

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, June 10, 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, Bundgus, English, Price, Sosa-Sanchez, Stafford, and Tays

Board Members Absent:

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 staff.

Oath of Office Kimberley E. Stevenson, Notary Public, administered the Oath of Office to Buddy Dunworth, Charles Stafford and Tanya Wright and the newly elected board members were seated on the board.

Closed Meeting The Board adjourned into Closed session at 6:23 pm

Open Meeting The Board adjourned into Open session at 6:44 pm

Election of Board Officers Motion by Buddy Dunworth and seconded by Charles Stafford
To approve Barbara Burns, as President, Sheryl English as Vice President and Lori Tays as Secretary and the Superintendent's designee as recording secretary.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Presentations/ Recognitions Denton ISD and Dr. Charlene Parham, Area Superintendent of the Guyer High Zone, both received awards from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Dr. Parham received the ESGR Patriot Award for her support of Dr. Landon Turrbuiarte – who was recently named principal of Stephens Elementary – while he was in the National Guard. The Patriot

Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed.

In addition, the ESGR also recognized Denton ISD and Dr. Susannah Holbert O'Bara, Superintendent of Schools, with the Above and Beyond Award. The Above and Beyond Award is presented by ESGR State Committees to recognize employers at the local level who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act by providing their Guard and Reserve employees additional, non-mandated benefits such as differential or full pay to offset lost wages, extended health benefits, and other similar benefits. The award is given in limited numbers by State Committees to employers who have had at least one of their supervisors/managers recognized with a Patriot Award, and who have signed or agreed to sign an ESGR Statement of Support.

The Guyer High School theater department received multiple awards from Broadway Dallas, Casa Manana Betty Buckley, and Schmidt & Jones.

The Broadway Dallas High School Musical Theater Awards aim to inspire and honor excellence in high school musical theater while recognizing the importance of musical theater and arts education in North Texas.

Students and educators are recognized with an annual awards ceremony modeled after the Tony Awards and include both performance and production categories. The qualifying performances are scored by a select group of adjudicators with backgrounds in various art forms in education, music, theater, dance, and related fields. Adjudicators follow rubric criteria to determine the winners in each category. Guyer had numerous students who won Best Lighting Design, Best Ensemble for *Fiddler on the Roof*. Theater Directors Eleshia Crotwell and Chris Crotwell won for Best Direction.

The Betty Lynn Buckley Awards are named after Fort Worth's own Tony Award-winning Best Actress and Casa Mañana alumna, Betty Lynn Buckley. This scholarship awards program has been celebrated the best in high school performing arts since 2000. A panel of distinguished judges – composed of local theater professionals and educators – votes for a winner in 17 award categories. Several Guyer students won for Excellence in Sound Design and Excellence in Scenic Design for *Hadestown: Teen Edition*.

Established in 2010, and named after composer Harvey Schmidt and lyricist Tom Jones, the Schmidt & Jones Awards honor excellence in high school

musical theatre in Dallas-Fort Worth. Numerous Guyer students won Outstanding Ensemble for *Hadestown: Teen Edition*.

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

Public Hearing for 2025-2026 Budget & Tax Rate

President Barbara Burns opened the Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 Budget and Tax Rate at 6:58 pm.

Jennifer Stewart, Executive Director of Budget, presented the Budget Priorities:

- Allocation of 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
- Substantial impact to our overall budget

All District departments developed a Zero-Based budget that required justification for existing and new spending. Also allocating resources to the greatest need based on the current needs of the District.

Denton ISD's total tax rate for 2025-2026 is \$ 0.6374 for Maintenance & Operations and \$0.48 for Debt Service for a total budgeted tax rate of \$1.1174. General Fund Revenue assumptions for 2025-2026 are based on current law with an average daily attendance of 30,800, Property Value Growth of 9.5% and 1% growth in student populations (Special Education, CTE, Bilingual, etc.) 71.87% come from Local sources, 27.23% come for the State of Texas and 0.59% come from the Federal Government. The proposed 2025-2026 Budget will have a \$19,564,457 deficit under the current school finance law.

