Minutes
Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees
Monday, August 17, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, August 17, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM, in the Administration Building, 1096 N Waco, Van Alstyne, TX 75495.
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.
The Board Meeting will begin at 7:00pm at the Van Alstyne ISD Administration building, where a quorum of the Board will be present.

1. **Call to Order**
   Description: The Board President to call the meeting of the Van Alstyne Independent School District to order. Let the record show that a quorum of board members is present, that this meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.
   Meeting was called to order by Board President Beau Williams at 7:00pm where a quorum of board members was present: Brandy Schoener, Mark Freeman, Beau Williams, David Kerr, Sara Watson, Matt Morris, Jared Ramsey.
2. **Pledges and Invocation**
   The pledge of allegiance was led by Board President Beau Williams. Invocation was led by Matt Morris.
3. **Administrator's Report**

A. Board Member Recognition
Randall Morgan was recognized for 15 years of service on the Board of Trustees, serving from 2011–2026. His leadership and contributions to the district were recognized and commended.
Debbie Nance was recognized for 15 years of service as a Board member and 45 total years of service to Van Alstyne ISD, including 30 years as a teacher. Her commitment to making decisions based on what is best for students was recognized.

B. Chief of Police Recognition
Jeff Burge was recognized for his role in establishing the district's first police department and his contribution to student and staff safety.

C. New Officer
Joseph Keitz was sworn in as a new campus police officer.

D. FYI's
Discussions and accolades regarding campus and district happenings.

E. Public Information Requests
The district had 5 Public Information requests.

F. GT Update
The Board received an update on the Gifted and Talented program, including identification procedures, service delivery, staff development, parent resources, the GT Advisory Committee, and implementation of the Renzulli Learning platform. The district reported 263 identified GT students at the conclusion of the 2025 school year, including 40 twice-exceptional students. The program is incorporated into the District Improvement Plan and focuses on developing student potential, performance, and growth. The student-centered

program is designed to identify gifted learners and nurture their abilities and individual needs.

- ***Grades K–4: At least one hour per week of pull-out GT services, generally during non-core instructional periods.***
- ***Grades 5–6: Services are provided twice weekly, as scheduling permits, along with honors math and reading opportunities.***
- ***Grades 7–12: GT students are primarily served through honors courses, Advanced Placement, and dual-credit courses.***
- ***The district is exploring additional GT opportunities for grades 7–12 as a long-term initiative. A new GT District Advisory Committee will meet four times annually with community member input.***

G. Communication Plan

Communications Officer Matt Farrell presented the district's communications plan, emphasizing transparency, factual accuracy, consistency, and timely communication. The district website will serve as the primary information hub. The Board was presented with updates regarding the Edlio app, mass notifications, social media, newsletters, community engagement events, and district branding. Communications will be based on verified information and legal requirements, with privacy and the integrity of ongoing investigations protected. First-year communications goals include:

- ***Establishing consistent use of the district's primary logo;***
- ***Developing a consistent color scheme;***
- ***Standardizing letterheads, cover sheets, and newsletters;***
- ***Creating a social media calendar;***
- ***Streamlining website content;***
- ***Improving consistency in communication tone and timing***

G. Staffing Update

The Board reviewed staffing changes, including 33 internal teacher moves, 45 new teaching/professional positions, 8 retirements, and 42 resignations. Exit survey results and reasons for employee departures were discussed. The Board requested additional information regarding five-year teacher turnover trends and retention efforts and discussed improving survey anonymity and follow-up procedures.

H. Team of Eight Training

The Board discussed the upcoming Team of Eight Training, scheduled for September 28. Planned topics include:

- ***Board operating procedures***
- ***Public comment procedures***
- ***District Improvement Plan goals***
- ***Scenario-based Board training***

Board went into a 10 minute recess at 7:50. Board returned from recess at 7:56.

