

Minutes of the March 5, 2026,
Workshop and Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Abilene Independent School District met in a Workshop and Regular Meeting at 5:00 p.m., March 5, 2026, in the Boardroom at One AISD Center 241 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas 79601. Mrs. Angie Wiley, 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: Mrs. Angie Wiley, President; Mr. Rodney Goodman, Vice President; Mrs. Cindy Earles, Secretary; Mr. Bill Enriquez, Assistant Secretary, Dr. Danny Wheat, Dr. Taylor Tidmore, and Mr. Blair Schroeder. Members absent: None.

Administrators present for all or part of the meeting: Dr. John Kuhn, Superintendent; Dr. Joseph Waldron, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Gustavo Villanueva, Associate Superintendent for Student Services; Mrs. Patti Blue, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Alison Sims, Associate Superintendent for the Development of Human Resources; 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. Board Workshop Agenda

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked Dr. John Kuhn to give an overview of the Workshop portion of the agenda.

- A. Senate Bill 546 - Three Point Seat Belts

Mrs. Tina Jones, Director of Transportation, and Mr. Zach Sneed, Assistant Director of Transportation, shared information outlining Abilene ISD's current compliance with Senate Bill 546 along with an estimate of the fiscal impact that will be required to have a bus fleet that is in full compliance.

- B. Career & Technical Education Update

Mrs. Lucille Fullen, Director of CTE, provided an overview of CTE in the district highlighting framework and funding requirements, programs of study, industry-based certifications, student participation, achievements, and initiatives. A sequence of courses that builds upon each other in each program of study affords students the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications.

- C. Holland Medical Update

Mrs. Ginger Held, Dean of Holland Medical, presented an overview of Holland history, enrollment, and program of study details along with industry-based certificates data, and highlights of Holland students and staff.

- D. Science and Planetarium Update

Mr. Jason Barber, Science Coordinator, presented an overview of the interactive Science education provided for students in grades K-12, instructional support provided by the Curriculum and Instruction department, and Science curriculum updates. Mr. Barber discussed how the Planetarium supports science instruction.

- III. 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.

Mrs. Angie Wiley announced that a Closed Session would be held under the provisions of Texas Code, Chapter 551. The Board convened in Closed Session at 6:11 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. Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding Pending or Contemplated Litigation and/or Privileged Legal Advice (Section 551.071)

- C. The Board may discuss the Value, Exchange and/or Disposition of Real Property. (Section 551.072)

- D. The Board may discuss matters of Safety and Security. (Section 551.076)

- E. The Board may discuss matters pertaining to Students necessarily involving personally identifiable information, e.g. Student Discipline. (Sections 551.082, 551.0821)

- IV. Reconvene from Closed Session (Approximately 7:00 p.m.)

The Board reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas

Mrs. Angie Wiley called on Mr. Jay Ashby to give the invocation and lead the pledges.

B. Board/Superintendent Announcements/Information

Dr. John Kuhn shared the following upcoming events and announcements:

- 3/6 – Read Across America (Martinez Elementary)
- 3/9-13 - Spring Break
- 4/2 – Spanish Spelling B
- TAFE Students qualified for Nationals in Oregon
- SkillsUSA Students qualified for State
- AHS Debate Students qualified for Nationals
- Choirs have finished UIL Concert and Sightreading season with great results.

I. Teaching Minute

The Teaching Minute video highlighted TEKS Readiness Standard: 8(B) and 10(B) as being taught by Mr. Matt Marchbanks to his 8th grade US History students at Mann STEAM Academy.

V. Recognitions

A. All State Choir Students

Mr. Clay Johnson, Executive Director for Fine Arts, recognized Olivia Ransford (Sophomore - AHS) and Jackson Lisky (Senior - AHS) for being selected to the All State Choir.

VI. Oral Communication from the Public

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if anyone wishing to address the Board had completed a public comment card. There were 10.

- Katie Maxwell – AISD Support – Homeless Liaison
- Henry Maxwell – AISD Support – Craig
- Kristi Brokaw – Craig choir teacher shout out
- Jon Brokaw – Gratitude for the work of the school
- Tammy Fogle – TEA petition for review
- Kate Stover – Libraries
- Rachel Riley – Librarian/Teacher Support
- Maylin Luke – Children with trauma and book therapy
- Gideon – Read a book
- Farryn Burkham – Mental Health/Resources

VII. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding the Consent Agenda. Dr. Taylor Tidmore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and presented. Mrs. Angie Wiley seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

- A. The Board will consider approval of the Budget Amendments.
- B. The Board will consider accepting the January Financials.
- C. The Board will consider approval of the Minutes of the February 5, 2026, Workshop Meeting; February 9, 2026, Regular Meeting; February 16, 2026, Special Meeting; February 18, 2026, Special Meeting; and February 25, 2026, Special Meeting.
- D. The Board will consider Certification of Provisions of Instructional Material.

