

Notice of New Deal ISD - Regular School Board Meeting
Board of Trustees
Thursday, February 19, 2026

A New Deal ISD - Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, beginning at 6:30 PM, in the New Deal ISD - Board Room, 401 S. Auburn Ave., New Deal, Texas 79350.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice. For more information about public comment, see Policy BED. Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

1. Call to Order
Board President
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge
4. Invocation
5. Public Forum
6. The Board of Trustees recognizes New Deal Independent School District (NDISD) and specifically acknowledges the leadership and contributions of Chief Financial Officer Mr. Eric Gossett for the district's demonstrated commitment to financial excellence. Under Mr. Gossett's guidance, NDISD has achieved a "Superior" FIRST rating for six consecutive years, reflecting consistent high standards in financial management, accountability, transparency, and efficient use of public resources.
7. New Deal ISD has successfully secured funding through the LASO (Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities) Grant (2025-2026) and the LIFT (Leadership and Instructional Framework for Transformation) Grant (2026-2027). These competitive grants are awarded to districts demonstrating strategic planning, instructional focus, and a commitment to improving student outcomes. The Board of Trustees proudly recognizes Superintendent Mr. Matt Reed and Curriculum Director Mrs. Cary Short for their leadership, vision, and dedication in securing both the LASO and LIFT grants for New Deal ISD.
8. Student Recognition
9. Construction Report
Aaron Campbell
10. Resignations accepted by superintendent under Board Policy (DFE Local)
11. Employment of noncontractual employees by Superintendent under Board Policy (DC Local)
12. Consent Agenda
 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
 2. Financial Report
Eric Gossett, CFO
13. Action Items
 1. Deliberation and possible action to adopt a resolution in accordance with Senate Bill 11, 89th Legislature (2025 Regular Session), that provides for a record vote on the adoption of a school Board policy requiring every campus of the district or school to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text as provided by Section 25.0823 of the Texas Education Code.

2. Consider the district 2026-2027 school calendar
 3. Consider and possible approval of Exhibit A to the Notice of General Election regarding the Joint Early Voting Schedule and Locations.
 4. Consider and possible approval of Exhibit B to the Notice and Order of General Election regarding Election Day Vote Centers.
 5. Consider and possible appointment of Roxzine Stinson as Central Count Manager, Kristen Phelps as Tabulation Supervisor, and Beth Bender as Central County Presiding Judge.
 6. Consider and possible appointment of Ronny Gallaher as Early Voting Ballot Board Judge and Beth Shapiro as Alternate Early Voting Ballot Board Judge for the May 2, 2026, election.
 7. Consider and possible appointment of Judges and Rovers for each Vote Center for Election Day.
14. Personnel
1. Acceptance of resignation(s) and/or resignation agreements
 2. Consideration of employee contract(s) and/or employment
 3. Consider Curriculum Director, High School Principal, Middle School Principal, Elementary Assistant Principal, and Athletic Director contracts
 4. Consider Elementary Principal contract
15. Informational Items
1. Enrollment
 2. Online public auction for remaining furniture in old building
 3. 2026-2028 UIL Realignment — Football and Basketball
 4. TEA visit - March 10, 2026
 5. May 2, 2026 - New Deal ISD School Board Election
 6. Upcoming School Board Meetings
 1. Monday, March 9, 2026 @ 6:30 PM
 2. Thursday, April 9, 2026 @ 6:30 PM
 3. Tuesday, May 12, 2026 @ 6:30 PM
 4. Tuesday, June 9, 2026 @ 6:30 M (tentative)
 5. Tuesday, August 4, 2026 @ 6:30 PM (tentative)
 6. Tuesday, August 25, 2026 (tentative)
 7. Graduation — May 21, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
 8. End of Year Service Awards Breakfast — May 22, 2026 @ 9:00 AM
16. Adjourn

If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E or Texas Government Code section 418.183(f). Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting. [See TASB Policy BEC(LEGAL)]

For the Board of Trustees

**RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NEW DEAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

At a lawfully called meeting on February 19, 2026, the New Deal Independent School District Board of Trustees (the "Board") does hereby make the following Resolution regarding a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text on each school day pursuant to Section 25.0823 of the Texas Education Code, as enacted by SB 11 of the Texas 89th Legislative Regular Session and effective as of September 1, 2025:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Subsection 25.0823(a), the board of trustees of a school district may, by record vote on a resolution described by Subsection (a-1), adopt a policy requiring every campus of the district or school to provide students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text on each school day in accordance with Section 25.0823; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Subsection 25.0823(a-1), a resolution to adopt a policy under Subsection (a) ("SB 11 Resolution") must read as follows:

"The New Deal ISD shall adopt a policy requiring every campus of New Deal ISD to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text as provided by Section 25.0823, Education Code," and,

WHEREAS, a policy adopted under Subsection 25.0823(a), must adhere to specific criteria and restrictions as provided in Subsections 25.0823(b) - (d); and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3 of SB 11, "Not later than six months after the effective date of this Act, each board of trustees of a school district and each governing body of an open-enrollment charter school shall take a record vote on whether to adopt a resolution described by Section 25.0823(a-1);" and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Subsection 25.0823(g), regardless of whether the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school adopts a policy under Subsection 25.0823(a), Section 25.0823 does not prohibit a student or employee of the district or school from participating in prayer or reading the Bible or other religious text during a period of the school day that is not designated as a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text; and,

WHEREAS, Section 25.901 of Texas Education Code affirms that a "public school student has an absolute right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt the instructional or other activities of the school," and that "a person may not require or coerce a student to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity;" and,

WHEREAS, Subsection 25.082(d) of Texas Education Code establishes a school district's ability to institute a period of silence during which students may choose to "reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to interfere with or distract another student."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the recitals contained in the Resolution are true and correct and are adopted as findings of fact and operative provisions hereof; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to SB 11 and Section 25.0823 of the Texas Education Code, each present Board member hereby votes on the adoption of a SB 11 Resolution as follows:

"The New Deal Independent School District shall adopt a policy requiring every campus of the New Deal Independent School District to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text as provided by Section 25.0823, Education Code."

Board of Trustees	"Yea"	"Nay"	Abstain	Absent
Hollis Franco		✓		
Tim Seeley		✓		
Alex Saenz		✓		
Bobby Durham		✓		
Ben Aubrey		X		
Eddie Ramirez		✓		
Brenda Martinez				✓

PASSED AND APPROVED by the New Deal Independent School District Board of Trustees this 19th day of February 2026.



 President, Board of Trustees

Attest:


 Secretary, Board of Trustee