

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Bastrop Independent School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bastrop Independent School District was held Tuesday, July 15, 2025, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts, 1401 Cedar Street, Bastrop, TX 78602.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ashley Mutschink, President
Chris M. Dillon, Vice-President
Kellye Seekatz, Secretary
Priscilla Ruiz
Josh Coy
Dr. Matthew Mix
Carol A. Armstrong

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Barry Edwards, Superintendent
Dr. Kristi Lee, Deputy Superintendent
Mike White, Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Eberly, Chief Academic Officer
Scot Bunch, Chief of Police
Noelia Rodea, Executive Administrative Assistant to Superintendent
Rachel Roepke, Director of Accountability & Compliance
Martin Conrardy, Principal of CRCA/GHS
Karen Trevino, Director of Community Relations
Janel Morris, Director of Student Services

ALSO PRESENT:

Casey Cole
Mike Prokop, Sr.
Elva Conrardy
Louise DeRusseau
Angela Coy
Jennifer Marshall
Bill Archer
Jeremy Story
Vanette Watson
Jim Willis
Andrew Fortner
Barbara Caldwell
Brooke Sjoberg
Toni Malone
Martha Harris
Daun Kana

1. Opening, Pledge, and Open Forum

A. Meeting Called to Order

President Ashley Mutschink called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum of board members was present. The meeting was duly called and notice of this meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

The Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

D. Opening Prayer

Pastor Andrew Fortner from LifeFamily Bastrop offered the opening prayer for the evening.

Trustee Priscilla Ruiz spoke about the accountability for the district and praised the district accountability staff.

E. Open Forum

1. Louis DeRusseau asked about the District's plan to improve accountability ratings and encouraged greater community involvement. She expressed willingness to volunteer and noted signing up for the mentor program but had not been contacted.
2. Debra Carter requested a response to her previous request made at the June 11 meeting. She also expressed a desire to collaborate with the District to find solutions and emphasized the community's willingness to support BISD and encouraged opening conversations to work together.
3. Jeremy Story expressed concerns about transparency and alleged violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA) related to the June 11, 2025 Special Called Board Meeting. He referenced a filed lawsuit, requesting the Board rescind the vote taken on that date on the appointment of the new Board Member.

2. Consent Agenda

- A. Consider Approval of Minutes of Special Called Meeting on June 11, 2025, Agenda Review Meeting on June 11, 2025, and Regular Board Meeting on June 17, 2025**
- B. Consider Approval of Amended Investment Training Providers List**
- C. Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Bastrop ISD and St. David's Foundation**

President Mutschink asked if any board member wanted to pull any consent agenda items for discussion. Trustee Carol A. Armstrong requested that the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on June 11, 2025 be amended. She noted that the original language stated: Following the administration of the Oath of Office, an incident occurred in which an audience member disrupted the meeting by leaving his seat to photograph documents handed to the Board Secretary.

Trustee Armstrong recommended revising the statement to clarify that the audience member disrupted the meeting by photographing documents handed to the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, not the Board Secretary.

Trustee Kellye Seekatz further recommended that the minutes also reflect that the individual came up from behind the Executive Administrative Assistant and took a photo over her shoulder without her consent or permission.

The Board agreed to consider both recommendations and voted to pull Item 2A from the Consent Agenda for separate action.

President Mutschink called for a motion. Trustee Carol A. Armstrong moved, and Trustee Dr. Matthew Mix seconded, to approve the amended Minutes of the Special Called Meeting on June 11, 2025, along with the Minutes of the Agenda Review Meeting on June 11, 2025, and the Regular Board Meeting on June 17, 2025, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President Mutschink called for a motion for items 2B & 2C listed on the Consent Agenda. Chris Dillon moved and Matthew Mix seconded to approve the Amended Investment Training Providers List and the Memorandum of Understanding between Bastrop ISD and St. David's Foundation as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Information Items

- A. Board of Trustees Calendar of Events**
- B. Policy Update #125**
- C. Revisions to FNCE (LOCAL)-X, FD (LOCAL)-X, FM (LOCAL)-X, and EFB (LOCAL)-SLAC**

Information was provided to the School Board members. Questions and discussions were made to staff relating to each report to clarify items listed in each item.

4. Closed Session

The Board convened in a closed meeting at 5:59 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, to discuss the following item posted on our agenda this evening as allowed by the Texas Government Code 551.071 Attorney Consultation and 551.074 Personnel Matters.

- A. Attorney Consultation (Government Code 551.071)**
 - 1. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections §551.071, to consult with the District's attorney, in person or by phone, on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the District under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Local Government Code.**

B. Personnel Matters (Government Code 551.074)

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections §551.074 for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer, employee, or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee.**
- 2. Discussion of the Board to Consider Naming an Interim Superintendent**

5. Action Resulting from Closed Session

A. Consider and Approve the Selection of the Interim Superintendent

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:26 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

Priscilla Ruiz moved and Kellye Seekatz seconded to approve selecting and naming Deputy Superintendent Dr. Kristi Lee as the Interim Superintendent. President Mutschink asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Mutschink called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President Mutschink thanked Dr. Lee for her willingness to serve.

6. Board Team Building

Rhonda Crass from Leasor Crass, P.C. led the School Board Trustees through a Board Team Building comprehensive session focused on team-building priorities with the following topics:

- A. Board Governance**
- B. Constituent Relations**
- C. Superintendent Search Process**

The session focused on strengthening the board-superintendent relationship, reinforcing effective governance practices, and promoting self-awareness through a board self-assessment. Trustees reviewed their core responsibilities, including hiring the superintendent, setting policy, and establishing the tax rate. Emphasis was placed on the characteristics of effective board members, such as focusing on student outcomes, working collaboratively, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and engaging in ongoing professional development. The training also outlined signs of ineffective governance, including micromanagement, lack of preparation, and personal agendas.

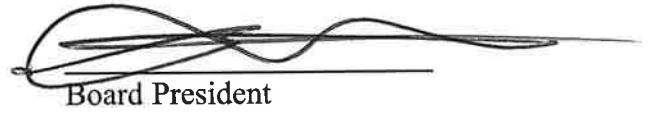
Additional topics included communication protocols, ethical leadership, and the importance of annual reviews of board operating procedures. Trustees were reminded of the importance of lawful conduct, confidentiality, and appropriate roles in media interactions and personnel matters. The group also examined the superintendent search process, stressing transparency, stakeholder engagement, and legal compliance.

After the presentation, President Mutschink expressed appreciation to Mrs. Crass for her presentation. President Mutschink also thanked Superintendent Barry Edwards for his outstanding work. Trustee Dr. Matthew Mix shared that it had been a pleasure working with Superintendent Edwards, commending his honesty and leadership in assembling a strong team. Trustee Priscilla Ruiz also noted Mr. Edward's approachable nature and open-door policy, adding that this was something all trustees could agree on.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.


Board Secretary


Board President

