



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the October 15, 2018 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **Pledges**

Washington Early Childhood Center students led pledges to the American and Texas flags.

### **Spotlight - Whataburger**

Larissa Loveless, PISD Director of Public Relations; introduced Shelly Lipe, Whataburger Marketing Director; and Juan Rico, Palestine Whataburger Manager. Mrs. Loveless thanked Whataburger for supporting Wildcat Nation Radio, and for the ongoing support that Whataburger has provided to Palestine ISD.

### **Spotlight – Kiwanis Operation Read Project**

Jeff Atkinson and members of the Kiwanis Club were recognized for the Operation Read Project. Mr. Atkinson shared that plans for the Operation Read Project began when Mayor Steve Presley, while reading to students at Southside Elementary, said that our children need more books at home. With the help of the Altrusa Club, Whataburger, and other Palestine businesses; funds were raised in the amount of \$22,600 at the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, September 15, 2018. With the funds raised, books were purchased for 1,730 PK - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children in the Palestine community.

### **Spotlight - Palestine High School Junior Rotarians**

Mary Arigbabu and Seth Blackwell were recognized for being selected to serve as Junior Rotarians for the month of September. Kathleen Brown, PHS teacher, introduced Mary and shared her accomplishments, and Justin Florence, PHS teacher, introduced Seth and shared his accomplishments. A certificate of accomplishment was presented to each student.

### **Spotlight - Palestine High School Students of the Month**

Frances Odiaka and Alex Shiller were recognized for being chosen as Students of the Month for September. Each student was presented a plaque.

### **Public Comment**

There were no requests for public comment.

### **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a brief financial report. Mr. Atkeisson informed that investment interest rates had been increasing and that the district would look for ways to diversify investments and increase interest earned.

## **Tax Collection Report**

Robert Myers of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C., Attorneys at Law reviewed current and delinquent property tax collections. The district's total annual tax collections exceeded the amount of taxes levied. As of October, 2018, the District has collected 100.82% to 101.67% of the taxes levied for each of the last five years.

## **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2018
- Bills paid for September, 2018
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations: No donations received
- 2018-19 School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Committee Members
  - District Representatives – Chris Kiser, Council Chair; Yvette Durbin, Law Enforcement; Mimi Spreen, Nutrition
  - Palestine High School Representatives – PHS Nurse, Tobin Mack; PHS Students, Bryanna Guillen and Edward Chavez, PHS Parents, Jamie Holman and Melissa Jenkins
  - Palestine Junior High Representatives – PJH Nurse Veronica Ashford; PJH Parents, Cristina Sandifer and Sheryl Bean
  - Northside Primary – Northside Nurse, Karen Bledsoe, Northside Parents, Anish Patel and Nanette Bennett
  - Southside Elementary – Southside Nurse, Cheryl Walding; Southside Parents, Camille Davis, Anthony Geddy, and Shamika Jackson
  - A.M. Story Intermediate – Story Nurse, Jodi Harris
  - Washington Early Childhood Center – Washington Nurse, Leslie Johnson; Washington Parents; Jasmine Clewis and Raven Smith
- School Bus Purchase: 3 buses from Rush Bus Center via Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Grant in the amount of \$150,000 and remaining funds from district fund balance)
- Bus Seatbelt Waiver for 3 buses purchased via TCEQ Grant
- Targeted Improvement Plan for Southside Elementary and Paired Campuses and Northside Primary & Washington ECC
- 2018-2019 Honors Courses Update (Dual Credit Government added to previously approved list of 2018-2019 Honors Courses)

## **First Read of Revised PreAP/AP Entrance/Summer Learning Requirements**

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented proposed revisions to PreAP/AP Entrance/Summer Learning requirements. Mr. Kiser explained that the revisions were needed due to issues with students submitting poor quality/incomplete summer work or not submitting their summer work to teachers. Proposed revisions included the addition of a parent/student meeting to ensure awareness of the requirements and parent/student signatures prior to a student being scheduled in PreAP/AP courses. Trustee Ingram requested that there be check points added during the summer as a reminder to parents and students. Revisions to PreAP/AP Entrance/Summer Learning Requirements will be presented to the Board for approval at a future school board meeting.

## **First Six Weeks Academic Progress**

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services; reported on first six weeks academic progress. Mr. Kiser shared Beginning of Year (BOY) assessment scores and first six weeks assessment scores for Reading/writing and math, and first six weeks passing rates for each grade level.

## **Class Sizes**

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; reported on 2018-2019 current class sizes as required for Districts of Innovation by the Texas Education Agency. Mrs. Eiben informed that PISD currently had no classes in grades K-4 that exceeded the 22 to 1 class size limit.

## **Personnel**

Baack, Tyler	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Mitchell, Kristi	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Potter, Hannah	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate

Superintendent Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Susan Johnson and Patricia Thornton Manning.

## **School Safety Update**

Dr. William Stewart, PISD Director of School Safety, presented a safety update that included the following:

- Good feedback received from district safety audit personnel and district expects to receive safety audit report in November.
- Anti-bullying presentations scheduled to be held in October for 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- District scheduled to meet with a company to evaluate door sensors and exterior entrance points.
- Safety Teams on each campus holding meetings to communicate safety concerns.
- STOP-it app: Students taking seriously and approximately 20 hits so far.
- All types of safety drills being conducted on campuses.
- Substitute teachers receiving safety training.

## **Phase I Construction Lawsuit Report**

Superintendent Marshall informed that Phase I of the construction lawsuit stemming from 2009 Bonds construction defects at Palestine High School had been finalized and although details could not be disclosed at this time, a settlement agreement had been reached. Superintendent Marshall noted that Phase II of the 2009 Bonds construction lawsuit involving construction defects at Northside Primary, Southside Elementary, and the gym floor at Palestine Junior High School was still ongoing.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Marshall reported on the following:

- “Principals Month” proclaimed by Texas Governor, Greg Abbott for October 2018. The Board of Trustees thanked PISD principals for their sacrifice and hard work.
- October 4, 2018 Staff Development Day utilized for 2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks planning.
- Happy Hour fellowship time for district staff to be held at Ben E. Keith Hospitality Room on October 23-24, 2018 from 4:00-5:30 PM.
- Retention Investment Incentive information to be shared with district staff, and district administrators to present Performance Incentives to staff in December, 2018.
- PISD and other Anderson County school districts working together on the development of legislative priorities to share with elected officials prior to 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session.
- November 6, 2018 General Election: 3 PISD facilities to be utilized as voting locations on Election Day (PISD Administration Office, Palestine High School, and Washington Early Childhood Center)
- Student Enrollment: 3,395 as of October 15, 2018
- PHS Fall Team Tennis won 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive District Title.
- PHS Cross Country: Girls placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in District and advanced to Regional Competition. Boys Cross Country placed 1<sup>st</sup> in District and advanced to Regionals.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.