

Killeen Independent School District

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, Regular Meeting October 28, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the Killeen ISD Boardroom

Board Members Present

- Brett E. Williams, President
- Susan M. Jones, Vice President
- Brenda Adams, Secretary
- Oliver Mintz, Member
- Tina Capito, Member
- Rodney Gilchrist, Member
- Marvin Rainwater, Member

Board Member Absent: None

Quorum: Established

Call to Order

The meeting of the Killeen Independent School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Brett E. Williams at 5 p.m.

The meeting was recorded and streamed publicly

Agenda Item 1: Public Forum

Speaker: Erik Madrid

Mr. Madrid, a staff member at Hay Branch Elementary, addressed the Board about potential school closures. He praised the strong relationships between teachers and students and urged the district to reconsider closing Hay Branch, emphasizing its importance to the local community and concerns about transportation for displaced students.

No additional speakers were present.

Agenda Item 2: Closed Session

The Board entered closed session at **5:04 p.m.** for:

2A. Discussion regarding Personnel Matters (Texas Government Code 551.074).

No action was taken in closed session.

Return from Closed Session

The Board reconvened in open session at **5:35 p.m.**

The Board moved up Agenda Item 8E: Closed Session

The Board then briefly reentered closed session at **5:36 p.m.** for:

8E. Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Texas Government Code 551.074)

No action was taken in closed session.

Return from Closed Session

The Board reconvened in open session at **5:47 p.m.**

The Board went into recess at **5:47 p.m.**

The Board reconvened in open session at **6:00 p.m.**

Invocation and Pledges

Invocation was led by Trustee **Rodney Gilchrist**.

Pledges of Allegiance were led by students to the United States and Texas flags were led by **Estefania Arreaga Sanchez** and **Elijah Nelson-Williamson** from Killeen Elementary School.

Agenda Item 3: Honors and Recognition

- **District Academic Honors**

Presenter: Karen Rudolph

A series of recognitions celebrating student and staff achievements across the district were presented:

National Marit Semifinalist and Commended

- Alexander Kim (Semifinalist) - *Harker Heights High School*
- Joshia Duenas (Commended) - *Harker Heights High School*
- Hannah Shin (Commended) - *Harker Heights High School*
- Malakai Thornton (Commended) - *Killeen High School*
- Thomas Pauley (Commended) - *Early College High School*

Purple Star Campuses

- Brookhaven Elementary – Becky Whitelow
- Clarke Elementary – Laura Dart
- Clear Creek Elementary – Jessica Brading
- Dr. Joseph A. Fowler Elementary – Donna Hardy
- Haynes Elementary – Alice Baumann
- Ira Cross Jr. Elementary – Stephanie Ford
- Killeen Elementary – Yanitizie Oquendo
- Maude Moore Wood Elementary – Amber Dibble
- Meadows Elementary – Kara Smith
- Mountain View Elementary – Christy Galloway
- Oveta Culp Hobby Elementary – Alena Thomas
- Pershing Park Elementary – Jessica Taylor
- Richard E. Cavazos Elementary – Ronald Sursa
- Saegert Elementary - Katie Hequembourg
- Skipcha Elementary – Ariel Woods
- Timber Ridge Elementary – Stephanie Grisham

- Venable Village Elementary – Traci Kotalik
- Willow Springs Elementary – Anika Stewart
- Audie Murphy Middle School – Yolanda Bailey
- Charles E. Patterson Middle School – Latricia Brown
- Liberty Hill Middle School – Dr. Amber Loubiere
- Manor Middle School – Tomas Sias
- Nolan Middle School – Joe Gonzalez
- Palo Alto Middle School – Christina Harris
- Roy J. Smith Middle School – Dr. Bobbie Reeder
- Chaparral High School – Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham
- Early College High School – Alime Sadkova
- Ellison High School – David Dominguez
- Harker Heights High School – Jorge Soldevila
- Killeen High School – Dr. Kara Trevino
- KISD Career Center – Mahalia Scott
- Pathways Academic Campus – Miguel Timarky

Business Services – Certificate of Excellence for Financial Reporting (ASBO) and Superior Rating for State Fiscal Accountability (FIRST)

