

**Harris County Department of Education
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
September 10, 2025**

The Harris County Board of School Trustees met in called session on September 10, 2025, in the Board Room, at 6300 Irvington Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77022. Amy Hinojosa, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and declared a quorum present, that the meeting was duly called, and that notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Gov't. Code §551.041 and §551.051.

Board Members Present:	Amy Hinojosa, Board President; Richard Cantu, Board First Vice President; Erica Davis, Board Second Vice President; Andrea Duhon; Eric Dick; John McGee and Silky Joshi
Board Members Absent:	None.
Board Attorney:	Sarah Langlois
Administration:	James Colbert, Jr., County School Superintendent; Jesus Amezcua, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Jonathan Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Support; C.J. Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent for Education & Enrichment; Joyce Akins, Director, Center for Grants Development; Danielle Bartz, Chief of Staff; Jessica Bermea, Executive Assistant to Board of Trustees; Joe Carreon, Director Construction; Lisa Caruthers, Senior Director, CASE for Kids; Danielle Clark, Chief Communications Officer; Jeff Drury, Director Choice Partners; Leslie Edwards-Ethridge, Director, Center for Safe and Secure Schools; Travita Godfrey, Principal Fortis Academy; Chris Hoesel, Director Information Technology; Eduardo Honold, Senior Director Adult Education; Jatata Hutton, Principal Academic Behavior School West; Edna Johnson, Director of Purchasing; Marcia Leiva, Chief Accounting Officer; Mercedes Love, Principal Academic Behavior School East; Charles Ned, Senior Director Schools; Margaret Patton, Director Compliance and Curriculum Services; Venetia Peacock, Senior Director Head Start; Yolanda Pyrtle, Director Research and Evaluation Institute; Lindsey Sanders, Director Communications and Creative Services; Andrea Seagraves, Senior Director for Educator Success; Tyrone Sylvester, Chief Human Resources Officer; Michelle Williams, Executive Director Facilities; Courtney Waters, Principal Highpoint East
Visitors:	None.

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1. **Invocation** - Shauntee Johnson, Instructional Coach, Schools Division
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the US flag** - Courtney Atkinson, Instructional Coach, Schools Division
3. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag** - Courtney Atkinson, Instructional Coach, Schools Division
4. **Open Forum** - Gov't Code 551.007 - Public Participation. Pursuant to Policy BED (Local), a citizen who wishes to speak may do so by completing a participation request card available at the Board room at least 10 minutes prior to a regular Board meeting.

None.

5. **Consider approval of:** (1) 2025 Certified Property Values and the submission of the no-new-revenue tax rate and voter-approval tax rate using the certified estimate of taxable value, and (2) a plan to adopt a tax rate of \$0.004798 for Tax Year 2025 in accordance with the Truth in Taxation laws codified in Chapter 26 of the Texas Tax Code as amended by the 89th Legislature.

Motion made by Trustee McGee, seconded by Board First Vice President, Richard Cantu to approve (1) 2025 Certified Property Values and the submission of the no-new-revenue tax rate and voter-approval tax rate using the certified estimate of taxable value, and (2) a plan to adopt a tax rate of \$0.004798 for Tax Year 2025 in accordance with the Truth in Taxation laws codified in Chapter 26 of the Texas Tax Code as amended by the 89th Legislature.

Motion passes with 7-0 voting to approve.

6. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Hispanic Heritage Month Recognition – *Presentation by Communications, Danielle Clark, Chief Communications Officer*

A video presentation was shown by Communications about Hispanic Heritage Month.

A. **Employee of the Month** - Dr. Tyrone Sylvester, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources

Dr. Sylvester presented the September Employee of the Month, Denise Alamos-Jones, Administrative Assistant, Schools Division. Communications showed a brief video showing her role and impact.

