

Minutes of the May 11, 2026,
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Abilene Independent School District met in a Regular Meeting at 5:00 p.m., May 11, 2026, in the Boardroom at One AISD Center 241 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas 79601. Mr. Rodney Goodman, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., observed that a quorum was present, and stated that notice of the meeting had been duly posted in the time and manner prescribed by law.

Trustees present for all or part of the meeting: Mr. Rodney Goodman, Vice President; Mrs. Cindy Earles, Secretary; Mr. Bill Enriquez, Assistant Secretary, Dr. Danny Wheat, and Dr. Taylor Tidmore. Members absent: Mrs. Angie Wiley, President; and Mr. Blair Schroeder.

Administrators present for all or part of the meeting: Dr. John Kuhn, Superintendent; Dr. Joseph Waldron, Superintendent-Designate; Dr. Gustavo Villanueva, Associate Superintendent for Student Services; Mrs. Lyndsey Williamson, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Jennifer Hinds, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Jordan Ziemer, Executive Director for Communications; Mr. Jay Ashby, Executive Director for Innovation; and Mrs. Robin Jones, Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Closed Session: A Closed Session may be held under the provisions of Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 including but not limited to Section 551.071, Section 551.072, Section 551.074, Section 551.076, and Section 551.082, and Section 551.0821.

Mr. Rodney Goodman announced that a Closed Session would be held under the provisions of Texas Code, Chapter 551. The Board convened in Closed Session at 5:00 p.m.

- A. The Board may deliberate matters of Personnel, i.e. appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee. (Section 551.074)
 - I. Professional Employment Contracts
 - B. The Board may consult with Legal Counsel regarding Pending or Contemplated Litigation and/ or Privileged Legal Advice. (Section 551.071)
 - C. The Board may discuss matters of Safety and Security. (Section 551.076)
 - D. The Board may discuss matters pertaining to Students necessarily involving personally identifiable information, e.g. Student Discipline. (Sections 551.082, 551.0821)
 - E. The Board may discuss the Value, Exchange and/or Disposition of Real Property. (Section 551.072)
- III. Reconvene from Closed Session (Approximately 6:30 p.m.)

The Board reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

- A. Invocation

Mr. Rodney Goodman called on Mrs. Alison Sims to give the invocation and lead the pledges.

- B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas
- C. Board/Superintendent Announcements

Dr. John Kuhn made the following announcements:

- May 12 – Special Education Graduation at Cooper Auditorium (6:30 p.m.)
- May 13 – Adult Education Graduation at Abilene High Auditorium (7:00 p.m.)
- May 17 – Baccalaureate at First Baptist Church (2:00 p.m.)
- May 19 – Senior Academic Awards and Senior Walk
- May 22 – Abilene High Graduation (8:00 p.m.)
- May 23 – Cooper Graduation (8:00 a.m.)
- May 23 – ATEMS Graduation (10:00 a.m.)
- May 25 – Memorial Day Holiday

- I. Teaching Minute

The Teaching Minute video highlighted TEKS Readiness Standard: 2.3(B) as being taught by Michelle Hatton to her 2nd grade students at Stafford Elementary.

- IV. Recognitions
 - A. CTE State Competitors

Mrs. Lucille Fullen, Director of CTE, shared that ATEMS earned national recognition as a 2025-2026 Project Lead the Way Distinguished School for the engineering program. Welding, Information Technology, and TAFE state competitors were also recognized.

B. Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) State Competitors

Mr. Clay Johnson, Executive Director for Fine Arts, recognized Abilene High, Cooper and ATEMS students for their acceptance into State Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE). Eight students advanced with ten art works.

C. TAEA Youth Art Month Exhibition

Hollie Nowlan, AHS student, was recognized by Mr. Clay Johnson for acceptance in a state-wide art exhibition in Austin for Youth Art Month.

D. State Debate Qualifiers

Mr. Clay Johnson recognized five State and National Qualifiers for Abilene High Speech & Debate.

E. State Power Lifters

Mr. Jim Garfield, Executive Director for Athletics, along with Coach William Kern (AHS) and Coach Scott Stewart (CHS), recognized girls State Qualifiers from Abilene High School and Cooper High School. Coach Billy Rogers (CHS) recognized Kayden Bryan as the Boys State Champion which is a first in school history.

F. Leadership Academy Participants

Mrs. Alison Sims recognized eight teachers that participated in the 2025-26 Leadership Academy.

V. Oral Communications from the Public

Mr. Rodney Goodman asked if anyone wishing to address the Board had completed a public comment card. There were 4.

