

Agenda of Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees Canutillo ISD

A Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Canutillo ISD will be held January 20, 2021, beginning at 3:00 PM in the Remote , 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, TX 79932.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

1. **GENERAL FUNCTIONS-OTHER**
 - A. Call to Order 2
 - B. Roll Call
 2. **OPEN FORUM-OTHER**

Any member of the community wishing to make a comment during Open Forum can send their comments to the following email address: BoardQuestions@canutilloisd.org. Comments must be submitted prior to the meeting start time.
The Board is not permitted to discuss or act upon any issues that are not posted on the agenda for tonight’s meeting.
 3. **TRAINING/WORKSHOP**

Trustees will participate in a Team Building Workshop: The workshop must include a review of the roles, rights and responsibilities of the local board as outlined in the framework for Governance Leadership and an assessment of continuing education needs of the board -superintendent team.

 - A. Leadership ISD Team of 8 Training 5
Presenter: Cinto Ramos
 4. **ADJOURNMENT**
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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, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E. 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.



Texas Association of School Boards

Legal Services

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Serving Texas Schools Since 1949

Texas Governor Suspends Certain Provisions of Open Meetings Act Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Published online in [TASB School Law eSource](#)

On March 16, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott granted a request from Attorney General Ken Paxton to temporarily suspend a limited number of open meeting laws to the extent necessary to allow telephonic or videoconference meetings and to avoid congregate settings in physical locations in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disaster. Several of the suspended laws may offer flexibility for telephone or videoconference meetings conducted by Texas school boards. The order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until terminated by the Governor or until the March 13, 2020, disaster declaration is lifted or expires.

School boards were already permitted to conduct remote meetings by teleconference and videoconference, in accordance with applicable law. See TASB Legal Services' guidance on [Remote Participation in Board Meetings](#).

Now, however, statutory requirements to permit the public to attend and offer public testimony from a physical location, even during remote meetings, have been suspended, if the school district offers alternatives. In addition, several laws requiring the physical presence of a quorum have also been suspended.

According to the statement on the [Governor's website](#), if public officials are not holding a telephonic or videoconference meeting, all open meeting requirements apply.

The following suspended provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act (OMA) are of greatest interest to Texas school boards. A full list of the [suspended laws](#) is available from the Office of the Attorney General.

Notice of Meetings

- **Normally districts post at central office and online.** Normally a school district must post notice of board meetings on a bulletin board at a place convenient to the public in the central administrative office of the district. Tex. Gov't Code § 551.051. In addition, the district must concurrently post notice of board meetings on the district's Internet website. Tex. Gov't Code § 551.056(b)(3). If notice of a board meeting is posted online continuously at least 72 hours before the meeting, the physical posting at central office need only be accessible during business hours. Tex. Gov't Code § 551.043.

- **Now physical posting is not required for remote meetings.** During the period of suspension, Section 551.051 regarding posting at central office and the portion of Section 551.043 requiring a district to post in a physical location in addition to posting online have been suspended. According to the suspension order, meeting notices for telephonic and videoconference meetings may be posted online only. The posting must still be online continuously for 72 hours, unless the emergency notice exception allows one-hour notice.
- **Online posting requires a conference number or link for use by the public.** The suspension order specifically requires that an online notice must include a toll-free dial-in number or a free-of-charge videoconference link, along with an electronic copy of any agenda packet.

Public Comment

- **Requirement for public comment suspended for remote meetings.** Normally, Texas Government Code section 551.007(b) requires a school board to allow each member of the public who desires to address the board regarding an item on an agenda for an open meeting to address the board regarding the item at the meeting before or during the board's consideration of the item. The Governor's order suspends this provision.
- **"Alternate methods" for comment are required.** The order requires, however, that school districts offer alternative methods of communicating with district officials. For example, we might suggest a dedicated voicemail or email inbox. Consider having an administrator play or read the comments aloud to the board during the meeting.

Meetings by Teleconference

- **A board may meet by teleconference even absent an emergency.** Normally, Texas Government Code section 551.125(b)(1) limits the use of meetings by teleconference to an emergency or public necessity as defined by the OMA. For now, that provision is suspended; however, meeting by teleconference remains appropriate only if it would be difficult or impossible for a quorum of the board to gather in one location.
- **Notice, quorum, and audio recording still required.** A quorum is still required to conduct a meeting, even by teleconference. A meeting by teleconference still must be posted in accordance with the OMA. A meeting by teleconference must be audio recorded, and the recording must be available to the public.
- **The public must have access through a conference call or link.** The district does not have to open a physical location for the public, but the public must have dial-in or conference capability allowing for two-way communication. According to the suspension order, the dial-in number or videoconference link provided in the notice must make the meeting audible to members of the public and allow for their two-way communication. Other specifications about the quality of the audio have been suspended.

