



Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Galveston Independent School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Galveston Independent School District was held August 6, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Lovenberg Administration Building, 3904 Avenue T, Galveston, TX 77550.

Board present: Smecca, Beeton, Lakin, Brwon, Masel, Tucker, and O'Neal

Staff in attendance: Polzin, Post, Patrick, Martello, Neighbors, Perez

1) Call to order Open Session in the Board Room of the Lovenberg Administration Building, 3904 Avenue T, Galveston, Texas.- 6:00pm

2) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag. - 6:00 *Students from the all-district musical, Grease! performed and then led the pledges.*

3) Citizen's Request to Address the Board on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items. Please complete sign-up sheets available in the lobby prior to the start of the meeting. - 6:06

Russell LaForte spoke against the Ten Commandments

Brooke Dennis spoke against the display of the Ten Commandments in the classroom.

James Rankin spoke in favor of the display of the Ten Commandments in the classroom.

Rabbi Peter Kessler stated he does not like the law but that we should follow the law.

Catherine Vance spoke against the display of the Ten Commandments in the classroom.

Dr. Sandra Sullivan spoke in favor of delaying posting the Ten Commandments.

Becky Geck spoke in favor of delaying posting the Ten Commandments.

Michelle Davis in opposition of displaying the Ten Commandments.

R.J. Creighton spoke in favor of delaying the display of the Ten Commandments

Linda Harvey spoke about the 7U.U. Principles displayed in her Unitarian Church and said she would stick with that.

Julia Ramirez read a statement on behalf of a staff member who would like to postpone displaying the Ten Commandments.

Frances King said it is her hope that the Ten Commandments are not posted in schools.

4) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest. - 6:32 *None*

5) District Reports - 6:32

A) Superintendent's Report - 6:32

1) ESL /EB presentation by Jeff Paysse - 6:33

B) Board Committee Reports

1) Curriculum Committee Chair- Ms. Ann Masel – 7:15

2) Facilities/Finance Committee Report given by Chair, Mr. Johnny Smecca – 7:18

6) Financial Reports and Budget Update *given by Johnny Smecca*

7) REGULAR AGENDA- Action Items – 7:27

A) Discuss and Consider Approval of GMP #7C for the completion Natatorium Foundation & Site Work for the Ball High School – South Building – 7:27 *Deferred*

B) Discuss and Consider Approval of Construction Delivery Methods for renovation of Libbie Shearn Moody Performing Arts Center, related fine arts areas, and remaining refurbishing of existing portions of Ball High School related to the Bond 2022 Construction Project; Delegation of Procurement and

Contracting Authority for CMA and Construction Trade contractors, and Related Actions. – 7:27
Motion to approve by Masel. Second by Smecca. Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Brown announced that the board will recess into executive session. Beeton asked to discuss the Ten Commandments and then go into executive session if anyone has a legal question. Brown wanted to hear legal advice before they had discussion. Beeton stated the board had received a three-page letter from the lawyers and she would like to have discussion. Brown appreciated her thought and said they were going into executive session as of 7:30. Beeton then requested that they go into executive session for just the Ten Commandments and then pause executive session, return, discuss the Ten Commandments and go back because of the lengthy items and because they had public comment on just the Ten Commandments. The board recessed into executive session.

Reestablish the open meeting of the Galveston ISD Board of Trustees. -8:37

Item D: Discuss and consider delaying posting of Ten Commandments donated posters until Nathan v. Alamo Heights Independent School District appeal has been heard and decided upon. -8:37 *Motion by Beeton to delay the posting of the donated Ten Commandment posters until after the appeals of the constitutionality of Senate Bill 10 are fully heard and decided upon. Second by Tucker. Discussion. Motion passed. Smecca, Beeton, Lakin and Tucker in favor. Brown, Masel and O'Neal opposed.*

8) CONSENT AGENDA - Action Items -9:20 *Motion to approve all consent items by Smecca. Second by Masel. Approved unanimously.*

- A) Consider approval of the minutes from the September 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting and the October 1, 2025 Special School Board Meeting.
- B) Consider approval of personnel resignations and recommendations with contracts.
- C) Discuss and consider approval of payment of attorney fees.
- D) Consider approval of Budget Amendments
- E) Discuss and consider accepting donations in accordance with Board Policy CDC Local.
- F) Discuss and Consider Nominations for Persons to Serve on the Galveston Central Appraisal District Board of Directors
- G) Discuss and consider Resolution to join the 791 Purchasing Cooperative.
- H) Discuss and consider custodial, hvac, and plumbing supply purchases from Ferguson Facilities for the GISD Facilities Department in FY26
- I) Discuss and consider approval of the purchase of trash services from Republic Services for the GISD Facilities Department in FY26.
- J) Discuss and consider approval for the District Goals and Performance Objectives for 2025-2026
- K) Discuss and consider approval for the campus goals and performance objectives as presented in the campus plans.
- L) Consider approval of Ball High Tornadoes taking trip to Orlando, FL to watch UDA collegiate dance championship.

9) The Board did recess into Closed Executive Session in the Library as permitted by the Texas Open Meeting Act Government Code Sections 551.071- 551.090 Subchapter D and E. -9:21

Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the School Board with regard to any matter considered in such closed meeting then the final action, final decision, or final vote shall be either:

- A) in the open meeting covered by the Notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting; or
- B) at a subsequent public meeting of the School Board upon notice thereof; as the School Board shall determine.

A) Consultation with Attorney (Tex. Govt. Code Section 551.071) - Consultation with attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or matters in which the duty of the attorney to the school district under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the state's open meetings laws.

B) Personnel Matters (Tex. Govt. Code Section 551.074) – Discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, dismissal or resignation of an employee or employees, including the Superintendent.

C) Real Property (Tex. Govt Code Section 551.072) – Discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate in which the discussion in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the ability of the school district to negotiate with a third party.

D) Prospective Gifts or Donations (Tex. Govt Code Section 551.073) – Discuss prospective gifts or donations to the Galveston Independent School District and/or individual campuses, programs or facilities.

E) Network Security, Security Devices and Security Audits (Tex. Govt Code Sections 551.076 and 551.089) – Discuss Network security information; a security audit; the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices; or security assessment or deployments related to information resources technology.

10) Reestablish the open meeting of the Galveston ISD Board of Trustees. -9:52

Action Item D: Discuss and consider approval and extension of the Superintendent's Contract. -9:52

Motion to approve the new contract by Masel. Second by O'Neal. Discussion. Posted contract will have a small change. Approved unanimously.

11) Suggested Future Agenda Items -9:54 None

12) COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES -9:54

Smecca spoke about Mike Evans getting injured.

Tucker said he is happy to approve a new contract for Dr. Neighbors and thank you to child nutrition for their treat.

13) Adjournment -9:55

Approved on November 20, 2025

Mr. Tony Brown, President

Mindy Lakin, Secretary