Prairie Lea Independent School District
6910 San Marcos Highway
P.O. Box 9
Prairie Lea, Texas 78661

Notice of Prairie Lea Independent School District Regular School Board of Trustees Meeting of the Prairie Lea Independent School District Board of Trustees

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, October 8, 2026, the Board of Trustees of the Prairie Lea School District will hold a Prairie Lea Independent School District Regular School Board of Trustees Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Jr/HS Cafeteria , 6910 San Marcos Hwy, Prairie Lea, TX 78661. The subjects to be discussed are listed on the agenda below and make a part of this notice, an original copy will be posted at the District's Administration Building, District Website and at the school building entry ways by on or before .

Martha Gilmore
Superintendent of Schools

Prairie Lea ISD Board of Trustees
Prairie Lea Independent School District Regular School Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2026
6:30 PM

Agenda

1. Opening Ceremonies
   A. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum
   B. Reading of Mission Statement
   C. Pledge of Allegiance (If Assigned)
   D. Open Forum
2. Information Items
   A. Superintendent Update:
      - Historic Celebration
      - Special Programs & Accountability Updates
      - The district's Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) and next steps
      - Principal & Athletics Update
        - House Bill 3 Monthly Update (BOY Data)
      - Bond Updates

- CFO Updates

B.

3. Consent Items
   A. Consider and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Held Thursday, September 10, 2026.
   B. Consider and Approve the Financial Reports, including the Summary of Finance and Payments Exceeding $10,000.
   C. Review and Approve the 2026–2027 Professional Development and Appraisal System Calendar.
4. Action Items
   A. Review the 2026-2027 Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the district's annual review cycle to ensure continued compliance, preparedness, and alignment with applicable safety requirements.
      Corey Kincaid
   B. Review and Possible Approval of the Region 17 Payroll Services agreement for the 2026–2027 school year.
      Eric Tober
   C. Review and Possible Approval of inSchools State Reporting & Data Compliance (PEIMS) Services for the 2026–2027 School Year.
      Eric Tober
5. Executive Session-as authorized by Texas Gov't Code Section 551.001 et se
   A. 551.074 – Personnel Employment and Contract(s)
   B. 551.72 Discussing purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.
   C. 551.76 Considering the deployment,specific occasions for,or implementations of, security personnel or devices.
6. Return to Open Session
   A. Approve / Discuss Executive Session Discussion Items
   B. Adjournment

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this Agenda, the Board of Trustees should determine that a discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in **a Closed or Executive Meeting, the Board will conduct a Closed Meeting** in **accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Tex. Gov't. Code, Chapter 551.001 et seq. that will be convened by the School Board at the date, hour, and place given** in **this Notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this Notice. Before any Closed Meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the Closed Meeting, including, but not limited to the following sections and purposes:**

551.71 Private consultation with the board's attorney.
551.72 Discussing purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.
551.73 Discussing negotiated contracts for prospective gifts or donations.
551.74 Discussing personnel or to hear complaints against personnel.

551.75 Conference Relating to Investments and Potential Investments Attended **by Board** of Trustees of Texas Growth Fund

551.76 Considering the deployment, specific occasions for, or implementations of, security personnel or devices.

551.82 Considering discipline of a public school child, or complaint or charge against personnel.

551.83 Considering the standards, guideline, terms or conditions the board will follow, or will instruct its representatives to follow, in consultation with representatives of employee groups.

551.84 Excluding witnesses from a hearing

All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in Open Meeting.

The State of Texas

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Prairie Lea Independent School District has a long history of serving the children and families of Caldwell County, and it is fitting to commemorate that legacy in 2026 as the district continues to make improvements for the future; and

WHEREAS, The community of Prairie Lea is home to one of the earliest documented schools in the county, an 1848 log cabin that also was used for church services; more than a century ago, in 1925, the first five rooms of the present public school building were constructed; over the following three years, the number of rooms was more than doubled to accommodate the increase in population with the area's oil boom, and a home economics classroom and the first gymnasium in the county subsequently were added; the school was expanded again in 1931 with the construction of two more classrooms and an auditorium; a new secondary academic building and cafeteria were completed in 2023, and the district anticipates further development; and

