

ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
801 NORTH FIRST STREET
ROBSTOWN, TEXAS 78380

BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY 2, 2026

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Ann Garza, President
Erik Gallegos, Vice-President
Cezar Martinez, Secretary
Bobby Marroquin, Assistant Secretary
Larry Cantu, Trustee
Mario Mesa, Trustee
Yvette Villalobos, Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: All board members were present.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Marc Puig, Superintendent
Diana Lopez Silvas, Assistant Superintendent
Eva Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer

VISITORS: Richard Gonzalez Robert Tijerina

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM

At 6:00 p.m., President Lori Ann Garza called this meeting of the Robstown Independent School District Board of Trustees to order.

ROLL CALL: Lori Ann Garza – Present, Erik Gallegos – Present, Cezar Martinez – Present, Bobby Marroquin – Present, Larry Cantu – Present, Mario Mesa – Present and Yvette Villalobos – Present

Present – 7

Absent – 0

Let the record show that a quorum of Board Members is present, that this meeting has been called, and that the notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

2.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAYER

Dr. Marc Puig led the audience and the Board in prayer.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/TEXAS FLAG PLEDGE

President Lori Ann Garza led the board members and the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Flag Pledge.

4.0

VISION – OUR VISION IS TO IGNITE BRILLIANCE AND IMPACT LIVES BY PROVIDING TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMPOWER STUDENTS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Trustee Mario Mesa read the following vision statement: “Our vision is to ignite brilliance and impact lives by providing transformative learning opportunities that empower students for generations to come.”

MISSION – TO EMPOWER, INSPIRE, AND INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF, IGNITING THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES. TOGETHER, WE POSITIVELY IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

Trustee Cezar Martinez read the following mission statement: “To empower, inspire, and invest in our students and staff, igniting the best version of themselves. Together, we positively impact our community and the world.”

5.0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (OPEN FORUM) AS PER POLICY BED (LOCAL)

There was no public participation.

6.0

BOARD WORKSHOP

6A

2025-2026 BUDGET

Dr. Marc Puig reported that the school district had received a “Superior Rating” on the school district’s audit. Since the audit was solid, they will have a \$4.4 million fund balance, which is needed for four months of payroll. At this time, the school district has a \$1.9 million deficit. The school district’s budget has two parts. The first part is the M&O to be used for utilities, salaries, supplies, repairs, and fuel. The second part is for the I&S, which is for construction, renovations, roofing, HVAC, and land. The school district has \$9 million in M&O debt, and the debt payment is \$1 million a year. The school district can control the following budget factors: Staffing levels, compensation levels, campus & department budgets, property tax rates, bonds, special allotments, and grants. The budget factors that the school district cannot control are as follows: Enrollment and attendance, school funding, legislative session, inflation, insurance premiums, and property tax values. He reviewed the school district’s historical tax rates, certified property values, and student enrollment trends from 2018-2019 and 2025-2026 with the Board. The school district’s attendance was at 92% compared to the 2024-2025 school year at 90.8%. One of the solutions could be to transfer the M&O debt to the I&S with voter approval in May, and it would not increase the tax rate. Dr. Puig also reviewed the following solutions with the Board: Shift spending mindset, align investment to strategic plan, staff survey, savings plan, TASBO navigating deficit budget series, TASB staffing study, master schedule analysis, building PEIMS capacity to maximize funding, and possible voter referendum in May - M&O debt to I&S. Robert Tijerina informed the Board that the school district had the option, pending voter approval, to refund its outstanding M&O tax loans with an I&S bond refunding. The refunding would consolidate the school district’s outstanding M&O loans into a single refunding bond, which would be repaid with I&S taxes. If they transferred these loans to the I&S tax rate, the school district would free up around \$1.4 million annually, or seventeen M&O pennies, which could be utilized for district operations. The transfer of the loans would also allow the school district more control, since the Board has the authority to set the I&S tax rate vs. TEA setting the M&O

