

REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mesquite Independent School District

The Board of Trustees of the Mesquite Independent School District, State of Texas, met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on **February 9, 2026**, in the Board Room of the K. David Belt Professional Development Center, 3819 Towne Crossing Blvd., Mesquite, Texas.

Present: Gary Bingham, Kevin Carbo, Greg Everett, Elaine Hornsby, Eddie Rose and Robert Seward

Absent: Teia Collier

The Board went into executive session (Texas Government Code, Section 551-074 Personnel) (6:00-6:30 p.m.). With a quorum present, the Board reconvened.

Adjourned 6:30 p.m.

The Board moved to the Vision Room for the Teachers of the Year Recognition. They recognized fifty-two campus teachers as “Teacher of the Year” for their efforts during the 2025-2026 school year. Two district winners will go on to represent Mesquite ISD at the regional level, and those winners will be announced at the March Board Meeting.

Reconvened 6:52 p.m.

Invocation was offered by Rev. Harry Lee Sewell, Pastor at Family Cathedral of Praise Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag were led by Liam Braswell, Madelynn Fulenwider, Elizabeth Espinoza, Emilio Espinoza, Daniel Mireles, Ximena Salazar, Natlie Sandoval, Julian Sandoval, Reynaldo Urbina, Julia Harper, Ana Harper students from Henrie Elementary School.

During the Board moment, Mr. Carbo spoke about attending the Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday with Rev. Harry Lee Sewell and he wanted to encourage everyone to attend the upcoming State of the Community on February 12 at the Mesquite Art Center.

STUDENT, STAFF AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Emily Guest – Turner – 6th and 7th Grade Teacher at McDonald Middle School and Destiney Diaz, 1st Grade Teacher at Gray Elementary School were inducted into the district’s Apple Corps.

Kathy Hernandez, Financial Clerical Assistant at Vanguard High School, was honored as a district “Star Para”.

The following students were presented certificates: **Academics** – Mesquite ISD Advanced Academics hosted the District Spelling Bee, bringing together some of the district’s brightest students from grades 4-8. After an exciting competition, the following students earned top honors: Matthew Gibson – Rugel Elementary School – 1st Place, Chimindu Madibuchi – Wilkinson MS – 2nd Place. **Fine Arts** – The following students were named 2026 TDEA (Texas

Dance Educators' Association) All-State Dancers: **NMHS** – Crystal Araiza, **PHS** – Lylah Yow, **HHS** – Morgan Sterling.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Everett and seconded by Mrs. Hornsby to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes of January **12, 2026** (Workshop), **January 12, 2026** (Regular), **January 20, 2026** (Special) and **January 29, 2026** (Special) and monthly financial report, monthly tax report, tax roll amendments, and Declare February 2-6, 2026 as National School Counseling Week, (2) to approve quarterly investment report, (3) to approve Resolution to Pay Employees for Missed Days Due to Bad Weather, (4) to approve Clinical Counseling Experience Agreement between MISD and East Texas Baptist University – Contract #26-265, (5) to approve Dual Credit MOU Agreement between MISD and Texas Woman's University for Academic Years 2026-2028, (6) to approve Library Book purchase recommendations, (7) to approve Architectural Services Agreement with Glenn Partners for Mesquite HS Addition and Renovation, (8) to approve Architectural Services Agreement with Glenn Partners for Poteet HS Addition and Renovation, (9) to approve Architectural Services Agreement with DLR Group for the new Pre-K Center, (10) to approve Architectural Services Agreement with Glenn Partners for Transportation Center Addition and Renovations, (11) to approve Interlocal Agreement between MISD and Region 4, (12) to approve vendors on demand through January 1 2026. Motion approved: Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

AUDIENCE

REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

It was moved by Mr. Bingham and seconded by Mr. Rose to approve administrative term contract as follows: Daniel Contreras – Executive Director of Facilities. Motion approved: Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

It was moved by Mr. Seward and seconded by Mr. Everett to approve evaluation and contract renewal – General Counsel as discussed in executive session. Motion approved: Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

It was moved by Mr. Everett and seconded by Mrs. Hornsby to approve the following personnel on contract renewals as presented: **Chief Officers** – Cara Jackson, Sabreana Smith; **Internal Audits** – Brian Hokanson; **Executive Directors** – Alesia Austin, Kimberlyee Chappell, Emilio Duran, Clinton Elsasser, James Gadsden, Kristi Gregory, Kody Groves, Jennifer Hammett, Callie LaLugba, Jennifer LaPlante, Horace Lewallyn, Jeremiah Lewis, Valerie Mayad, Jeffrey Moore, Matthew Morris, Jennifer Morris, Patrick Perkins, Donald Pool, Thomas Reed, April Sarpy, Gerald Sarpy; **Principals** – Christina Alvarez, Tenesha Austin-Jackson, Selena Bastidas, Stacy Bennett, Devin Bright, Deadra Brown, Maria Calixto, Angie Campanello, Robin Cathcart, Christine Cormier, Courtney Cross, Tracy Curtis, Amanda Dagen-Ducharme, Shawna Delamar, Leeann Englert, Elizabeth Felton, Maria Franco, Israel Garcia Jacinto, Demarko Grant, Candice Griffin, Mahlee Johnson, Jeffrey Johnson, Jewel Kern, Robyn Leslie, Deidre Lester, Brandi Lewis, Kelly Locke, Kelly Long, Gabriel Luna, Irena Mayson, Kelly McCollom, Bridget Mitchell, Valerie Nelson, Artha Noe, Bret Peterson, Jose Peterson-Torres, Michael Pierotti, Rashunda Price, Alyce Quesenberry, Maresa Ramos, Terrviance Riley, Jonathan Royle, Jordan Simmons, Melissa Smith, William Staats, Lacy Starnes, Mistie Stephens, Melissa Torrence,

Lucy Vincednt, Casondra Wilburn, Terrace Williams; **Coordinators** – Vernon Hughes, Terrance Orr, Timothy Seder, Rafael Thomas. Motion approved: Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

A report of resignations and new hires was presented as follows: professional resignations of: Veronica Arispe, Alyssa Boyett, Stephanie Bray, Valorie Brazelton, Laura Caffrey, Khristal Clark, Jaime Costello, Candy Franco, Erin Funches, April Gomez, Vanessa Gonzalez, Stephen Jackson, Alex Jacob, Jessica James, Vernon Johnson, Ashley Juett, Haley Lindblom, Amada Morey, Veola Neal, Keisha Nixon, Ashleigh Police, Reagan Ruffin, William Schribner, Jamie Shalley, Maria Soto, Stavroula Stephanou, Oscar Trevino, Justin Velasquez, Bobby Watkins, Tatem Wilbur, Earl Wilson; professional retirements: Cynthia Allman, Erica Bradley, Todd Burke, Julie Burnam, Christine Claybourn, Denise Dalrymple, Ryan Davis, Elizabeth Emmons, Lance Flisowski, Reginald Geans, Kathryn Gray, Penny Greeno, Theresa Hazlett, Leann Hooper, Angela Jones, Brandi Lewis, James McCoy, Sherry McDaniels, Ronya Montoya, Kelley Morris, Sylvia Nerwsome, Vicki Padon, Lisa Perry, Bettina Poor, James Ramey, Cynthia Rimmer, Tuddy Ryan, Ruben Shives, Sandra Simmons, Nasaca Smith, Johnny Smith, Katherine Stewart, Melody Stokesberry, Kevin Thomas, Charlotte Tompkins, Christi Troutman, Mortimer Turner, Sammy Warta, Christie Yanes, Elizabeth Yanez.

It was moved by Mr. Bingham and seconded by Mr. Rose to approve GMP 2 in the total amount of \$50,533,515.00 for North Mesquite HS Addition and Renovations. The total cost will be \$59,411,594.42 for the entire North Mesquite HS Addition and Renovation. Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

It was moved by Mrs. Hornsby and seconded by Mr. Everett to approve GMP 2 in the total amount of \$2,970,207.00 for the Beasley Elementary School Renovation. Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

It was moved by Mr. Seward and seconded by Mr. Bingham to approve GMP 2 in the total amount of \$4,229,202.00 for the Gray Elementary School Renovation. The total construction cost will be \$5,922,917.86 for the entire Gray Elementary School Renovation. Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

It was moved by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Everett to approve GMP 2 in the total amount of \$3,922,829.00 for the Moss Elementary Renovation. The total construction cost will be \$4,884,306.85 for the entire Moss Elementary Renovation. Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

It was moved by Mr. Everett and seconded by Mr. Bingham to approve Schematic Design for the new Elementary Campus replacing Motley Elementary and Lawrence Elementary School as presented by Graham Bauman and his team from WRA Architects, Inc. This project is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2028. Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

Sabreana Smith presented the Communications Effectiveness Report.

