



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the December 15, 2020 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**

The Board of Trustees of the Palestine Independent School District held a Regular Meeting on December 15, 2020 at 12:00 PM, at the Palestine ISD Administration Office, located at 1007 East Park Avenue, Palestine, Texas 75801.

### **Spotlight**

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

Junior Rotarians:

Mia Ramos and Sheen Kirkpatrick

Students of the Month:

Aven Alexander and Elvin Calhoun

### **Public Comment**

There were no requests for public comment.

### **Consent Items Approved**

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2020

B. Bills paid for November, 2020

C. Financial Report

D. Monthly Investment Report

E. Tax Collection Report

F. Donations

Washington Early Childhood Center

\$250 from Texas Farm Bureau (Learning from the Ground Up Garden Grant)

Palestine High School

\$500 from Palestine Firefighters Assoc. for PHS Horticulture Department.

\$1,000 from Anderson County Farm Bureau for PHS Horticulture Department.

\$1,000 from Lana Rister for PHS Horticulture Department.

G. Update on District of Innovation Plan including Class Sizes

H. Tuition Waiver for PISD Student

I. 2020-21 District Improvement Plan

J. 2020-21 Campus Improvement Plans

- K. Targeted Improvement Plan for Southside Elementary
- L. Targeted Improvement Plan for A.M. Story Intermediate
- M. 2020-21 Dyslexia Plan
- N. Superintendent Report

District COVID-19 Report

The district has a few confirmed COVID cases and several staff members who are quarantining due to direct exposure. Overall, there are not as many cases as there were prior to the Thanksgiving holidays.

In-Person and At-Home Learning Update

For the majority of the fall the district had slightly more than 500 At-Home learners. The remaining students were In-Person learners. Since TEA gave district’s the option (about 2 weeks ago) to require students whose attendance was unsatisfactory or students who were not performing well academically to return to In-Person Learning, the district plans to require approximately half of the original 500 At-Home learners to return to In-Person instruction following the Christmas break. (138 of 156 High School At-Home learners are being required to return to In-Person instruction following the Christmas break.)

Enrollment Report

Student enrollment as of December 10, 2020 is 3,392. This enrollment is slightly lower than the student enrollment for December of the previous school year (3,455), but this enrollment is still within an acceptable budget number

Extracurricular Activities

Basketball and Soccer seasons have begun.

Christmas Holiday Shutdown

The last day of school prior to the Christmas holidays will be Friday, December 18, 2020. All PISD students will participate in At-Home learning (Fri, Dec 18). All campuses and the PISD Administration Office will close at 12:00 PM on (Fri, Dec 18). Cleaning and disinfecting of all facilities will continue during the Christmas break. Clear plexiglass dividers will be placed on desks during the Christmas break. Thank you to Anderson County for covering the cost of the plexiglass dividers through COVID funds. Monday, January 4, 2021 will be a work day for staff. Students will return to school on January 5, 2021. Staff will be allowed in buildings the weekend prior (Fri-Sun, Jan 1-3) to school reopening.

**Personnel Approved**

- |                   |               |                      |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1) Garcia, Sylvia | Bilingual LTS | Southside Elementary |
| 2) Walsh, Hana    | Math Support  | Southside Elementary |

**2020-21 School Calendar**

Superintendent Marshall and the Board discussed the spring portion of the district’s 2021 school calendar. The Board approved the school calendar for the spring of 2021 as presented.

**Board Training**

Supt. Marshall informed that required Senate Bill 1566 and Team Building training for Board Members was scheduled to be presented by Roy Knight of Region 7 on Tuesday, February 9, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

**Closed Session Item Tabled**

Supt. Marshall informed that a closed session and subsequent open session related to a construction settlement was listed on the agenda, but that the closed session was no longer needed due to the district not having yet received the information; therefore no closed session was held.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:31 PM.