President Burns closed the Public Hearing at 7:22 pm

Discussion of 1925 Advisory Committee Update

Three of the 1925 Committee Members presented to the Board of Trustees the budget reduction considerations the Committee suggests. The 1925 Committee began meeting on September 18, 2024, and met each month learning about school finance, legislation that effects school funding. Etc.

Denton ISD adopted a \$19,917,396 deficit budget for 2024-2025. The district has seen a nearly constant increase in enrollment over the past six years. The three lenses of consideration for the committee were maintaining a focus on teaching and learning, long-term viability for Denton ISD, and making a substantial impact to the district's overall budget.

The considerations the Committee has suggested are:

- Elimination of Extra/Co-Curricular Activities + Programs - \$250,000+

- Middle School all contents teach 7 of 8 periods = \$2,704,127
- High School all contents teach 7 of 8 periods = \$4,762,969
- 2 Golden Pennies, TRE \$0.5774 + .06 + \$0.02 = \$10,992,291
- 2 Golden Pennies + Copper Penny, TRE \$0.5774 + .06 + \$0.03 = \$16,739,034
- 2 Golden Pennies + 2 Copper Pennies, TRE \$0.5774 + .06 + \$0.04 = 22,471,945

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

Discussion of Legislative Update and TASB Advocacy Resolution

Dr. Deron Robinson, General Council provided updates and resources to the Board of Trustees regarding the 89th Legislative Session. Denton ISD uses different formats to share its legislative priorities and how they align with our goals. Keeping up with legislative changes and engaging with elected officials can directly impact public education policies. Informing our community strengthens our voice and helps voters make informed decisions. Partnering with advocacy groups reinforces our commitment to supporting public education in Denton.

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

Discussion of 2025-2026 Student and Parent Handbook

Dr. Leslie Guarjdo, Director of Student Support Services, presented changes to the Student & Parent Handbook. The purpose of this report is to provide Denton ISD's response to the requirements for Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. This report will also provide Denton ISD's plan for a unified, district-wide set of practices and procedures that will ensure the best learning environment for our students. The objective is to provide Denton ISD students and their parents with a resource that will guide their understanding of general rules and guidelines for attending and receiving an education in our district. It will also communicate behavioral expectations that reflect our community's values and standards. Finally, this handbook will be a review of basic information available to administration, faculty, and staff to assist them with related board policies, administrative procedures, and district practices.

The following information was **UPDATED** to the Denton ISD Student & Parent Handbook:

- Class Rank/Highest Ranking Student (Pages 37, 28)
- College and University Admissions (Page 39)
- College Credit Courses (Pages 39, 40)
- Reading & Math Intervention (Page 83)

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

Discussion of 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct

Dr. Jeff Russell, Area Superintendent presented information for the *Student Code of Conduct* are provided to staff, students, and parents at the beginning of the school year and serve as an information resource describing expectations for academic and personal excellence and guidelines for personal and professional conduct. This resource is created to provide students and parents with information that establishes behavioral expectations that reflect our community's values and standards.

The cell phone guidelines will be changed to the suggested:

For instructional purposes Denton ISD will be the sole provider of instructional technology. Use of technology during the school day is limited district provided technology.

DISD permits the possession of cell phones and personal telecommunications devices on campus such as laptops, tablets, or other portable computers. Use of each of these items is strictly prohibited without approval of a principal or classroom teacher. These devices should remain off and not visible during the school day.

Violent Offenses Proposed Guidelines:

- Fighting (first offense) may result in a DAEP placement.
- Persistent offenses (two or more previous suspensions) for fighting or assault (42.01, 6) will result in DAEP placement.