B. **Superintendent Monthly Report** - James Colbert, Jr.
Superintendent James Colbert, Jr. informed the Board that HCDE's Special Schools have gotten off to a great start for the new school year; principals are prepared, and all campuses are fully staffed. Lastly, Superintendent Colbert highlighted the Tools for Teachers initiative started by Trustee Andrea Duhon and reported that more than 2,000 educators applied in less than five minutes of the application opening. The Tools for Teachers program grants \$100 vouchers to teachers to assist them in purchasing supplies for their classrooms throughout the

year. Superintendent Colbert reported that the program, which is run through the Education Foundation of Harris County, has gained a lot of momentum since it's inception.

C. **Annual Division Update – Dr. Charles Ned, Senior Director, Schools Division**

D. **Other reports from Board members** concerning attendance or participation in a board or HCDE-related conference, event, activity, or committee; accolades for an HCDE staff member or other deserving person.

None.

E. **Report of Board Committees - Committee Chairs**

None.

F. **Monthly Financial Reports through 08/31/2025 - Dr. Jesus Amezcua, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services**

Motion made by Board First Vice President, Cantu, seconded by Trustee McGee to approve all Consensus Items.

Motion passes with 7-0 voting to approve all Consensus Items.

7. **ACTION ITEMS - CONSENSUS**

A. Consider approval of the following Business Services items:

1. Disbursement Report
2. Budget Amendment Report
3. Monthly Investment Report for September 2025

B. Consider approval of the following Board Meeting Minutes:

1. August 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

C. Consider approval / ratification of the following grant awards:

1. **Consider approval to submit a continuation application for grant 06CH013307 to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Head Start (OHS), in the amount of \$14,045,792 for continued funding of Harris County Department of Education Head Start and Early Head Start for the 01/01/2026 through 12/31/2026 budget period.**
2. **Consider approval of the Notice of Award (NOA) 06HP000559 from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS), granting Early Head Start Child Care Partnership operations, training, and technical assistance funds in the amount of \$5,391,585 for the period of 09/01/2025 through 08/31/2026.**
3. **Consider ratification of the Notice of Grant Award from the Texas Education Agency for CASE for Kids' Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Cycle 12, Year 3 grant in the amount of \$2,000,000, for the period of 08/04/2025 through 07/31/2026; CASE for Kids anticipates services for 750 students.**

4. **Consider ratification of the Notice of Grant Award from the Texas Education Agency for CASE for Kids' Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Cycle 11, Year 5 grant in the amount of \$1,521,224, for the period of 08/04/2025 through 07/31/2026; CASE for Kids anticipates services for 936 students.**