WHEREAS, Beyond its investment in academics, Prairie Lea has also contributed to the athletic heritage of Texas through six-man football; as a pioneering high school fielding a team in the sport's UIL debut in 1938, it tied for the first District Three championship; and

WHEREAS, Today, Prairie Lea ISD serves nearly 300 students in prekindergarten through 12th grade at its two campuses; the district works collaboratively with families, staff, and the community to build trust and positive relationships, providing the tools and skills for students to develop their potential and pursue successful, impactful futures; and

WHEREAS, Early settlers in Prairie Lea recognized the importance of education, and Prairie Lea ISD continues to honor their vision more than a century and a half later; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Judith Zaffirini, PhD, first woman Dean of the Texas Senate and State Senator for District 21, does hereby recognize the long history of Prairie Lea Independent School District be commemorated and that all those associated with the district and its current projects be extended sincere appreciation

The State of Texas

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Prairie Lea Independent School District has a long history of serving the children and families of Caldwell County, and it is fitting to commemorate that legacy in 2026 as the district continues to make improvements for the future; and

WHEREAS, The community of Prairie Lea is home to one of the earliest documented schools in the county, an 1848 log cabin that was also used for church services; more than a century ago, in 1925, the first five rooms of the present public school building were constructed; over the following three years, the number of rooms was more than doubled to accommodate the increase in population with the area's oil boom, and a home economics classroom and the first gymnasium in the county were subsequently added; the school was expanded again in 1931 with the construction of two more classrooms and an auditorium; a new secondary academic building and cafeteria were completed in 2023, and the district anticipates further development; and

WHEREAS, Beyond its investment in academics, Prairie Lea has also contributed to the athletic heritage of Texas through six-man football; as a pioneering high school fielding a team in the sport's UIL debut in 1938, it tied for the first District Three championship; and

WHEREAS, Today, Prairie Lea ISD serves nearly 300 students in prekindergarten through 12th grade at its two campuses; the district works collaboratively with families, staff, and the community to build trust and positive relationships, providing the tools and skills for students to develop their potential and pursue successful, impactful futures; and

WHEREAS, Early settlers in Prairie Lea recognized the importance of education, and Prairie Lea ISD continues to honor their vision more than a century and a half later; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the long history of Prairie Lea Independent School District be commemorated and that all those associated with the district and its current projects be extended sincere appreciation for their commitment to public education.

Stan Gerdes
State Representative
District 17

PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL LEGACY OF THE COMMUNITY OF PRAIRIE LEA AND PRAIRIE LEA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Caldwell County, Texas finds it appropriate to recognize communities and institutions that have made significant contributions to the county's historical and cultural development; and

WHEREAS, Prairie Lea is widely recognized as one of the earliest established communities in Caldwell County, with documented settlement dating to the mid-1800s;[1] and

WHEREAS, Prairie Lea is home to one of the earliest documented schools in Caldwell County, established in approximately 1848, reflecting the early development of public education in the region;[1] [2] and

WHEREAS, Prairie Lea Independent School District continues this historic educational tradition by serving generations of students and families;[2] and

WHEREAS, Prairie Lea reflects the broader historical development of Central Texas during the Republic of Texas and early statehood periods;[3] and

WHEREAS, Prairie Lea has contributed to Texas athletic heritage through participation in six-man football, a uniquely Texas form of rural school athletics;[4] and

WHEREAS, Prairie Lea's historical economic development has included agriculture, cotton production supported by local gins, and later oil and gas activity, contributing to the growth of Caldwell County.[5]

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Commissioners Court of Caldwell County, Texas hereby honors the community of Prairie Lea and Prairie Lea Independent School District for their enduring legacy in education, culture, and community development, extends the recognition with appreciation for their historical contributions and continued service to the citizens of Caldwell County.

PROCLAIMED this 24th day of September, 2026.

