

CLEVELAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
(Regular Meeting)
April 20, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Independent School District was called to order in Regular Meeting with the following members present:

Shaquille Sampson, President
Bethany Porter, Vice President
Wendy McNair, Secretary

Jessica Allen
Jennifer Peña
Pauline Johnson
Marvin Searles

ROLL CALL, OPENING REMARKS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Shaquille Sampson, Board President. Opening remarks were delivered by Keisha Gonzales Carr, founder of the non-profit organization CJS Hearts United Global w/Autism. Following the remarks, the Pledges of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags were led by five (5) 4th-grade members of the Santa Fe Elementary Student Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/OPEN FORUM

In accordance with BED(LOCAL) and the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board President opened the floor for public comments. The Board President reminded all participants of the established rules and procedures for public comment.

- Sherry Richie, CISD Community Member, CISD Graduate, and Parent of a Northside Elementary student, expressed concerns regarding the Elementary Gifted and Talented (GT) program and the perceived lack of UIL Academics programs within the elementary campuses.
- Stephanie Hurst, former CISD Educator, addressed the Board regarding concerns at Cleveland Middle School (CMS) and teacher retention within the District.

PRESENTATIONS

Students from Cottonwood Elementary presented "Word of the Month: Honor" for the Board and audience.

RECOGNITIONS

The Board recognized the following students and programs for their achievements:

- A. Recognition of College Board National Recognition & Associate Degree Candidates.
- B. Recognition of Aviation Program Students for TASB Governance Camp.
- C. Recognition of Cleveland ISD's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC).
- D. Recognition of CMS-Royalettes Dance Team.
- E. Recognition of CTE Welding Students.
- F. Recognition of CHS Theater for UIL One Act Play Advancement.
- G. Recognition of Student Athlete Christian Harrison - Athletic Scholarship Signing.

REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Barnes, Superintendent, presented the following updates to the Board:

1. Current student enrollment was reported at 12,674 with an attendance rate of 91.67%
2. Texas Education Agency: Notice of Intruder Detection Audit conducted on random dates.
3. Dr. Barnes highlighted the following key dates for the Board's calendar:
 - Key dates: Early voting for the CISD School Board Election (April 20–28, 2026) and Election

Day (May 2, 2026).

- Senior Awards Night: May 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Cleveland High School cafeteria.
- 4. Delegated Hiring: The Board received a written report of personnel hired under the Superintendent's delegated hiring authority (Tex. Govt. Code § 551.074).
- 5. Financial Reports and Campus and Department Reports were provided to the Board for review.
- 6. President, Shaquille Sampson provide a School Safety Committee Update

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were presented to the Board for information and discussion; no formal action was required at this time:

- First Reading and Review of Library Materials Acquisition List No. 2 (SB 13 Compliance).
- Information Regarding Elementary RLA Curriculum Adoption—Process & Materials.
- Proposed Requisition for New Roof at C9 Building.
- Proposed Requisition for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Summer School Program.
- Proposed Requisition for Metal Awning for the CTE Welding Shop.
- Proposed Requisition for CTE Aviation Program.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A motion was made by Jennifer Peña and seconded by Bethany Porter to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following consent agenda items as presented.

Items Approved:

- A. Bills and payroll.
- B. Investment Report.
- C. Minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting of March 16, 2026, and special meeting of March 30, 2026.

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Discussion and possible approval of Overnight Trip Request for Cleveland High School Band students and sponsors to travel to Orlando, Florida, on March 6-10, 2027, for their Band Retention Trip

A motion was made and by Pauline Johnson seconded by Jessica Allen to approve overnight trip for Cleveland High School Band students and sponsors to travel to Orlando, Florida, on March 6-10, 2027 as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- B. Discussion and possible approval of Overnight Trip Request for Cleveland High School SkillsUSA students and sponsors to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, on June 1-5, 2026, for the SkillsUSA National Conference and Competition.