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

Discussion of Health ASO and Healthcare Planning

Chris Bomberger, Executive Director of Risk Management, presented the Board with BlueCross Blue Shield Healthcare Insurance and the District becoming a Self-Funded entity. Mr. Bomberger also provided the Board with the Concentra Medical Services provided to employees at the District's Wellness Center. The objective is to provide eligible Denton ISD employees, spouses, and dependent children with medical clinic and healthcare benefit options for the 2025-2026 plan year.

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

Bond Progress Report

Dr. Dean Anthony, Co-Chair of the Bond Progress Committee, presented the Board highlights from the May 21st Bond Progress committee meeting that was held at the Denton High School, Jim Bateman Fieldhouse.

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

Growth Report	<p>The Board was provided a video summary concerning the general DFW housing market, economic indicators, Denton I.S.D. residential activity and enrollment projections as of the 1st Quarter 2025 and its impact to the overall growth of Denton ISD. The information provided by this report will give the Denton ISD Board of Trustees an understanding of trends in residential home sales, multi-family occupancies and growth in student population.</p> <p>This item is for information only. No action is required.</p>
Construction Report	<p>Brandon Boyter presented the current construction projects as to scheduling and construction progress of Borman Elementary, High School #5, Reeves Elementary, Braswell Multi-Purpose, and Ginnings Elementary campuses.</p> <p>This item is for information only. No action is required.</p>
Attendance Report - Period 6	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide campus and district ADA percentages for the 6th reporting period (RP 6) of the 2024-2025 school year (April 14 – May 23, 2025) and to compare this data to prior years.</p> <p>There were 30 instructional days in the 6th reporting period. The district ADA for 2024-2025 RP 6 is 93.90%.</p> <p>This item is for information only. No action is required.</p>
2024-2025 End of Year Attendance Report	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide campus and district ADA percentages for the 2024-2025 school year (August 7, 2024 – May 23, 2025) and to compare this data to prior years.</p> <p>There are 180 instructional days in this school year. The district ADA for the 2024-2025 school year is 94.39%, this is a slight decrease from last school year when the ADA was 94.58%.</p> <p>At the elementary level, the three campuses with the highest ADA were: Adkins (96.24%), Hawk (96.11%), and Blanton (96.07%). The campuses with the lowest ADA were Borman (93.90%), Bell (93.75%), and Hodge (94.03%).</p> <p>At the middle school level, the two campuses with the highest ADA were: Harpool (95.71%) and Crownover (95.42%). The two campuses with the lowest ADA were: Strickland (94.36%) and Myers (94.31%).</p> <p>At the high school level, the campus with the highest ADA was Guyer (94.73%) and the lowest ADA was Braswell (92.04%).</p>

Elementary campuses that saw an increase in overall ADA from last year to present are Union Park, Savannah, Paloma Creek, Hawk, McNair, and Pecan Creek.

Middle school campuses that saw an increase in overall ADA from last year to present are Cheek, McMath, and Myers.

The high school campus that saw an increase in overall ADA from last year to present is Fred Moore. In addition, Davis also saw an increase in overall ADA from last year to present.

Reporting period 1 had the highest ADA at 95.69%, while reporting period 4 had the lowest ADA at 92.82%

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

Discipline Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an ongoing dialog concerning students' social, emotional, and behavioral well-being using data to guide us as we continue to focus on supporting the whole child. This update will also provide insight to not only the behavioral consequences but will shed light on our efforts to use a multi-tiered system of support to engage the student socially, emotionally, and behaviorally.

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

Federal Grant Awards for the Current School Year

The objective of this report is to share information about the federal grant applications that have been filed and awarded to the District on a yearly basis as required by the District's CB (local) policy and 20 USC 1232(e). Title 20 outlines the role of education in the United States Code. The District provides notice to the public on its website that it intends to file federal grant applications as they are made available at various times throughout the school year. Providing notice will enable the district to maintain eligibility to apply for and receive federal awards, thereby ensuring ongoing benefits for both the students and the district as a whole.

This item is for information. No action is required.

