

NOTICE OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MAY 4, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, CHAPTER 551.001, ET. SEQ., TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE (SECTION 551.071), THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HIDALGO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON THE 4TH DAY OF MAY 2026 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE HIDALGO ISD LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER, 524 SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, HIDALGO TEXAS, HIDALGO COUNTY. THE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF APRIL 2026

SEAL

YESENIA AYALA, PRESIDENT
HIDALGO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**AVISO DE JUNTA REGULAR
4 DE MAYO DEL 2026 – 6:30 p.m.**

AVISO DE ACUERDO CON EL REQUERIMIENTO DEL GOBIERNO DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS, CAPITULO 551.001 Y SIGUIENTES, (SECCION 551.071) DE LA ACTA DE JUNTA PUBLICA, LA MESA DIRECTIVA DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR DE HIDALGO SE REUNIRÁ PARA UNA JUNTA REGULAR EL 4 DE MAYO DEL 2026 A LAS 6:30 P.M. EN EL CENTRO DE RECURSOS DE APRENDIZAJE, CALLE BRIDGE, 524 SUR, EN EL CONDADO DE HIDALGO, HIDALGO, TEXAS., LA CUAL SE LLEVARÁ LA SIGUIENTE AGENDA PARA DISCUSIÓN Y POSIBLE ACCIÓN.

DOY FE CON MI FIRMA ESTE DÍA 28 DE ABRIL DEL 2026

SEAL

YESENIA AYALA, PRESIDENTE
DE LA MESA DIRECTIVA DEL DISTRITO
ESCOLAR DE HIDALGO

HIDALGO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Is The Place To Be”

524 S. Bridge Street, Hidalgo, Texas 78557

Phone: (956) 843-4401 | Fax: (956) 843-3343

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. J.A. Gonzalez, Superintendent of Schools

Rafael Tinoco, Executive Director for Special Populations

Judith Dimas, Executive Director for Teaching & Learning

Gustavo Sanchez, Interim Director for Human Resources & Operations

Gracie Garza, Chief Financial Officer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Yesenia Ayala, President

Raymundo Martinez, Vice President

Diana Silva Gaona, Secretary

Jennifer Quintero, Treasurer

Benjamin Arjona, Member

Martin Carrasco, Member

Luis Trejo, Member

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2254.1036(a)

The Hidalgo Independent School District (“District”) intends to consider approval of a contingent fee contract for legal services at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held on May 4, 2026. Pursuant to Section 2254.1036(a) of the Texas Government Code, the District provides the following written notice to the public:

1. Reasons for pursuing the matter and desired outcome.

The District received a coverage decision from its insurance carrier regarding a claim for hail damage to District facilities arising from a hail event that occurred on or about [DATE OF LOSS]. The District requires legal counsel with specialized knowledge and experience in property damage insurance claim disputes to inspect, analyze, and determine whether the reports and coverage decision provided by the insurance carrier accurately reflect the damages sustained and the District’s entitlements under its insurance policy. If the reports and coverage decision are determined to be in breach of the District’s insurance policy or to violate the Texas Insurance Code or other applicable law, the District will pursue recovery of all damages to which the District is legally entitled. The desired outcome is full and fair compensation for all covered hail damage sustained by District facilities, consistent with the District’s insurance policy and Texas law.

2. Competence, qualifications, and experience of the selected firms.

O’Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo, PLLC. The firm has represented the Hidalgo Independent School District since 2012 in a broad range of legal matters, and has demonstrated competence, qualifications, and experience in representing Texas political subdivisions, including independent school districts.

Stormlex Law Group. The firm specializes in representing commercial property owners, homeowners, school districts, municipalities, and small businesses in property damage claims against insurance companies. The firm’s attorneys have experience in complex litigation and have specialized knowledge and training in storm damage insurance claim disputes. Property damage insurance claim disputes constitute a substantial portion of the firm’s practice.

