

**State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
April 9, 2026**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 8:21 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026, in Room 2.013 of the Barbara Jordan Building, 1601 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas.

Present: LJ Francis, chair; Julie Pickren, vice chair; and Brandon Hall

Absent: Staci Childs; Tiffany Clark;

Items were considered in the following order: 3, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

Member Hall offered prayer.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Recommendation for One Appointment and One Reappointment to the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-1)

Christopher Lucas, Director, Research and Policy, Office of Governance, presented the recommendation of Brigadier General Randy P. Oakland, United States Air Force, for the reappointment of Mr. Jimmy D. Cornelius and the appointment of Mr. Charles N. Kistler to the Randolph Field ISD Board of Trustees. One trustee retired and one trustee's term was expiring.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Pickren that the Committee recommend that the State Board of Education:

Based on Brigadier General Oakland's recommendation, approve the reappointment of Mr. Jimmy D. Cornelius and the appointment of Mr. Charles N. Kistler to serve terms of office from April 10, 2026, to April 9, 2028, on the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees.

The motion was adopted.

2. Recommendation for One Reappointment to the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-12)

Mr. Lucas presented the recommendation of Brigadier General Randy P. Oakland, United States Air Force, for the reappointment of Dr. Tonseda Henson to the Lackland ISD Board of Trustees. The trustee's term was expiring.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Pickren that the Committee recommend that the State Board of Education:

Based on Brigadier General Oakland's recommendation, approve the reappointment of Dr. Tonseda Henson to serve a term of office from April 10, 2026, to April 9, 2028, on the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees.

The motion was adopted.

3. Recommendation for Two Reappointments to the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-20)

Mr. Lucas asked on behalf of Fort Sam Houston ISD that the item be postponed to the June 2026 meeting.

Without objection, the item was postponed to the June 2026 meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Discussion of Ongoing State Board for Educator Certification Activities

(Board agenda page IV-31)

Jessica McLoughlin, Associate Commissioner, Educator Preparation, Certification, and Enforcement, updated the Committee on current and upcoming State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) activities and proposed SBEC rules and amendments. She reviewed the SBEC statutory charge and mission, and the rulemaking process. She noted that the last SBEC meeting was held on February 13, 2026, and spent time discussing several items that were up for first reading. The next meeting will be scheduled for April 24, 2026. Information will be posted on the SBEC website.

5. Open-Enrollment Charter School Generation 31 Application Updates

(Board agenda page IV-33)

Marian Schutte, Associate Commissioner, Authorizing and Policy, provided updates regarding the Generation 31 Open-Enrollment Charter Application cycle. She reminded the Committee of the Generation 31 goal that the process authorize high-quality charter schools that launch as A or B-rated schools. She reviewed the timeline, noting that the “no-contact” provision ends on April 22, when notifications of advancement to capacity interviews are sent out. Capacity interviews are scheduled in May, and SBOE members are allowed to participate.

6. Discussion of Review of 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, and Subchapter B, Special Purpose School Districts

(Board agenda page IV-34)

Mr. Lucas presented the item, which relates to continuing education for school board members, nomination of trustees for military reservation school districts and Boys Ranch ISD, school safety training for school board members, and applicability of state law to special-purpose school districts. No changes to the rules are anticipated. The adoption of the review will be presented at the June 2026 meeting.

7. Update by the Texas Education Agency Office of School Safety and Security

(Board agenda page IV-36)

Chairman Francis asked that the item be considered in closed session pursuant to Tex. Gov. Code §§ 551.076 and 551.089. All non-essential personnel and staff exited the room, and the Committee met in closed session at 9:51 a.m.

At 10:31 a.m., Chairman Francis noted that the closed session was adjourned, and the Committee reconvened in open session.

Chairman Francis adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.