D. Consider approval of the following items for the HCDE Choice Partners Cooperative:

1. **Consider approval of the Contract Award job no. 25/033MR for Job Order Contracting IDIQ Minor Construction, Maintenance, Repair, Alteration, Renovation, and Remediation Services for the period of 09/10/2025 through 07/15/2026 with the following vendors:** Red Oak Construction LLC (25/033MR-40) and Tellepsen Corporation dba Tellepsen Builders LP (25/033MR-54).
2. **Consider approval of the Contract Award job no. 25/035MR for Maintenance (All Trades) (TEC 44.031) and Component for Single Trade Job Order Contracting (TGC 2269) for the period of 09/10/2025 through 09/09/2026 with the following vendors:** Aeon Electrical LLC (25/035MR-01); Active Campus LLC dba All Campus Security (25/035MR-02); American Contracting USA, Inc. (25/035MR-03); Amstar, Inc. (25/035MR-04); ARGIO Roofing & Construction, LLC (25/035MR-05); ASA Builders, Inc. (25/035MR-06); Atlas Universal Roofing, Inc. dba Atlas Universal, Inc. (25/035MR-07); Batson-Cook Texas, LLC (25/035MR-08); Bear Construction Company (25/035MR-09); BMS CAT, LLC (25/035MR-10); Bluesteel Construction LLC (25/035MR-11); Brazos Commercial Roofing, LLC (25/035MR-12); Caststone Solutions Company (25/035MR-13); CEC Facilities Group, LLC (25/035MR-14); Chamberlin Houston, LLC dba Chamberlin Roofing and Waterproofing (25/035MR-15); RMB MANAGEMENT dba CORESTONE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES (25/035MR-16); CS Advantage USAA, Inc. (25/035MR-17); DH Pace Company, Inc (25/035MR-18); D7 Roofing & Metal LLC (25/035MR-19); Delta Air Conditioning and Heating LLC (25/035MR-20); Dependable Comfort Air & Heat, Inc. (25/035MR-21); DYNAMIC SYSTEMS, INC. (25/035MR-22); EMA Sport Solutions LLC (25/035MR-23); Envirotech Mechanical Systems, LLC (25/035MR-24); EPIC SOLAR CONTROL, LLC (25/035MR-25); Ezzi Signs Inc (25/035MR-26); F.W. Walton, Inc. (25/035MR-27); FCS Services LLC dba AD2 Construction Services (25/035MR-28); Flip Lok LLC dba Safety Film USA (25/035MR-29); Gomez Floor Covering, Inc. dba GFC CONTRACTING (25/035MR-30); Terrance Francois Joseph & Joseph, INC dba Glass Doctor of Greater South Houston (25/035MR-31); Heritage Air Services, LLC (25/035MR-32); HVAC MECHANICAL SERVICES OF TEXAS LTD dba HUNTON SERVICES (25/035MR-33); Hurfco Industries, Inc dba Hurricane Fence Company (25/035MR-34); Candida E. Marroquin - Mobley dba J C M Squared LLC (25/035MR-35); JGA Roofing Systems LLC (25/035MR-36); Roofing & Construction by JJ Flores, LLC dba JJ Flores Roofing (25/035MR-37); Kingdom Roofing and Konstruction (25/035MR-38); Lee Construction & Maintenance Company dba LMC Corporation (25/035MR-39); McCune Electrical Service, LLC (25/035MR-40); NTXP LLC (25/035MR-41); Pfeiffer & Son, Ltd. (25/035MR-42); Marine Connection Services, Inc. dba Power Field Services (25/035MR-43); Prestige Building Group (25/035MR-44); Prism Electric, Inc. (25/035MR-45); Radius Design Works, LLC (25/035MR-46); Reliable Commercial Roofing Services, Inc. (25/035MR-47); RockIT Consulting LLC. (25/035MR-48); Sea-Breeze Roofing, Inc. (25/035MR-49); SKILLED CONSTRUCTION SUBS UNLIMITED, LLC. (25/035MR-50); SpawGlass Construction Corporation (25/035MR-51); Spring Glass and Mirror, Ltd. (25/035MR-52); Star Service, Inc. (25/035MR-53); Stewart Builders, LLC (25/035MR-54); Ten Twenty-Four Industries, LLC. dba Sunsational Solutions (25/035MR-55); Tadco LLC (25/035MR-56); Tarkett USA INC (25/035MR-57); Texas AirSystems, LLC (25/035MR-58); Texas Liqua Tech Services, Inc. dba Liqua Tech (25/035MR-59); The Brandt Companies, LLC (25/035MR-60); TIDYPRO PARTNERS, LLC dba TIDYPRO (25/035MR-61); and TJ's Professional Painting and Construction, LLC (25/035MR-62).

