

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees Huntsville ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Huntsville ISD was held Thursday, May 15, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Hawkins Administration Building located at 441 FM 2821 E., Huntsville, Texas 77320.

Board Members Present	Ken Holland , President; Tracy Stoudt, Vice-President; Cathay Schweitzer, Secretary; Amanda Burris & J.T. Langley
Others Present	Marcus Forney, Chief Academic Officer, Nkrumah Dixon, Asst. Superintendent & Paul Brown, Chief Financial Officer
PUBLIC NOTICE Item I-B	Dr. Sheppard certified that public notice of the Board Meeting was given in accordance with the provision of Section 551.002 et. Seq. of the Texas Government Code.
INVOCATION Item II-A	Ken Holland gave the Invocation.
PLEDGES Item II-B	Pledges were led by Shannon Hollis
BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS Item III-A	Cathy Schweitzer stated “I would just like to congratulate the class of 2025. um we've been watching you all these years and we're super proud of you and excited for your journey and we can't wait to see what uh you do and then we're excited about the class of 2026 and uh what you all will do as well. So, thank you for all your work.
SUPERINTENDENT BRIEFING Item IV-A	<p>Dr. Sheppard stated “Five Hornets were recently awarded Academic All-State accolades. To receive this honor, a student athlete must be a senior, have an overall GPA of 92 or above, and meet other rigorous criteria developed at the state level.</p> <p>Lady Hornet Softball</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Jaz Enrique - Honorable Mention Academic All-State● Kylee Presswood - 2nd team Academic All-State <p>Hornet Baseball</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Evan Bell - Academic All-State● Colton Gilbert - Academic All-State● Colten Humphrey - Academic All-State

Huntsville High School, Mance Park Middle School, and Scott Johnson Elementary were recently named Capturing Kids' Hearts® (CKH) National Showcase Schools.

This national distinction recognizes campuses that go above and beyond in creating safe, welcoming environments where students feel relationally connected and eager to learn. CKH National Showcase Schools are selected through a rigorous process that includes the evaluation of key performance indicators, campus data, and stakeholder surveys. Some key indicators include improvements in attendance, discipline, school culture, academic achievement, and social-emotional wellness. The recognition of these three campuses affirms the district's ongoing dedication to serving the whole child.

Have the principals stand with any other team members that are here:

Paul Trevino, Principal, Huntsville High School

Josh Campbell, Principal, Mance Park Middle School

Jennifer Barnes, Principal, Scott Johnson Elementary

The Huntsville Education Foundation recently awarded 18 enriching and innovative grants to HISD Teachers. The grants totaled almost \$25,000. Huntsville ISD appreciates the Foundation for their continued support and for their generous investment in our teachers and students.

That's my report and Sting 'em Hornets!"

MONTHLY DIGITAL
REPORT
Item V

The monthly digital report produced by Matthew Lahey was viewed highlighting the Huntsville High School Senior Class of 2025.

RECOGNITIONS
Item VI (A-B)

Student Leaders:

- Several fourth-grade student leaders from Huntsville Elementary were recognized for their exemplary character and leadership, introduced individually along with shoutouts to their families.

Staff Awards:

- Educator of the Month: Lisa Hoke, recognized for her dedication at West Westmoreland Academy, notably choosing a challenging campus post-realignment and demonstrating nurturing support and effectiveness with students.
- Support Service Employee of the Month: Donna Jenkins, who has significantly contributed to the smooth operation of Westmoreland Academy by ensuring preparedness and welcoming interactions with families.

Welding Team Achievements:

- The HISD welding team achieved unprecedented success at the Texas High School Welding Series State Championship with a record number of qualifiers.
- Brandon Luger, Kase Miller and Dylan Swatk. Dylan was the only Hornet welder in level one to pass both rounds of visual and compete in the final round.
- Several students placed highly, including second and third place finishes and the Level Four State Champion Brandon Bean who earned a full-ride scholarship to Texas State Technical College (TSTC).
- The welding team was also crowned the overall state champion in the build off competition, showcasing skill and teamwork across multiple levels.
- The following students competed. Marco Alvareo Rodriguez, Blake Bridges, Corey Christ, Calvin Coker, Charles Darby, Fernando de la Cruz, Giovanni Garcia, Kayen Harrison, and Kayla Lambrite, Bubba Mareno, Luis Pal Marin, Christopher Pedra, Katie Thorp, and Joel Williams. In this round, both Charles Darby and Giovanni Garcia passed both visual and X-ray for their welds and competed in the final round the next day. Giovanni, placed second place in the state competition.
- In level three, we had one student competing in level three, Luis Almanza. Luis completed and passed both rounds of visual and X-ray for his level three welds, and he placed third place in the state competition.

Powerlifting State Qualifiers:

- Three student athletes—Elena Blanton, Cooper Hooks, and Juan Garcia—were recognized for their outstanding performances at the state powerlifting meet, with total lifts representing exceptional strength and commitment.

