



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the January 24, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Symphony Jordan, Patricia Velazquez, and Jayvion Ringer of Washington Early Childhood Center from Mrs. Becky Garcia's class led the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Spotlight

Football Players Recognized

Lance Angel, Director of Athletics introduced two Palestine High School students that have been named to the 2012 Associated Press All State Football Team. PHS Senior, Ivory Brown made the First Team AP All State at cornerback. PHS Junior, Brian Thlang made First Team AP All State at offensive tackle. Palestine High School was the only UIL District AAA school in which two students made the 2012 First Team AP All State.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

Congratulations to the December and January Junior Rotarians!

December, 2012: Lesly Rubalcava and Kaleb Garcia

January, 2013: Bianca Garcia and Gregory Albright

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the Students of the Month for December and January!

December, 2012: Virginia Thigpen and Kody Harris

January, 2013: Callie Flynn and Kevin Looney

School Board Recognized

In observance of school board appreciation month, the staff and students of Palestine ISD gave a special thanks to the Palestine ISD Board of Trustees. Superintendent Jason Marshall thanked the Board for their dedication to Palestine ISD, and presented each board member with a certificate of appreciation. Students and staff from each campus got creative to show their appreciation. From Washington E.C.C. students, there were gift bags and a large sun autographed with their pictures. Northside Primary made tote boxes filled with snacks and Southside Elementary made pretty lighted glass blocks. A.M. Story Intermediate students explained the meaning of Mardi Gras and presented each board member with a Mardi Gras gift box and a Story spirit shirt. Palestine Middle School gave each board member a yearbook and the finale was a video of Palestine High School students and staff sharing the reasons they love their school and thanking the Board for their commitment to Palestine ISD.

Construction Projects Update

Terry Gober of Buford Thompson Construction provided the Board of Trustees an update of the construction progress. The Career & Technology Building Renovation is complete and all classrooms are occupied. A mechanical screen with a Career Tech sign was installed on top of the CTE building to keep air units and other equipment from view and in addition helps provide identification for the building. The softball field and stadium is nearing completion. The first game will be held in the new softball stadium this spring.

Pictures of the projects and aerial photos of the construction sites can be viewed on the district website at (www.palestineschools.org). Go to "About PISD" at the top of the page, then select "Construction Updates".

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer stated that 2013 tax collections have reached 38% which is very good at this point in the year. Student enrollment and attendance is higher than the previous year which creates a good financial position for the District.

Audit Report

J.W. Lambright of Smith, Lambright, and Associates, P.C. presented the 2011-2012 Financial Audit Report. The District ended the 2011-2012 school year with approximately \$690,000 remaining in the budget. Mr. Lambright commended the District for being conservative with expenditures and in looking for ways to generate additional revenue. The Financial Audit Report was accepted by the Board.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2012
- Bills paid for December, 2012
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Northside Primary

\$20.00 for snacks from the Longhair Clan of Texas.

\$5,000.00 from Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep to improve safety at Northside Primary.

2011-2012 AEIS Report

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented information from the 2011-2012 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) Report. The report reflects that the District has strengths in reading/ELA and social studies. The District works continuously to improve performance in math and science. The District's 4-year high school completion rate increased to 96% which is an increase of 3.6% from last year. The District's Completion Rate I which includes dropouts continues to improve with 99.9% of students continuing on to graduation.

Core Academic Plans and Preparation for STAAR

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, informed the Board regarding the District's core academic plans and mid-year preparation for STAAR testing. A balanced literacy reading initiative with an emphasis on phonics as well as new math standards has been implemented at the elementary campuses. A.M. Story Intermediate has implemented a national STEM program, Project Lead the Way to increase science knowledge and skills in the area of processes and thinking skills. At the secondary level, math and science labs have increased time on task allowing more one on one skills development. STAAR readiness plans have been created for all core subjects and tutorials for targeted students have been implemented with transportation provided.

End of Course 15% Provision Suspended

The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to suspend the portion of District Local Policy EIA regarding the End of Course 15 percent provision for the 2012-2013 school year.

Personnel

Robin Fitzpatrick	Academic Support	Southside Elementary
Mallory Smith	3 rd Grade	Southside Elementary
Deborah Woody	PE	Southside Elementary

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Michael Marshall and Linda Paul.

The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to extend Superintendent Jason Marshall's contract by one year to include the 2015-2016 school year.

Region 7 Head Start Interlocal Agreement

The Board of Trustees approved an Interlocal Agreement with Region 7 for the Palestine ISD Head Start Program.

Anderson County Legislative Platform

Palestine ISD along with all Anderson County public schools worked together this fall to develop a list of priority issues that are directly related to education. The Palestine ISD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution in support of these priority issues that will be shared with elected officials throughout the legislative session.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall thanked Melvin Wise of SSC Solutions for his work in keeping Palestine ISD facilities well maintained.

A ruling from state District Judge Dietz is expected in the Texas Taxpayer and Student Fairness Coalition lawsuit by February 4, 2013.

Superintendent Marshall gave an update on the District's safety plan. Overall the District's safety plan is in good shape. However, the District has requested an external safety audit to ensure that every possible safety measure is in place.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
February 18, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**