

Killeen Independent School District

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, Workshop Meeting April 14, 2026, at 5 p.m. in the Killeen ISD Boardroom

Board Members Present

- Brett E. Williams, President
- Brenda Adams, Secretary
- Susan M. Jones, Vice President
- Marvin Rainwater, Member
- Tina Capito, Member
- Rodney Gilchrist, Member
- Oliver Mintz, Member (**joined meeting during closed session at 5:18 pm**)

Quorum: Established

Call to Order

The meeting of the Killeen Independent School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Brett E. Williams at 5 p.m.

The meeting was recorded and streamed publicly

Agenda Item 1: Public Forum

No members of the public signed up to speak during the forum.

Agenda Item 2: Closed Session

The Board entered Closed Session at **5:03 p.m.** for:

2A. Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Board Policy BED (LOCAL)

(Texas Government Code 551.071)

2B. Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Campus Instructional Specialist and Campus Instructional Coach Program Change

(Texas Government Code 551.074)

2C. Consultation with the District's Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation, a Settlement Offer, or Other Issues Confidential under the Attorney-Client Privilege

(Texas Government Code 551.071)

2D. Deliberate the Purchase, Exchange, Lease, or Value of Real Property

(Texas Government Code 551.072)

2E. Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee

(Texas Government Code 551.074)

2F. Deliberate a Matter Regarding a Public School Student in which Personally Identifiable Information About the Student will Necessarily be Revealed

(Texas Government Code 551.0821)

2G. Level III Parent Grievance

(Texas Government Code 551.071, 551.0821)

2H. Level III Parent Grievance

(Texas Government Code 551.071, 551.0821)

2I. Discussion Regarding Level III Employee Grievance of E. Landrum

(Texas Government Code 551.071, 551.074)

No action was taken in closed session.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at **6:02 p.m.**

Agenda Item 3: Public Forum (Continuation of 5:00 pm Public Forum)

No members of the public signed up to speak during the forum.

Agenda Item 4: Consent Agenda

- A. Consideration of Resolution to Recognize April 2026 as National School Library Month in Killeen ISD**
- B. Consideration of Resolution to Recognize April 2026 as the Month of the Military Child in Killeen ISD**
- C. Receive and Approve Minutes for March 10, 2026, Workshop Meeting**
- D. Receive and Approve Minutes for March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting**

- **Motion:** Brenda Adams
 - **Second:** Tina Capito
 - **Vote:** 7-0-0-0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None
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Agenda Item 5: Action Items for Consideration

5A. Consideration of Appointment of Election Judges and Alternate Judges for the May 2, 2026, Killeen ISD Board of Trustees General Election

Presenter: JC Schoel

Killeen ISD is required, as a local political subdivision, to approve the primary and alternate judges for its upcoming election, and the District is partnering with the City of Harker Heights, the City of Killeen, and the City of Nolanville to conduct those elections. Since those municipalities have already approved the presented list of judges, the administrative recommendation is for Killeen ISD to approve the same list as well.

- **Motion:** Brenda Adams
- **Second:** Rodney Gilchrist

- **Vote:** 7-0-0-0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None
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5B. Consideration of Quarterly Investment Report for the Period Ending February 28, 2026

Presenter: Kallen Vaden

The investment report presented for February 28 was prepared in compliance with the Public Funds Investment Act and district policy, noting that overall balances increased by approximately \$29 million primarily due to property tax receipts received after the January deadline. The portfolio's weighted average maturity stands at 279 days, with funds strategically distributed across short-term and longer-term investments to maintain liquidity and stability. The weighted average yield declined slightly, but the portfolio continues to perform in line with its Treasury bill benchmark. Interest earnings for the quarter totaled approximately \$3.4 million, bringing the year-to-date total to about \$6.4 million, which is tracking above budget expectations. District staff emphasized that investment decisions are guided by cash flow needs and a laddering strategy to ensure funds are available for operations while maximizing returns. Trustees asked questions regarding year-over-year performance, investment strategy adjustments, and the origins of funds, with staff explaining that revenues come from state funding, property taxes, and other local sources, and that decisions are made in accordance with statutory guidelines and professional financial oversight.