Attendance Awards

- Highest student attendance was awarded to Samuel Walker Houston Elementary (93.04%).
- Highest staff attendance recognized at Mancepark Middle School (97.76%).

Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Awards

- The district honored its second class of TIA designated teachers, including new and renewing members who demonstrated exceptional student growth, instructional effectiveness, and leadership.
- Jessica Hassel recognized educators from both high school and middle school campuses with distinctions including TIA Exemplary and Master status.
- These designations come with increased state compensation and multi-year contract security.
- The expansion of the TIA program reflects HISD's commitment to supporting and rewarding top-tier teaching talent.
- Caitlyn Johnson - English 2 Teacher at Huntsville High School, TIA exemplary teacher
- Tom Farr - English I Teacher at Huntsville High School, TIA exemplary teacher
- Nancy Long, Aaron Robertson, and Rachel Tatum - Mance Park Middle School - Master TIA Teachers

BRIEF RECESS
Item VII

Recess taken from 6:52 pm to 6:57 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT
Item VIII (A-B)

The board allocated time for controlled public comment, adhering to procedural rules.

- Teacher Compensation Concerns: Dawona and R. Johnson, community members and family of teachers, urged the board to address low teacher salaries and rising health insurance costs to prevent ongoing teacher shortages and retain qualified educators. She stressed the impact inadequate pay has on educational quality.
- School Safety and Bullying Incident: Kinnie Simon detailed a serious incident involving alleged bullying followed by a violent response from a school security officer resulting in his son sustaining a concussion. He expressed frustration over perceived lack of accountability, communication, and adequate intervention from school staff and administration.

ITEMS REQUIRING
BOARD ACTION
CONSENT AGENDA
Item IX A 1-13

J.T. Langley made a motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of minutes of Board meeting held on April 15, 2025, monthly financials, Budget Amendment #6, Boys & Girls Club of Walker County 2025-2026 contract, 2025 Summer Academic Term, Hvac Building Automation System & Control bid, Chromebooks, laptops, and PC purchase, Kitchen Equipment bid, Custodial Supplies bid, purchase of Security/Intrusion Project, and purchase of HHS Boiler, Contracted Service Agreement 2025-2026 with CKH.

Amanda Burris seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Item IX-B

Ashley Kimich presented A detailed presentation outlined proposed adjustments to the district’s pre-K special education structure for the upcoming school year. Based on data showing a decline in readiness assessments and feedback from teachers and administrators, the district proposes separating three-year-olds and four-year-olds into distinct classrooms to better meet developmental needs. Three-year-olds receiving special education support would be housed at Steuart Elementary, while four-year-olds would be at Scott Johnson Elementary, where bilingual support is available if needed. The district plans to re-establish caps on the number of district employee children enrolled to better manage resources. The proposal aims to improve compliance with instructional requirements, serve students’ unique needs more effectively, and optimize funding.

Cathay Schweitzer made a motion to approve the programming and placement plan for Pre-Kindergarten Special Education (PREK SPED) students.

Tracy Stoudt second the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Item IX-C

Dr. Scott Sheppard recommended amendments to the instructional calendar for the current (2024-2025) and next (2025-2026) academic years. Changes primarily involved the removal of an additional workday following a long holiday weekend in May, which had created staff dissatisfaction, and restoring instructional days in October for continuity and community convenience. The calendar revisions ensure compliance with required instructional minutes, maintain traditional holiday breaks, and accommodate staff and family needs. The board acknowledged the complexity of calendar planning under constrained timelines and competing priorities, thanking the calendar committee for their work.

Amanda Burris made the motion to approve the proposed revisions to the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic calendars.

Tracy Stoudt second the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

REPORT/DISCUSSION
INFORMATION
Item X (A-C)

A. Disciplinary Monthly Comparison Report-written only
B. Principal Reports-written only
C. Bond Projects Update-written only

NEXT MEETING/
EVENT NOTICE
Item XI

A. Special Called Meeting followed by a Budget Workshop on -TUESDAY, June 03, 2025.
B. Regular Board of Trustees Meeting-TUESDAY June 17, 2024 6:00 PM due to June 19 Holiday.

CLOSED SESSION
Item XII (A-B)

The Board adjourned to Closed Session @ 7:33 pm and reconvened to Open Session @ 8:01 pm

ITEMS REQUIRING
BOARD ACTION

J.T. Langley made a motion to approve employee contracts and employ Robert Gilbert as the principal of Huntsville High School.

Item XIV

Tracy Stoudt second the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT
Item X

There being no other business on the agenda, the Board adjourned the Regular Session at 8:01 pm.

Ken Holland, Board President

Cathay Schweitzer, Board Secretary
441 FM 2821 East
Huntsville, Texas 77320

