



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the July 29, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Called Meeting

The Palestine ISD Board of Trustees met for training purposes in a called meeting on Monday, July 29. Marvin Thompson, Field Service Agent for the Region VII Education Service Center presented “Images of School”, an explanation of the levels of performance in which school districts and its Board of Directors are perceived by the community. Mr. Thompson also updated board members on changes from the Texas Legislature’s 83rd session that affect education. An update is required of school board members after each legislative session.

Texas Association of School Boards Summer Leadership Institute

Wade Hobbs, Board President invited board members to reflect on topics from the Texas Association of School Boards Summer Leadership Institute that the Board attended in June. The Board unanimously agreed that topics related to safety were beneficial, as the safety and security of staff and students are the number one priority of the district.

2013-2014 Budget Workshop

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer presented a budget workshop to inform board members on 2013-2014 budget planning. The district will receive approximately 1 million of the 1.5 million that was lost in the last legislative session. The restored funding will provide some relief for next year’s budget as will the 21st Century Grant that will provide 8.5 million over the next five years. The 1 million in restored funding will be used primarily to help employees with the rising cost of health insurance. Employees’ salaries will be increased to cover much of the health insurance increase. Employees will also receive step raises according to the current pay schedule. The intent is for employees to realize the pay increase as much as possible depending on the cost of their insurance choice. Other expenditures under consideration are a school bus purchase, technology needs, and safety considerations. Maintenance & operations and interest & sinking tax rates are expected to remain the same. Mr. Atkeisson stated that he expects to propose a balanced budget for the Board’s consideration at the August 26th regular board meeting.

New STAAR Accountability System

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services informed board members on STAAR, State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state’s new accountability system for public education. The new STAAR accountability system is not like the former TAKS or TAAS Accountability system but does include some of the changes that educators have been requesting for several years. In the new system, four indexes measure student performance, student progress, closing performance gaps, and postsecondary readiness. The new STAAR Accountability System makes it less likely for a campus or a district to receive a low rating due to any specific subgroup, subject, or grade. Districts and campuses will receive their first STAAR accountability ratings on August 8, 2013.

Other Items Approved

- 1) Policy EIC (Local) Revision – The Palestine ISD policy addressing Academic Achievement: Class Ranking is revised to include identifying weighted grade points for grades earned in dual credit courses. Previously, dual credit courses earned the same grade points as regular classes.
- 2) Policy EIF (Local) Revision – Palestine High School intends to add “Reading” to the course selections for those students where the need is identified. Students will now be able to earn credits after successful completion of the course.
- 3) Policy Update 97, as presented by TASB with a change in DBAA (Local).
- 4) 2013-2014 Student Code of Conduct
- 5) 2013-2014 Student Handbooks

Personnel Approved

Meghan Edwards	4 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Casey Enox	5 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Wendy Fincher	5 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Christi Herrington	PreKindergarten	Washington Early Childhood Center
Scott Johnston	Science	Palestine Junior High School
Charles King	History	Palestine High School
Jami McCoy	4 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Rana Newbury	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Ashly Perry	5 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Breck Quarles	Asst. Principal	A.M. Story Intermediate
Celesta Shinn	5 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Jessica Wooden	Theatre Arts	Palestine Junior High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignation of Byron Dickey.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
August 26, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**