VIII. Reports

A. Goal Progress Measures

Mrs. Patti Blue provided an overview of the goal progress measures of students in grades K-8 for Reading and Math. Students in grades K-3 are assessed in different ways to track their progress throughout the school year. Mrs. Keri Thornburg, Executive Director for Elementary Curriculum, and Mrs. Lyndsey Williamson, Executive Director for Secondary Curriculum, discussed MAP Assessment Percentiles, and RIT Scores for 3rd grade students. They shared MOY (middle of year) MAP Growth Assessment data for Reading and Math, along with Projected Proficiency on STAAR. Teachers use this information to plan instruction and targeted small group strategies; set growth and STAAR goals; and share information with parents. Mrs. Mandi Joiner, Elementary ELAR Coordinator, and Mrs. Kelli Grigsby, Elementary Math Coordinator, provided an overview of how mCLASS is used to assess individual growth in Reading and Math along with MOY K-2 Reading and K, 1, 2, 4 Math data used for progress monitoring. Mrs. Julie Wilson, Director of Early Childhood, also shared information regarding the Children's Learning Institute (CLI) Pre-K online progress monitoring tool which included what is measured, ways the data is collected, how the collected data is used, and areas to be addressed based on the CLI data.

B. Call for Quality Schools Update

Mr. Jay Ashby presented an overview of the completed Call for Quality Schools (CQS) process which included key takaways from the district's evaluation, and information regarding next steps. He also shared that the possibility of future Call for Quality Schools cycles as early as summer 2026, based on district needs, capacity, and strategic priorities.

C. Policy Update 126

Mrs. Alison Sims provided an overview of the local policies in Update 126 that require board action and adoption based on the district's final recommendations. Included in this update are the following: local policy addressing start time for Board meetings, public comment in Board meetings, DEI related prohibitions for contracted services, background checks for contracted services, cybersecurity training, safety and security, competitive purchasing thresholds, personal services performed by an administrator, concurrent use of paid leave for teachers, nonrenewal of term contracts, employee complaints, employee standards of conduct, instructional plans, instructional material review by parents, video monitoring of special education classes, medical treatment, crisis intervention, and student rights. Update 126 also includes than 140 revisions to many legal policies based on updates made in the last legislative session.

D. Budget Calendar

Mrs. Jennifer Hinds shared an overview of the budget calendar and process to develop and approve the 2026-2027 AISD Budget.

IX. Business Items Requiring Board Action

A. The Board will consider Certification of Unopposed Candidates for Abilene ISD Board of Trustees Place 4, 5, and 6.

Dr. John Kuhn shared that the authority responsible for the ballot (Robin Jones) has certified in writing that the candidates for Abilene ISD Board of Trustees Places 4, 5, and 6 are unopposed. Acceptance of this certification is the first required step in the legal process for cancellation of an election in which no candidate faces opposition as specified in Texas Election Code Section 2.051-2.053.

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding the Certification of Unopposed Candidates. Mr. Blair Schroeder made a motion to accept the Certification of Unopposed Candidates for Abilene ISD Board of Trustees Places 4, 5, and 6 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodney Goodman and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

B. The Board will consider Order of Cancellation of Election for Abilene ISD School Board Trustees, Place 4, 5, and 6.

Dr. John Kuhn shared that according to Texas Election Code Section 2.051-2.053, passage of an Order of Cancellation is the second and final required step to cancel an election in which no candidate faces opposition.

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding the Order of Cancellation of Election. Mrs. Angie Wiley made a motion to issue an Order of Cancellation of Election for Abilene ISD Board of Trustees Places 4, 5, and 6. The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor Tidmore and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

C. The Board will consider the renaming of Thomas Elementary.

Dr. Joseph Waldron presented a recommendation to change the name of Sam Thomas Elementary School to Sam Thomas Learning Center because it positions the district to place programs at the facility without any additional name consideration. The Thomas facility will house the K-12 SAP program and the elementary STEPS program in the 26-27 school year. These programs are currently housed at the Hartford Professional Learning Center, which was intended to be a temporary home.

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding Renaming Thomas Elementary. Mr. Rodney Goodman made a motion to change the name of Sam Thomas Elementary School to Sam Thomas Learning Center as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Danny Wheat and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

D. The Board will consider Amendment of Budget for VATRE Funds.

Mrs. Jennifer Hinds shared an overview of the VATRE process along with the impact on AISD. VATRE funds would be used to help AISD teachers, students, and schools. She shared the VATRE budget by priority for FY26 which includes Recruit and Retain, Eliminate Budget Deficit, Stop Deferred Maintenance, Address Aging Bus Fleet, New Instructional Programs, Campus and Department Allocation Adjustment, and Budget Reserve.

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding the Amendment of Budget for VATRE Funds. Mr. Rodney Goodman made a motion to amend the Budget for VATRE Funds as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor Tidmore and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

- X. The Board may take action relevant to Items Covered During Closed Session.
 - A. The Board will consider approval of Personnel Recommendations.
 - I. Professional Employment Contracts
 - B. Matters pertaining to Litigation, if any
 - C. Matters pertaining to Real Property, if any
 - D. Matters pertaining to Safety and Security, if any
 - E. Matters pertaining to Students, if any

Mrs. Angie Wiley announced that the Board would return to Closed Session at 9:37 p.m.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 10:06 p.m.

- XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

ATTEST:

Secretary