3. Nature of the relationship between the District and the selected firms.

The District retained O’Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo, PLLC in 2012, and the firm has continuously represented the District since that retention.

The District’s relationship with Stormlex Law Group began on or about [DATE], in connection with [BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INITIAL CONSULTATION OR PRIOR ENGAGEMENT]. The two firms have consulted jointly regarding the District’s hail damage insurance claim.

4. Reasons the legal services cannot be adequately performed by the District's attorneys and supporting personnel.

The District does not employ in-house counsel. The representation required is of a specialized nature involving property damage insurance coverage disputes, insurance carrier conduct, damage quantification, and related litigation, which a limited number of law firms are equipped to provide. The District does not have the personnel or administrative resources necessary to determine the nature and extent of covered damage to District facilities or to pursue recovery of that damage against the insurance carrier.

5. Reasons the legal services cannot reasonably be obtained from attorneys in private practice under an hourly-fee contract without contingency.

Representation of the District on an hourly-fee basis, without regard to the outcome of the matter, would require the District to front significant legal fees and litigation expenses, including expert witness fees, consultant fees, discovery costs, and other litigation expenditures, regardless of whether the District ultimately recovers on the claim. In the event the claim is unsuccessful, the District would be unable to recoup those fees and expenses, exposing the District to substantial financial risk. The District does not have budgeted funds available to pay the estimated amounts required under a contract providing only for the payment of hourly fees. Under the proposed contingent fee arrangement, the selected firms will advance all costs and expenses, and the District will incur no legal fees or expenses unless and until a recovery is obtained. Given the specialized nature of the matter, the risk of non-recovery, and the District's budget constraints, retaining counsel on a contingent fee basis is in the best interest of the District and its taxpayers.

6. Attorney General Approval.

Following approval by the Board of Trustees, the contingent fee contract will be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General of Texas for review and approval pursuant to Section 2254.1038 of the Texas Government Code. The contract will not be effective or enforceable until approved by the Office of the Attorney General of Texas (or deemed approved by operation of law under Section 2254.1038(c) of the Texas Government Code).

The Hidalgo Independent School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, age, national origin, disability, or any other status or condition protected by law.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026
6:30 PM**

The Hidalgo Independent School District, Board of Trustees will hold a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the Learning Resource Center, 524 South Bridge Street, Hidalgo, Texas 78557. The items for discussion and possible action are listed on the Agenda.

AGENDA

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

___ Yesenia Ayala, President	___ Raymundo Martinez, Vice-President
___ Diana Gaona, Secretary	___ Jennifer Quintero, Treasurer
___ Luis Trejo Jr., Member	___ Benjamin Arjona, Member
___ Martin Carrasco, Member	___ Dr. J.A. Gonzalez, Superintendent
___ Eden Ramirez, School Board Attorney	

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, TEXAS PLEDGE AND OPENING PRAYER

IV. AWARDS & RECOGNITION

A. Special Olympics Bowling, Powerlifting, Basketball, Soccer, and Track Teams-
Also letterman Jacket presentation to our senior participants

Mr. J. Esquivel

B. Teacher Incentive Allotment -Recognitions

Ms. J. Dimas & Ms. N. Martinez

C. HECHS Boys and Girls Track Teams

Mr. S. Arjona

D. U.I.L. Academics - Recognition of HECHS Students

Ms. R. Reyes, Ms. L. Gonzalez

E. Fine Arts Department

Mr. J. Lozano, Mr. M. Gutierrez

1. Band

2. Mariachi

3. Conjunto

4. Ida Diaz Jr. High: UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation Ratings

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Announcements

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

VII. ACTION TAKEN ON CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approve minutes of Board Meetings: April 21, 2026