4. **Public Comment**

Description: Community members are given the opportunity to express their opinions, concerns, or suggestion related to or regarding items outlined in the Board meeting agenda.

One community member signed up to speak. Danielle Foster Lee chose to speak on Agenda Item 3B- Chief of Police recognition. She assumed this recognition was for Chief Milner and originally

wanted to use this time to express views related to him. When she learned the agenda item was regarding former Chief Burge, she chose to speak on exit interviews commenting that she has had about 6 or 7 former employees reach out to here stating they did not receive an exit interview and would like to receive one.

5. **Tax Rate**
   Description: Consider and possible action to approve ordinance setting tax rate. Information on this topic was provided in the Budget Hearing Packet.
   Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve the maintenance and operations tax rate of $.6687 and an interest and sinking rate of $0.50 for a total tax rate of $1.1687 as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by David Kerr. Motion passed 7-0.
   B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey- yes
6. **Budget**
   Description: Consider and possible action to approve the budget for the 2026-2027 school year.
   This is the district's first deficit budget. District growth, opening a new campus, state funding requirements, and other financial impacts are associated with this budget. The board discussed the district's fund balance and the expectation that continued enrollment growth will improve revenues. Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to approve the budget for the 2026-2027 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Matt Morris. Motion passed 7-0.
   B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes
7. **Resolution to Verify and Post Tax Rates**
   Description: Consider and possible action to approve a Resolution to give tax assessor authority to verify and post tax rates.
   This resolution gives Bruce Stidham, Tax Assessor-Collector, authority to verify and post the no-new-revenue tax rate, the voter-approval tax rate, and other truth-in-taxation requirements for the district. Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve the resolution giving authority to the Tax Assessor-Collector to verify and to post tax rates as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Jared Ramsey. Motion passed 7-0.
   B Schoener-yes, M Freeman- yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes
8. **Consent Agenda**
   Description: ACTION ITEM: These items are considered routine by the School Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussions on items unless a school board member so requests, at which time the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

A. Minutes

B. Financials

Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by David Kerr. Motion passed 7-0.
B Schoener- yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

9. **Appraisal Calendar and Appraisers**
   Description: Discussion and possible action to approve teacher appraisers and appraisal calendar for 2026-2027 school year.

Motion was made by David Kerr to move to approve the appraisers and appraisal calendar for the 2026-2027 school year as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Matt Morris- Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey- yes

10. **BE(Local) Board Meetings/Board Operating Procedure**

Description: Consider possible action to update BE(Local) and Board Operation Procedure.

Proposed revisions to Board Policy BE Local and the Board Operating Procedures were discussed. The revisions include:

- ***Moving regular Board meetings to the second Monday of each month***
- ***Establishing a uniform deadline of noon on the 14th calendar day before a regular or special meeting for agenda item submissions***
- ***Clarifying the written request process for Board agenda items***
- ***Referencing Board Operating Procedures in BE Local to reduce duplication.***

The Board also discussed potential future revisions concerning special meeting requests, systematic policy review, and procedures for requested agenda items. Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to approve BE (Local) and update board operating procedure accordingly as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Matt Morris. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

11. **Hazardous Routes to School**

Description: Discussion and possible action to approve Hazardous Routes for the 2026-2027 school year. District must declare what areas are hazardous routes to school in order to transport students living within two miles of the school and in order to be reimbursed state funds for these students. This resolution defines those areas. This is exactly the same as last year with the addition of Mantua being walkers to Williams Elementary.

Motion was made by David Kerr to move to approve the hazardous route resolution for the 2026-2027 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Mark Freeman. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

12. **Handbooks**

Description: Discussion and possible action to approve handbooks for the 2026-2027 school year. The handbooks are in compliance with current law and we add our local procedures therefore they must be approved each year.