Attending: Kallen Vaden, Sheila Ham, George Ybarra, Melanie Jones

School Nutrition – School Lunch Week

Attending: Steve Smith and Anisah Brown

Human Resources – Texas Education Human Resources Day

Attending: Tina Cole, Chiquata Wright, Kristina Carter, Frank Crayton, Chuck Kelly, and Will Baker

Principals new to their Campus – Principal Month

- Yanitizie Oquendo (Killeen ES)
- Dr. Wendy Haider (Clifton Park ES)
- Ariel Woods (Skipcha ES)
- Kara Smith (Meadows ES)
- Ronald Sursa (Richard E. Cavazos ES)
- Jenna McArthur (Nolanville ES)
- Joshua Rainwater (Union Grove Middle School)
- Mahalia Scott (KISD Career Center)
- Dr. Bobbie Reeder (Roy J. Smith Middle School)
- Miguel Timarky (Pathways Academic Campus)
- Kernisha Hill (Live Oak Ridge Middle School)
- Christina Harris (Palo Alto Middle School)
- Latrisha Brown (Charles E. Patterson Middle School)
- Dr. Amber Loubiere (Liberty Hill Middle School)
- Tomas Sias (Manor Middle School)
- Stephanie Ford (Ira Cross Jr. ES)
- Melissa Thomas (Alice W. Douse ES)
- Traci Kotalik (Venable Village ES)

Agenda Item 4: Public Forum

Speaker: Armie Melton, Marlee Luther, Brigham McClelland (Chaparral High School)
Students representing the **Chaparral High School Bobcat Drama Department** invited the Board and Superintendent to attend their performance of *Godspell*, commending the technical and performance teams' creativity and dedication.

No other individuals signed up to speak.

Agenda Item 5: Consent Agenda

The following items were asked to be removed from consent agenda:

Removed Items:

- 5A: Minutes for the Regular Meeting on September 23, 2025
(per request by Trustee Susan Jones since she was not in attendance at the September 23rd meeting)
- 5B: Minutes for the Special Called Meeting on September 24, 2025
(per request by Trustee Susan Jones since she was not in attendance at the September 24th meeting)
- 5G: Region 12 PEIMS Audit
(per request by Trustee Oliver Mintz in order to approve the Region 12 PEIMS Audit item separately)

The following items were approved under the consent agenda:

- 5C: Minutes for the Workshop Meeting on October 7, 2025
- 5D: Minutes for the Team of Eight Training on October 20, 2025
- 5E: Minutes for the Special Called Meeting on October 20, 2025
- 5F: Minutes for the Workshop Meeting on October 21, 2025
- 5H: Selection of Engineer & Commissioning Agent for FY 2025 HVAC Life Cycle Replacement Project
- 5I: Selection of Architectural and Engineering Professional Services Pool
- 5J: Quarterly and Annual Investment Reports for the Periods Ending August 31, 2025
- 5K: Resolution for the Annual Review of Qualified Brokers/Dealers Authorized to Engage in Investment Transactions with Killeen ISD
- 5L: Resolution for the Annual Review and Adoption of Board Policy CDA (LOCAL): Other Revenues – Investments, as the District's Investment Policy.
- **Motion:** Oliver Mintz
- **Second:** Susan Jones
- **Vote:** 7–0–0–0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None

5A. Receive and Approve Minutes for the Regular Meeting on September 23, 2025

- **Motion:** Rodney Gilchrist
- **Second:** Brenda Adams
- **Vote:** 6–0–1–0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** Susan M. Jones
 - **Absent:** None

5B. Receive and Approve Minutes for the Special Called Meeting on September 24, 2025

- **Motion:** Rodney Gilchrist
- **Second:** Tina Capito
- **Vote:** 6–0–1–0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** Susan M. Jones
 - **Absent:** None

5G. Consideration of Proposed Region 12 PEIMS Audit

Presenter: Trustee Oliver Mintz, Audit Committee Chair

Discussion emphasized that the audit should be conducted under the Superintendent's oversight rather than the Board Audit Committee. It was suggested to proceed with the Region 12 PEIMS audit as a stand-alone audit. Trustee Mintz requested to maintain the budget for the Board Audit Committee as previously established and he also clarified that this shift would allow the Superintendent to directly coordinate with Region 12 and apply audit findings more effectively to district operations. Trustee Gilchrist and Vice President Jones voiced support.