B. Tax Collector's Report:

1. Hidalgo County Tax Office Tax Collection Report for March 2026

Ms. G. Garza

C. Advertisement of Bids/Quotes/Proposals:

D. Consideration of Bids/Quotes/Proposals:

E. Other:

1. Financial Report for the month of March 2026

Ms. G. Garza

2. Report on purchases in the amount of \$10,000.00–49,999.99

Ms. G. Garza

3. Proposed 2026-2027 Bi-Weekly and Monthly Payday Calendar

Ms. G. Garza

4. Check Register for March 2026

Ms. G. Garza

5. 2026-2027 JJAEP Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. R. Tinoco

6. Consider and take action on request for student to travel out-of-town/overnight:

a. HECHS is requesting approval for Varsity Track & Field boys and girls who have qualified to compete in the UIL Region IV–4A Championship Meet, to be held at Texas A&M University–Kingsville on May 1–2, 2026. This competition provides qualifying teams and individual athletes the opportunity to advance to the UIL 4A State Meet. (Ratified)

Mr. S. Arjona, Mr. E. Blanco

b. Ida Diaz Jr. High is respectfully requesting permission for the Special Education Unit students and staff to travel to Corpus Christi, Texas, on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The purpose of this educational field trip is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about marine life and explore potential career pathways in animal care and related fields. This hands-on experience will support classroom learning by exposing students to real-world environments and professions.

Mr. F. Rios

c. The 7th grade class is requesting permission to travel to Hacienda El Paraíso in Weslaco, Texas, on Friday, May 8, 2026. The purpose of this trip is to provide an incentive for 7th grade students in recognition of their dedication and commitment to their coursework throughout the school year.

Mr. F. Rios

d. The 6th grade class is requesting permission to travel to Quinta 4 Lunas in Palmview, Texas, on Friday, May 15, 2026. The purpose of this trip is to provide an incentive for 6th grade students in recognition of their dedication and commitment to their coursework throughout the school year.

Mr. F. Rios

e. The 8th grade class is requesting permission to travel to Beach Water Park in South Padre Island, Texas on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. The purpose of this trip is to provide an incentive for 8th grade students in recognition of their dedication and commitment to their coursework throughout the school year, and to serve as their final field trip as junior high school students.

Mr. F. Rios

VIII. ACTION, REPORT, AND/OR UPDATE TAKEN ON INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SUPPORT:

A. J.C. Kelly Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society - Report from J.C. Kelly Elementary

Mr. C. Mora

B. Discussion and possible action to approve the IBC Minitropolis Program for Hidalgo Park Elementary

Ms. E. Satarain

C. Discussion and possible action to approve the UTRGV - Hidalgo ISD MOU Teacher Preparation Program Agreement

Ms. J. Dimas

IX. ACTION, REPORT, AND/OR UPDATE TAKEN ON FINANCE:

A. Contract Services Update for the 2025-2026 School Year

Ms. G. Garza

B. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Amendment to Bilingual, Early Education, Maintenance, and PR

Ms. G. Garza

X. ACTION, REPORT, AND/OR UPDATE TAKEN ON HUMAN RESOURCES & OPERATIONS:

A. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Administration to retain the services of Valley Risk Consulting to assist with risk management programs for the 2026-2027 plan year

Mr. E. Gonzales

B. Discussion and possible action to authorize Administration to solicit proposals for workers compensation for the 2026-2027 plan year

Mr. E. Gonzales

C. Discussion and possible action to renew RFP #24-25-09 Student Athletic Insurance with Players Health for the 2026-2027 plan year

Mr. E. Gonzales

D. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the purchase of 6 New Diesel Buses making Hidalgo ISD TEA compliant with Texas Senate Bill 546 (SB 546) mandating that all school buses in the state, be equipped with three-point seat belts by September 1, 2029.

