

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Navarro Independent School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Navarro Independent School District was held Monday, August 17, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Intermediate School Cafeteria, 588 Link Rd, Seguin, TX 78155.

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. Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

1. **Invocation:** Tori Beutnagel

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Tori Beutnagel

3. **Call to Order:** President, Melissa Sartain, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and established a quorum. Present, in addition to Melissa Sartain, were Dan Reinhard, Clint Scheib, Joel Frederick, Becki Stephenson, and Donna Gilliam. Dr. Lacey Gosch was absent.

A. Announcement that this meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Section 551.043 of the Texas Government Code.

4. **Public Participation:**

Individuals wishing to participate in this portion of the meeting shall sign up before the meeting is called to order and shall indicate the topic about which they wish to speak.[Ref. Board Policy BED(LOCAL)]

A. Public Comments on Posted Agenda Items

Public comments regarding a specific agenda item or items listed on the posted notice for this meeting.

B. Public Comments on General Topics

Public comments regarding subjects not listed as an agenda item for this meeting

There was no public comment.

5. **Construction and Bond 2021, 2024 & 2026 Update:** AG/CM Project Manager, Melisa Nu'u - The District's bond and construction programs continue to make significant progress across multiple campuses. At the Athletics Complex, visible advancement has occurred with much of the major site infrastructure now in place. The new golf practice facility, driving bays have been installed, netting has been erected, and furniture deliveries have begun. Lockers are being installed and interior finish work is underway throughout the facilities. Exterior grading activities are also progressing as crews prepare landscaped areas and complete final site improvements. Concrete work is substantially complete, and drainage features continue to be finalized. We continue ongoing coordination with the City of Seguin Utilities regarding utility work and temporary construction staging areas. The Junior High Refresh project celebrated a milestone this past week with the renaming ceremony. The renovated spaces now

feature updated finishes, new flooring, lighting, and paint. At the Elementary & Intermediate refreshes we remind the community that this work is phased. This summer the priority was more classrooms. The teachers have begun moving into refreshed annex classrooms. Work continues on the multipurpose area and expect to turn it over in the next few months. Construction of Navarro South Elementary also continues to advance steadily. Building enclosure activities are progressing with exterior sheathing being installed throughout the academic wings. Structural decking, HVAC systems, ductwork, plumbing, and electrical infrastructure are actively being installed. Progress is also being made on the cafeteria, kitchen, gymnasium, and classroom areas. During the board meeting, AGCM addressed concerns regarding unauthorized access to active construction sites. Several incidents have occurred in which community members entered construction areas, particularly at the Athletics Complex, seeking access to facilities. Additional signage is being installed, and communications have been distributed to parents and community members reminding everyone that these facilities remain active construction zones and are not yet available for public use. Staff emphasized that while the sites are fenced and secured, unauthorized access creates safety and liability concerns until all facilities receive occupancy approval. 2026 Bond Program projects. Planning activities are underway for the Transportation Facility project, including coordination efforts related to bus circulation, driver parking, and operational logistics. The Roofing and HVAC Design-Build project advanced to the ranking and contract negotiation phase following board action. Additionally, the Junior High Expansion project has moved into contract development and schematic design, with the design team actively gathering survey, utility, and civil engineering information to support site planning and future development.

6. Action Items:

A. Review and Possible Approval of Order of Trustee Election and Post Notice for November Election – The Order of General Election on November 3, 2026 for four (4) Board of Trustee At-Large Positions for four (4) year terms was presented. A contract will be executed with the Guadalupe County Elections Office.

Clint Scheib motioned to approve the Order of General Elections on November 3, 2026, for Navarro Independent School District for the purpose of electing four (4) Board of Trustee At-Large Position for four (4) year terms and approve the posting of Notice of Election. Donna Gilliam seconded the motion. Vote 6-0; motion carried. Voting FOR: Melissa Sartain, Dan Reinhard, Clint Scheib, Joel Frederick, Becki Stephenson, and Donna Gilliam.

B. Review and Possible Adoption of Student Code of Conduct for 2026/2027 School Year – Wendy McMullen, Chief Academic Officer presented the Student Code of Conduct for 2026/2027. Each year, Walsh Gallegos provides an updated Student Code of Conduct (SCC) that reflects changes in state and federal law, as well as guidance from the Texas Education Agency. The District Leadership Team reviews the annual updates, evaluates the recommended revisions, and makes any additional changes necessary to ensure the Student Code of Conduct aligns with district practices and legal requirements. In accordance with the Texas Education Code, the Board of Trustees is required to adopt and make the Student Code of Conduct available to students, parents, and staff each school year. Adoption of the Student Code of Conduct ensures the district remains compliant with state law and provides clear expectations for student behavior, disciplinary procedures, and student rights and responsibilities. The Student Code of Conduct is available for review on the NISD Website under parent resources.

