

Meeting Minutes

Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Phillips 66 | JA Discovery Center



Attendees

Board: Lina Amador, Camilo Amezcuita, Evelyn Angelle, Alexander Baron, Kimberly Barta, Tracy Beam, Juliet Breeze, Deric Bryant, Ryan Bucholtz, Sue Burnett, Andrez Carberry, Adam Drutz, Bob Franklin, Jarin Hansen, Jonathan Haguewood, Richard Heo, Daron Houston, Joe Kelly, Elizabeth Killinger, Joel Lambert, John Lionberger, Guillermo Martinez, Michele McNichol, Jeff Miers, Bruce Miller, Niloufar Molavi, Brett Mossman, Mark Odom, Laura Parken, Jamie Pierce, Roland Sauermann, Kevin Syphard, Laura Tibodeau, Praveen Utthunga, Kelly Vaughn, Carol Warley, Mike West, Nathan Wiker, Deanna Young

Staff: Camila Aguiar, Courtney Azuik, Joe Burke, Ne’Cole Caldwell, J.C. Cardenas, Christina Craft, Jennifer Craig, Monica Espinosa, De Jones, Patty Lalonde, Savannah Lamb, Cecily Messer, Becky Neely, Tiffany Spates, Karen St. Fort, Liisa Williams

Guests: Kregg Cuellar, Spring ISD Superintendent, Tracy Harris, Spring ISD, Liu Daniel, SGV International, Maisha Mamum, UH, Eric Tingle, Spring ISD, Lissette Mossman, University of Houston Students: Maisha Mamum,

Chairwoman Michele McNichol called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. She welcomed guests from the University of Houston Asian Business Student Association and members of the Spring ISD leadership team.

Michele noted several business items that needed to be addressed. She opened the floor for questions or comments on the minutes from the September 18, 2025 meeting. There being none, she asked for a motion to approve. Sue Burnett motioned to approve. Tracy Beam seconded. Motion carried.

Michele then delivered the nominations report in the absence of Niloufar Molavi, Chair of the nominations committee.

She reported four resignations.

- Joe Connelly, AIG
- Keven Dunph, Emerson
- Scott Prochazka
- Dave Stover
- Eli Warren, H-E-B

She presented the committee’s recommendations for new board members.

- Jason Allen, Contech
- Kregg Cuellar, Spring ISD
- Paul Madero, Baker Hughes
- David Reed, Waste Management
- Mike West, H-E-B



Michele requested a motion to approve the slate of nominees. Sue Burnett moved to approve the new members. Praveen Utthunga seconded. Motion carried.

Michele then shared nominations for officers, new members of the Executive Committee, and Executive Committee renewals.

Officers:

- Bill Swanstrom, Troutman Pepper Locke – Secretary
- Frank Steininger, Treasurer

Executive Committee additions:

- Darren Ercolani, ChevronPhillips Chemical Co.
- Jesus Soto, CenterPoint Energy

Executive Committee renewals:

- | | | |
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| • Lina Amador | • Elizabeth Killinger | • Frank Steininger |
| • Evelyn Angelle | • Mark Lashier | • Larry Stephens |
| • Duke Austin | • Bruce Macklin, <i>Emeritus</i> | • Bill Swanstrom |
| • Juliet Breeze | • Janette Marx | • Bret Vandervoort |
| • Ryan Bucholtz | • Michele McNichol | • Greg Vesey |
| • Greg Ebel | • Jeff Miers | • Carol Warley |
| • Bob Franklin | • Bruce Miller | • Melinda Yee |
| • Joe Kelly | • Niloufar Molavi | |

She requested a motion to approve the slate. Laura Tibodeau moved to approve the renewals. Sue Burnett seconded. Motion carried.

She then presented a list of board members' three-year renewals for consideration.

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| • Lina Amador | • Daron Houston | • Manuel Prieto |
| • Deric Bryant | • Janette Marx | • Jesus Soto |
| • Andrez Carberry | • Bruce Miller | • Liz Townsend |
| • Richard Cisneros | • Niloufar Molavi | • Bret Vandervoort |
| • Charlie Geer | • Melissa Moya | • Greg Vesey |
| • Tracie Griffitt | • Mark Odom | • Nathan Wiker |
| • Jonathan Haguewood | • Laura Parkan | |
| • Jarin Hansen | • Jamie Pierce | |

She requested a motion to approve. Tracey Beam moved to approve the renewals. Joe Kelly seconded. Motion carried.

Michele then noted that the final piece of business was to present and approve the proposed 2026/2027 operating budget. She called on Jennifer Craig to present a high-level review.

The proposed budget as well as detailed budget assumptions were included in the board's pre-read materials.

