

CLEVELAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
(Regular)
May 18, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Independent School District was called to order for a regular meeting with the following members present:

Shaquille Sampson, President
Bethany Porter, Vice President

Jessica Allen
Jennifer Peña
Pauline Johnson
Marvin Searles

Wendy McNair was absent

ROLL CALL, OPENING REMARKS, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Shaquille Sampson, President; opening remarks were given by Oscar Carvajal, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags was led by Jennifer Peña.

PRESENTATIONS

The Board received the following presentations and reports:

- A. Strategic Priority 2: Exceptional Community Engagement: Dr. Tonya Clark presented an update on the district's ongoing initiatives and progress regarding exceptional community engagement.
- B. Rezoning Boundaries for the 2026-2027 School Year: Megan Elsberry delivered a presentation detailing the proposed attendance boundary adjustments and rezoning plans for the upcoming 2026-2027 academic year.
- C. Senate Bill 546 Study: Georgia Taylor presented the details, findings, and potential implications of the Senate Bill 546 study to the Board.
- D. Student Media Presentation: CTE Audio Visual CHS Scholars shared a student-led media presentation highlighting the "Cleveland Experience" and outlining their vision for the future of the Class of 2026. The Board commended the students for their outstanding work and presentation skills.

RECOGNITIONS

The Board recognized and celebrated the following individuals and programs for their outstanding achievements:

- Cleveland High School Top Graduates: Recognition of the Top Graduates of the Cleveland High School Class of 2026 for their dedication and academic excellence.
- Cleveland ISD Band Programs: Honored for achieving district-wide UIL excellence and representing the district's commitment to the fine arts.
- Natalie Pendergast: Recognized for making history as a recipient of the prestigious Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Western Art Academy (WAA) Scholarship.
- TangoFlight Students: Commended for becoming the first students in the nation to receive FAA General Mechanics endorsements and pass the official exam while still in high school.
- CHS, CMS, and SFMS Cheer Teams: Celebrated for their outstanding athletic performances, proudly bringing home 1st Place National Champion and Grand Champion titles.
- Computer Animation Students: Acknowledged the district's first-time certified Computer Animation students for successfully earning their industry credentials.
- CTE Welding Students: Honored for their impressive regional achievements and successfully qualifying for the state competition.

- Cleveland ISD Culinary Department: Recognized for their exceptional culinary skills and winning the Best Chef for Overall Food award.
- Employee Years of Service Milestones: The Board expressed deep gratitude to dedicated Cleveland ISD staff members, officially recognizing employees celebrating 20, 25, and 35 years of service to the district.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/OPEN FORUM

The following individuals addressed the Board during the Open Forum Portion of the meeting:

- **Justin Thompson:** Opposed the C9 leadership restructuring, praising Principal Mrs. Smith for fostering a positive campus culture and strong teacher support.
- **Paula Tuck:** Emphasized the need for leadership stability at C9, crediting Mrs. Smith for the campus's academic growth and staff retention.
- **Sandy Rivas:** Expressed concern that an associate principal cannot provide the dedicated leadership C9 needs, urging the Board to retain Mrs. Smith.
- **Brandi Grimes:** Advocated for Mrs. Smith, stating that removing such a successful and compassionate leader would be detrimental to the C9 community.

MAY 2, 2026 TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS READING AND DECLARE RESULTS

The results of the May 2, 2026, Trustee Election for Positions 4 and 5 were formally read by Shaquille Sampson. The certified results were:

TOTAL VOTES FOR THE MAY 2, 2026 TRUSTEE ELECTIONS:

POSITION 6	TOTAL VOTES
Aaron Montesnieto	189
Wendy McNair	156

POSITION 7	TOTAL VOTES
Marvin Searles, Sr.	273
Dixie Marshall	79

Candidate Mr. Aaron Montesnieto was duly elected to the Board of Trustees, Position 6.

Candidate Mr. Marvin Searles, Sr. was duly elected to the Board of Trustees, Position 7.

ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION, STATEMENT OF ELECTED OFFICERS AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR ELECTED CANDIDATES

Certificates of Election were presented to newly-elected members, Aaron Montesnieto and Marvin Searles, Sr., Positions 6 and 7, respectively. Additionally, the Statement of Officer and Oath of Office were administered to these new board members by Karen Billingsley, Notary and Chief Financial Officer.

Aaron Montesnieto and Marvin Searles, Sr. assumed their positions as the newly elected Positions 6 and 7 board members.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR FAITHFUL SERVICE AS MEMBERS OF THE CLEVELAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The board honored outgoing member Wendy McNair, expressing appreciation for her time, talent, and commitment to the district, students, and community.

CONSIDER REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

The board proceeded to reorganize its leadership roles through a voting process:

Nominations were opened for the position of President of the Board. Shaquille Samson and Marvin Searles were nominated. Following the voting process, Shaquille Samson was elected as President.

Nominations were opened for the position of Vice President of the Board. Bethany Porter and Marvin Searles were nominated. Following the voting process, Bethany Porter was elected as Vice President.

Nominations were opened for the position of Board Secretary. Jennifer Pena and Pauline Johnson were nominated. Following the voting process, Jennifer Pena was elected as Secretary.

