

**VENUS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

February 16, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Venus Independent School District, on February 16, 2026 was called to order by Tasha Gore at 6:01p.m., in the Board Room 100 Student Drive Venus, Texas 76084.

Board Members Present: Tasha Gore, President (Place 7)
Amber Crafton, Vice President (Place 4)
Randall Buck, Trustee (Place 1)
Joe Russell, Trustee (Place 2)
Donald Shaw, Trustee (Place 3)
Gregory Hoffman, Trustee (Place 6)

Board Members Absent: Kirby Sansom, Secretary (Place 5)

Administrators/Staff Present Howard Gatewood, Superintendent
Rebecca Vega, Assistant Superintendent
Lanston Thompson, Interim CFO
Ann-Marie Morgan, Curriculum Director
Donain Martinez, Human Resource Director
Leighanne Ortiz, Principal
Lana Whitworth, Principal
Kim Buck, Principal

Guests:

1. Call to Order and Announcement of a Quorum

Announcement of Quorum 6:01p.m.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome Guests

4. Recognitions

5. Opportunity for Public Comment (including any item on the agenda)

6. Presentation of Campus Reports

7. Presentation of Annual Performance Report (TAPR)

8. Presentation of ESS Substitute System Data

9. Executive Session Entered executive session at 7:07pm

§551.071 Consultation with the School District’s attorney 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 the Texas Open Meetings Act specifically including the appointment, employment evaluation, reassignment, duties, salaries, discipline or dismissal of a public officer, superintendent, assistant superintendent, principals, district directors, counselors, assistant principals, teachers, CFO, coaches, interim superintendent, at-will employees, to hear a complaint or charge against and officer or employee.

§551.072 A governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to 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 negotiation with a third person.

§551.074 A governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, salaries, discipline or dismissal of a public officer, superintendent, assistant superintendent, principals, district directors, counselors, assistant principals, teachers, CFO, coaches, at-will employees, interim superintendent, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee. Staffing update.

§551.076 A Board is not required 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

§551.082 School Children, School District Employees; Disciplinary Matter or Complaint

§551.0821 School Board: Personally Identifiable Information About Public School Student

10. Reconvene from Executive Session at 8:10pm

11. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve previous month's board minutes
- B. Approve library book purchase
- C. Approve Annual Racial Profiling Report

A motion was made by Greg Hoffman and seconded by Amber Crafton to approve the consent agenda as presented

The motion carried 6-0-0

Gore	Crafton	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For

12. Consider Approval of Administrator Contracts

A motion was made by Amber Crafton and seconded by Donald Shaw to approve administrator contracts

The motion carried 6-0-0

Gore	Crafton	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For

13. Consider Approval of Targeted Improvement Plan

A motion was made by Amber Crafton and seconded by Joe Russell to approve the Targeted Improvement Plan

The motion carried 6-0-0

Gore	Crafton	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For

14. Consider Approval of Budget Amendment # 3

A motion was made by Greg Hoffman and seconded by Amber Crafton to approve budget amendment #3

The motion carried 6-0-0

Gore	Crafton	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For

15. Consider and Approve Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Phase I – New Venus High School

A motion was made by Amber Crafton and seconded by Donald Shaw to approve guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for Phase I – New Venus High School

The motion carried 6-0-0

Gore	Crafton	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For

16. Consider Approval of Matters Related to Personnel: Resignations, Employment, Position or Contract Amendments

A motion was made by Amber Crafton and seconded by Joe Russell to approve matters related to personnel: resignations, employment, position or contract amendments

The motion carried 6-0-0

Gore	Crafton	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For

17. Reports

- A. Superintendent
- B. Assistant Superintendent
- C. Chief Financial Officer
- D. Athletics
- E. Child Care
- F. Child Nutrition
- G. Maintenance
- H. Technology
- I. Venus ISD Police Department

18. Board request for additional items/next scheduled board meeting date:

Monthly Board Meeting March 23rd

19. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:21p.m.

Date

Tasha Gore, President

Date

Kirby Sansom, Secretary