Mr. G. Sanchez

E. Discussion and possible action to authorize administration to solicit RFQ for Engineering Service - Sanitary Sewer Lift Station for the proposed CTE Building Site and/or existing buildings, and platting services for the AG Barn Site
Mr. G. Sanchez

XI. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board may convene in Closed Session in accordance with the provisions of Texas Government Code, Sections §551.071 and §551.074

A. Consultation with School attorney to receive legal advice
(Section 551.071, Texas Government Code)

1. Consultation with Attorney pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.071 regarding pending or contemplated litigation and legal matters relating to the District's hail damage insurance claim.

B. Personnel Matters:

(Section 551.074, Texas Government Code)

1. Discussion of Superintendent Recommendations concerning Employment, Resignations, Reassignments, Retirements, Renewals, Non-Renewals, Terminations, Staffing Status, discipline or to hear complaints or charges regarding personnel

2. Discussion and possible action on the Superintendent's recommendations concerning approval/extension of Professional Contracts: District

Interventionist, Secondary Interventionist, Athletic Trainers, Nurses, Librarians, and Teacher Contracts

3. Discussion and possible action on Superintendent's recommendation concerning approval/extension of Paraprofessionals and Letter of assurance to Auxiliary Staff:

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the recommendation for the proposed non-renewal terminations of Chapter 21 Term/Probationary contracts
Mr. G. Sanchez

5. Discussion and Possible action to approve the Summer School Personnel Recommendation

6. Discussion and possible action on Setting Cut-off-Score for the Hall of Fame at 90 points

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the Cyclical Payment Requests

XII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:

XIII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION:

A. Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of: (1) a Resolution #2026-06 pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2254.1036(b) containing the Board's written findings regarding retention of legal counsel on a contingent fee basis in connection with the District's hail damage insurance claim; (2) the Contingent Fee Contract for Legal Services with Stormlex Law Group and O'Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo, PC, related to the District's hail damage insurance claim; and (3) authorization for the Board President and Superintendent to execute the contract and to submit the

contract and required supporting materials to the Office of the Attorney General of Texas for review and approval pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2254.1038.

B. Personnel Matter:

(Section 551.071, Texas Government Code)

1. Consideration of and Possible Action Regarding Superintendent's Recommendations Concerning Employment, Resignations, Reassignments, Retirements, Non-Renewals, and Terminations, Staffing Status, discipline or to hear complaints or charges regarding personnel
2. Discussion and possible action on the Superintendent's recommendations concerning approval/extension of Professional Contracts: District Interventionist, Secondary Interventionist, Athletic Trainers, Nurses, Librarians, and Teacher Contracts
3. Discussion and possible action on Superintendent's recommendation concerning approval/extension of Paraprofessionals and Letter of assurance to Auxiliary Staff:
4. Discussion and possible action to approve the recommendation for the proposed non-renewal terminations of Chapter 21 Term/Probationary contracts
5. Discussion and possible action to approve the Summer School Personnel Recommendation
6. Discussion and possible action to approve Setting Cut-off-Score for Hall of Fame at 90 points
7. Discussion and Possible action to approve the Cyclical Payment Requests

XIV. CONSIDER ACTION ON:

- A. Action taken on Naming the Official Delegate and Alternate to TASB Delegate Assembly 2026

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated, and/or acted upon in a different order than listed. The Board of Trustees of Hidalgo ISD reserves the right to adjourn into Executive (Closed) Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any items listed on this agenda, as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act. No final action will be taken in Executive Session.

Public Input Policy: During the meeting, Hidalgo ISD will provide an open public forum/comment period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes in total. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes. Individuals wishing to address the Board must sign up prior to the start of the comment period. Members of the public may address the Board on any item, whether or not it is posted on the agenda. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public an opportunity to address issues or topics within the jurisdiction of Hidalgo ISD. For items not posted on the agenda, the Board may not deliberate or take action; however, members may direct staff to investigate or place the item on a future agenda. Additionally, members of the public may be recognized by the Board President to speak on posted agenda items at the time those items are considered. The same three (3) minute time limit applies.

YESENIA AYALA, PRESIDENT
HIDALGO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Posted: Date _____ Time: _____

By: _____