Hoppy Haden
Caldwell County Judge

B.J. Westmoreland
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Rusty Horne
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Ed Theriot
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Dyral Thomas
Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:
Teresa Rodriguez, Caldwell County Clerk

VICE CHAIR, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL
TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
CHAIR, EAGLE FORD SHALE LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Judith Zaffirini, PhD
DEAN OF THE TEXAS SENATE
STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 21

COMMITTEES
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE
FINANCE
REDISTRICTING
STATE AFFAIRS
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT ON GRID RELIABILITY

September 24, 2026

Prairie Lea Independent School District
C/O Martha Mendoza Gilmore, Superintendent
6910 San Marcos Highway 80
Prairie Lea, Texas 78661

Dear Friends:

Congratulations on the Texas Senate's recognition of Prairie Lea Independent School District, highlighting its rich history, growth, and valuable contributions to our community. It's impressive that Prairie Lea ISD has educated and supported generations of students. Your continued commitment to providing opportunities not only strengthens their futures, but truly has made a lasting impact on Caldwell County.

Enclosed is a copy of a Member Resolution by Zaffirini, memorializing this important milestone, and one original copy for you to share. I hope you will consider them appropriate mementos of your school district's enduring legacy.

My prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless and reward you for your work and to inspire your students and faculty to continue to excel. Feel free to call upon my staff or me whenever we may be of assistance.

Respectfully,

Judith Zaffirini

Judith Zaffirini

Z/eb

Enc.: Member Resolution by Zaffirini and one original copy

CAPITOL OFFICE: P.O. BOX 12068, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 • (512) 463-0121 • FAX (512) 475-3738 • DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS
DISTRICT OFFICE: P.O. BOX 627, LAREDO, TEXAS 78042-0627 • (956) 722-2293 • FAX (956) 722-8586

Professional Development and Appraisal System Calendar

2026–2027

(August 24, 2026 – May 7, 2027)

T-TESS Orientation and Appraisal Requirements

Prairie Lea Independent School District will administer the **Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS)** in accordance with applicable Texas Education Agency (TEA) requirements and district procedures.

T-TESS Orientation

All teachers will receive an orientation to the T-TESS appraisal process no later than the first three weeks of school and at least two weeks before the first observation.

2026–2027 T-TESS Orientation Deadline:
August 26, 2026 Orientation was completed by Campus administration. Make-ups were completed by September 2, 2026.

October 14, 2026 Deadline to submit to the appraiser for approval (within six weeks from the day of completion of the orientation)**.**

Late Hires Submitted to the appraiser within six weeks from the day of the completion of the orientation.

Teachers must also receive an orientation to the T-TESS appraisal process at least three weeks before the teacher's first formal observation.

Formal Observation Guidelines

The following scheduling requirements will apply to formal T-TESS observations:

- Formal observations will not occur during the first two weeks of instruction.
- Formal observations will not occur on the day immediately preceding or the day immediately following a school holiday.
- Formal observations will not occur on days scheduled for end-of-semester or end-of-year examinations.
- Formal observations will not occur during the final 15 instructional days of the school year.
- Formal observations will not occur on any additional dates designated by the Prairie Lea ISD Board of Trustees.

Reference:
Texas Education Agency. *Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS): Guidelines.* Teach for Texas https://teachfortexas.org/EvaluationSystem/Guidelines .

Observation Window

Teachers will be provided a pre-conference to review the potential lessons prior to the observation. The observation will occur within a **one week observation window** for the formal appraisal. The specific observation date and time **may not be provided in advance**, consistent with applicable appraisal requirements and district procedures. Teachers will be provided a post-conference to review the observation rubric for Domains 1-3 and be provided feedback by the evaluator within 10 days of the observation.

Annual Summative Conferences

Annual summative conferences will be conducted between:

March 1, 2027 – May 7, 2027

The purpose of the summative conference is to review the teacher's annual appraisal, discuss evidence of professional practice and student outcomes as applicable, identify areas of strength and growth, and establish appropriate goals for continued professional development.

Conflict of Interest

An appraiser will not conduct an appraisal of an employee who is an immediate family member, in accordance with applicable requirements and district procedures.

Prairie Lea ISD Certified Appraisers

2026–2027 School Year

Appraiser	Position
David Underwood	Principal
Susan Seaton	Academic Dean
Sara Rodriguez	Instructional Coach
Martha M. Gilmore	Superintendent

Reference:
Texas Education Agency. *Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS): Guidelines.* Teach for Texas https://teachfortexas.org/EvaluationSystem/Guidelines .