

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, September 22, 2025, beginning at 6:30 PM in the High School Cafeteria, 225 Bluebonnet Road, La Vernia, TX 78121.

Attendance:

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

I. Call to Order, Quorum, Pledge, and Invocation – 6:30PM

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 Invocation. Trustee Jeff Towns led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Recognition

There were no recognitions.

III. Public Comment

No one signed up to speak.

IV. Board Member Welcome and Remarks

Trustee Stewart Krisch made the following remarks.

- I'm lucky, I get to travel a lot. I do a lot of different things and talk to different people.
- It's interesting because you go to a place where you don't know people. They're wearing other colors, they're rooting for other teams, and maybe they have a different opinion. You sit next to them, you start talking to them, and you know they're really good people. You meet a lot of people that way. The more you communicate with them, the more you realize you have a lot of things in common. One thing

that I think the La Vernia School District does really well, it's obvious with all their extracurricular activities, whether it's athletics, ag, culinary, or anything, is that the kids have to get out and communicate with each other.

- Last spring I was fortunate enough to be a judge on Shark Tank, which was a blast. I couldn't do that at that age, but these kids looked you in the eye and they saw the light. These are the kind of kids and the kind of education that we're producing. These kids can get out and communicate. I think the more you do that, the better off we are as a society. It's definitely that way at La Vernia, because we're a small town, we're very friendly, and I think that's the way.

V. Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Hensley Cone made the following remarks.

- **Student Enrollment & Attendance:**
 - The school year is currently in week eight.
 - Enrollment increased from 3,446 students on day one to 3,552 students currently.
 - The overall attendance rate is 97.07%.
 - Typical trend: Juniors and Seniors usually have the lowest attendance at around 95%, while Elementary and Junior High are in the 97s or upper 97s, and Freshmen and Sophomores are slightly lower than Elementary/Junior High.
 - With a four-day school week, daily attendance is even more critical, as absences create a greater academic burden on students and require more work from teachers to help make up lost ground.
- **Construction & Salvaged Materials:**
 - ****Primary Campus:****Furniture delivery is scheduled for late October; teachers are expected to move in the week subsequent to that. An open house is anticipated sometime around Thanksgiving (a little before or after).
 - ****Intermediate Campus:****Completion is expected shortly after the Christmas holidays.
 - ****Salvaged Materials:****Bricks, a flag from the old gym, and a portion of the old gym floor were saved from the Junior High Gym. The district plans to create commemorative items from these materials for sale or donation, with a timeline of approximately 12 months for development and distribution.
- **VATRE Communication Plan:**
 - The district will run a comprehensive communication campaign for the upcoming Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE).
 - ****Key Message:****The VATRE will result in a **reduction** of the total La Vernia ISD tax rate by one penny per \$100 of valuation.
 - **Outreach:**
 - Presentations at all campus faculty meetings.
 - Presentations to the Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club.
 - A public session hosted at the school.
 - A series of social media posts and direct communications to all parents to clarify information and answer questions.
 - The Superintendent and Ms. Frazier will address public misconceptions or questions by

updating presentations or creating new materials.

- **Student Activities:**

- The district is proud of its students, noting that there are always activities happening, whether on Saturdays, Friday nights, Thursdays, or Wednesdays.

VI. Discussion and REPORT Items

(1) Bond 2023 Monthly Update

Mr. Christian Cortes, Senior Project Manager, Bartlett Cocke

VII. 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 - \$87,719.19

B. Aries - \$100,965.00 (Portables at the Junior High School)

C. Bartlett Cocke - \$2,493,138.00

D. Future Infrastructure - \$59,649.31 (Fiber Relocation)

E. Lonestar Paving - \$50,000.00 (High School Track Resurfacing)

Ryan Doege moved to approve the pending bond payments as presented. Jeff Towns seconded. This motion, made by Ryan Doege and seconded by Jeff Towns, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

VIII. Discussion and REPORT Items

(1) Monthly Financial Report

- 2025 Efficiency Audit presented by Belinda Randall, Chief Financial Officer
 - Purpose: Conducted in anticipation of VATRE.
 - Findings: Described as a 'purchase review'; found no issues, made no recommendations, and included a comparative cost review against other districts.
 - Context: Wilson County and Guadalupe County declared drought emergencies, so the efficiency audit was ultimately not required; nevertheless, it was completed and provided for board review.
 - Follow-up: Board members may send questions to the CFO.

IX. 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 August 18, 2025 Meeting

Jeff Towns moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Drew Herley seconded. This motion, made by Jeff Towns and seconded by Drew Herley, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

(2) Invoices over \$50,000

Ms. Belinda Raindl, Chief Financial Officer

Ryan Doege moved to approve paying the Workers' Compensation Solutions invoice in the amount of \$74,726.18. Stewart Krisch seconded. This motion, made by Ryan Doege and seconded by Stewart Krisch, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

(3) La Vernia Interlocal Police Contract 2025-2028

Mr. Paul Goetzke, Executive Director of Human Resources

Ryan Doege moved to approve the interlocal Agreement between La Vernia ISD and the City of La Vernia for police services. Jeff Towns seconded. This motion, made by Ryan Doege and seconded by Jeff Towns, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

(4) Reclassification of Vacant Grounds Position to Electrician

Mr. Paul Goetzke, Executive Director of Human Resources

Ryan Doege moved to approve the Electrician position request as presented. Drew seconded. This motion, made by Ryan Doege and seconded by Drew Herley, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

X. Executive Session – 6:56PM

(1) La Vernia ISD Dress Code - Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, attorney consultation regarding legal issues related to student expression.

(2) Student Enrollment - Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, attorney consultation regarding student enrollment issues.

(3) Administrative Reorganization - Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.074

(4)

XI. Open Session – 8:21PM

(1) La Vernia ISD Dress Code - Consider and take possible action with respect to student expression.

No action was taken.

(2) Student Enrollment - Consider and take possible action regarding student enrollment issues.

No action was taken.

(3) Administrative Reorganization - Consider and take possible action regarding employee reorganization.

Ryan Doege moved to approve Administrative Reorganization as discussed in closed session. Drew Herley seconded. This motion, made by Ryan Doege and seconded by Drew Herley, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

XII. Adjourn – 8:29PM

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

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea