

DORAL ACADEMY OF TEXAS

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 1, 2026 • 5:03 PM
1333 Firecracker Dr., Buda, Texas 78610 • In Person and Videoconference

1. Opening Exercises

1.a Call to Order / 1.b Establish Quorum

The regular meeting of the Doral Academy of Texas Board of Directors was called to order at 5:03 PM. A quorum was established. Board Chair Eileen Hernandez and Casey Earley attended in person. Douglas Rodriguez and Peter Key attended virtually.

The vision and mission statements of Doral Academy of Texas were read into the record.

1.c Acknowledgements

The floor was opened for Board acknowledgements. No acknowledgements were presented.

1.d Public Comment

Lisa Beck addressed the Board regarding the middle school uniform policy, specifically the prohibition on khaki shorts for middle school students. She expressed concerns regarding consistency in dress code requirements and enforcement and requested that the Board consider allowing middle school students to wear the same khaki shorts permitted in elementary grades. She also encouraged a broader review of the dress code in partnership with parents and students.

Dr. Sarah Beck addressed the Board regarding gender-based differences in the current dress code policy and potential Title IX and Equal Protection concerns. She requested that the Board review the employee/student handbook requirements applicable to student uniforms, remove restrictions she characterized as arbitrary or legally vulnerable, and consider a gender-neutral uniform policy.

The Board thanked both speakers for their comments and indicated that the concerns would be taken into consideration and discussed with the leadership team.

2. Consent Agenda

The Board considered the following Consent Agenda items:

- 2.1 Approval of the 2026-2027 Employee Handbook
- 2.2 Approval of the Emergency Operations Plan
- 2.3 Approval of the 2026-2027 School Board Meeting Calendar

Motion made by: Douglas Rodriguez

Seconded by: Peter Key

Vote/Outcome: The motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action

3.1 Board Resolution - Compliance with Texas Education Code Sections 11.005 and 28.0022

The Board considered the annual resolution regarding compliance with Texas Education Code Section 11.005, relating to the prohibition on DEI duties, and Section 28.0022, relating to certain instructional requirements and prohibitions. Administration explained that this is an annual certification requirement and that no applicable policies had changed since the prior Board approval. Julie DeClouette of Academica Southwest noted that the employee handbook had been updated to include the required provisions.

Motion made by: Douglas Rodriguez

Seconded by: Peter Key

Vote/Outcome: The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Non-Expansion Amendment - Doral Academy of Texas Campus No. 2

The Board considered a resolution authorizing a non-expansion amendment to the Texas Education Agency to postpone the opening of Doral Academy of Texas Campus No. 2 until August 2028. Superintendent Courtney Oliver explained that the original charter contemplated opening the second campus approximately five years after the first campus and that the opening had previously been delayed. The amendment establishes August 2028 as the updated target date and preserves the charter's approval for the future campus. Board members expressed support for the phased approach to growth.

Motion made by: Douglas Rodriguez

Seconded by: Peter Key

Vote/Outcome: The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation and Discussion

4.1 Budget Update

Administration provided a brief update regarding the 2026-2027 budget. The original budget was developed using projected enrollment of approximately 570 students; however, current enrollment is below that projection. Administration reported that the full budget presentation and any necessary amendment would be deferred until updated enrollment information is available so that the Board can consider the most accurate financial projections. Budget information was included in the Board packet, and administration remained available for questions. No Board action was required.

4.2 Superintendent Update

Superintendent Courtney Oliver and Principal Cast presented updates regarding academic performance, enrollment, high school expansion, and campus activities.

- **Academic Performance:** Doral Academy of Texas received a B accountability rating from the State of Texas, improving by three points from the prior C rating. Beginning-of-year i-Ready assessments were completed, and small-group tutoring had begun.
- **Enrollment:** Current enrollment was reported at approximately 494-497 students, with continued growth anticipated during the school year.
- **High School Expansion:** Administration plans to open enrollment for grades 9-12 during the upcoming fall open-enrollment period to accelerate high school growth. The inaugural ninth-grade cohort includes 14 students, seven of whom are enrolled in a San Antonio College speech course. AP Computer Science Principles and AP Human Geography are also being offered.

- Student Activities: Volleyball and flag football teams each began the season 1-0. Dance and cheer programs are also being launched.
- Campus and Community Events: Upcoming activities include a September 11 Hero's Day breakfast honoring first responders and Grandparents' Day, which had received nearly 200 RSVPs.
- Family Engagement: A parent volunteer group known as the Spirit Squad has formed in lieu of a formal PTA and is supporting campus activities and school culture.
- High School Experience: The Board discussed plans to distinguish the high school experience from middle school as additional grade levels are added. Administration described plans for dedicated high school teachers, separate classroom spaces, and high-school-specific events such as dances and pep rallies.

Board members congratulated school leadership on the school's academic and operational progress and emphasized the importance of continuing to listen to student feedback as the high school program develops. Administration also noted that the November Board meeting will be held in person to provide Board members an opportunity to visit the campus.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:32 PM. The provided meeting notes do not identify the maker or seconder of an adjournment motion.