

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees Graham ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Graham ISD was held Wednesday, January 14, 2026, beginning at 5:32 p.m. in the GRAHAM LEARNING CENTER, 701 TENNESSEE STREET, GRAHAM, TX 76450. President, Chris Blanton, called the meeting to order, announced the meeting had been duly called and posted in the time and manner as required by law, and announced a quorum of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Brandon Bates, Chris Blanton, Lauren Mahaney, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus, John Brown and Jason Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Mary Johnston, Gary Browning, Dr. Janel Madeley, Robert Loomis, Joe Gordy, Adam Anderson, Audra Barrett, Jamie West, Misti Thompson, Donna Gatlin, Josh Kidd,

VISITORS: Alex Havardansky, Toni Stansell, Jessica Gibson, Will Brown, Conner Stamper, Nikki Rogers, John Rogers, Harry Brown, Allie Brown, Rachel Lauster, Lori Brown, Sara Jo Carrico, Tracy Pippins, Bethany Wilson, Vanessa Lyons

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No one requested to address the Board during Open Forum.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Steers Football Honors

Tyson Louder- Offensive Line MVP

Caleb Gibson- Defensive Newcomer of the Year

Colt Taylor- Utility Player of the Year

Denton Lauster- THSCA Academic All-State 1st Team, Academic All-State 1st Team, 2nd Team All-District

Jack Van Winkle- THSCA Academic All-State 1st Team, Academic All-State 1st Team

Treyson Kramer- THSCA Academic All-State 2nd Team, Academic All-State 2nd Team

Jace Gill- THSCA Academic All-State Honorable Mention, Academic All-State Honorable Mention, 1st Team All-District

MaCrae Menard- THSCA Academic All-State Honorable Mention, Academic All-State Honorable Mention, 2nd Team All-District

Mike Garcia- THSCA Academic All-State Honorable Mention, Academic All-State Honorable Mention

Isaiah Flores- THSCA Academic All-State Honorable Mention, Academic All-State Honorable Mention, 1st Team All-District
Mia Hunter- THSCA Academic All-State Honorable Mention, Academic All-State Honorable Mention- Athletic Trainer
Hannah Rudolph- THSCA Academic All-State Honorable Mention, Academic All-State Honorable Mention- Athletic Trainer
Roan Pratt- 1st Team All-District
Jordan Alexander- 1st Team All-District
Cooper Corley- 1st Team All-District
Brennen Strawbridge- 1st Team All-District
Brodie Martin- 1st Team All-District
Thomason Burkett- 1st Team All-District
Bennett Coley- 1st Team All District
Andrew Ramirez- 2nd Team All-District
Walker Bennett- 2nd Team All-District
Brody Chapman 2nd Team All-District
Santiago Zamora- 2nd Team All-District
McCrae Reese- 2nd Team All-District
Braxton Braim- All-District Honorable Mention
Parker Hale- All-District Honorable Mention
Landon Bass- All-District Honorable Mention
Jouah Thomas- All-District Honorable Mention

Senior Student Recognition

Ryder Calhoun- QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship- Rice University (Full Scholarship)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Board Recognition

Dr. Johnston thanked the Board for their excellent work on behalf of the students of Graham ISD. Board Members were presented a book in their honor to be placed in the school Libraries. Presenting books to the Board Members were: Tripp & Reno Mahaney, Will & Harry Brown, Meryl & Watson Blanton, Kyson Bates.

- Calendar Committee Update
 - ❖ The GISD Calendar Sub-Committee has met twice and will hold future meetings to discuss how the 2026-27 school calendar could be structured.
 - ❖ Committee Discussions have included:
 - Reviewing the current calendar
 - Discussing calendars from Aledo, Brock, and Midlothian, noting that these are TEA “A” rated districts with a similar calendar

- Discussing the new TEA day requirements to qualify for staff development waivers, grants, and curriculum completion. (165 Student Days)
- Reviewing 2.5 years' worth of attendance data, since GISD moved to a 4-day school week
- Removing the term "4-Day week" for TEA purposes and moving to a "traditional calendar" that still resembles what we currently have.
- ❖ Next Steps:
 - Provide a blank, draft calendar and time for the committee to provide input on days off for all students/staff, teacher work days, professional learning days, and parent-teacher conference dates.
 - Review proposed ideas from the committee and create 1-2 drafts.
- Enrollment Updates
 - ❖ BOY-EOY Historical Enrollment Trends
 - ❖ Historical Enrollment by Month
 - Currently at 2,138
- Attendance Matters Campaign
- Upcoming Events
 - ❖ Silver Steers & Lady Blues Club's Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 15 from 9-10:30 a.m.
- Facility Planning Committee- An Update to the Board of Trustees
 - ❖ FPC Citizen Co-Chair Courtney Bennett presented an update to the Board of Trustees
 - 52 Committee Members: students (6-12), parents, business leaders, educators and tax payers
 - Strategic Plan (2025-2028) Mission: The mission of Graham ISD is to equip all students with excellence in life.
Vision: Committed To Excellence
We Believe:
In developing an effective learning environment that is safe, and makes real-world connections.
In fostering relationships to ensure collaboration among students, staff, and community.
In reflecting the values of our community and seeking authentic partnerships in the learning process.
In challenging learners to prepare them for success after high school.

Objective: Commit to excellence in facilities that promote innovative, healthy, and welcoming learning environments.

Strategies: 4.1- Create a sustainable and comprehensive long-term facility plan.