- **Motion:** Tina Capito
 - **Second:** Oliver Mintz
 - **Vote:** 7-0-0-0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None
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Agenda Item 6: Information Items for Discussion

6A. Discussion of Revision to Board Policy BED (LOCAL) Board Meetings: Public Participation

Presenter: Mike Harper

Mr. Harper explained that under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board is required to hear public comments on agenda items. He noted that the District has long allowed individuals to speak on any topic, regardless of whether it is listed on the agenda. The proposed revision to local policy BED(LOCAL) is intended to formally align Board policy with this existing practice and extend it to Workshop meetings. Trustees expressed support for increasing public access and ensuring citizens have broad opportunities to address the Board. This item is recommended to be placed on next consent agenda.

6B. Discussion Regarding Senate Bill 546 – Required Reporting on School Bus Seat Belt Cost

Presenter: Scott Hequembourg

Mr. Hequembourg presented information regarding Senate Bill 546, which requires all school buses transporting students to be equipped with three-point lap and shoulder seat belts by September 1, 2029. He explained that the District must submit required data to the state by May 30, 2026, including the number of buses not equipped and the estimated cost for compliance. The District currently operates 278 buses, with 141 already compliant and the remaining buses requiring retrofitting or replacement. Of those, 66 buses are eligible for retrofit at an estimated cost of \$42,000 per bus, while older buses must be replaced at approximately \$140,000 each. The total projected cost to achieve compliance is approximately \$10.2 million. A three-year implementation plan was outlined, with costs each year significantly exceeding the District's typical annual bus replacement budget. Mr. Hequembourg emphasized that this mandate is currently unfunded and would require an additional estimated \$2 million annually beyond normal expenditures. The District intends to report that the cost is not financially feasible within its current budget in order to remain eligible for potential state grants. Trustees discussed the impact on long-term planning, noting that retrofitting does not extend the life of buses and that rising demand may increase bus costs. Additional discussion included enforcement of student seatbelt use and the importance of maintaining eligibility for future state funding opportunities.

6C. Discussion of the Adoption and Pilot of Bluebonnet High-Quality Instructional Materials

Presenter: Dr. Jo-Lynette Crayton

Dr. Crayton explained Killeen ISD was awarded the LIFT grant, which is designed to support high-quality instructional materials and instructional leadership. It integrates Strong Foundations, Texas Instructional Leadership, and Texas Lesson Study and creates sustainable and effective learning environments. Region 12 will serve as the Technical Assistance Provider, receiving 70% of the grant funds, while the District receives 30%. KISD will engage with the Planning Phase at four middle schools and the Implementation Phase at one elementary campus. Killeen ISD will implement Bluebonnet Math at Willow Springs Elementary in kindergarten and first grade. Dr. Crayton presented the Bluebonnet Learning for K–5 math. Bluebonnet is a state-developed, SBOE-approved curriculum aligned to TEKS and ELPS and based on the Eureka Math framework. The program includes structured lessons, assessments, manipulatives, and digital tools to support both teachers and students. It is designed to be scalable, integrated, and coherent, allowing all teachers to deliver high-quality instruction while supporting diverse learners. Trustees raised concerns about frequent curriculum changes, noting that this would be the third math program in five years at the elementary level and similar changes at the middle school level. Questions were asked regarding the effectiveness of prior programs, including Carnegie and i-Ready, and the lack of long-term data. Trustees also expressed concern about teacher frustration and the impact of constant change on morale and instructional consistency. District staff explained that feedback is gathered through surveys, instructional specialists, and principal input to help guide decisions and support teachers. It was emphasized that Willow Springs ES volunteered to pilot the program and that implementation will begin on a small scale. Trustees discussed whether the program is scripted and how it would support different student populations, including high-performing and multilingual learners. District leaders clarified that the program aligns with high-quality instructional material standards and has been vetted through the state's Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) process. The program has been tested in other districts and refined over time since its development during and after COVID. Trustees also questioned the long-term financial impact and noted that costs beyond the grant period are not yet fully known. The District confirmed that participation in the grant is a three-year commitment, with potential expansion dependent on results. Region 12 will assist by facilitating a Needs Assessment and providing training to teachers on Research Based Instructional Strategies (RBIS) and product review in May, summer professional development, and additional support during the school year. Concerns were raised about whether sufficient time exists to adequately prepare teachers before implementation. District staff acknowledged these concerns and emphasized multiple training opportunities and ongoing support systems. Additional concerns were expressed about the allocation of funds, with a significant portion directed to the technical assistance provider. Some trustees emphasized the need to focus on improving student outcomes and were supportive of trying new approaches to address performance challenges. Others stressed the importance of stability and careful evaluation before expanding programs districtwide. District leadership concluded by emphasizing that participation in the program is tied to accessing state funding and aligning with state

