

**Italy Independent School District  
Board of Trustees**

February 9, 2026 @ 5:30 PM  
Regular Meeting Minutes

**DRAFT**

District Conference Room  
300 College Street  
Italy, Texas 76651

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum Time: 5:30 PM

***Establish Quorum: Board members in attendance at the meeting:***

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allen Richards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parker Reeves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nichole Galvan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Perkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lee Guidry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clay Major
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashton Russ		

***The meeting was called to order by Allen Richards; President. An announcement of the meeting being recorded was provided. Board members in attendance individually acknowledged themselves for the recording.***

***It was also announced that "INCLEMENT WEATHER PREVENTED THE ORIGINAL MEETING ON JANUARY 26, 2026, AS WELL AS THE ALTERNATE DATE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 AT 5:00 PM. THIS MEETING WILL BE A COMBINED JANUARY/FEBRUARY MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2026 AT 5:30 PM IN THE ITALY HS CONFERENCE ROOM."***

2. Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Pledge Time: 5:31 PM

***Led: Allen Richards; President***

3. Invocation Time: 5:31 PM

***Led by Dennis Perkins; Vice President***

4. Presentations

- 4.A. School Board Appreciation Month 5:32 PM

***On behalf of the district, Rachel Kistner; Superintendent thanked the board for their service and support. Books have been purchased, around a Texas theme, to put in the Stafford and JH-HS libraries in their honor. Campuses and the Co-op also recognized them with tokens of appreciation and cards from students.***

- 4.B. District Financial Audit for Period Ending August 31, 2025 (Auditors: Hankins & Eastup) 5:33 PM

***Damon Cooper, a representative from the audit firm, presented highlights from the audit ending August 31, 2025. He announced it was a clean audit with no findings. He reviewed and briefly explained compensated absences, financial highlights, financial statements, fund balances, delinquent tax receivables and the single audit information. He reiterated that there were no deficiencies or material weaknesses as well as no compliance issues. There were three audit reports and they were all clean audits.***

- 4.C. 2024-2025 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and Federal Report Card Presentation 5:46 PM

***Rachel Kistner; Superintendent presented the TAPR Report. Information was highlighted from the required postings which included:***

- ***Campus and District Ratings***
- ***TAPR reports for the district and both campuses***
- ***Federal Report Card for the district and both campuses***
- ***FIRST Report: Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas***
- ***District Accreditation status***

***The link to the TEA Student Assessment site was noted. She also said if there were other questions to give her a call or upon board request, a more detailed board workshop could be scheduled.***

- 4.D. Italy ISD Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Accountability Rating for 2024-2025 and the Superintendent Contract. 5:51 PM  
**Melissa Gonzalez, Business Manager presented highlights of the FIRST Report: Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas. The district earned an A = Superior Achievement rating. SHE highlighted aspects of the report with a printed powerpoint presentation. The Superintendent's contract was also announced for anyone to review.**
5. Open Forum
- 5.A. Public Requests to Speak 5:57 PM  
**No one signed up to speak.**
- 5.B. Public Hearing on Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and Federal Report Card. 5:57 PM  
**One member of the public asked what Stafford was doing to improve their "C" rating. Allen Richards, President, spoke on behalf of the board about what they are supporting the campus to do. Dr. J. Lance Bray; Stafford Elementary Principal provided more details on the use of data to monitor student progress, the support we have from outside agencies that are supporting the teachers as well as the students. No further questions were asked.**
- 5.C. Public Hearing on Italy ISD 2024-2025 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report. 6:05 PM  
**There were no questions regarding the FIRST Report. Rachel Kistner; Superintendent thanks Melissa Gonzalez; Business Manager for all her hard work and the hard work of the other business employees. A lot of hard work goes into receiving an "A" rating. Allen Richards, President, also thanked her and the department for the difficult job they are doing, the long hours that go into this success and the attention to being fiscally responsible.**
6. Italy ISD Parent Comment Report Time:6:07 PM  
As part of the parental engagement policy, mandated by Senate Bill 12 (TEC 26.0071) in the summer of 2025, districts are required to provide for an internet portal through which parents of students enrolled in the district may submit comments to campus and district administrators and the board. The board will then prioritize and present those comments at the beginning of each board meeting.  
**No comments were submitted for review**
7. Action Items 6:07 PM
- 7.A. Consent Agenda 6:07 PM  
**No items were pulled to vote on separately.**
- 7.A.1. Prior Month Meeting Minutes for 12/17/2025 and 1/5/2026.
- 7.A.2. Consider and take possible action regarding granting authority to the Chief Appraiser of the Ellis Appraisal District ("EAD") and all other EAD employees, as delegated and determined by the EAD Chief Appraiser, to act as Italy ISD's agent regarding protests of the Comptroller's Property Value Study for tax year 2025.
- 7.A.3. Consider and take possible action on the Employee Early Resignation Notification Incentive Program.
- 7.A.4. Consider and take possible action to approve the 2025-2026 District Improvement Plan and both Campus Improvement Plans.
- 7.A.5. Consider and take possible action on the 2025-2026 Textbook Adoption Committee and Process.
- 7.A.6. Consider and take possible action on purchasing library books for Stafford Elementary, which has been posted on the Italy ISD website for 30 days to collect any public comment.  
**No public comment was received.**
- 7.A.7. Consider and take possible action on the 2025-2026 TEA Application for Missed School Days Waiver for Stafford Elementary and Italy JH-HS on January 28, 2026 due to weather.
- 7.A.8. Consider and take possible action on the 2025-2026 TEA Application for Low Attendance Days Waiver for Stafford Elementary on January 23, 2026 due to health.