Joel Frederick motioned to approve and adopt the updated 2026-2027 Navarro ISD Student Code of Conduct as presented and recommend that the updated Student Code of Conduct be publicized on

the district's website. Dan Reinhard seconded the motion. Vote 6-0; motion carried. Voting FOR: Melissa Sartain, Dan Reinhard, Clint Scheib, Joel Frederick, Becki Stephenson, and Donna Gilliam.

C. Notice of Meeting to Discuss Budget and Tax Rate for 2026/2027 – Chief Financial Officer, Paul Neuhoﬀ presented the information. The voter-approval rate on this notice shows \$1.1377. This is because the debt service rate for this calculation MUST be only for the current minimum debt service. Based upon that calculation the Interest and Sinking rate would be \$0.4605. However, that does not take into account the new debt we will be issuing in August that will require payments in the 2026-27 school year. In order to accommodate the new debt service that will be required, we are proposing the Interest and Sinking rate remains the same as last year at \$0.5000. To adopt the \$0.5000 Interest and Sinking rate will require two motions when adopting the rate, the first to adopt the minimum rate and the second motion to move the adoption of a rate that exceeds the minimum debt service rate as defined by the Texas Tax Code and Texas Education Code. Thus, the total tax rate proposed by the administration is \$1.1687 (as indicated on this notice): \$0.6687 for Maintenance and Operations (\$0.0541 less than last year) \$0.5000 for Interest and Sinking (the same as last year).

Dan Reinhard motioned to approve the Notice of Public Meeting Date, August 31, 2026, to discuss the 2026-2027 Budget and Proposed Tax Rate. Clint Scheib seconded the motion. Vote 6-0; motion carried. Voting FOR: Melissa Sartain, Dan Reinhard, Clint Scheib, Joel Frederick, Becki Stephenson, and Donna Gilliam.

D. Review and Approval of Resolution to designate Officer Responsible for Calculating and Reporting the No-new-revenue Tax Rate and the voter-approved Tax Rate – Paul Neuhoﬀ, Chief Financial Officer, presented the resolution. After the District's assessor submits the appraisal roll to the board, an officer or employee designated by the board is required to calculate the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate for the district. The designated officer is to use the tax rate calculation forms prescribed by the comptroller under Tax Code 5.07 in calculating the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate. According to Texas Tax Code § 26.04(c), (d-1), (d-3), as soon as practicable after the designated officer or employee calculates the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate of the district, the designated officer or employee shall submit the tax rate calculation forms used in calculating the rates to the Guadalupe County tax assessor-collector. Districts are statutorily required to set a designated officer or employee (DOE) to facilitate TNT calculations and re-adopt when there are personnel changes. For transparency purposes it is recommended that this is adopted annually.

Clint Scheib motioned to approve the resolution appointing the District's Chief Financial Officer, Paul Neuhoﬀ, as the designated officer responsible for calculating and reporting the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate. Donna Gilliam seconded the motion. Vote 6-0; motion carried. Voting FOR: Melissa Sartain, Dan Reinhard, Clint Scheib, Joel Frederick, Becki Stephenson, and Donna Gilliam.

7. Discussion/Information:

A. Accountability Update – Wendy McMullen, Chief Academic Officer, presented the overview of the district and campus performance data, highlighting key accountability indicators, area of success, and opportunities for continued improvement. The presentation also outlined the targeted instructional goals for each campus that will guide strategic planning, resource allocation, and instruction priorities for the 2026/2027 school year to support continuous student achievement and sustained academic growth.

B. Budget Update for 2026/2027 – Chief Financial Officer, Paul Neuhoﬀ presented the update. The district has developed budget scenarios with two different spreadsheets that are available to project revenue for the 2026-27 school year and beyond. One developed by MoakCasey and the other from Region 13 that we have used in all past years and has been used for many years by districts throughout the state. All of these projections are based on growth in student population (based upon current demographic projections) with varying levels of growth in special populations such as special education, bilingual, CTE, compensatory education. Property values have now been received, and we have adjusted projected revenue based upon these certified values. At this time the projected property tax collections will be the most difficult aspect to project as we will see continued losses in frozen tax collections due to the increased homestead and over 65 exemptions passed in past legislative sessions. We received certified property values from the Guadalupe County Appraisal District. Based upon the values submitted our M&O was compressed as required by state law so that the M&O rate will decrease \$0.0541 from the 2025-26 rate. The proposed I&S tax rate will remain at \$0.50. The tax impact on the median priced home in the district is shown below

C. Consider Policy Update to EIC (LOCAL)- First Reading – Shannon Mesini, Executive Director of Student Support Services and Special Education presented the reading. Policy EIC (LOCAL) provides that courses that have been modified as to the required content of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) by the student’s admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee shall receive a lesser weight than courses that have not been modified. The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has determined that weighted grade systems that place special education courses alone on the bottom tier of a grading committee scale discriminate based on disability, in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The district is anticipating the TEA guidance for new Texas universal course weight/GPA calculation that would correct the area of concern. We anticipated the release of this new calculation and mandatory implementation by Texas School districts for this school year but since it has not been released yet, the administration recommends addressing this identified concern through a change to local board policy. If approved, this would become effective for the 2026/2027 7th grade cohort.

D. Discussion of Date and Time for November/December 2026 Team of 8 Meeting – The Board reviewed potential dates for a Team of 8 Meeting after the November Board of Trustees election. The consensus being that the meeting should occur prior to the December 14th Regular Board Meeting. December 8th and 9th were identified as the best options. Dr. Epley will contact the Texas Association of School Board (TASB) to confirm facilitator availability for one of those preferred dates.

8. Reports:

A. Superintendent’s Report

1. Projected Enrollment – Dr. Epley presented the enrollment numbers as of August 17th:
Elementary – 815 confirmed and approved to attend with 35 submitted applications waiting to be processed and 48 started registrations. Peak projected enrollment for the campus is 874.
Intermediate – 772 confirmed and approved to attend with 13 submitted applications waiting to be processed and 33 started registrations. Peak projected enrollment for the campus is 836. *Jr. High* – 742 confirmed and approved to attend with 13 submitted applications waiting to be processed and 24 started registrations. Peak projected enrollment for the campus is 769. *High School* - 838 confirmed and approved to attend with 12 submitted applications waiting to be processed and 27 started registrations. Peak projected enrollment for the campus is 849.

B. District Financial Reports – There were no questions concerning the District Financial Reports.

9. Consent Agenda:

- A. Review and Possible Approval of the Minutes from the July 20, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Consider and Possible Approval of Donations
- C. Consider and Possible Approval of the Renewal with Documation, Inc. for the District Printers
- D. Consider and Possible Approval of the Vendor List for Instructional, Technology, Special Education, Food Service and General Supplies and Services for 2026/2027 School Year
- E. Consider and Possible Approval of 2026 Appraised Values as Certified by the Guadalupe County Appraisal District (GCAD)
- F. Review and Possible Adoption and Renewal of Investment Policy — Board Policy CDA (LEGAL) and (LOCAL): Investments
- G. Review and Possible Approval of T-TESS Teacher Appraisal Calendar & Appraisers and T-PESS Appraisers for the 2026/2027 School Year
- H. Consider and Possible Approval of Service Delivery Agreement/Contract for Communities in Schools (CIS) Program for the 2026-2027 School Year at the Navarro JH and High School Campuses
- I. Consider and Possible Approval of Renewal of Central Texas Purchasing Alliance contract from Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD for Supplemental Instruction & Related Services under solicitation 22-023V with S.TX School Therapy Providers, Inc.
- J. Consider and take possible action to approve the ranking of design build firms for the 2026 Bond Project, Facilities Reinvestment, Elementary and Annex Roof and HVAC including the possible delegation of authority
- K. Consider and Possible Approval of Reserve Staffing Requests for 2026/2027

President, Melissa Sartain pulled Consent Item 9.B. *Consider and Possible Approval of Donations* for discussion. On August 10, 2026, President Sartain approved the donation of staff and freshman shirts from the High School PTA that were received before the item was brought to the Board for approval. She wants full transparency that this was a one time occurrence and it will not happen again.

Joel Frederick motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Dan Reinhard seconded the motion. Vote 6-0; motion carried. Voting FOR: Melissa Sartain, Dan Reinhard, Clint Scheib, Joel Frederick, Becki Stephenson, and Donna Gilliam

10. Closed Session: The Board went into Closed Session at 7:44 PM.

- A. Pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.0821, discussion regarding Mediation Docket No. 105-DM-0626
- B. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss the Employment and Resignations of Professional Personnel to include Teachers and other Professionals
- C. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property

Any related action will be taken in open session.

11. Reconvene: The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:48 PM to consider possible action related to closed session discussion.

12. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Melissa Sartain, President
NISD Board of Trustees

Donna Gilliam, Secretary
NISD Board of Trustees