

Minutes of Special Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees

La Vernia Independent School District

A Special Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of La Vernia ISD was held Monday, February 2, 2026, beginning at 5:30 PM in the High School Cafeteria, 225 Bluebonnet Road, La Vernia, TX 78121.

Attendance:

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

I. Call to Order and Quorum – 5:30PM

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 5:30PM and declared a quorum present.

II. Public Comment

Gayle Cox, Jana Presley, and Sam Chavez signed up to speak.

III. Executive Session – 5:46PM

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, attorney consultation regarding legal issues related to grievance process.

IV. Open Session – 6:05PM

Hear and consider Level Three parent grievance of J.W. and B.W.

The board returned to open session at 6:05 PM to hear the level three grievance appeal of Jeremy and Beth Ann Walter. Board President Shawn Strey initiated the proceedings, confirming the hearing was being held in Open Session at the parents' request. Each board member affirmed their ability to act impartially. The procedures for the hearing were outlined: each side would receive fifteen minutes for their presentation, followed by a three-minute rebuttal.

Parents' Presentation

The parents' representative, Fernando De Urioste, questioned whether it was more plausible that a beloved student attacked another or was defending himself during an on-field incident amplified by social media.

The student, Bryden, spoke first. He stated he had no intent to harm anyone and was trying to de-escalate the situation. He expressed that the punishment has taken away significant opportunities and attached a label to him that does not reflect his character.

Beth Ann Walter, the student's mother, argued that video evidence shows her son did not initiate a fight or retaliate. She asserted her son, with no prior disciplinary record, was made a scapegoat due to "optics" and "internal politics." Mrs. Walter criticized the grievance process, stating the incident report did not align with video footage and that evidence they submitted was never meaningfully addressed. A video of the incident was presented to the board.

Administration's Presentation

The administration, represented by Hannah Cramer, presented its response. Ms. Cramer provided a timeline of events following the physical altercation on October 23rd between Bryden and a Beeville ISD football player.

- **October 23:** A physical altercation occurred. The administration reviewed video and determined Bryden was not acting in self-defense, noting he removed the other student's helmet and threw it, hitting the student's body.
- **October 24:** The incident was reported to the UIL by both La Vernia ISD and Beeville ISD.
- **October 30:** A disciplinary hearing was scheduled with a recommendation for DAEP placement.
- **November 3:** The hearing officer assigned 45 days at the DAEP (reduced to 36 actual days). The initial consideration was 60 days but was reduced due to Bryden's clean disciplinary record.
- **November 11:** The UIL District Executive Committee (DEC) reviewed the case and approved of the actions taken by La Vernia ISD.

Ms. Cramer clarified that the disciplinary action was not for assault but for violations of the student code of conduct related to a "helmet incident." She stated that the decision was based on a preponderance of evidence, with video evidence carrying the most weight. She noted that students at the DAEP cannot participate in extracurricular activities and that the disciplinary action is not part of the student's permanent academic record. The administration requested that the board deny the grievance.

Rebuttals and Board Discussion

Family's Rebuttal: The family's representative reiterated that Bryden had been face-masked and kicked. They argued the helmet came off during the scuffle and was not intentionally thrown at the other student. They presented a forensic breakdown from an AI analysis to support their claim that the helmet did not strike the other player.

Administration's Rebuttal: Ms. Cramer stated the district's disciplinary decision was made on November 3rd based on its own student code of conduct, before receiving the UIL's response on November 11th.

Board Discussion: Board members stated they must base their decision solely on the evidence presented, not on outside opinions. They acknowledged the student's good character but focused on the on-field incident.

Several members stated that their review of the multiple video angles showed the student raising the helmet and bringing it down in a striking motion, which elevated the incident beyond a typical scuffle. The board confirmed with the family's representative that the UIL's District Executive Committee (DEC) has the authority to step in if they deem a district's punishment inappropriate.

V. Executive Session – 6:56PM

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, attorney consultation regarding legal issues related to Level Three parent grievance of J.W. and B.W.

VI. Open Session – 7:38PM

Consider and take possible action regarding Level Three parent grievance of J.W. and B.W.

Drew Herley moved to DENY the Level Three grievance and uphold the Administration's decision.

Jeff Towns seconded. This motion, made by Drew Herley and seconded by Jeff Towns, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea

VII. Adjourn – 7:46PM

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, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea, Jeff Towns: Yea