expectations. The program will be monitored throughout the grant cycle, and decisions about expansion will be made based on data and effectiveness.

President Brett E. Williams called for Agenda item 10:

Agenda Item 10: Discussion of Future Board Meeting Agendas and Trustee Remarks

Trustee Mintz shared that he visited a registration event at Clifton Park and commended staff, including Iris Felder and Micah Wells, for their professionalism and efficiency in supporting families. He noted that the process would save campuses significant time at the start of the school year and expressed appreciation to all departments involved. Trustee Adams requested an item on an upcoming agenda regarding the District of Innovation process, specifically related to library resources and library purchases at high schools. Trustee Gilchrist thanked teachers and staff for preparing students for state testing and encouraged parents to ensure students are well-rested and ready. He emphasized the importance of testing outcomes as a measure of district success. Trustee Marvin Rainwater urged Dr. Davis to ensure the District closely analyzes the impact of the Bluebonnet Learning and LASSO programs on both students and teachers, emphasizing the need for clear data and statistics. He expressed concern about declining scores and community dissatisfaction. He emphasized the need for improvement and accountability, while also acknowledging the hard work of district staff. Dr. Davis closed by encouraging continued support for students during testing and expressing appreciation for staff efforts across the District.

Recess

President Williams called a brief recess at **7:21 p.m.**

The meeting reconvened at **7:34 p.m.**

Board Returned to Agenda Item 2: Closed Session

The Board entered closed session again at **7:35 p.m.** for:

2G. Level III Parent Grievance

(Texas Government Code 551.071, 551.0821)

No action was taken in closed session.

The Board reconvened in open session at **8:30 p.m.**

Agenda Item 7: Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Level III Parent Complaint

The Board considered action regarding level III parent complaint.

As a result of discussion in closed session Trustee Rodney Gilchrist moved to uphold the Level II decision and to deny the Level III grievance.

- **Motion:** Rodney Gilchrist
- **Second:** Tina Capito
- **Vote:** 6-1-0-0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** Oliver Mintz
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None

Board Returned to Agenda Item 2: Closed Session

The Board entered closed session again at **8:32 p.m.** for:

2H. Level III Parent Grievance

(Texas Government Code 551.071, 551.0821)

No action was taken in closed session.

The Board reconvened in open session at **8:41 p.m.**

Agenda Item 8: Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Level III Parent Complaint

This item was not heard due to a scheduling conflict. It will be moved to a Board meeting at a later date.

Agenda Item 9: Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Level III Employee Complaint of E. Landrum

The Board considered action regarding level III employee complaint.

As a result of discussion in closed session Trustee Tina Capito moved to partially grant the grievance:

- 1) Grant Ms. Landrum the Master's degree stipend for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 2) Modify Administrative Procedures VI-EE to recognize as an accredited institution those colleges and universities recognized by the Commission of Education for creditable years of service.

- **Motion:** Tina Capito
- **Second:** Oliver Mintz
- **Vote:** 7-0-0-0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None

Agenda Item 11: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

- **Motion:** Brenda Adams
- **Second:** Tina Capito
- **Vote:** 7-0-0-0
 - **For:** Brett E. Williams, Susan M. Jones, Brenda Adams, Marvin Rainwater, Oliver Mintz, Tina Capito, Rodney Gilchrist
 - **Against:** None
 - **Abstained:** None
 - **Absent:** None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at **8:43 p.m.**

Signatures

Brett E. Williams

Board President

Brenda Adams

Board Secretary
