

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 18, 2025 6:30 P.M.

The Grand Saline ISD Board of Trustees met in a regular meeting this date. Vice President Bear Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. stating that a quorum was present and the meeting had been duly called and posted in the time and manner required by law.

Board members present included: Vice-President Bear Brown, Secretary Kyle Thompson, Matt Strickland, Dustin Mason, Nick Haley, and Michael Martin. Absent: President Micah Lowe.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance lead by Micah Lewis

No Public Comments

Recognition: Todd Schneider, Executive Director for Region 7 presented the board with a plaque for School Board of the Year.

The Republican Club of Van Zandt County presented the district with the Ten Commandments for each campus.

Reports: (1) Finance by Laura Griffith; (2) Technology by Lance Caffey; (3) Maintenance/Facilities Report by Ryan Simmons; (4) TELPAS by Ricky LaPrade; (5) Superintendent Report by Micah Lewis; (6) Board Report by Matt Strickland

Consent agenda items: (1) Minutes of the July 22, 2025 Special Called Meeting, Minutes of the July 28, 2025 Budget Workshop; Minutes of the July 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting; (2) the Financial report for July 2025; (3) Adjunct Faculty Appointment with the Van Zandt County Extension Office; (4) Pre-K Tuition; (5) MOU/Cooperative Agreement for the Operation of Educational Programs at the Van Zandt County Multi-Youth Center. A motion was made by Nick Haley and seconded by Michael Martin to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion carried 6:0.

Vice President Bear Brown opened a public hearing for discussion on the proposed 2025-2026 budget at 7:06 p.m. Director of Finance Laura Griffith explained reasons for the proposed budget and answered questions. The hearing was closed at 7:13 p.m.

Matt Strickland moved to approve the 2025-2026 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Dustin Mason and carried 6:0.

Vice President Bear Brown opened a public hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 Tax Rate at 7:14 p.m. No questions being raised, the hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

A motion was made by Dustin Mason to approve \$0.7552 for the purpose of Maintenance and Operation (M&O) tax for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Matt Strickland and carried 6:0.

A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve \$0.50 for the payment of Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Kyle Thompson and carried 6:0.

Dustin Mason made a motion to approve the requirements for the Ordinance to Set a Tax Rate at \$1.2552 with a second by Nick Haley. The motion carried 6:0.

A motion was made by Kyle Thompson and seconded by Nick Haley to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Amendments as presented. The motion carried 6:0.

Second Reading of (LOCAL) Policies: FD(LOCAL): Admission and FM(LOCAL): Student Activities. A motion was made by Matt Strickland and seconded by Michael Martin to add (LOCAL) policies as recommended by TASB policy Services. The motion carried 6:0.

First Reading of (LOCAL) Policies: EFB(LOCAL): Instructional Resources: Library Materials and FNCE(LOCAL): Student Conduct: Personal Communication Devices/Electronic Devices. A motion was made by Dustin Mason and seconded by Nick Haley to add (LOCAL) policies as recommended by TASB policy Services. The motion carried 6:0.

A motion was made by Dustin Mason and seconded by Michael Martin to approve the Resolution to Declare Good Cause Exception for HB3 Armed Guard Security Officer Requirement. The motion carried 6:0.

Matt Strickland moved to approve the 2025-2026 Employee Handbook as presented by the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Dustin Mason. The motion carried 6:0.

Kyle Thompson made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct as presented by the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Nick Haley. The motion carried 6:0.

Dustin Mason moved to approve the 2025-2026 Student Handbook as presented by the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Nick Haley. The motion carried 6:0.

Nick Haley made a motion to give the Superintendent authority to approve all utility bills for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Matt Strickland and carried 6:0.

A motion was made by Dustin Mason and seconded by Nick Haley to table Senate Bill 12 Resolution. The motion carried 6:0.

The board discussed Bond Proceeds with no action taken.

The board discussed Accountability with no action taken.

The board adjourned into executive session August 18, 2025, at 8:24 p.m.

The board reconvened into open session August 18, 2025, at 9:08 p.m.

With no further business, Vice President Bear Brown declared the meeting adjourned August 18, 2025, at 9:08 p.m.

Bear Brown, Vice President

Kyle Thompson, Secretary