7.G. Consider and take possible action regarding the Resilient E-Rate proposal contract of \$120,730. We will be responsible for paying 20% which comes to \$24,453. 6:19 PM

**Motion: Approve agenda item**

**1st: Nichole Galvan 2nd: Clay Major Vote: 7-0 Approved**

<b>Allen Richards:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Nichole Galvan:</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Dennis Perkins:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Clay Major:</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Parker Reeves:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Lee Guidry:</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Ashton Russ:</b>	<b>For</b>		

7.H. Consider and take possible action to report to TEA that the district's budget does not permit the district to purchase a bus equipped with the required 3-point harness seat belts or retrofit and install those seat belts on all buses that need them at a cost of \$183,740 by the 2029 deadline. 6:20 PM

- 2 buses w/ 3-point harnesses
- 5 buses w/ no seat belts

**Motion: Approve agenda item**

**1st: Dennis Perkins 2nd: Ashton Russ Vote: 7-0 Approved**

<b>Allen Richards:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Nichole Galvan:</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Dennis Perkins:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Clay Major:</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Parker Reeves:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Lee Guidry:</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Ashton Russ:</b>	<b>For</b>		

7.I. Consider and take possible action on whether Italy ISD will adopt a resolution requiring every campus in Italy ISD to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text as provided by Education Code 25.0823 (a.k.a. SB11)

**Motion: To NOT APPROVE to adopt a resolution requiring the campuses to provide a period of prayer and Reading of the Bible or other religious text.**

**1st: Lee Guidry 2nd: Nichole Galvan: Vote: 7-0 Approved**

<b>Allen Richards:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Nichole Galvan:</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Dennis Perkins:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Clay Major:</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Parker Reeves:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Lee Guidry:</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Ashton Russ:</b>	<b>For</b>		

8. Reports 6:26 PM

- 8.A. Stafford Elementary Report
- 8.B. Junior High/High School Report
- 8.C. Maintenance/Operations/Transportation Report
  - 6.C.1. Utility Report
  - 6.C.2. Transportation Report
- 8.D. Technology Report
- 8.E. Food Service Report
- 8.F. Enrollment
  - 8.F. Finance Reports
    - 8.F.1. Financial Statement
    - 8.F.2. Tax Collections
    - 8.F.3. Monthly Investment and Cash Position Report
    - 8.F.4. Check Payments
    - 8.F.5. Quarterly Financial Investments Report
- 8.G. Director of ECSSA Report

**Clay Major complimented Dr. Bray and Mrs. Graves on the details of their reports. Allen Richards thanked all individuals who submitted information for their departments.**

9. Information Items 6:27 PM

**Mrs. Kistner reported that 25 students qualified for the UIL State Solo & Ensemble Competition. Nichole Galvan added that all the students that participated from Italy ISD made it to State.**

**Garlin Almond was announced for his 5th place in the class of Horned Hereford Lightweight at the Fort Worth Stock Show which sold for \$21 lb = \$23,310 plus add-ons from private donors.**

9.A. Upcoming Dates to Remember

**Allen Richards; President highlighted some dates.**

- Basketball and powerlifting ongoing
- Band Competitions ongoing
- Spring sports beginning
- Other Future Dates of Interest:
  - Feb. 12: JH Dance
  - Feb. 13: Professional Development Day
  - Feb. 19 & 26: School Safety & Security Audit by R10 (required every 3 years)
  - April 19: NHS/NJHS Induction 4:00 PM
  - May 3: Spring Band Concert 2:00 PM
  - May 8: Band Banquet 6:00 PM
  - May 11: Senior Cord Ceremony 6:00 PM
  - May 13: FFA Banquet
  - May 14: George Scott Academic Banquet @ 7:00 PM
  - May 17: Baccalaureate Class of 2025 5:00 PM
  - May 19: Athletic Banquet 5:30 PM
  - May 20: JH/HS 9th-11th Awards Ceremony 9:00 AM
  - May 21: Senior Walk @ Stafford 8:30 AM
  - May 21: Senior Awards & Scholarship Program 9:30 AM
  - May 21: Senior Lunch at CBC 11:30 AM
  - May 21: Graduation Rehearsal 2:00 PM
  - May 22: Graduation 7:00 PM

9.B. Upcoming Board Meetings

*All meetings begin at 5:30 PM unless otherwise noted.*

- March 23, 2026 (Regular meeting date March 16th is first day back after Spring Break)
- April 20, 2026
- May 18, 2026
- June 15, 2026

10. Adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to: 6:30 PM

Texas Government Code Section 551.074

Personnel, to deliberate regarding 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.

To discuss and collect information related to the Superintendent's evaluation.

Texas Government Code, Section 551.072

For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

If during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board of Trustees should determine that a closed session of the Board of Trustees is required, then such a closed session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001 will be held by the School Board at the date, hour, and place given in this Notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this Notice as the School Board may conveniently meet in such closed or executive meeting or session concerning any and all purposes permitted by the Act

11. Reconvene into Open Session for Action Relative to Closed Session 7:42 PM

12. Action Items 7:42 AM

**There were no action items to be decided from Closed Session.**

12.A Take action, if any, on other matters discussed in Closed Session.

13. Adjourn Time 7:43PM

**Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.**

**1st: Dennis Perkins                      2nd: Parker Reeves                      Vote: 6-0      Approved      \**

**Allen Richards:                      For**

**Nichole Galvan:                      For**

**Dennis Perkins:                      For**

**Clay Major:                      For**

**Parker Reeves:                      For**

**Lee Guidry:                      For**

**Ashton Russ:                      For**

If during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board of Trustees should determine that a closed session of the Board of Trustees is required, then such a closed session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001 will be held by the School Board at the date, hour, and place given in this Notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this Notice as the School Board may conveniently meet in such closed or executive meeting or session concerning any and all purposes permitted by the Act.