2025-2026 Compensation Plan

Jason Rainey, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the Board of Trustees with information regarding salary increases for Denton ISD staff for the 2025-2026 school year. The proposed recommendation will include a general pay increase for all employees and equity adjustments for employees whose current salary is below the market median. The general pay increase models for consideration provide for either a 2% or a 3% increase of each pay grade midpoint for all employees. Each classroom teacher will receive a pay increase in alignment with House Bill 2 requirements.

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 43 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 May 13, 2025, Canvass of Election and the May 13, 2025 Board meeting; personnel matters; Budget Amendments as of May 31, 2025; approve employee medical benefit rates for one year with a term of September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026; approval of March AWSFYC Head Start compliance reports and Monthly Program Information Reports, Enrollment and Attendance, Meal Count/Volunteer Hours and Financials; approval of the Amendment to the Agreement for Services with Concentra for 2025-2026 with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods; approval of the firm of Hankins, Eastup, Deaton, Tonn, Seay and Scarborough to perform the efficiency audit which is required by Texas Education Code, Section 11.184(b), prior to holding a VATRE; approval to proceed with the LED relighting project at Ryan High School's football field to enhance safety, performance, and energy efficiency in the amount of **\$ 278,214.00**; tax collection contract with Denton County be approved effective October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026, then automatically renewing for subsequent one-year terms and Recommend Jennifer Stewart, Executive Director of Budget, be designated as Liaison to serve between Denton ISD and the County Tax office; approval of RFP #2504-06 Fiber Engineering Construction & Maintenance be awarded to RTTEL Construction, LTD; approval of all vendor listed on vendor spreadsheet for RFP #2505-09 Special Education Supplies, Equipment & Services; approval of RFP #2402-02 Consultant Services for Primary Insurance be extended for one additional year ending June 30, 2026 to Roach Howard Smith & Barton (RHSB); approval of purchases in accordance with Board Policy CH (Local) - Purchasing & Acquisition; approval of Memorandum of Understanding agreements between Denton ISD and the following districts: Argyle ISD, Aubrey ISD, Krum ISD, Pilot Point ISD, Ponder ISD, and Sanger ISD. These agreements allow eligible students from these districts to enroll in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses offered by Denton ISD, pending space availability; approval of the TEA Expedited and General State Waivers requests to be submitted for consideration to the Texas Education Agency for Low Attendance Days

Waiver and Missed School Days Waiver).

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval
of State
Compensatory
Education 2025-
2026 Budget for
Accelerated
Instruction

Motion by Sheryl English and seconded by Tanya Wright

To approve of the 2025-2026 Budget for Accelerated Instruction

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval
at 2025-2026
Budget

Motion by Tanya Wright and seconded by Sheryl English

To approve of the adoption of the Proposed Budget for the 2025-2026 school year as presented in the budget book:

	Revenue	Expenditure
General Fund	\$325,564,812	\$345,129,269
Debt Service Fund	\$174,065,801	\$174,065,801
Child Nutrition Fund	\$ 25,090,698	\$ 25,090,698

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval
of 2025-2026
Compensation Plan

Motion by Lori Tays and seconded by Sheryl English

To approve the DISD 2025-2026 compensation plan. This recommendation will include a general pay increase for all employees. The recommended general pay increase will be a minimum of 2% or 3% for all employees. Each classroom teacher will receive a pay increase in alignment with House Bill 2 requirements.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

2nd Open Forum

We had several community members address the Board of Trustees.

Closed Meeting

The Board convened into Closed Session at 9:24 pm

Open Meeting

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 10:22 pm

Motion by Sheryl English and seconded by Lori Tays

To approve the resolution to adopt a policy stating that the property owned by Denton ISD at Hunter Ranch will not be subject to assessment by the Hunter Ranch Improvement District No. 1 of Denton County, and authorize

the Superintendent to sign all necessary documents and take any other action necessary for closing this purchase.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:26 pm

President

Secretary