4.2- Communicate and foster support for the facility plan as a vehicle promoting innovative, healthy, and welcoming environments.

- Committee's Charge: To serve in an advisory capacity to the School Board and Administration on a temporary basis regarding the topic of facility planning and capital needs.

The Committee will keep students at the center of all recommendations and maximize the district's financial resources.

The committee's work will be presented in a public meeting as recommendations to the GISD School Board.

- Reviewed CS Legal Policy which requires school districts to create a Long-Range Facility Plan (5 years max) with input from students, parents, educators and taxpayers.
- Dream Big Activity
- Walking Tours of Pioneer Elementary, Crestview Elementary and Woodland Elementary Schools
- FPC Subcommittees
 - Academics & Enrollment
 - Capital Improvement & Transportation
 - Student Programs
 - Safety & Security
 - Technology
- Gallery Walk: Past Bond Programs, Enrollment, Attendance, Budget/Tax Rate & Strategic Plan
- Presentation on Facility Planning vs Bond Committees
- Academic Program Overview
- Facility Assessment Presentation-Corgan
- Next Steps: February 4 at Graham Junior High

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Kristina Pettus, seconded by John Brown, carried 7 to 0 to adjourn the meeting into Public Hearing at 6:19. Public Hearing began at 6:20 p.m.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

- I. PUBLIC HEARING- Public Hearing to Present and Discuss Graham Independent School District's 2024-2025 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report

A Public Hearing was held Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

Board Policy CFA LEGAL.

Each school district is required to report information and financial accountability ratings to parents, taxpayers, and other stakeholders by implementing the reporting procedures below. 19 TAC 109.1001(q) In compliance with the applicable Board policies and Administrative Code sections and subsections referenced above, the Administration presents the 2024-2025 FIRST report for Graham Independent School District to the Board of Trustees. A digital copy of the FIRST report can be found on the Graham ISD Business and Finance department webpage.

The following is a brief summary of the 2024-2025 FIRST report:

- Graham ISD received an A = “Superior Achievement” rating – the highest rating available.
- Graham ISD’s “District score” equals 100, a perfect score.

Toni Stansell asked a question regarding the presentation of FIRST rating for the current year. Mr. Gary Browning stated that this is our most recent rating. FIRST ratings lag behind the fiscal year by two years.

A motion by Kristina Pettus, seconded by Lauren Mahaney, carried 7 to 0 to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:34 p.m and resume the meeting at 6:34 p.m. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

II. Review of Graham ISD Preliminary Facility Assessment

Corgan Architects will provide an initial overview of the Comprehensive Facilities Assessment conducted in the Fall of 2025. The Facilities Assessment will inform the eventual development of the Long Range Facility Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS

I. DESIGNATION OF NON-BUSINESS DAYS FOR PURPOSES OF THE TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT 2026-2027

A motion by John Brown, seconded by Jason Smith carried 7 to 0 to approve the Designated Non-Business dates as presented. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

FINANCE AND OPERATION

III. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A BOARD RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE GRAHAM INVESTMENT OFFICER

A motion by Dr. Brandon Bates, seconded by Brandon Joy , carried 7 to 0 to approve Gary Browning, Chief Financial Officer as the Investment Officer for the District. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

STUDENT SERVICES

I. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF ELECTION FOR THE MAY 2, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION TO ELECT TRUSTEES IN PLACES 6 & 7

A motion by Dr. Brandon Bates, seconded by Jason Smith, carried 7 to 0 for the Approval of the Order of Election for School Board Places 6 and 7. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

HUMAN RESOURCES

I. CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION FOR DELAY OF TEACHER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A motion by Brandon Joy, seconded by Kristina Pettus, carried 7 to 0 to approve the application submission for delay of teacher certification requirements. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Minutes of Regular Session held on December 10, 2025
- II. Financial Information
 - A. Cash & Investment Report
 - B. Enrollment Report
 - C. District Financial Summary Report

A motion by John Brown, seconded by Lauren Mahaney , carried 7 to 0 for the Approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 7:09 p.m. under the Texas Government Codes 555.072, 551.076, and 551.074. The Board returned from Closed Session at 9:12 p.m.

Closed Session: Under the authority of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, the Board will enter into closed or Executive Session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property Gov't Code 555.072, Deployment or Specific Occasions for Implementation of Security Personnel or Devices Gov't Code 551.076, and Employment, Retirement, Resignation & Discussion of Personnel, Gov't Code 551.074, Consultation with Attorney Gov't Code 551.071

Reconvene in Open Session to take any necessary action on items discussed in Closed Session to discuss Employment, Retirement, Resignation & Discussion of Personnel, Gov't Code 551.074 and/or to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, Gov't Code 555.072 or Specific Occasions for Implementation of Security Personnel or Devices, Gov't Code 551.076, Consultation with Attorney Gov't Code 551.071

ACTION ITEM OPEN SESSION

I. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ANNUAL APPRAISAL OF SUPERINTENDENT

A motion by Dr. Brandon Bates, seconded by Brandon Joy, carried 7 to 0 for Approval of the Annual Appraisal of Superintendent. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

II. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

A motion by John Brown, seconded by Kristina Pettus , carried 7 to 0 to give President, Chris Blanton the authority to negotiate with the attorney. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- I. Human Resources Update
 - I.Hires & Resignations

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Kristina Pettus, seconded by Lauren Mahaney , carried 7 to 0 to adjourn the meeting.The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy, Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

APPROVED

Chris Blanton, President
Board of Trustees
Graham Independent School District

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