

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

The Board of Trustees of Henderson ISD met Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Henderson ISD Administration Boardroom, 300 Crosby Drive, Henderson, TX 75652, with the following members present:

Russell Brown
Shannon Coats
Loy Dorsey
Lou Madsen
Justin Scarborough
Dr. John Taylor
Jean Williams

1. **Call to Order at 6:00 PM** – President Russell Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
 - A. Invocation (6:00 pm) - Pastor Luke Martinez of West Main Baptist Church led the invocation.
 - B. Pledge to the US Flag and Texas Flag (6:02 pm) – WPS students Marc Collins, Aubrey Hays, Amari Odum, Ella Delgado, and Blaire Jennings led the pledges.
 2. **Campus/Staff Recognition** (6:04 pm) – Three students were recognized for participating in the first-ever Spanish Spelling Bee held at Region 7. Miranda Martínez, Alexander Yáñez, and Valentina Bazaldua participated in the first Henderson ISD Spanish Spelling Bee, then went on as finalists to compete at Region 7.
 3. **Open Forum** (6:07 pm) - No citizens addressed the board in Open Forum.
 4. **Communication from citizens to discuss pending agenda items before the Board** (6:07 pm) -No citizens addressed the board regarding a pending agenda item.
 5. **Information/Discussion Agenda Items**
 - A. Financial Report - December 2025 (6:07 pm) - Nikki Warner presented the reconciled December financials.
6. **Consider approval of Consent Agenda items** (6:11 pm) - A motion was made by Dr. John Taylor, with a second by Loy Dorsey, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.
 - A. Approve Minutes of the January 13, 2026, Regular Meeting
 - B. Consider approval of donated or purchased books - Dea Henry
 - C. Consider approval of the request for permission to judge external cheerleading tryouts
7. **Consider approval of Action Agenda items**
 - A. Consider approval of 2024-2025 Annual Financial Report (6:11 pm) – Molly Abele of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C presented the annual financial audit report for the year ended August 31, 2025. The auditor reported an unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance. She explained audit delays related to federal uniform guidance updates and TEA’s extension of filing deadlines. She also reviewed the required accounting standard change related to compensated absences and noted there were no compliance findings or internal control issues. The district-wide net position is just over \$45.6

- million. The general fund had a decrease in its fund balance of just over \$127,000. However, the district budgeted for a decrease of \$1.2 million. The district has a healthy fund balance of about 48%. TEA considers anything over 25% as healthy. A motion was made by Lou Madsen, with a second by Justin Scarborough, to approve the financial audit report as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.
- B. Consider approval of the 2026-2027 staff development waiver (6:20 pm) – Stacey Johnson presented for approval the Staff Development Minutes waiver. The waiver allows the district to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of a maximum of 2100 minutes of student instruction for districts and charter schools that provide operational and instructional minutes. It is only applicable for the 2026-2027 school year and must be approved by TEA before the beginning of the school year. A motion was made by Loy Dorsey, with a second by Shannon Coats, to approve the request for the Henderson ISD administration to apply for the 2026-2027 Staff Development Minutes Waiver as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.
- C. Consider approval of the 2026-2027 academic calendar (6:22 pm) - Dea Henry reviewed the academic calendar development process, including District Educational Improvement Committee input and a staff survey. Option A received over 85% of staff votes. A motion was made by Shannon Coats, with a second by Lou Madsen, to approve calendar Option A as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.
- D. Consider approval of bus repairs (6:24 pm) - Nikki Warner presented three quotes for the repair of the school bus that was damaged in an accident on November 18, 2025. Quotes submitted were from Carl Owens Truck & RV Collision - \$25,305.33, Buck's Wheel & Equipment - \$35,642.66, and East Texas Truck Collision Center - \$40,362.19. If additional repairs are identified during the repair process, the district will submit the additional costs to TASB for review and approval in accordance with insurance requirements. The insurance claim has been approved by TASB, and insurance reimbursement has already been received. Administration recommends utilizing Carl Owens Truck & RV Collision. A motion was made by Justin Scarborough, with a second by Lou Madsen, to approve the bus repairs to be as provided in the estimate provided by Carl Owens Truck & RV Collision, as discussed. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.
- E. Consider approval of budget amendments (6:29 pm) - Nikki Warner presented budget amendments necessary to reflect changes to the district's budget. Administration presented budget amendments including the revenue received of \$30,249 from insurance proceeds for bus repairs. Also, in March of 2025, an E-Rate project for networking equipment was approved. The cost was in the budget, but funds need to be reallocated to the proper function. Campuses have also begun planning adjustments for their end of the year and beginning of the year purchases. It was noted that the amendments did not change the overall bottom line. A motion was made by Jean Williams, with a second by Loy Dorsey, to approve the budget amendments as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

