

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, May 13, 2026, beginning at 5:31 p.m. in the GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 1000 BRAZOS 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: Chris Blanton, Lauren Mahaney, Brandon Joy, John Brown, Jason Smith, Dr. Brandon Bates, and Kristina Pettus

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

VISITORS: Thomas Wallner, Taylor Reynolds, Kim Brewster, Jack Ogle, Monty Graves, Adriane Graves, Maranda Philipp, Samantha Purdy, Sophia Purdy, Erin Collins, Dustin Warner, Georgia Weil, Gina Beauchamp, Ronda Craig, Melissa Perry, Kelsey Easterling, Brad Downing, Erin Howard, Betsy Cook, Greg, Whitney, and Nate Crawford, Brian & Rachel Lauster, Angela & Jake Teague, Casey Weil, Joshua Collins, Jennifer & Michael Watts, Michelle Atwood, Caris Gill, Brittany Norvill, Tiffany Cox, Daniell Corley, Rusty & Susan Hughes, Kasey Sams, and a multitude of family and friends of the students receiving awards.

Administering of Oath of Office

Brandon Joy and Kristina Pettus signed the Statement of Officer and Abi Bueno, Notary of Public administered the Oath of Office to Brandon Joy Place 6 and Kristina Pettus Place 7.

Reorganization of Board Officers

Chris Blanton called for nominations for Secretary. Kristina Pettus nominated Dr. Brandon Bates, seconded by Lauren Mahaney, carried 7 to 0 to approve Dr. Brandon Bates for Board Secretary. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy and Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

Chris Blanton called for nominations for Vice President. Dr. Brandon Bates nominated Kristina Pettus, seconded by John Brown, carried 7 to 0 to approve Kristina Pettus for Vice President. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy and Kristina Pettus voted in favor.

Chris Blanton called for nominations for President Kristina Pettus nominated Chris Blanton, seconded by Lauren Mahaney , carried 7 to 0 to approve Chris Blanton for President. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy and Kristina Pettus voted in favor.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Campus and District Teachers of the Year:

Kasey Sams: Pioneer Elementary
Jenifer Sullivan: Crestview Elementary
Gina Beauchamp: Woodland Elementary
Stacey Allen: Graham Junior High
Maria Waller: Graham High

GISD District Elementary Teacher of the Year is: Kasey Sams
GISD District Secondary Teacher of the Year is: Maria Waller

Graham High as a PLTW (Project Lead the Way) 2025-2026 Distinguished High School:

We would like to recognize the efforts of educator SaraJo Carrico.

Texas Association of Soccer Coaches Board of Directors:

TASCO Board Member- Casey Weil

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Elementary Academic UIL Winners
Junior High Academic UIL Winners
High School Publishing Award
GHS UIL District & Regional Academic Winners
FFA Major Stock Show Winners
College Board Honors
Technology Student Association
One Act Play
GHS Athletic Honors
Golf

Track and Field
Tennis
Steers Soccer
Lady Blues Soccer

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Amanda Schupbach addressed the Board regarding Home School Participation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Attendance Update-Current 2110
- Facility Planning Committee Update- A report will be presented at the June 3rd Meeting. Thank you to Courtney Bennett and Matt Rader Committee Co-Chairs.
- Co-Chairs will host a Committee Zoom Review Presentation.
- There will be a combined Strategic Planning Committee and Facility Planning Committee Meeting in August to review the past 15 months.
- Update on Additional Class Offerings through Partnership with NCTC

STUDENT SERVICES

I. Update on Policy CQD Update and Associated AI Guidelines for 2026-2027

Graham ISD Policy [CQD \(Local\)](#) addresses technology resources, specifically Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the associated use of AI in Graham ISD (Adopted in Update 126 in December 2025). The Graham ISD Technology Department, is working to create AI Guidelines for Graham ISD. This document will outline the guidelines for the ethical and effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Graham ISD to enhance teaching, learning, and administrative functions while ensuring data privacy, equity, and responsible AI usage. AI Guidelines will be embedded in the Student Handbook, Staff Handbook, and posted on the Graham ISD website.

II. Review of Policy DC (Local): Employment Practices

Graham ISD [Policy DC \(Local\)](#) addresses employment practices for Graham ISD. Trustees are asked to review this policy and will be asked to consider amending the policy for the term June 4 through August 11, 2026. Trustees will be asked to grant the Superintendent the authority to hire contractual personnel in a position other than teacher.

Policy DC (Local) authorizes hiring as follows:

The Superintendent has sole authority to make recommendations to the Board regarding the selection of contractual personnel in a position other than teacher.