3. **Consider approval of the Contract Award job no. 25/039MF for Electronic Procurement Software for the period of 09/10/2025 through 07/15/2026 with the following vendor: COBBLESTONE SYSTEMS CORP dba COBBLESTONE SOFTWARE (25/039MF-03).**
4. **Consider approval of the Contract Award for job no. 25/040AK for Hydroponic Farm for the period of 09/10/2025 through 09/09/2026 with the following vendors: Gardyn, Inc (25/040AK-01); VRTKL dba Fork Farms (25/040AK-02); and ZipGrow Inc (25/040AK-03).**
5. **Consider approval of the Contract Award for job no. 25/048MF for Electronic Waste Recycling and Disposal Services for the period of 09/10/2025 through 09/09/2026 with the following vendors: IB Tech, LLC (25/048MF-01); EWASTE PRO INC. (25/048MF-02); K12 Computers Ltd. (25/048MF-03); PedalPoint EvTerra Recycling, LLC (25/048MF-04); US Electronics Recycling Center INC (25/048MF-05); and Vantage Point Disposition, LLC dba Vantage Point ITAD (25/048MF-06).**
6. **Consider approval of HCDE Interlocal Agreements with: City of Longview, Longview, Texas; Galveston Housing Authority, Galveston, Texas; Harris County Department of Emergency Services District No. 8, Conroe, Texas; Hot 5 Healthy Meals, Humble, Texas; Houston Serenity Place DBA Texas Kids Nutrition, Houston, Texas; and Riverside Elementary School District #2, Phoenix, Arizona.**

E. Consider approval of the following items for Internal Purchasing:

1. **Consider approval of Interlocal Agreement for Business Service with Region 6 Education Service Center** to participate in the cooperative to purchase goods/services not available through HCDE's Choice Partners cooperative program.
2. **Consider approval of Interlocal Agreement for Business Service with the Southeast Texas Purchasing Cooperative** to participate in the cooperative to purchase goods/services not available through HCDE's Choice Partners cooperative program.

F. Consider approval of the following Revenue Agreement:

1. **Consider approval of the Certification Contribution Agreement (Revenue Agreement) between the HCDE CASE for Kids Division and the Gulf Coast Workforce Board** for the period of 10/01/2025 through 09/30/2026. HCDE will certify \$900,000 to receive matching funds from the Gulf Coast Workforce Board for the CASE Partnership Project in the amount of \$1,050,000 and delegate authority to the Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize and execute the agreement.

G. Consider ratification/approval of the following Interlocal Contracts:

1. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Revenue) Agreements for FY 2026 in the aggregate amount of \$795,600 for ABS East with the following districts:** Galveston ISD for two out-of-county annual contracts (\$29,750 each); La Porte ISD for 15 in-county annual contracts (\$24,050 each); Liberty ISD for four out of-county annual contracts (\$29,750 each); New Caney ISD for two in-county annual contracts (\$24,050 each); and Texas City ISD for three in-county annual contracts (\$29,750 each) for the period of 08/25/2025 through 06/04/2026.

2. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Revenue) Agreements for FY 2026 in the aggregate amount of \$534,800 for ABS West with the following districts:** Aldine ISD for eight in-county annual contracts (\$24,050 each); Spring ISD for 10 in-county annual contracts (\$24,050 each); Waller ISD for three in-county annual contracts (\$24,050 each); and El Campo ISD for one out-of-county annual contract (\$29,750 each) for the period of 08/25/2025 through 06/04/2026.
3. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Revenue) Agreements for FY 2026 in the aggregate amount of \$522,370 for School-Based Therapy Services with the following districts:** Huffman ISD (78 students served in FY 2024) for Occupational Therapy in the amount of \$87,360 for the period of **08/01/2025 through 07/31/2026**; AAMA/Sanchez Charter School (2 students served in FY 2024) for Occupational Therapy in the amount of \$3,900; Royal ISD (36 students served in FY 2024) for Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy in the amount of \$88,350; Waller ISD (115 students served in FY 2024) for Occupational Therapy and Music Therapy in the amount of \$230,760 for the period of **08/16/2025 through 08/15/2026**; Stafford MSD (23 students served in FY 2024) for Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy in the amount of \$34,000; ECI Project Tyke (new contract) for Occupational Therapy in the amount of \$78,000 for the period of **09/01/2025 through 08/31/2026**.
4. **Consider ratification of amendment to Interlocal (Revenue) Agreement for Records Management Services with the Harris County Toll Road Authority**, in the amount of \$19,131, for an aggregate amount of \$63,131, upon full execution of the agreement through 05/21/2026.
5. **Consider approval of Interlocal (Revenue) Agreement in the amount of \$35,000, for Center for Safe and Secure Schools with Alief ISD** to provide 28 Professional Development Sessions for the period of 10/16/2025 through 08/31/2026.
6. **Consider approval of renewal of the Interlocal (Revenue) Agreement for Records Management Services with Houston Community College** in the amount of \$25,000 for the period of 10/01/2025 through 09/30/2026.
7. **Consider approval of Interlocal (Expenditure) Agreement for Adult Education with Lee College-Huntsville** for the period of 09/15/2025 through 06/30/2026 for the provision of Vocational Certification programs and Integrated Basic Education training for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.
8. **Consider ratification of Interlocal (Expenditure) Agreement for CASE for Kids Project CASE Debates in the amount of \$2,500 for FY 2026 for the period of 09/01/2025 through 08/31/2026** with the following entity: YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus (a maximum of 25 students served).
9. **Consider ratification of an (Interlocal) agreement between San Jacinto Community College District and Harris County Department of Education-Head Start** to engage San Jacinto College students in work under the Federal Work Study Program at HCDE Head Start campuses for the period of 08/01/2025 through 07/30/2026.