She noted that there are some stretch goals for corporate and personal support. Budgets for the Experiential Learning Center, 3DE, and foundations remained conservative. JASET will begin the fiscal year with new funding

of \$300,000 from foundations, \$55,000 from new ELC commitments, and \$120,000 in allocations from the Title 1 scholarship and maintenance funds.

Expenses include modest inflationary increases. Some merit increases and promotions were built in for staff compensation. JASET will realize a reduction in national program and support fees of approximately \$100,000 because of a new fee structure. Expenses to operate the new Discovery Center are now better informed following six months of operation. Solar panel installation is nearing completion, and additional savings are expected.

She noted that Company Program revenue is now included in the corporate revenue line item due to the elimination of that program.

Jennifer noted that the proposed budget was reviewed by the Executive Committee on 5/28/2026 and recommended for approval by the full board. She requested a second to the motion. Jesus Soto seconded. Motion carried.

Michele introduced Ne’Cole Caldwell and De Jones to present a program year-end report. During the 2025/2026 academic year, JASET served 88,355 students, providing 1,125,998 instructional contact hours. Spring 2026 was the first semester of operations in the new facility. During that time, 12,430 students participated in BizTown, and 10,083 students participated in Finance Park simulations. Additionally, they shared some results from student surveys that indicated positive outcomes. JASET’s education team was asked to stand and be recognized for their dedication and tireless work to ensure smooth operations during the transition to a new facility and implementation of enhanced curriculum.

Dr. Gregg Cuellar, Superintendent of Spring ISD, was invited to join Michele for a Q&A on the new partnership. Beginning in Fall 2026, Dr. Cuellar and the Board of Trustees have committed to a district-wide partnership with JASET across multiple grade levels. This partnership includes full participation in BizTown for all 5th graders. Finance Park for all 8th graders and all three high schools implementing the 3DE instructional model.

Michele then introduced Christina Craft and Cecily Messer to share the annual board awards. These awards honor individuals who continue to provide substantial levels of leadership and support for the students JA serves.

Free Enterprise Society Awards - This award honors those who demonstrate an incredible commitment to the JA mission. They have personally contributed \$10,000+ through the annual board campaign, the capital campaign, or a combination of both. Honorees were:

- Jason Allen
- Lina Amador & Hal Borland
- Evelyn & Frank Angelle
- Melinda & Greg Armstrong
- Janet & Tom Behanick
- Diana & Omar Boulous
- Juliet Breeze
- Kimberly & Danny Brown
- Lisa & Andrez Carberry
- Ann & Clarence Cazalot
- Anne & Albert Chao
- Linda & Willie Chiang
- Terri & Greg Ebel
- Valerie & Greg Engel
- Nan & Bob Franklin
- Gail & Greg Garland
- Jennifer & Charlie Geer
- Emilee & Richard Heo
- Thomas Jorden
- Michelle & Joe Kelly
- Laurie & Mark Lashier
- Mary Jane & Bruce Macklin
- Janette & Jeff Marx
- Michele McNichol
- Niloufar & Amir Molavi
- Jane & Harry Pefanis

- Mary Ellen & Scott Prochazka
- Lees & Peter Rodionov
- Debra & Roland Sauermann
- Christopher Stavros
- Karen & Frank Steininger
- Kathleen & David Stover
- Janet & Bill Swanstrom
- Karla & Greg Vesey

Board Leadership Awards – JA USA annually honors exemplary JA Area board members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the organization. Four JASET board members were recognized:

- Daron Houston
- Jeff Miers
- Jamie Pierce
- Eli Warren

Michele then asked Joe to present a year-end summary and state of the organization. Joe shared several accomplishments for the year, including, among others:

- Completed and opened the doors of the *Phillips 66 / JA Discovery Center*
- Expanded ELC sponsorships from 13 to 28 which added to the authenticity of the experience for students
- Piloted a career component as part of the JA Finance Park simulation
- As part of the strategic plan and program focus, the JA Company Program would no longer be offered beginning with the 26/27 academic year
- Expanded partnership with Spring ISD
- Formed a talent and organizational task force to ensure our structure and team are aligned with the new vision - thanks to Joe Kelly, Andrez Carberry, Daron Houston, Liz Townsend, Jig Patel for their participation in the work to-date
- Awarded \$96k in scholarships

He expressed thanks to the staff for facilitating the move and bringing a positive attitude to JA's work every day.

Michele shared her appreciation to the board for their commitment. She reminded everyone that the next board meeting will be Thursday, September 24th from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Prior to adjournment, a year-end video was played to look back and celebrate the 2025/2026 year.

Michele adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by: Jennifer Craig

Respectfully submitted: William Swanstrom, Secretary