

Graham Independent School District
Board Agenda Item Synopsis

Subject: Changes to the format (order of agenda) for Board of Trustee meetings

Background Information: Under the Texas Government Code, the Board of Trustees for a public school district is authorized to convene in Closed or Executive Session for specific matters. These include conferring with legal counsel, deliberating the deployment or implementation of security personnel or devices, conducting security audits, and discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property when open deliberations could disadvantage the Board's negotiating position. Furthermore, Executive or Closed Sessions are permitted to deliberate personnel topics, such as the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or to hear charges or complaints against them.

Administrative Consideration: Graham ISD has historically scheduled Closed Sessions at the end of its meeting agendas. This order often requires attorneys, consultants, new hires, and audience guests to wait until the end of the meeting before the Board takes action in Open Session on items discussed in Closed Session. To address this, the Administration recommends shifting Closed Session discussions earlier in the meeting. This change will optimize the order of the agenda for stakeholders, guests, and new hires, while also helping the Trustees minimize expenses related to hourly rates for consultants and attorneys. The Board President will call the meeting to order and establish a quorum, say the Pledges of Allegiance and the invocation, honor students and staff being recognized, and hear Public Comments before adjourning to Closed Session to discuss topics allowed under Texas law. The Board will then reconvene into open session to complete the rest of the agenda and take any necessary action.

Throughout the meeting, the Board continues to hold the authority to adjust the order of agenda items or transition into and out of Closed Session as frequently as required. This flexibility remains until all agenda items have been addressed and final decisions are officially concluded during the open, public segment of the meeting.

Alignment to District Goals:

- ☐ 1. **Academics:** All students will be prepared for success at the next level.
- ☐ 2. **Our People:** Recruit and retain highly qualified employees at all levels.
- ☐ 3. **Finance and Facilities:**
 - Optimize revenues and impact student achievement by increasing attendance rates at all campuses.
 - Commit to excellence in facilities that promote innovative, health, and welcoming learning environments.

- ☒ 4. **Culture:** All stakeholders will take ownership in creating a welcoming, compassionate, unified school community striving for aspirational achievements.
- ☐ 5. **Safety:** Provide a safe, healthy and secure environment for all stakeholders.
- ☒ 6. **Communications:** Support student success through clear, consistent, and inclusive communication and marketing that builds trust, reflects our diverse community, and empowers all stakeholders.

Budgetary Impact: None immediately, but this new format should minimize attorney and consultant hourly costs, positively impacting the annual operating budget.

Recommendation: Information only.

Meeting Date: August 5, 2026