The Board retains final authority for employment of contractual personnel in a position other than teacher. The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to employ teachers.

III. Review of Policy FD (Local): Admissions

Graham ISD [Policy FD \(Local\)](#) addresses eligibility for enrollment in the District, or Admissions. Trustees were asked to review this policy and to consider language to be added as follows:

Students Not Enrolled

A student enrolled in a private school, including a homeschool, shall not be eligible for concurrent enrollment in the District nor for participation in curricular or extracurricular activities. [See EEL and FM]

IV. Review of Policy FM (Local): Student Activities

Graham ISD Policy [FM \(Local\)](#) addresses student activities, specifically extracurricular activity absences and 'No Pass, No Play' waivers. Trustees were asked to review two revision suggestions in FM (Local): clarifying language in the extracurricular activity absences and a redirection to FD (Local) for private and homeschooled students.

V. Review of Policy DEC (Local): Compensation and Benefits: Leaves and Absences

Graham ISD Policy [DEC \(Local\)](#) addresses leaves and absences. At the request of the Trustees, Policy DEC (Local) subsection **Payment for Accumulated Leave Upon Retirement** will be reviewed. The following leave provisions shall apply to local leave accumulated beginning on the original effective date of this program. A professional or paraprofessional employee who retires from the District shall be eligible for payment for accumulated local leave under the following conditions:

1. The employee's retirement is voluntary, i.e., the employee is not being discharged or nonrenewed.
2. The employee provides advance written notice of intent to retire. Contract employees must provide written notice by February 1 and complete the academic year. Noncontract employees must provide written notice at least 30 days before the last day of employment.
3. The employee has at least five consecutive years of service with the District.
4. The employee is retiring under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) at the time of separation from the District.
5. The employee shall not have used more than 10 leave days in the year of retirement, with the exception of leave taken for FMLA purposes or religious holy days.

The employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated local leave, to a maximum of 50 days, at a rate established by the Board (\$75 per day, maximum of \$3,750). If the employee is reemployed with the District, days for which the employee received payment shall not be available to that employee.

The rate established by the Board shall be in effect until the Board adopts a new rate. Any changes to the rate shall apply beginning with the school year following the adoption of the rate change.

FINANCE

I. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REIMBURSABLE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE TEACHER INCENTIVE ALLOTMENT PAYMENTS TO QUALIFYING TEACHERS

A motion by Brandon Joy, seconded by Jason Smith, carried 7 to 0 for the approval of a reimbursable budget amendment for the teacher incentive allotment payments to qualifying teachers. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy and Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

II. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MASTER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GRAHAM ISD AND REGION 10 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

A motion by John Brown , seconded by Dr. Brandon Bates , carried 7 to 0 for the approval of the Master Interlocal Agreement between Graham ISD and Region 10 Education Service Center. The motion passed with John Brown, Dr. Brandon Bates, Lauren Mahaney, Chris Blanton, Jason Smith, Brandon Joy and Kristina Pettus voting in favor.

III. Review of the 2026-2027 Budget Parameters Based on Predicted Tax Rates and Property Values

The Board of Trustees received information on projected tax rates and property values that drive State and local funding. In addition, the presentation to the Board of Trustees included budget parameters for the 2026-2027 school year.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Minutes of Special Session held on March 25, 2026
- II. Minutes of Regular Session held on April 8, 2026
- III. Minutes of Special Session held on April 22, 2026-Minutes with amendment will be in June agenda.
- IV. Financial Information

- A. Cash & Investment Report
- B. Enrollment Report
- C. District Financial Summary Report

A motion by John Brown, seconded by Dr. Brandon Bates, 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 7:20 p.m. under the Texas Government Codes 555.072, 551.076, and 551.074. The Board returned from Closed Session at 8:31 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

- A. Real Property
To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Board's position in negotiations with a third person (Texas Government Code 551.072)
- B. Personnel
To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, including Board members, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee (Texas Government Code 551.074)
- C. Consultation with Attorney
To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, including Board Members, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee, including mid-contract termination of probationary contract employee. (Texas Government Code 551.074)
- D. Security Devices or Security Audits
To deliberate the development, or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel devices or a security audit (Texas Government Code 551.076)

HUMAN RESOURCES

- I. Consider Approval of Auxiliary Personnel Letters of Reasonable Assurance
- II. Consider Approval of Recommendations for Administrative Positions

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

I. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AUXILIARY PERSONNEL LETTERS OF REASONABLE ASSURANCE

A motion by John Brown, seconded by Brandon Joy, carried 7 to 0 for the Approval of Auxiliary personnel letters of reasonable assurance. 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 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

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

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