- Tali Mullins – Teacher shout out
- Walker Wills – Teacher shout out
- Jude Brandt – Teacher shout out
- Gussie Jo Turnbough – Teacher shout out

VI. Consent Agenda

Mr. Rodney Goodman asked if there was a motion regarding the Consent Agenda. Dr. Taylor Tidmore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Bill Enriquez seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Ayes: Enriquez, Tidmore, Wheat, Goodman, and Earles

Nays: None

Absent: Wiley and Schroeder

- A. The Board will consider approval of the Budget Amendments.
- B. The Board will consider accepting the March Financials.
- C. The Board will consider approval of the Minutes of the April 2, 2026 Workshop and Regular Meeting and the April 28, 2026 Special Meeting.
- D. The Board will consider approval of Job Order Contract for Concrete Services, Proposal #014, 25-26.
- E. The Board will consider approval of Job Order Contract for Commercial Fencing and Installation, Proposal #015, 25-26.
- F. The Board will discuss and possibly consider approval of a TEA Waiver Request for Low Attendance Day(s).

VII. Reports

A. Athletic Department

Mr. Jim Garfield presented an update on the Athletic Department highlighting the 2025-2026 school year. He shared information regarding team and individual sports, participation numbers, sixth grade pre-athletics, academic update, and professional development.

B. Special Education Department

Dr. Stevanie Jackson, Executive Director for Special Education, provided an update on the Special Education Department which included number of students served as well as in-depth information on the self-contained SPED classes that AISD offers, and the qualification process for placement in one of those settings.

VIII. Business Items Requiring Board Action

A. The Board will consider a Group Medical Insurance Proposal.

Mrs. Alison Sims presented the 2026-2027 Medical Insurance Update which included the following information:

- Insurance History and Current Status

- Financial Outlook and Claims Trends
- Proposal Review and Cost Comparison

The administrative recommendation was to approve Blue Cross Blue Shield for the 2026-2027 plan year based on lowest cost option available, it meets the district needs, and avoids additional structural changes.

Mr. Rodney Goodman asked if there was a motion regarding group medical insurance. Dr. Danny Wheat made a motion to approve Blue Cross Blue Shield as the District's medical insurance provider for the 2026-2027 plan year. The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor Tidmore and passed 5-0.

Ayes: Goodman, Enriquez, Earles, Wheat, and Tidmore

Nays: None

Absent: Wiley and Schroeder

B. The Board will consider a Resolution to donate Bronze Statues of Children to Heritage Square.

Dr. Joseph Waldron presented a resolution to donate bronze statues of children that were originally commissioned by Bill and Lila Senter and displayed at the Administration Building. These statues were removed during renovations and it is fitting that they be on display at the new AHS, Abilene Heritage Square.

Mr. Rodney Goodman asked if there was a motion regarding the bronze statues. Mrs. Cindy Earles made a motion to approve a Resolution to donate Bronze Statues of Children to Heritage Square, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bill Enriquez and passed 5-0.

Ayes: Tidmore, Earles, Goodman, Enriquez, and Wheat

Nays: None

Absent: Wiley and Schroeder

C. The Board will consider the renaming of Bowie Elementary School.

Ms. Janaye Wideman, Principal of Bowie Elementary, presented a year in review of Bowie Elementary along with the vision for next year. A name change of Bowie Elementary School would reflect a transition from a traditional elementary school to a STEM-focused academy aligned with the district's broader innovation strategy.

Mr. Rodney Goodman asked if there was a motion regarding Bowie Elementary School. Dr. Taylor Tidmore made a motion to change the name of Bowie Elementary School to Bowie STEM Academy, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Danny Wheat and passed 5-0.

Ayes: Goodman, Wheat, Tidmore, Earles, and Enriquez

Nays: None

Absent: Wiley and Schroeder

D. The Board will consider the renaming of Purcell Elementary School.

Mr. Justin Rosenquist, Principal of Purcell Elementary School, shared a year in review of Purcell Elementary including site visits, instructional vision, learning framework, and STEM design challenge. He proposed that a name change would reflect a transition from a traditional elementary school to a STEM-focused academy aligned with the district's broader innovation strategy.

Mr. Rodney Goodman asked if there was a motion regarding Purcell Elementary School. Dr. Taylor Tidmore made a motion to change the name of Purcell Elementary School to Purcell STEM Academy, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Danny Wheat and passed 5-0.

Ayes: Earles, Tidmore, Goodman, Enriquez, and Wheat

Nays: None

Absent: Wiley and Schroeder

IX. The Board may take action relevant to Items Covered During Closed Session.

A. The Board will consider approval of Personnel Recommendations, if any.

I. Professional Employment Contracts

Mr. Rodney Goodman asked if there was a motion regarding the Teacher Incentive Allotment. Dr. Danny Wheat made a motion to approve a one time payment to undesignated teachers. Mr. Bill Enriquez seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Ayes: Earles, Tidmore, Goodman, Enriquez, and Wheat

Nays: None

Absent: Wiley and Schroeder

B. Matters pertaining to Real Property, if any

C. Matters pertaining to Safety and Security, if any

D. Matters pertaining to Litigation, if any

E. Matters pertaining to Students, if any

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

ATTEST:

Secretary