- F. Consideration of SB 11 Resolution Adopting Period of Prayer and Reading of Bible or Other Religious Text (6:30 pm) - Superintendent Bowman presented information regarding Senate Bill 11. The new legislation outlines the framework that a school district or open-enrollment charter school may use when establishing a policy to provide for a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious texts. The framework closely tracks existing case law on the subject and would require a consent form to participate. Further, a policy adopted under this bill must ensure that an established period for prayer and the reading of the Bible or other religious texts is not in the physical presence or within the hearing of a person for whom a signed consent form has not been submitted. Additionally, the bill clarifies that a period for prayer and the reading of the Bible or other religious texts established may not be a substitute for instructional time. The law requires a district to cast a vote in consideration of Senate Bill 11 prior to March 1, 2026. Discussion centered on maintaining current district practices while avoiding additional procedural requirements. A motion was made by Shannon Coats stating, “Mr. President, having considered SB 11 and Texas Education Code 25.0823 specifically, I move that the Henderson ISD Board of Trustees take no action to adopt a resolution permitting creation of a policy requiring every campus of the district or school to provide students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text on each school day.” Dr. John Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.
8. **Superintendent Report** (6:34 pm) - Superintendent Brian Bowman recognized Amanda Wherry in her assistance with the financial audit.
- A. Enrollment/Attendance report – Enrollment is down to a little over 3,100, while attendance is up and still above 96%. The decrease in enrollment is attributable to PRIDE students who graduated.
9. **Set date, time, and location of next Regular Board Meeting**
- A. Tentative date, time, and location of Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, **March 17, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Administration Boardroom, 300 Crosby Drive, Henderson, Texas.
- The HISD Board of Trustees ended Open Session at 6:39 pm.
10. **The Board of Trustees will conduct an Executive/Closed Session pursuant to the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001 et seq. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in Open Session.**
- A. 551.071 - Consultation with Attorney: A governmental body may conduct a private consultation with its attorney when the governmental body seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation; or a settlement offer; or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter

- B. 551.072 - Deliberate the Purchase, Exchange, Lease, or Value of Real Property if Deliberation in an Open Meeting would have a Detrimental Effect on the Position of the Governmental Body in Negotiations with a Third Person
- C. 551.074 - Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee; or to Hear a Complaint or Charge Against an Officer or Employee;
 - 1. Consider hiring personnel
 - 2. Consider personnel resignations
 - 3. Superintendent evaluation
- D. Discussion of Board Relations Between the Members of the Board of Trustees and the Relationship of the Board of Trustees with the Superintendent of Schools
- E. 551.076 - Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits; Closed Meeting. This chapter does not require a governmental body to conduct an open meeting to deliberate:
 - 1. The deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices; or
 - 2. A security audit.
- F. 551.129 - A Governmental Body May Use a Telephone Conference Call, Video Conference Call, or Communications Over the Internet to Conduct a Public Consultation with its Attorney in an Open Meeting of the Governmental Body or a Private Consultation with its Attorney in a Closed Meeting of the Governmental Body
The HISD Board of Trustees reconvened in Open Session at 8:29 pm.

11. Consider possible action on items discussed in Closed Session.

Upon return to Open Session, the following action was taken:

Regarding personnel resignations, a motion was made by Lou Madsen, with a second by Shannon Coats, to accept the administration's recommendation as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

A motion was made by Jean Williams, with a second by Loy Dorsey, that Superintendent Brian Bowman's contract be extended for one year beyond its usual term. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

- 12. Adjournment** (8:30 pm) – With no further business, a motion was made by Dr. John Taylor, with a second by Justin Scarborough, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary