

NISD Board of Trustees Board Notes



Sept. 17, 2026

[WATCH MEETING](#)



1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INVOCATION

Trustee Demond Jackson provided the invocation.

3. PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Brooks-Quinn-Jones Elementary School



Brooks-Quinn-Jones Elementary students were on hand Thursday to lead the pledges at the Board of Trustees meeting. Shown in the first row are (from left) Peyton Henderson, Manuel Moncada, Isaiah Bryant, Isabella Salazar Martinez, Principal Amber Wilson, Assistant Principal Lizbeth Monter and Brooke Kaczynski. In the back row are Assistant Principal Lisa Thompson, Danielle Bowser, Tasha Brown, Journey Berry, Essence Henderson, Lisa Anthony, Eduardo Lozano and Kaileigh Ramirez.

4. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

The board entered executive session at 5:04 p.m.

5. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The board returned to open session at 5:45 p.m.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Superintendent Announcements

During the past couple of weeks, I've visited with community groups in Nacogdoches, including the Fredonia Rotary Club, to talk about our school district. One of the things I've passed along is the opportunity for tutors to help out at three of our elementary campuses, Emeline Carpenter, Mike Moses and Brooks-Quinn-Jones. Something we're really looking for is retired teachers who might be willing to spend a couple of hours a week to work with small groups of students, focusing on a particular area of need. If you might be interested, or know of someone who might be interested, please reach out to the principals at those campuses. Or, have them get in touch with Erin Windham... she could also get someone connected with the right school.

Three members of Nacogdoches ISD's initial Teachworthy Certification Program cohort, a pathway for completion of their bachelor's degree and obtaining a teaching certificate while working as a classroom instructor, finished work on their college degrees this summer. The next steps for Bobbie Fonzie, L.J. Upshaw, and Shameka Russ are obtaining their teaching certifications. Ms. Fonzie teaches at Emeline Carpenter, Ms. Russ is at Brooks-Quinn-Jones and Mr. Upshaw is a behavior interventionist at Mike Moses Elementary. This program launched two years ago, and I'm excited we're seeing results from the initial class. Anything we can do to help teachers – especially those who want to be in the classroom – will benefit our district and students. These three teachers, along with the others still moving through the Teachworthy program, are displaying their commitment to NISD and to public education."

The official launch of CarePortal took place Sept 1. That day, the first need of one of our students was entered into the CarePortal app and then taken care of before the meeting was over. Churches and community partners continue fulfilling some of the practical needs of our students. This service, which I've mentioned in here a few times over the past several months, allows churches and community partners to meet the needs of our children and families across Nacogdoches, things that might fall outside of what a public school district can provide. I know our district – and CarePortal – has put in a lot of time to lay the groundwork so this will benefit our students and their families in times of need.

This week – Sept. 13-19 – is Arts in Education Week. We're using it as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the opportunities we have in Nacogdoches ISD as well as the extremely talented students in our programs. Our district is recognized as both a District of Distinction in the visual arts and a Best Community for Music. The programs we offer begin with the youngest students at Fredonia Early Childhood Center and continue to grow through the elementary grades and into middle school and high school. Our band and chorale programs are among the best in East Texas, and our dance teams, including the Dragonettes at Nacogdoches High School, routinely win awards while also putting on outstanding performances right here in the district. Our theater program is well known for its performances. And, at this very moment, a painting by one of our high school students, Luigy Garcia, is hanging in the capitol in Washington, D.C. The recognition for these programs reflects the dedication and creativity of our teachers and directors and the talent of our students. I continue to say that our students can do anything, and I will continue to say that. I'm proud of our arts program!

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one requested to address the Board of Trustees.

8. REPORTS

- A. Business reports
- B. Transportation: Fleet Replacement Plan
- C. Transportation: Bus Planner Program
- D. Brooks-Quinn-Jones Elementary: Playground update
- E. Annual Student Performance Data Review for the 2025-26 school year

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Board meeting minutes
 - 1. Aug. 20, 2026 – Regular meeting minutes

B. Budget amendments

C. Donations

D. Investment report

The Rev. **James Ervin** made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by **Cheryl Brady**. The motion was approved.

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration of and board action on the superintendent's recommendations regarding professional personnel.

The **Cheryl Brady** made a motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation of professional personnel as presented. The motion was seconded by **Leabeth Abt**. The motion was approved.

B. Consideration amendment of motion to extend superintendent employment contract to reflect correct date of the contract extension.

The Rev. **James Ervin** made motion to amend the original motion made Jan. 22, 2026, when trustees intended to extend the superintendent's contract by one year. The extension mistakenly contained the date of June 30, 2028, which was already the expiration date on the original contract agreed upon the previous year. The contract will now run through June 30, 2029, as intended by the trustee vote in January. The motion was seconded by **Demond Jackson**. The motion was approved.

C. Consideration of and possible board action regarding Chapter 21 contract abandonment under Texas Education Code 21.210.

Chery Brady made a motion to determine that Kristi Baker Powers abandoned her educator contract with Nacogdoches Independent School District and that good cause did not exist for the contract abandonment and authorize the superintendent or designee to submit a written complaint to Texas Education Agency pursuant to Texas Education 21.210 and 19 Texas Administrative Code 249.17. The motion was seconded by The Rev. **James Ervin**. The motion was approved.

D. Consideration of and board action on the submission of professional development waivers to the Texas Education Agency for the 2026-27 school year.

Demond Jackson made a motion to submit the professional development waivers to Texas Education Agency as presented. The motion was seconded by **Leabeth Abt**. The motion was approved.

E. Consideration of board action on the appointment of the 2026-27 School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) members and approval of meeting dates.

Dr. T.C. Grohman M.D. made a motion to appoint the School Health Advisory Council members and approve meeting dates for the 2026-27 school year. The motion was seconded by **Cheryl Brady**. The motion was approved.

F. Consideration of and possible action to adopt the tax rate for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Farshid Niroumand made a motion to adopt the tax rate of \$1.1146 per \$100 of property valuation. The motion was seconded by The Rev. **James Ervin**. The motion was approved.

G. Consideration of and board action on the 2026-27 Campus Improvement Plans.

Farshid Niroumand made a motion to approve the 2026-27 Campus Improvement Plans as presented. The motion was seconded by **Demond Jackson**. The motion was approved.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.