The Board further discussed the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability throughout the Region 12 PEIMS audit process to ensure accurate reporting and compliance with state standards. Several trustees emphasized that while the audit would now fall under the Superintendent's supervision, the Board Audit Committee would continue to receive regular updates and review findings.

- **Motion:** Marvin Rainwater
- **Second:** Tina Capito
- **Vote:** 7–0–0–0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None

Agenda Item 6: Action Items for Consideration

6A: Consideration of District Optimization Final Scenario Recommendations

Presenter: Dr. Susan Buckley, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Buckley reviewed the final optimization recommendations, which included:

- Closing **Peebles** and **Hay Branch Elementary Schools**; rezoning students to nearby campuses.
- Closing **Eastern Hills** and **Palo Alto Middle Schools** and repurposing Palo Alto for alternative programs.
- Pursuing a **Texas Partnership (1882)** for Manor Middle School.
- Consolidating **Cedar Valley and Timber Ridge Elementary Schools** for 2026–27.

Trustees discussed postponing the closure of Hay Branch Elementary to allow additional evaluation and support for ongoing improvement efforts. Trustee Oliver Mintz voiced strong objections to closing Hay Branch Elementary, citing its vital role in serving a historically underserved community and the risks of disrupting established student support systems. He expressed concern that closing the campus would negatively affect neighborhood stability and reduce accessibility for families without reliable transportation. Mintz emphasized that the school had shown measurable academic progress under current leadership and deserved the opportunity to continue its upward trajectory. He urged the Board to consider delaying closure until further performance data could be reviewed and community engagement sessions completed. Trustee Mintz

proposed delaying closure for one year, citing community impact concerns and strong campus leadership.

The Board emphasized that the plan represents a comprehensive strategy to align facility use with enrollment trends and long-term fiscal responsibility. Trustees noted that the consolidation efforts are designed to optimize resources while preserving educational quality across campuses.

The following action was taken:

Motion to approve the optimization plan with modification to delay Hay Branch ES closure by one year

- **Motion:** Oliver Mintz
- **Second:** Marvin Rainwater
- **Vote:** 4–3–0–0
 - **For:** Susan M. Jones, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** Brett E. Williams, Brenda Adams, Tina Capito
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None

6B. Consideration of District, Campus, and Targeted Improvement Plans 2025–2026 School Year

*Presenter: Christianne Shinn, Executive Director for State and Federal Programs
Dawn Sills, Executive Director for Assessment and Accountability
Dr. Julie Sims, Executive Director of School Leadership*

The Presentation provided updated improvement plans for district and campus accountability, aligning strategies with the Texas Education Agency's Effective Schools Framework. It outlined key findings from recent assessments, noting areas of strong growth as well as campuses requiring targeted support. It was explained how the data dashboard allows principals and teachers to monitor progress in real time and adjust interventions more effectively. Dr. Sims also described how campuses like Eastern Hills were designated for comprehensive support based on multiple subgroup performance metrics, using this data to guide strategic improvement planning.

Trustees praised the presentation, noting that the data-focused approach enhances accountability and helps ensure that all students are making measurable academic

gains. Trustees also expressed their appreciation for the clear linkage between performance indicators and student success outcomes.

- **Motion:** Oliver Mintz
- **Second:** Tina Capito
- **Vote:** 7–0–0–0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None

Agenda Item 7: Future Board Meeting Agendas and Trustee Remarks

Trustees shared several reflective and forward-looking remarks before entering discussion. Members acknowledged the difficult decisions made earlier in the session, emphasizing unity and accountability as the district moves forward. Trustees also expressed appreciation for staff dedication, noting that administrative and instructional teams would play a critical role in successfully implementing approved initiatives. They expressed appreciation for district staff and administrators who provided extensive data and context.

Agenda Item 8: Closed Session

After confirming with the Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and Board Council, President Williams announced that there was nothing to discuss on any of the closed session items on the agenda.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment

- **Motion:** Tina Capito
- **Second:** Rodney Gilchrist
- **Vote:** 7–0–0–0
 - **For:** Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist, Marvin Rainwater, Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Oliver Mintz, Brenda Adams
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at **7:41 p.m.**

Signatures

Brett E. Williams
Board President

Brenda Adams
Board Secretary