8. **ACTION ITEMS - NON-CONSENSUS**

1. **Consider approval of (Renewal) insurance premium for Property and Casualty Insurance with McGriff, Seibels, & Williams of Texas, Inc. for all HCDE properties** (RFP #21/0671A) for a total premium amount of \$1,015,962 for the period of 10/01/2025 through 10/01/2026.

Motion made by Board First Vice President Cantu, seconded by Trustee Joshi to approve the renewal insurance premium for Property and Casualty Insurance with McGriff, Seibels, & Williams of Texas, Inc. for all HCDE properties (RFP#21/0671A) for a total premium amount of \$1,051,962 for the period of 10/01/2025 through 10/01/2026.

Motion passes with 7-0 voting to approve.

2. **Consider approval of Change Order #2 with Durotech, Inc (Job No. 23_010KJ) for Phase 2 Miscellaneous Building Improvements, including Outdoor Dining Project, at 6300 Irvington Blvd, Houston, TX 77022 in the amount of \$903,328 and delegate authority to the Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize and execute the change order and any Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment.**

Motion made by Board First Vice President Cantu, seconded by Trustee Duhon to approve Change Order #2 with Durotech, Inc (Job No. 23_010KJ) for Phase 2 Miscellaneous Building Improvements, including Outdoor Dining Project, at 6300 Irvington Blvd, Houston, TX 77022 in the amount of \$903,328 and delegate authority to the Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute the change order and any Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment.

Motion passes with 7-0 voting to approve.

The Board entered Executive Session at 2:21 p.m.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** Under the Texas Government Code pursuant to any and all purposes permitted by Sections 551.001-551.084, including, but not limited to: 551.071; 551.074
- A. **Deliberate** the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline and/or dismissal of HCDE employee
- B. **Deliberate** the purchase, exchange, sale and/or value of real propert(ies) and obtain legal advice regarding the same.

Board First Vice President Richard Cantu left the meeting at 2:43 p.m. and did not return. The Board reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

10. **RECONVENE** for possible action on items discussed in executive session

11. **Discussion and possible action regarding future agenda items**

None.

12. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Submission of grant proposal via the Education Foundation of Harris County in the amount of \$36,650, to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to support Highpoint School East and Fortis Academy's Building Exceptional Character (BEC) Program. The program will serve up to 350 students.**

A. **Human Resources**

1. Personnel
2. Employee Count

13. **ADJOURN** - Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

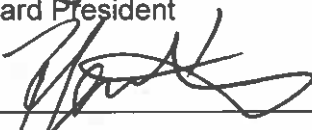
Motion made by Board Second Vice President Davis, seconded by Trustee Duhon to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passes with 6-0 voting to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



Amy Hinojosa
Board President



Richard Cantu
Board First Vice President