A motion was made and by Pauline Johnson seconded by Jessica Allen to approve overnight trip for Cleveland High School SkillsUSA students and sponsors to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, on June 1-5, 2026 as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- C. Consideration and possible Action Approving Agreement regarding Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP as being fully qualified as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to collect unpaid delinquent ad valorem taxes as provided in Section 6.30 of the Texas Tax Code. A motion was made by Jessica Allen and seconded by Jennifer Peña to approve the Agreement with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP as being fully qualified as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to collect unpaid delinquent ad valorem taxes as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- D. Consideration and possible action to approve an Agreement for Tax Collection Services with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP after having provided adequate notice as required by Section 2254.1036 of the Texas Government Code, and authorizing the Board President to execute said Agreement. A motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jennifer Peña to approve the Agreement and authorize the Board President to execute said Agreement as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- E. Consider approval of Proposal for Staff Development Minutes Waiver for the 2026-2027 school year. A motion was made by Pauline Johnson and seconded by Jennifer Peña to support the proposal for Staff Development Minutes Waiver for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- F. Consider Approval of Resolution to Designate Non-business Days (HB 3033). A motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jessica Allen to approve the Resolution to Designate Non-business Days per HB 3033 as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- G. Consider Approval to Award Request for Proposal (RFP) # 26-03, Cafeteria Equipment for Seven (7) Cleveland ISD Campuses. A motion was made by Pauline Johnson and seconded by Jennifer Peña to approve to award RFP #26-03, Cafeteria Equipment for Seven (7) Cleveland ISD Campuses to Kommercial Kitchen, the respondent that received the highest overall evaluation. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- H. Consider Approval to Award Request of Proposal (RFP) #26-04 for General Services
A motion was made by Wendy McNair and seconded by Bethany Porter to approve to award RFP #26-04, General Services, to the companies listed below:

A1 Carpet	Faith 1 Pest Control	Reading for Education, LLC
Allen Dumpster Rental	J&S Lonestar Pumps, LLC	STX Roofing
Crossin Moving	Kredo, Inc.	Signature Fundraising, Inc.
Cy-Fair Tire	NOCTI	Sirchie Acquisition Company, LLC
Creed's Creations, LLC dba Exquisite Creations by Creed	Raymark Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc	Snap Mobil, Inc.

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- I. Consider Approval to Award Request for Proposal (RFP) #26-05 for Instructional Support Services
A motion was made by Wendy McNair and seconded by Bethany Porter to approve to award RFP #26-05, Instructional Support Services, to the companies listed below:

Carnegie Learning	Infinitus Texas	Global Literacy Consulting, LLC
Steven Moore	Math Mastery Movement	The Art of Education, LLC

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- J. Consider approval of district budgeted purchases above \$50,000 as per CH (Local) policy
1. Consider Approval of Project Requisition for School Buses as per Texas Local Government Code 271.102(c); Texas Government Code 791.025(c). PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund
A motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jennifer Peña to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Project Requisition for School Buses to Thomas Built Bus in the amount of \$462,800.00 as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

2. Consider Approval of Quote to Sustained as per Texas Education Code Section 44.031. FUNDING SOURCE: LASO Grant 4 (Pending Grant Approval)
A motion was made by Pauline Johnson and seconded by Marvin Searles to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Quote to Sustained in the amount of \$1,477,900.00 contingent upon grant receipt. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

3. Consider Approval of Project Requisition to L3Harris for Police Radios as per Texas Local Government Code 271.102; Texas Government Code 791.025 (c). FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund
A motion was made by Jennifer Peña and seconded by Jessica Allen to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Project Requisition to L3Harris for Police Radios in the amount of \$156,839.50 as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- K. Consideration and Possible Hearing and Deliberation of Board Policy DGBA (Local) Level 3 Complaint Appeal — S. Aguirre
- L. Consideration and Possible Hearing and Deliberation of Board Policy DGBA (Local) Complaint — D. Harrison
- M. Consideration and Possible Hearing and Deliberation of Board Policy DGBA (Local) Level 3 Complaint Appeal — D. O'Connor
Policy DGBA Hearings:
The Board President read the items into the record and announced that the grievances would be heard and deliberated in closed session, with any possible action to occur upon reconvening in open session.

ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON CONTINUING EDUCATION COMPLIANCE

The Board President made the annual announcement regarding the continuing education compliance of Board members as required by the State as follows:

Under State Board of Education Rule, completing required continuing education each year of service is a basic obligation and expectation of any sitting board member.

As Board President, I am required to announce the name of each member who:

- Has completed the required continuing education.
- Has exceeded the required continuing education; and
- Is deficient in meeting the required continuing education.

The requirements for training are measured as of the first anniversary of the date of the trustee's election or appointment or two-year anniversary of his or her previous training, as applicable.

There are eight training areas for board member continuing education:

1. Local District Orientation
2. Orientation to the Texas Education Code
3. Post-Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code
4. Team Building
5. Additional Continuing Education
6. Evaluating Student Academic Performance and Setting Goals
7. Identifying and Reporting Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

8. School Safety

To the extent applicable to each board member, I will announce the completion or deficiency as to required training.

For members who still have time remaining to complete required training, I will announce those board members who have scheduled timely training and those who have not yet scheduled the training.

At the conclusion of this announcement, I will announce any board member's training in excess of the continuing education requirements.

Local District Orientation

The following first-year Board members have completed the local district orientation training:
Jessica Allen and Pauline Johnson

Orientation to the Education Code

The following first-year Board members have completed the Orientation to the Texas Education Code training:

Jessica Allen and Pauline Johnson

Post Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code

The following Board members have completed the Post-Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code training:

Shaquille Sampson, Bethany Porter, Wendy McNair, Jennifer Peña, Marvin Searles, Jessica Allen, and Pauline Johnson.

Team Building

The entire board and the Superintendent must participate in the annual team-building session.

The following board members have completed the team-building training requirement:

Shaquille Sampson, Bethany Porter, Wendy McNair, Jennifer Peña, Marvin Searles, Jessica Allen, and Pauline Johnson.

Additional Continuing Education

The following board members have completed the additional continuing education requirements:

Shaquille Sampson, Bethany Porter, Wendy McNair, Jennifer Peña, Marvin Searles, Jessica Allen, and Pauline Johnson.

Evaluating Student Academic Performance and Setting Goals

NOTE: This training must be completed every two years.

The following board members have completed the Evaluating Student Academic Performance and Setting Goals training:

Shaquille Sampson, Bethany Porter, Wendy McNair, Jennifer Peña, Marvin Searles, Jessica Allen, and Pauline Johnson.

Identifying and Reporting Abuse, Trafficking, and Maltreatment of Children

NOTE: This training must be completed every two years.

The following board members have completed the biennial training on identifying and reporting abuse and trafficking: Shaquille Sampson, Bethany Porter, Wendy McNair, Jennifer Peña, Marvin Searles, Jessica Allen, and Pauline Johnson.

School Safety

NOTE: This training must be completed every two years.

The following board members have completed the biennial training on school safety:

Shaquille Sampson, Bethany Porter, Wendy McNair, Jennifer Peña, Jessica Allen, and Pauline Johnson.

The following board members are deficient and are scheduled to complete the School Safety biennial training requirement by May 15, 2026: Marvin Searles.

EXCEEDING REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION

Board Member Jessica Allen exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 6.25 additional hours.

Board Member Pauline Johnson exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 7.25 additional hours.

Board Member Bethany Porter exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 2.00 additional hours.

Board Member Jennifer Peña exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 4.00 additional hours.

Board Member Marvin Searles exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 1.00 additional hour.

Board Member Shaquille Sampson exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 3.00 additional hours.

Board Member Wendy McNair exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 1.00 additional hour.

