiz explained that the building is presented in lieu of landscaping on that area. The board discussed details pertaining the build and cost with Mr. Orteiz and a representative from Jordan Foster.

Motion to approve item 6.A.4 as presented made by trustee Maldonado, Seconded by trustee Borrego.

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

Motion Passes

Trustee Borrego left the meeting at 11:27 PM

6.A.5. Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Construction Manager-At-Risk (CMAR) Services for New Built at Deanna Davenport

Elementary School (DDE), RFQ 2025-02B, from LDCM Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$ 52,421,113.00.

Trustee Maldonado asked questions regarding the total amount for the GMP and alternate projects being included. Mrs. Maldonado also asked for clarification on the materials being recommended for waterproofing and being used on the roof system.

Motion to approve item as presented by trustee Maldonado and second by trustee Ortega.

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

Motion Passes

6.A.6. Approval of First Option to Extend Bank Depository Services, RFP 2023-10, to Wells Fargo Bank, N.C. and Adoption of Board Resolution Extending Depository Contract for Funds of Independent School Districts Under Texas Education Code, Chapter 45, Subchapter G, School District Depositories

6.A.7. Approval of Agreement with Walsh, Gallegos, Kyle Robinson & Roalson, P.C., for Legal Services and to Provide Guidance to Canutillo ISD Special Education Department

6.B. *CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION*

6.B.1. Approval of the Tuition Waivers for the 2025-2026 School Year and Transfer Update

6.B.2. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between University of Texas at Austin and Canutillo ISD-Meadows Percision Math Interventions

6.B.3. Approval of the 2025-2026 Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) Interlocal Agreement with the El Paso County Juvenile Board

6.B.4. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Goodwill Industries of El Paso and Canutillo ISD Special Education Department for Student Education and Training, pursuant to CH (Local)

6.C. *HUMAN RESOURCES*

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

To Consult with Attorney Under Sections 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074 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)

Mr. Blanco explained that there are no updates at the time, therefore, agenda item 7.A and 7. B will no longer be needed.

7.A. Discussion with administration regarding the potential sale of district-owned property located at 7311 Bosque Rd. Canutillo, TX 79835 to El Paso County.

7.B. Discussion with administration regarding the potential sale of district-owned property located adjacent/to 7000 Fifth St., Canutillo, Texas 79935.

8. NEW BUSINESS (continued); OTHER

8.A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Potential Sale of District Owned Property Located at 7311 Bosque Rd. Canutillo, TX 79835 to El Paso County.
No Action Taken

8.B. Discussion and possible action regarding the potential sale of district-owned property located adjacent to 7000 Fifth St., Canutillo, Texas 79935.
No Action Taken

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **11:39 PM** under unanimous consent.

Presented to the Board of Trustees for approval on **December 16, 2025**. The minutes reflect all agenda items in the order as originally posted and do not necessarily reflect the order in which they were discussed.