NISD Board of Trustees

Board Notes

Nov. 19, 2026

WATCH MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INVOCATION

Dr. T.C. Grohman M.D. provided the invocation.

3. PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Thomas J. Rusk students



Fifth-graders from Thomas J. Rusk Elementary performed the National Anthem during Thursday's board meeting then led in the pledges to the U.S. flag and Texas flag. Shown are: (Front row, from left) Yulissa Carmona, Chase Kuban, Axel Kuban and Daniel Najarro; (second row) Yamileth Martinez, Ahlaya Deckard, Owen Wadleigh, Ember Bowen, Amy Reyes, Iker Espino and Rogelio Rivera; (back row) Principal Paula Harshbarger, art teacher Jeremy Farr and music teacher Amy Whitaker.

4. RECOGNITIONS

A. NHS Dragon Marching Band



Nacogdoches High School band was recognized during Thursday's meeting for finishing fifth overall at the UIL State Military Marching Band contest. Band officers were on hand along with director Jacob Weems and assistant director Robbie Belk. Shown are (from left) Robbie Belk, Alexa Victorio, Liliana Hernandez, Edgar Juarez, Abraham Jasso, Kimber Quinn, Jacob Weems, Dolores Flores, Grady Hart, Gurleen Kaur, Ariana Garcia-Orozco, Mariangel Cabrera, Vivian Long, Joshua Benitez, Lynsie Wiebold and Layla Peralta.

B. NHS State Cross Country State Qualifier



Nacogdoches High School sophomore Mia Perez was recognized after qualifying for the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet. Mia and her teammates were district champions this fall, and Mia finished 15th overall at the regional meet held in Fort Worth. During Thursday's meeting, cross country assistant coach Chris Moody described Mia's accomplishments.

C. Employee Recognition – Officer Chris Newberg



Nacogdoches ISD Police Officer Chris Newberg (left) received a special Lifesaving Award during Thursday's meeting from NISD Police Chief Joel Barton. Earlier this year, Officer Newberg realized a student was choking on a piece of food in the cafeteria at Raguet Elementary. Officer Newberg calmly helped dislodge the obstruction, comforted the student then accompanied the student to the nurse's office.

5. EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

The board entered executive session at 5:25 p.m.

6. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The board returned to open session at 6:09 p.m.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Superintendent Announcements

Nacogdoches ISD received a statewide engagement award last week at the Texas Education Agency's Grant Compliance Administration Conference in San Antonio. This TEA award recognizes our innovative parent and family engagement practices through CarePortal, which helps connect families in need with essential resources and community support. Maria Almendarez, Mario Torres and Dr. Evelyn Sauceda accepted the award on behalf of the district. Everyone involved with this – especially our social workers – are doing an amazing job helping families in need through CarePortal. Thank you to our NISD team and our community churches, groups and individuals for making this possible. And that's not all… earlier this month, Dr. Sauceda received the 2026 National Association of Social Workers Texas Media Award.

Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Nac class spent Thursday last week with NISD for the group's education day. After starting off with a presentation by me – which came after participants got to try and answer eight questions from an 8th-grade STAAR exam – the group visited Raguet Elementary School, Fredonia Early Childhood Center and the Career & Technical Education program at Nacogdoches High School. Student representatives at all three schools helped guide the tours. At NHS, Leadership Nac toured our CTE facilities then had lunch prepared and served by high school culinary students. Later in the day, a panel that included McMichael Middle School principal Gerald Fonzie, NHS teacher and Dragonette director Bailey Jo Davis and NISD social worker Carmy Palomo answered questions about the district as well as their individual roles in public education. This was a good opportunity for community members – some who might not have a connection yet with NISD – to see our operations up close.

Yesterday, I spent the morning with NISD's Education Foundation, high school cheerleaders and the drumline for the foundation's annual grant patrol. We visited more than 20 classrooms, and grants totaling more than $50,000 were awarded to district teachers and campuses. Erin Windham, our foundation's executive director, is here tonight… somewhere… and she invited her board of directors to attend. Also, Bill Elliott, whose generosity is lifting the foundation's financial resources to new heights, was also on hand while awards were given out at the high school. These grants work best when they allow teachers to try new things in their classroom that might not always fit within our operating budget… if they're successful – and we've seen this already during the foundation's four years of existence – they do become part of the operating budget. We've got good people on the board of our foundation who truly care about Nacogdoches ISD, and yesterday was a very public example of the work they are doing!

And, finally… I don't know if this one is more for students or the staff, but Thanksgiving break is next week. We will still have a few things taking place around the district – athletic teams will be practicing (as well as playing some basketball games), but our students, teachers and staff will get a well-deserved break. The year is going by quickly – it seems as if we just started classes – but there has been so much accomplished, and I'm grateful for all the hard work that's taken place. I hope everyone gets to enjoy their time off!

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one requested to address the Board of Trustees.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report based on School Year 2024-25 Data
1. Presentation of Report
2. Opportunity for Board/Public Comment – No one asked to comment

B. Targeted Improvement Plan for McMichael Middle School
1. Presentation of Report
2. Opportunity for Board/Public Comment – No one asked to comment

C. Local Improvement Plan for McMichael Middle School
1. Presentation of Report
2. Opportunity for Board/Public Comment – No one asked to comment

10. REPORTS

A. Business reports

11. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Board meeting minutes
1. Oct. 15, 2026 – Regular meeting minutes

B. Budget amendments

C. Donations

D. Investment report

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

12. ACTION ITEMS

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

Demond Jackson made a motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation of hiring professional personnel as presented. The motion was seconded by the Rev. **James Ervin.** The motion was approved.

B. Consideration of and board action on the Second Reading of Revised Local Policy EFB – Instructional Resources: Library Materials.

The Rev. **James Ervin** made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Revised Local Policy EFB – Instructional Resources: Library Materials. The motion was seconded by Dr. **T.C. Grohman** M.D. The motion was approved.

C. Consideration of and board action on the 2026-27 Targeted Improvement Plan for McMichael Middle School.

Cheryl Brady made a motion to approve the Targeted Improvement Plan for McMichael Middle School. The motion was seconded by **Demond Jackson.** The motion was approved.

D. Consideration of and board action on the 2026-27 Local Improvement Plan for Raguet Elementary.

Demond Jackson made a motion to approve the Local Improvement Plan for Raguet Elementary. The motion was seconded by **Cheryl Brady.** The motion was approved.

13. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.