All district handbooks were discussed. A proposed change to the Athletic Code of Conduct regarding student DWI/DUI violations was brought up. The proposed change would reduce the athletic suspension from one year to two weeks. Additional consequences would remain, including drug testing, restrictions on driving on campus, completion of required miles, and participation in a drug and alcohol awareness program. Board members discussed the appropriate balance between accountability, deterrence, student engagement, and opportunities for rehabilitation.

The discussion included concerns that a two-week suspension may not provide a sufficient deterrent, while others supported keeping students connected to their teams and school activities while requiring significant additional consequences.

The Board then discussed attendance and discipline as components of the cheerleading selection process. Attendance and discipline currently account for 40% of the selection score. The Board discussed concerns regarding consistency and equity compared with other extracurricular activities. The administration explained that cheerleading has unique safety and participation requirements and that external judges do not have access to students' attendance and discipline records. The possibility of reducing the weighting to 20% for future tryouts and providing coaches with additional input into team selection was discussed.

Discussions on proposed changes to agricultural barn usage fees was debated. The proposal included reducing the fee from $100 to $50 per animal and implementing a security-deposit model under which students could earn the fee back through work maintaining the facility. The Board discussed:

- ***Facility maintenance costs***
- ***Utilities***
- ***Fair access to pens;***
- ***Student responsibility and agricultural education***
- ***Existing student maintenance responsibilities***
- ***Equity considerations***
- ***Tack pen fees***
- ***The working-farm nature of the facility***

The Board also discussed Agricultural Booster Club funding and comparisons with other extracurricular booster organizations.

Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to approve all handbooks for the 2026-2027 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by David Kerr. Motion passed 6-1

B Schoener-No, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes
J Ramsey-yes

13. Update 127

Description: Action Item: Consideration and possible action for the adoption of Board Policy updates as given to us by the Texas Association of School Boards.

This update included changes concerning:

- ***Superintendent employment provisions***
- ***Disability and essential job functions***
- ***Advertising employment opportunities***
- ***Principal and counselor policy separation***
- ***Employee Code of Ethics references***
- ***Capitalization threshold***
- ***Gifted and Talented identification criteria***
- ***Student safety and misconduct provisions***
  Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve Policy Update 127 as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Sara Watson. Motion passed 7-0.
  B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes,
  J Ramsey-yes

14. **IMAT funds**

Description: Consider and possible action to approve IMAT funds in the amount of $7606.49 for non-consumable Science supplies.

Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to approve $7,606.49 as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Matt Morris. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

15. **VAISD Non-Business Days for Texas Public Information Act calendar**

Description: Consider and possible action to approve the 2026-2027 non-business days for the Texas Public Information Act for the school year.

Motion was made by David Kerr to move to approve the calendar for non-business days for the Texas Public Information Act Calendar as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Mark Freeman. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

16. **Bank Signatures**

Description: Discussion and possible approval of Bank Signatures.

Additions and deletions of authorized bank signers due to Board officer changes, a junior high vacancy, and a change in the business office are needed. Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve the bank signature additions and deletions to our current account, as well as approve the addition of two new bank accounts as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Jared Ramsey. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

17. **Audit Survey**

Description: Discussion and possible approval of Security Audit. Approval is needed for the safety audit survey done by Chief Milner and approved by the safety and security committee.

Motion was made to move to approve the audit security survey as recommended by safety and security meeting and the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Matt Morris. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

18. **Property and Casualty Insurance**

Description: Consider and possible action to approve TPS insurance bid for the 2026-2027 school year.

The district's premium increased approximately 9.3%, primarily due to increased property values associated with district growth and new facilities. Motion was made by Matt Morris to move to approve to accept insurance with TPS for the 2026-2027 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Mark Freeman. Motion passed 7-0.

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

19. **Adjourn**

Motion was made by Mark Freeman to move to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Matt Morris. Motion passed 7-0

B Schoener-yes, M Freeman-yes, B Williams-yes, D Kerr-yes, S Watson-yes, M Morris-yes, J Ramsey-yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm. No other business was discussed.

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)]

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Date Board President

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Board Secretary