July 28, 2026 Board Oversight Committee Report

Mansfield ISD Board of Trustees

Report Synopsis

The Board Oversight Committee understands that public trust is built through transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources. To this end, the following is a report of several efforts to demonstrate these three values, including a monthly reporting calendar for board committees; a summary of the board survey and community conversation on governance; and a summary of the Board's stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Item 1. Monthly Reporting Calendar for Board Committees

This calendar year, the Board is reporting on the work of its committees according to the calendar below. Committee chairs for committees with 2-3 board members will provide written and verbal reports as their committee appears on the calendar. Committee chairs can be found on the district website within the Board of Trustees pages.

July 2026
Board Oversight Committee

August 2026
Board Oversight Committee

September 2026
Advocacy, Board Operating Procedures, Board Oversight Committee

October 2026
Appraisal District, Policy Review, Safety, Board Oversight Committee

November 2026
Auditor; Board Operating Procedures; Ed Foundation; Staff Support; Technology; TASB Delegate/Alternate, Board Oversight Committee

December 2026
Advocacy, Appraisal District, Board Oversight Committee

January 2027
Advocacy, Policy Review, Board Oversight Committee

February 2027
Appraisal District, Board Operating Procedures; Board Oversight Committee, Safety

March 2027
Advocacy, Auditor, Board Oversight Committee

April 2027
Advocacy, Board Operating Procedure, Policy, Board Oversight Committee; Ed Foundation; Staff Support; Technology; TASB Delegate/Alternate

May 2027
Appraisal District, Safety, Board Oversight Committee

June 2027
Auditor, Policy, Board Oversight Committee

Item 2. Board Survey/Community Conversation Summary

The Board thanks the community members who completed the inaugural governance survey in June 2026. More than 1,000 individuals responded to the survey. Following the survey, the Board Oversight Committee identified three main themes for which potential board action may occur and further discussed these with the community during the July 2026 Community Conversation. These three themes included: board meeting access & transparency; board representation; and board/community feedback loop. The community desired to learn more about any next steps or board action related to the following: more responsiveness to public comment; potential open forums for public comment; greater support for campuses across geographic regions in the district, particularly Arlington; stronger relationships with board members; more visibility of board members; and improved student outcomes for campuses with lower student outcomes.

Item 3. Stewardship of Taxpayer Resources

In this portion of the report, we demonstrate how the Board has used the values of transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources to guide it throughout a series of concerns and allegations raised over the past several months.

Some of those concerns became the subject of public discussion. Others were brought to the Board through formal or confidential channels, as is appropriate for certain matters. Regardless of how they were received, each concern was evaluated according to the Board's legal and ethical responsibilities and not according to the amount of public attention it generated.

When concerns were raised, the Board did not dismiss them. Independent legal counsel was engaged where appropriate. Outside agencies reviewed matters within their jurisdiction. Public records were produced. Public Information Act requests were answered. District staff devoted significant time and resources to ensuring concerns received fair and independent consideration.

After months of review, each matter raised over the past several months has completed independent review and is now formally closed. This report summarizes, accounts for the resources expended, and outlines the governance improvements adopted by the Board to strengthen both accountability and stewardship going forward.

Guiding Principles

The Board's response has been guided by five principles:

1. Transparency requires facts, not assumptions.
2. Accountability requires independent review.
3. Allegations deserve fair evaluation.
4. The Board's primary responsibility is the education and success of Mansfield ISD students.
5. Taxpayer resources deserve responsible stewardship.

Board Response

The Board understands that public confidence depends on accountability. Accordingly, allegations were not ignored. Instead, the following took place:

- Independent legal review was sought when appropriate.
- Relevant governmental agencies reviewed matters within their authority.

- Public records were produced.
- Questions were answered.
- District staff cooperated fully throughout each process.

Findings & Stewardship of Taxpayer Resources

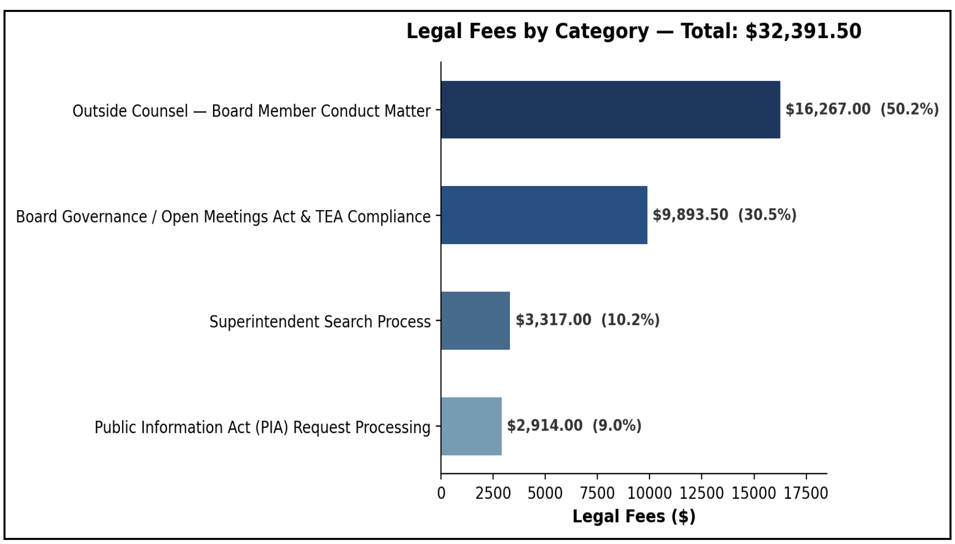
During one of the most recent matters, the Vice President of the Board served as the acting presiding officer for issues involving the Board President. In that capacity, a comprehensive accounting of the legal fees, staff time, and district resources devoted to responding to these matters was requested.