Newly elected officers assumed their respective roles immediately.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Barnes delivered the Superintendent's Report to the Board

- Current enrollment is 12,648 with an attendance rate of 91.49%.
- A written report of personnel hired under the Superintendent's Delegated Hiring Authority was provided.
- Notice was received from TEA regarding Intruder Detection Audits conducted at random campuses on random dates.
- DLA graduation is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Thursday, May 21, 2026, in the CHS Gymnasium.
- The Cleveland High School Graduation is scheduled for 8:00 AM on Wednesday, May 27, 2025, at Randall Reed Stadium.
- Financial Reports and Campus and Department Reports were provided for review.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were presented for information and discussion only, requiring no formal action:

- Application of the Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) for the 2026-2027 School Year.
- Information regarding Teaching and Learning Curriculum Renewals and Purchases for the 2026-2027 School Year.
- Proposed Request for Quote to Purchase K-12 Comprehensive Data Performance Management Software.
- Proposed CTPA Contract Adoption for Special Education Staffing.
- Proposed Request for Quote to Resurface and Paint Tennis Courts at CMS.
- Proposed Request for Medicaid Billing Software for SPED Department.
- Proposed Request to Purchase an Educational Software to Track Student Data System.
- Information regarding the Letter of Approval for Trust Property.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Following discussion, a motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Aaron Montesneto to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

A. Bills and payroll

- B. Minutes of the special meetings of April 2026 and May 13, 2026.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Consider Approval of New Attendance Boundaries

A motion was made by Aaron Montesnieto and seconded by Bethany Porter to approve the new attendance boundaries as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- B. Consider approval of Proposal for Low Attendance Day Waiver for Friday, May 1, 2026.

A motion was made by Aaron Montesnieto and seconded by Bethany Porter to approve the new attendance boundaries as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- C. Consider and Take Possible Action to Adopt “Bluebonnet” RLA K-5th Grade Curriculum.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Jenifer Peña and seconded by Jessica Allen to adopt the “Bluebonnet” RLA K-5th Grade Curriculum as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- D. Consider and Take Possible Action to Adopt “Lenses into Literature” by Carnegie Learning for Grades 6-8.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jessica Allen to adopt “Lenses into Literature” by Carnegie Learning for Grades 6-8 as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- E. Consider approval of Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials Survey for the 2026-2027 School year

A motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jennifer Peña to approve the Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials Survey for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- F. Consider approval of Library Materials Acquisition List 2 (SB 13 Compliance)

Following discussion, a motion was made by Jessica Allen and seconded by Pauline Johnson to approve the Library Materials Acquisition List 2 (SB 13 Compliance) as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- G. Consider and Take Possible Action to Nominate a Trustee for the Region 4, Position B Seat on the TASB Board of Directors

A motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jessica Allen to table the nominations for the Region 4 TASB Board of Directors. Because the nomination period will expire prior to the next scheduled board meeting, no further action will be taken on this item. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- H. Consider not to approve Request for Proposal (RFP) #26-07 for Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program for Summer School 2025-2026

Following discussion, a motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jessica Allen to not approve Request for Proposal (RFP) #26-07 for Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program for Summer School 2025-2026 due to the District not receiving the Summer CTE Perkins grant. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

- I. Consider approval of the district budgeted purchase above \$50,000 as per CH (Local) policy.

Consider Approval of Project Requisition for Shingle Roof as per Texas Local Government Code 271.102 ©; Texas Government Code 791.025(c). FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

A motion was made by Aaron Montesnieto and seconded by Bethany Porter to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Project Requisition in the amount of \$47,300.00 (includes an estimated \$800.00 contingency allowance in case plywood decking needs to be replaced) for Shingle Roof for the Library at the C9 campus as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

Consider Approval of Project Requisitions for Metal Awning as per Texas Local Government Code 271.102(c); Texas Government Code 791.025(c). FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

A motion was made by Aaron Montesnieto and seconded by Pauline Johnson to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Project Requisition in the amount of \$51,411.00 for Metal Awning for the CTE Welding Shop. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

Consider Approval of Project Requisition to Tango Flight, Inc. for CTE Aviation Program as per Section 44.031, Texas Education Code. FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund - CTE Allotment

A motion was made by Jessica Allen and seconded by Aaron Montesnieto to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Project Requisition in the amount of \$114,962.00 to Tango Flight, Inc. for CTE Aviation Program as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Vote Record: Shaquille Sampson: Aye, Bethany Porter: Aye, Jennifer Peña: Aye, Jessica Allen: Aye, Pauline Johnson: Aye, Aaron Montesnieto: Aye, Marvin Searles: Aye

A brief recess was called at 7:22 PM by Shaquille Sampson, President.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SUBCHAPTER D, SECTION 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076 AND 551.089.

The Board convened in executive session at 7:31 PM pursuant to Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076 and 551.089.

- A. Texas Gov't Code § 551.076 and § 551.089: Deliberation regarding safety devices, security personnel, security audits, and security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology.
 - 1. The administration will discuss Intruder Detection Audit Report findings and corrective actions.
- B. Texas Gov't Code § 551.071: Consultation with Board Attorney regarding all matters as authorized by law.
- C. Texas Gov't Code § 551.072: Deliberation regarding purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.
- D. Texas Gov't. Code § 551.074: Deliberation regarding appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal, of public officers and employees, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee.

The Board ended its closed executive session at 9:07 PM.

RECONVENE AND POSSIBLE ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:12 PM to take possible action on items considered in executive session.

Regarding the proposed termination of term contract employee for good cause (Benita Hernandez Trejo), a motion was made by Jennifer Peña and seconded by Jessica Allen to support the Superintendent's recommendation to propose termination of term contract employee for good cause as discussed in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to provide the employee with statutory notice of the same.

Regarding employment recommendations and resignations of professional personnel at Principal level and above, a motion was made by Bethany Porter and seconded by Jennifer Peña to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the resignations of professional personnel at principal level and above for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school year as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS:

Janie Snyder

Effective June 5, 2026

Dawn O'Connor

Effective May 15, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Pauline Johnson and seconded by Jessica Allen to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 PM. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.