It was moved by Mr. Everett and seconded by Mr. Seward to adopt all orders relating to the May 2, 2026, school trustee election, including Notice of Election, Order of Election, polling locations, contract with Dallas County Elections Department, election calendar, early voting location at Lakeside Activity Center and other early voting locations as provided by Dallas

County Elections. Motion approved: Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

The Board heard a report on the Middle School Schedule changes as presented by Dr. Karen Morris.

It was moved by Mr. Seward and seconded by Mrs. Hornsby to approve 2026-27 school calendar. The final draft of the 2026-27 calendar was developed based on several established priorities, including meeting state requirements for quality instructional days, providing quality professional learning, and ensuring **at least two dedicated classroom work days** for teachers. The district aimed to maintain traditional holidays and breaks favored by staff and families while keeping the calendar consistent with previous years. The development process involved extensive **input and feedback** from various stakeholders, including: 1) Review of previous survey data and current feedback. 2) Consultations with the Cabinet and the Principal Committee. 3) Input from the Teaching and Learning, Professional Learning, and Personnel Services departments. 4) Reviews by the District Leadership Team (DLT), Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), and the MEA Executive Board. The proposed calendar meets all state-mandated minute requirements: **Total Instructional Days:** 171 days, **Total Instructional Minutes:** 76,950 minutes, calculated at **450 minutes per school day**, **Banked Time:** The calendar includes **3 banked days** (minutes exceeding the 75,600-minute state minimum) to account for bad weather or unexpected closures, **Teacher Workdays:** The calendar ensures **187 workdays** for most teachers and paraprofessionals. For 226-day employees, there are 236 workdays with **10 non-duty days** included. The following major dates and breaks are included in the final draft: **First Day of School:** August 11, 2026, **Labor Day:** September 7, 2026, **Fall Break:** October 12–16, 2026, **Thanksgiving Break:** November 23–27, 2026, **Winter Break:** December 21, 2026 – January 1, 2027, **MLK Jr. Day:** January 18, 2027, **Presidents Day:** February 15, 2027, **Spring Break:** March 15–19, 2027 (aligned with Dallas College), **Spring Holiday:** March 26, 2027, **Bad Weather Day:** April 16, 2027, **Last Day of School / Early Release:** May 28, 2027. Dedicated days for staff development and instructional planning are embedded throughout the year, including **New Hire Camp** (July 22-23, 27-28), specific **Instructional Alignment Days** (Sept. 21, Jan. 4, March 1), and several blocks for **Professional Learning** in July, August, November, and February. Motion approved: Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

It was moved by Mr. Seward and seconded by Mrs. Hornsby to decline resolution regarding adopting a daily prayer period and to keep current structure. Motion approved: Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

It was moved by Mr. Bingham and seconded by Mr. Seward to approve budget amendment #2 – general operating fund – the final stay payment has been moved to the current fiscal year. The expenditure budget is being increased by \$3,100,000 to account for final payment and debt service – amending the Debt Service budget to record the District’s August 2025 bond refunding. The District issued \$55,450,000 in Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds to refund portions of the outstanding 2014 and 2015 bond series. The issuance generated a \$4,403,712 premium, for total other financing sources of \$59,853,712 and \$59,570,980 were deposited into an escrow account to complete the refunding. The remaining \$282,732 represents the net amount available after escrow funding and will be used to offset higher FY 2026 debt service interest costs related to the District’s 2025 Bond Series issuance. Motion approved: Yeas: Messrs. Bingham, Carbo, Everett, Rose, Seward and Mrs. Hornsby. Nays: None

The Board went into second executive session (Texas Government Code, Section 551-074 Personnel)
It was moved by Mr. Everett and seconded by Mrs. Hornsby to approve evaluation and contract renewal – Superintendent of Schools as discussed in executive session.
(8:30 p.m.-9:17 p.m.) With a quorum present, the Board reconvened.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Approved: _____

Kevin Carbo, President

Gary Bingham, Secretary