

**AT A BOARD WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECTOR COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2026, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM A/B, 802 NORTH SAM HOUSTON, ODESSA, ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

**Present:**

Delma Abalos  
Dr. Steve Brown  
Tammy Hawkins  
Dawn Miller  
Christopher Stanley  
Robert Thayer  
Wayne Woodall

**Absent:**

**School Officials:** Dr. Keeley Boyer, Mike Adkins, Albessa Chavez, Mauricio Marquez, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Dr. Matthew Spivy, Alicia Syverson, Lauren Tavaraz, Dr. Robert Trejo

**Others:** Alex Reynolds, Hudson Huff, Bertha Saldibar, Sonia Rocha, Siena Searcy, Kevin Searcy, Anthony Garcia, Sam Magallan, Stacey Nunez, Sandra Talavera, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

**27462** **Meeting Called to Order:** Tammy Hawkins, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**27463** **Verification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** Tammy Hawkins, Board President, verified that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with public notice of this meeting.

**27464** **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In her opening remarks, Superintendent Dr. Keeley Boyer informed Trustees that an evacuation and reunification drill will take place Friday afternoon at Noel Elementary. ECISD communications will be shared with the community over the next day or two to ensure awareness that the event is a drill and not an actual emergency.

**27465** **Public Comment:** Individuals who wish to participate during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment shall sign up with the presiding officer or designee before the meeting begins as specified in the Board's procedures on public comment and shall indicate the agenda item on which they wish to address the Board. *BED(LOCAL)*

There was no public comment.

**Board Policy**

**27466** **Discussion of Revisions to Policy CH(LOCAL): Purchasing and Acquisitions:** Associate Superintendent of District Operations Dr. Anthony Sorola presented this item for discussion.

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This proposed change would increase the purchasing approval limit delegated to the Superintendent from the current \$50,000 to \$100,000 which would be in alignment with the new state threshold for competitive bid purchases.

No action required.

- 27467**     **Discussion of Revisions to Policy CFB(LOCAL): Accounting Inventories:** Associate Superintendent of District Operations Dr. Anthony Sorola presented this item for discussion. This proposed change would align ECISD policy with recent changes to both federal law and state law on the threshold for capitalization of items purchased, increasing it from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

No action required.

- 27468**     **Discussion of Revisions to Policy EHBE(LOCAL): Special Programs: Bilingual Education/ESL:** Chief Academic Officer Dr. Robert Trejo presented this item for discussion. This proposed change is in line with the District's proposal to move to a Transitional Bilingual Early-Exit Model with the 2026-27 school year.

No action required.

**Report/Discussion Items**

- 27469**     **Discussion of Proposed Middle School Boundaries for 2026-2027:** Associate Superintendent of District Operations Dr. Anthony Sorola along with Zonda Demographics Senior Advisor Hudson Huff presented this item for discussion. The school board began these discussions back in the fall with a series of public meetings and a community survey. Using that feedback and input from Trustees, two maps were presented in this meeting as options for consideration – they were proposed plan #5 and proposed plan #6. You will notice the differences between the two are along the western edge of the Bonham MS boundary and would impact Bonham and either Bowie MS or Wilson & Young MS. The goal of any rezoning effort is to allow students to attend a neighborhood school, to reduce travel time, and to level out enrollment between the schools as much as possible. Trustees are planning to vote on the new middle school boundaries at next week's meeting.

No action required.

- 27470**     **Strategic Plan Update: Digital Learning - Artificial Intelligence:** Chief Technology Officer Lauren Tavarez presented this item for discussion. ECISD's strategic plan commits to "integrate evolving digital tools in ways that enhance teaching and accelerate student success." AI is one of those tools. ECISD is one of the leaders in the AI for education work with updated Responsible Use agreements to include language about the use of AI, vetting of all AI products to ensure alignment with our data privacy standards, age-appropriate access controls by grade level, and active content filtering and monitoring system.

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The board talked about common misconceptions of AI and then practiced with it themselves, learning the importance of using good prompts to elicit a better quality of responses. The District has provided (and is providing) professional development training on AI use for teachers and staff. Also, ECISD has developed a guide with four approaches to students using AI: for brainstorming, for practice and productivity, for feedback and refinement, and on their own. It is important for students to be prepared for the workforce, build critical thinking, personalizes support for all learners, and develop AI literacy.

No action required.

- 27471**     **Discussion of 2026-2027 Budget Priorities:** Superintendent Dr. Keeley Boyer and Chief Financial Officer Albessa Chavez presented this item for discussion. Trustees began their discussion of priorities for the 2026-27 budget. With a decline in enrollment this year, the beginning budget amounts will be lower than in previous years. As school board members took turns talking about things they want district leaders to prioritize as the budget is built, they mentioned keeping an emphasis on improving Bilingual education, look for redundancies that can be eliminated to improve efficiency, keep any cuts as far from the classroom as possible, continue talent development efforts to recruit, train and retain employees, quality professional development, and do all that can be done for compensation. All agreed, raises are important and ECISD should be competitive not only in this market but with other, similar districts, but if budget constraints are an obstacle, explore retention bonuses for employees. It is still early in the budget process, and all revenue projections are estimates and will change between now and the time a new budget is adopted in late June.

No action required.

- 27472**     **Possible Request for Approval to Move to Closed Meeting – Personnel Matters – Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code [Board will deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of public employees of the District, or hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee.]; Consultations with Attorney – Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act [The Board will meet in Closed Session in Consultation with the Board’s Attorney Regarding all Matters as Authorized by Law.]:**

There was no closed session.

- 27473**     **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** There were no closing remarks.

- 27474**     **Adjournment:** Board President Tammy Hawkins adjourned the Board meeting at 8:28 p.m.

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**Board President**  
*Tammy Hawkins*

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**Board Secretary**  
*Robert Thayer*