Taxpayers deserve to understand both the outcome of these investigations and the public resources required to conduct them. Every dollar devoted to repeated investigations is a dollar unavailable for classrooms, teachers, student programs, or district operations. Every hour spent responding to unsupported allegations is an hour diverted from serving students. Therefore, the Board believes that transparency requires reporting on both the allegations made and the resources used, as well as the conclusions reached after examination.

The table below reflects legal fees billed specifically in response to these matters, by month, since January 2026. Figures ONLY reflect legal fees specifically attributable to responding to these matters, as identified by outside counsel, and do NOT include the district's routine legal or administrative costs.

Month	Legal Fees
February (January work)	$6,150.50
March (February work)	$3,813.00
April (March work)	$2,937.50
May (April work)	$2,541.50
June (May work)	$2,418.00
July (June work)	$14,531.00
Total	**$32,391.50**

The chart below breaks the same total down by category:



A summary of each matter, how it was raised, and its outcome follows.

- **Search Process:** During the superintendent search, Texas law required the Board to satisfy both the Open Meetings Act and the requirement of candidate confidentiality simultaneously. After conferring with legal counsel, the Board confirmed it could hold closed-session proceedings at a second, non-public location without disclosing that location in advance, a protocol vetted and confirmed not unlawful before it was used. The protocol was carried out as planned. After the search concluded, public assertions arose that the process had been unlawful; the Board sought further confirmation from outside education counsel and the Texas Attorney General's office, both of which affirmed the process had not been unlawful throughout.
- **State Agency Complaint:** A complaint was filed with the Texas Education Agency citing legal precedent alleged to demonstrate a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Outside counsel again reviewed the citations and found them to be incorrect. Currently, the district's position and supporting documents have been sent, and we are awaiting their findings.
- **Board President Residency & Related Records Matter:** A question was raised regarding the Board President's residency within the district, a matter squarely within the Board's jurisdiction to confirm, and the Board did so, verifying residency was intact. A separate issue was also raised in connection with this matter. No legitimate reviewing body has made the Board aware of any wrongdoing identified in connection with it, and the matter has since been confirmed closed.
    - **Texas Ethics Commission Complaint:** A related ethics complaint was filed and reviewed by the Texas Ethics Commission. The complaint was dismissed and closed.

Beyond the legal fees outlined above, district resources are consumed in other ways as well. Public Information Act requests are a right the community holds, and the Board does not take that right lightly. But that right carries a real cost. Since January 1, 2026 alone, the district has received 177 such requests. Some of these were substantial, others were minor, but every one required staff time to locate, review, and, where necessary, redact responsive records. Several requests tied to matters referenced in this report required hours of staff time each to fulfill. When public calls circulate encouraging others to file records requests, the district still bears the cost in staff hours and resources, even when a request is ultimately withdrawn, or the records prepared are never retrieved by the requestor.

Taken together, the true toll of these past six months is not captured by any single number. It is measured in the hours, attention, and energy diverted from the work of educating students.

Recommended Governance Actions

This experience has strengthened the Board's commitment to both accountability and stewardship. Accordingly, the Board has adopted a formal preliminary review process for future allegations.

The process is designed to ensure that concerns are evaluated fairly while also ensuring taxpayer-funded investigations are initiated only after sufficient supporting information has been presented.

The process is as follows:

1. A concern or allegation is submitted.
2. Supporting evidence is presented to Board counsel.
3. Board counsel conducts a preliminary assessment.
4. The Board determines whether the available information warrants a formal investigation using taxpayer resources.
5. If warranted, an independent investigation proceeds.

This process does not discourage legitimate concerns. It ensures legitimate concerns receive appropriate review while protecting taxpayers from unnecessary expenditures. An allegation begins a process. It is not, by itself, proof.

Going forward, the Board will apply this process consistently, measuring every allegation against the same evidentiary standard regardless of its source. Not every allegation will receive a public response, a press statement, or a line-item accounting. A matter that does not meet the evidentiary threshold will simply be closed, quietly, rather than answered claim by claim in public every time. It should also be noted that an allegation does not obligate the person accused to produce personal records (financial, medical, or otherwise) to disprove it; that burden rests with the party making the claim. Consistent with this, when the Board reports on the outcome of a review, it will do so without publishing the underlying investigative materials or personal records involved, thereby protecting the privacy of board members, staff, and students alike.

A complete Allegation Flow Chart is provided in Appendix A.

Looking Forward

The Board remains committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources. It will continue to welcome legitimate scrutiny, comply fully with the law, respond to public records requests, and cooperate with independent review. Public officials are appropriately held to a high standard, and this Board has consistently met that standard by subjecting itself to independent examination whenever warranted.

Transparency and accountability remain essential responsibilities. Stewardship is also an essential commitment. These responsibilities are not in conflict; rather, they work together.

Over the past six months, the Board and district staff devoted considerable time, energy, and public resources to responding to claims that proved unfounded in every case. That is not a sustainable standard of engagement, for this Board or for the community it serves, and it is precisely why the preliminary review process adopted in this report exists: to ensure that time, energy, and resources are reserved going forward for concerns that are truly warranted.

With this report, the Board closes this chapter with a documented record of transparency and accountability and a renewed commitment to the responsible stewardship of both the public's trust and the public’s resources.

Appendix A – Governance Process