

# **Minutes of Special Board Meeting**

## **The Board of Trustees Graham ISD**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Graham ISD was held Wednesday, August 27, 2025, in the GRAHAM ISD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 400 THIRD STREET, GRAHAM, TX 76450. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Chris Blanton, and it was noted that the meeting was held in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

**PRESENT:** Chris Blanton, Lauren Mahaney, Brandon Joy, Brandon Bates, Jason Smith, John Brown

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kristina Pettus

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Dr. Mary Johnston, Gary Browning

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Greg Bonzelaar, Charise Bewley, Thomas Wallner

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025-2026 BUDGET & TAX RATE:**

The Board held a public hearing on the 2025-2026 proposed budget and tax rate.

Mr. Greg Bonzelaar spoke in regards to the NCTC tax rate.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 BUDGET REVISIONS:**

A motion by Brandon Joy, seconded by Lauren Mahaney, carried 6 to 0 to approve the 2024-2025 budget revisions of \$155,000.

A motion by Dr. Brandon Bates, seconded by Brandon Joy, carried 6 to 0 to approve the 2024-2025 GISD Budget Amendments (Between Function Codes)

A motion by John Brown, seconded by Lauren Mahaney, carried 6 to 0 to approve a Budget Amendment on the donations of \$4, 954.45 for cameras and \$7, 878.00 for charter buses.

**2. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE 2025-2026 GRAHAM ISD BUDGET:**

The GISD Board approved an operating budget of \$30,848,018 based on an overall tax rate of \$.9863 per \$100 assessed valuation, which is slightly lower than last year. Revenue for 2025-26 will fall just short of expenditures at \$29.7 million. However, the district anticipates ending the 2024-25 fiscal year with a surplus of approximately \$400,000, which will be added to the Fund Balance.

A motion by Dr. Brandon Bates, seconded by Brandon Joy, carried 6 to 0 to approve the 2025-2026 budget as presented.

District leaders will continue to work to reduce the deficit throughout the year through conservative spending and strong fiscal responsibility, utilizing Fund Balance as needed to address the remaining difference at the end of the fiscal year. In addition, school officials are exploring the option of shifting the 2026-27 fiscal year from September 1 to July 1, which provides the district with a one-time savings of two months operating costs.

**3. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE 2025-2026 GISD TAX RATE:**

Trustees also set the annual tax rate for the year. A school tax rate and budget are made up of two parts: Maintenance & Operations (M&O) and Interest & Sinking (I&S). The M&O budget covers daily operating expenses like staff salaries and benefits, supplies, fuel, and utilities. The I&S budget is used to pay down debt and interest incurred as a result of a voter-approved bond election.

A motion by John Brown , seconded by Jason Smith, carried 6 to 0 to levy and set the tax rate on \$100 valuation for the Graham Independent School District for the tax year 2025 at a total tax rate of \$.9863. \$.6757 for the purpose of maintenance and operation and \$.3106 for the purpose of payment of principal and interest on debt.

**4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2025-2026 NCTC TAX RATE:**

The GISD Board approved the North Central Texas College (NCTC) tax rate for 2025-26. NCTC levies a local Branch Campus Maintenance (M&O only) tax to support the operations of NCTC Graham. This arrangement allows NCTC students residing inside the NCTC Graham area to qualify for the same reduced tuition rates as students residing within the NCTC Gainesville area.

A motion by Dr. Brandon Bates, seconded by Jason Smith, carried 6 to 0 to levy and set the tax rate on \$100 valuation for the North Central Texas College Graham Texas Campus for the tax year 2025 at a total tax rate of \$0.0449 for the purpose of maintenance and operation of North Central Texas College Graham Campus.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion by Lauren Mahaney seconded by Dr. Brandon Bates, carried 6 to 0 to adjourn the meeting.

The School Board's next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10. Regularly Scheduled Meetings are held at the Graham Learning Center.

**APPROVED**

---

Chris Blanton, President  
Board of Trustees  
Graham Independent School District

---

Dr. Brandon Bates, Secretary  
Board of Trustees  
Graham Independent School District