Meetings by Videoconference

- **A quorum does not have to gather in a single physical location.** Normally to conduct a meeting by videoconference pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.127, a quorum of the school board must be in a single physical location. That requirement, as well as the requirement to post the physical location of the quorum, has been suspended. Consequently, during the period of suspension, a school board may meet by videoconference with all members in separate locations. All members participating by videoconference are considered present.
- **Notice, quorum, and audio recording still required.** A quorum is still required to conduct a meeting, even by videoconference. Notice of a meeting by videoconference still must be posted in accordance with the unsuspended OMA provisions. A meeting by videoconference must be at least audio recorded, and the recording must still be available to the public.
- **The technical requirements have been alleviated.** All requirements regarding the quality of the video and audio, including the requirement that the videoconference comply with technological standards set by the Department of Information Resources (DIR), have been suspended.
- **The public must have access through a conference call or link.** The district does not have to open a physical location for the public, but the public must have dial-in or conference capability allowing for two-way communication. According to the suspension order, the dial-in number or videoconference link provided in the notice must make the meeting audible to members of the public and allow for their two-way communication. According to the statement on the [Governor's website](#), officials who hold videoconference meetings are encouraged to provide for participation via telephone for members of the public without videoconferencing capability.

If you have questions about the suspension order, you may contact the Office of the Attorney General at 888.672.6787 or via email at TOMA@oag.texas.gov. If you have questions about teleconference and videoconference capabilities offered by the Texas Department of Information Resources, you may visit dir.texas.gov or call 512.475.4700.

As always, we encourage you to consider your options in consultation with your school attorney.

This document is continually updated, and references to online resources are hyperlinked, at tasb.org/services/legal-services/tasb-school-law-esource/governance/documents/texas-governor-suspends-certain-provisions-of-oma.pdf. For more information on this and other school law topics, visit TASB School Law eSource at schoollawesource.tasb.org.

This document is provided for educational purposes only and contains information to facilitate a general understanding of the law. It is not an exhaustive treatment of the law on this subject nor is it intended to substitute for the advice of an attorney. Consult with your own attorneys to apply these legal principles to specific fact situations.

Team of 8/10 Training

Team Building 2020

FACILITATOR INFORMATION

Instructor(s)

Email

Cinto Ramos

cinto@leadershipisd.org

Jacinto Ramos, Jr. (known as Cinto) is the Chief of Governance and Leadership for Leadership ISD. Cinto has served as a school board trustee in Fort Worth, TX for nearly two terms and served as president of the board in both terms. He has led educational leaders statewide and nationwide. He has been the chair of National School Board Association's (NSBA) Council of Urban Board of Education (CUBE), President of Mexican American School Board Association (MASBA), and a director for Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). He has completed school board governance training through Texas Education Agency (TEA) Lone Star Governance, TASB's XG Summit, Center for Reform of School Systems (CRSS), and Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) Harvard Accelerated Board Capacity Institute.

Patricia Arvanitis is the Co-Founder and CEO of Leadership ISD guiding the organization's vision and impact. Under Patricia's stewardship Leadership ISD has grown into a highly regarded source for transformative leadership and education advocacy. Leadership ISD cultivates and equips community leaders to influence educational equity and excellence from the campus to the capitol. Patricia has worked on education policy, advocacy, and governance for the last decade and is certified by the Texas Education Agency to facilitate and coach school boards on outcomes based governance including Lone Star Governance, strategic planning, equitable policy, and community communications. Patricia is credentialed mediator, a Strive National Equity Fellow, and a Public Voices Fellow. Patricia holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Texas, Dallas and a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution and Organizational Change Management from Southern Methodist University.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LEADERSHIP ISD

Leadership ISD is a nonpartisan education nonprofit that advances educational equity by informing and activating community leaders to shape policy, lead strategically, and champion change. We are fiercely

optimistic about the future of public education, yet deeply concerned by the systemic disparities in the inputs, outputs, and outcomes for students of color. We believe that addressing racial equity head-on is necessary not only to offer opportunity and hope to every student in our public schools, but also to ensure a bright future for the entire state of Texas.

LEADERSHIP ISD TEAM OF 8/10 TRAINING

Research notes that effective school boards find a balance in governance with their colleagues, in community engagement, and in their relationship with their superintendent. Productive school boards reflect the community's values and engage their community in a manner that builds trust and maintains credibility. High performing school boards understand their role. Effective school boards are composed of individual trustees that do not push campaign promises over the board's collective vision and do not strain the relationship with district leaders by making demands that are unrealistic. School boards that are clear on the superintendent's role are able to align value systems to focus on student achievement, respect the superintendent's time to stay focused on student achievement versus politics, and implement an evaluation system that is aligned to student outcome goals.

Leadership ISD's Team of 8/10 training is focused on the importance of building working relationships in the boardroom. When board members are able to see each other as people to be invested in (relationships) rather than objects to be moved (politics/agendas), they in turn are able to enhance school board governance work. The training will include the latest research on board and superintendent relationships.

FORMAT

Participants will be expected to attend a 3 hour in-person facilitated session. Social distancing and creating the safest possible environment will be taken into account when working with district leadership to plan the in-person training.

EXPECTATIONS & GOALS

- Participants will learn how to move from safe spaces to brave spaces.
- Participants will be able to create a set of agreements to create parameters for a brave space.
- Participants will be able to distinguish between discussion, debate and dialogue.
- Participants will engage in a meaningful experience to identify their own Mental Models (Senge, 2010).
- Participants will begin the conversations on how school board behaviors align with effective governance.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All required materials will be provided by Leadership ISD.