TASB POLICY UPDATE First Reading and Final Approval of Proposed Revisions to FNCE (Local) Policy regarding Student Conduct: Personal Communication Devices/Electronic Devices.

A motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jessica Allen to approve the revisions of FNCE (Local) Policy – Student Conduct: Personal Communication Devices/Electronic Devices as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

A brief recess was called at 6:58 Pm by, Shaquille Sampson, President

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SUBCHAPTER D, SECTIONS 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, AND 551.089

The Board convened in executive session at 7:08 PM. pursuant to Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, and 551.089

Texas Gov't Code § 551.076 and § 551.089: Deliberation regarding safety devices, security personnel, security audits, and security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology.
Texas Gov't Code § 551.071: Consultation with Board Attorney regarding all matters as authorized by law.

Texas Govt Code Section 551.082: Possible Hearing and Deliberation of Board Policy DGBA (Local) Level 3 Complaint Appeal — S. Aguirre

Texas Govt Code Section 551.082: Possible Hearing and Deliberation of Board Policy DGBA (Local) Complaint - D. Harrison

Texas Govt Code Section 551.082: Possible Hearing and Deliberation of Board Policy DGBA (Local)Level 3 Complaint Appeal — D. O'Connor

Texas Gov't. Code § 551.074: Deliberation regarding appointment, employment, duties, discipline, dismissal, evaluation of public officers and employees, including discussion of recommendations for proposed nonrenewals

Texas Gov't Code § 551.072: Deliberation regarding purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.

RECONVENE AND POSSIBLE ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA), specifically Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) and 551.082 (School District Employees; Disciplinary Matter or Complaint), the Board reconvened in open session at 9:37 PM to take official action regarding items considered in executive session.

Regarding Professional Personnel, a motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jessica Allen to approve the 2026-2027 contract status and approve professional personnel resignations as discussed. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTS FOR 2026-2027:

SPED	Position	26-27 Contract Type
Amanda Pepping	LSSP Intern	Non-Certified Professional
Pine Burr Elementary	Position	26-27 Contract Type
Angela Boylan	Teacher – Elementary	Probationary Professional
Jose Martinez	Teacher – Elementary	Term Professional
Norma Pereida	Teacher – Elementary	Term Professional

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS:

Joshua McDonald	Effective June 30, 2026
Sukari Stredit-Thomas	Effective June 30, 2026
Kizzy Thomas-Luke	Effective June 01, 2026
Cynthia Murray	Effective June 30, 2026

Regarding Nonrenewal of term contract employee at the end of the 2025-2026 contract term (Benita Hernandez Trejo), a motion was made by Pauline Johnson and seconded by Jennifer Peña to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to propose the nonrenewal of Benita Hernandez Trejo as discussed. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

Regarding the proposed termination of term contract employee for good cause (Stephanie E. Hust), the Board took no action on this item.

Regarding the Level 3 Complaint Appeal of S. Aguirre, a motion was made by Jessica Allen and seconded by Bethany Porter to uphold the Level 2 decision regarding the DGBA complaint filed by Ms. Selena Aguirre and deny all requested relief that was not previously granted at Level 2. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

Regarding the Level 3 Complaint Appeal of D. Harrison, a motion was made by Jennifer Peña seconded by Pauline Johnson to uphold the reassignment and the new salary and deny the request to remain as athletic director and deny the request to maintain the current salary ; grant the assurance that employment decisions within the district are applied consistently and without discrimination ; grant that the Board has conducted a review of this reassignment in accordance with Texas law and district policy ; grant that Ms. Harrison be eligible for FMLA in accordance with law and policy but deny extra pay or leave except as available by law or policy ; and deny all other requested relief. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

Regarding the Level 3 Complaint Appeal of D. O'Connor. A motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Marvin Searles to uphold the Level 2 decision regarding the DGBA complaint filed by Ms. Dawn O'Connor and deny all requested relief that was not previously granted at Level 2. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jessica Allen and seconded by Bethany Porter to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record

Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Wendy McNair: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye