

**VENUS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

**April 20, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Venus Independent School District, on April 20, 2026 was called to order by Tasha Gore at 6:00p.m., in the Board Room 100 Student Drive Venus, Texas 76084.

**Board Members Present:** Tasha Gore, President (Place 7)  
Amber Crafton, Vice President (Place 4)  
Kirby Sansom, Secretary (Place 5)  
Randall Buck, Trustee (Place 1)  
Joe Russell, Trustee (Place 2)  
Donald Shaw, Trustee (Place 3)  
Gregory Hoffman, Trustee (Place 6)

**Board Members Absent:**

**Administrators/Staff Present** Howard Gatewood, Superintendent  
Rebecca Vega, Assistant Superintendent  
Lanston Thompson, Interim CFO  
Ann-Marie Morgan, Curriculum Director  
Donain Martinez, Human Resource Director  
Leighanne Ortiz, Principal  
Lana Whitworth, Principal  
Kim Buck, Principal

**Guests:**

**1. Call to Order and Announcement of a Quorum**

Announcement of Quorum 6:00p.m.

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Welcome Guests**

**4. Recognitions**

**5. Opportunity for Public Comment (including any item on the agenda)**

**6. Presentation of Campus Reports**

**7. Annual Announcement of Board Training Hours**

**8. Consider Approval of Student travel to Washington DC for TSA National Competition**

A motion was made by Amber Crafton and seconded by Kirby Sansom to approve the student travel to Washington DC for TSA National Competition

**The motion carried 7-0-0**

Gore	Crafton	Sansom	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For	For

**9. Consider Approval of Student travel to Portland Oregon for TAFE National Competition**

A motion was made by Amber Crafton and seconded by Kirby Sansom to approve the student travel to Portland Oregon for TAFE National Competition

**The motion carried 7-0-0**

Gore	Crafton	Sansom	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For	For

**10. Review of Insurance Options for Next Fiscal Year**

**11. Review of Janitorial Services for the Upcoming Fiscal Year**

**12. Discussion regarding SB546 compliance**

**13. Executive Session** Entered executive session at 7:05pm

**§551.071** Consultation with the School District’s attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act specifically including the appointment, employment evaluation, reassignment, duties, salaries, discipline or dismissal of a public officer, superintendent, assistant superintendent, principals, district directors, counselors, assistant principals, teachers, CFO, coaches, interim superintendent, at-will employees, to hear a complaint or charge against and officer or employee.

§551.072 A governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiation with a third person.

§551.074 A governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, salaries, discipline or dismissal of a public officer, superintendent, assistant superintendent, principals, district directors, counselors, assistant principals, teachers, CFO, coaches, at-will employees, interim superintendent, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee. Staffing update.

§551.076 A Board is not required to conduct an open meeting to deliberate:

1. The deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices;
- or 2. A security audit

§551.082 School Children, School District Employees; Disciplinary Matter or Complaint

§551.0821 School Board: Personally Identifiable Information About Public School Student

**14. Reconvene from Executive Session at 8:16pm**

**15. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approve previous month's board minutes
- B. Approve the 26-27 Johnson County JJAEP MOU
- C. Approve library book purchase

A motion was made by Amber Crafton and seconded by Greg Hoffman to approve the consent agenda as presented

**The motion carried 7-0-0**

Gore	Crafton	Sansom	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For	For

**16. Consider Approval of Bus Purchase, Longhorn Bus Sales**

A motion was made by Amber Crafton and seconded by Joe Russell to approve the Longhorn bus purchase

**The motion carried 7-0-0**

Gore	Crafton	Sansom	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For	For

**17. Consider Approval of Budget Amendment #4**

A motion was made by Greg Hoffman and seconded by Amber Crafton to approve the budget amendment #4

**The motion carried 7-0-0**

Gore	Crafton	Sansom	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For	For

**18. Consider Approval to Give the Superintendent Authority to Hire Contract Personnel from April 21, 2026 through August 31, 2026**

A motion was made by Amber Crafton and seconded by Kirby Sansom to give hiring authority to the Superintendent from April 21, 2026 through August 31, 2026

**The motion carried 7-0-0**

Gore	Crafton	Sansom	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For	For

**19. Consider Approval of Matters Related to Personnel: Resignations, Employment, Position or Contract Amendments**

A motion was made by Kirby Sansom and seconded by Amber Crafton to approve matters related to personnel: resignations, employment, position, or contract amendments

**The motion carried 7-0-0**

Gore	Crafton	Sansom	Buck	Russell	Shaw	Hoffman
For	For	For	For	For	For	For

**20. Reports**

- A. Superintendent
- B. Assistant Superintendent
- C. Chief Financial Officer
- D. Curriculum & Instruction
- E. Athletics
- F. Child Care
- G. Child Nutrition
- H. Maintenance
- I. Technology
- J. Venus ISD Police Department

**21. Board request for additional items/next scheduled board meeting date:**

**Budget Workshop/Canvass votes May 11th**  
**Monthly Board Meeting May 18th**

**22. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tasha Gore, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kirby Sansom, Secretary