



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the January 25, 2021 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Palestine Independent School District held a Regular Meeting on January 25, 2021 at 6:00 PM, at the Palestine ISD Administration Office, located at 1007 East Park Avenue, Palestine, Texas 75801.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by President Kurt Herrington at 6:02 PM.

Spotlight

Larissa Loveless, Director of Public Relations, introduced the spotlight portion of the meeting which included recognition of the following Students of the Month and Junior Rotarians. A video presentation highlighting the accomplishments of each student was shown.

Junior Rotarians of the Month:

Guadalupe Soto and Bryan Cruz

Students of the Month:

Savannah Gregory and Mason Ratliff

Superintendent Recognition:

Crystal Dockery of Texas Association of Community Schools (TACS), recognized Superintendent Jason Marshall for his service as President of TACS during the 2019-20 school year.

School Board Appreciation:

In observance of School Board Appreciation Month, board members were recognized. Superintendent Jason Marshall thanked the Board for their willingness to serve the district.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a brief financial report noting that the district's tax collections were good but that interest rates had gone down.

Financial Audit

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the district's financial audit, (performed by the firm of Pattillo, Brown, and Hill (PBH), for year ending August 31, 2020. The Board approved findings of the financial audit.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2020
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of January 14, 2021
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of January 21, 2021
- Bills paid for December, 2020
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations
 - Palestine High School
 - Paper valued at \$4,570.46 from Walmart
 - Ladycat Soccer
 - 25 meals valued at \$169.25 from Chic-fil-A for Soccer Tournament
 - \$100.00 donation for Soccer Banner from Toni Rogers
 - \$100.00 donation for Soccer Banner from Maria Ramirez
 - \$100.00 donation for Soccer Banner from Quality Cool Air
 - \$100.00 donation for Soccer Banner from Little Mexico
- Palestine ISD Police Department Racial Profiling Report
- House Bill 3 Board Goals
- Personnel Report-Employee resignations accepted by Superintendent: (Kathy Asher-PHS, Julie Bell-Story, Scott Catchot-PHS, Ruth Ann Webb-Northside, and Pamela White-Story)

Public Hearing: 2019-2020 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR)

President, Kurt Herrington, called the Public Hearing to order at 6:35 PM. Mr. Herrington announced that a quorum was present, that the hearing was duly called, and that notice of the hearing had been posted for the time and in the manner required by law.

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services; presented the district's 2019-20 Annual TAPR Report. Mr. Kiser reminded that students had not taken STAAR tests during spring 2020 due to a state of disaster caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic that had forced schools to close in March 2020. Therefore, the district had not received STAAR test results or district/campus ratings for spring, 2020. Mr. Kiser informed that many students had fallen behind academically due to loss of class time during the pandemic, and that the district was working to prepare students for the spring STAAR tests; however, school districts would not receive A-F ratings for spring 2021 STAAR tests. (A copy of the TAPR must be kept or posted at the Central Office, each school library, the public library, and the PISD website.)

President Herrington offered an opportunity for questions or comments regarding the TAPR Report. There were no questions or concerns from the audience or board members and there being no further discussion, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:40 PM and the regular meeting resumed.

First Read of District Calendar for 2021-22

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services; presented the tentative proposed calendar for the 2021-22 school year. Some components of the proposed calendar are:

- First day of of 2021-22 school year - August 13, 2021
- Last day - May 20, 2022
- Staff Development Days prior to and during school year.
(Online and some in-person staff development)
- Remote learning days (for students) may be added to the calendar if needed due to pandemic. Should the district have remote learning days, lessons will be simplified to allow teachers more time to focus on staff development on the remote learning days.

A recommendation for approval of the 2021-22 school calendar will be presented at a future school board meeting.

District COVID-19 Update & FFCRA Resolution

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented an update regarding COVID-19 within Palestine ISD. Mrs. Eiben informed that there have been 55 employees and 87 students who have tested positive for COVID during the school year. The number of students learning remotely has reduced from 641 at the end of the first semester to 233 currently. Mrs. Eiben complimented teachers and administrative staff for doing a great job of tracking COVID positive cases and exposures. Mrs. Eiben informed the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) had expired at the end of December, and that a resolution was needed if the district wanted to extend emergency paid sick leave for employees. The Board approved the extension of segments of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) resolution.

Superintendent Evaluation & Contract

The Board approved the 2020 Superintendent's evaluation that had been previously completed and shared with the Superintendent in closed meeting. The Board approved to extend Superintendent Jason Marshall's contract one year to include the 2023-2024 school year.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Board President Herrington declared the meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.