



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the September 21, 2020 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Palestine Independent School District held a Regular Meeting on September 21, 2020 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 6:05 PM.

Spotlight

Larissa Loveless, Director of Public Relations, introduced the spotlight portion of the meeting. The following students were recognized and a video presentation highlighting the accomplishments of each student was shown:

Junior Rotarians: Kaitlyn Pierson and Matthew Holman

Students of the Month: Monica Ferretiz and Tyler Nguyen

Public Comment

Matt Symmank, PISD Parent, spoke regarding his desire for the district to return to a 5 day week for students.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported on the start of the 2020-21 School Year:

- Extracurricular Activities (Cross Country/Volleyball/Football in District play. Districts must forfeit games that cannot be played due to COVID.)
- COVID-19 Update (District COVID cases have slightly increased/still minimal)
- In-Person/At-Home Learning Student Count:
Estimate: 82.3% In-Person Learners/17.7% At-Home Learners
- Student Enrollment on Day 29: 3,378
(Previous School Year Day 29 Enrollment: 3,411)
- District Update provided at Staff Breakfast/Lunch on September 25, 2020

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a Financial Report. Mr. Atkeisson shared the following information:

- Tax collections were behind during the previous months, possibly due to COVID effects on the economy. Tax collections had begun improving recently.
- District is in the process of submitting a reimbursement request to the state for COVID-19 expenditures that had been incurred by the district.

Auditor Engagement

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, informed that a new audit firm would be needed for the 2020-21 school year due to having received notification that the previous auditor; Smith, Lambright & Associates would no longer be conducting school audits. The firm of Pattilo, Brown, and Hill (PB&H) of Waco, Texas provided a quote in the amount of \$33,500 and the district received good references for PB&H from other school districts. Mr. Atkeisson informed that although the quote contained pricing for multiple years, his recommendation was to engage PB&H to perform the fiscal audit for the year ending August 31, 2020; then at the conclusion of the audit the district can then determine whether to pursue a multi-year agreement. The Board approved the firm of Pattilo, Brown, and Hill (PB&H) to conduct the district's financial audit for year ending August 31, 2020.

Consent Items Approved

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 24, 2020
- B. Bills paid for August, 2020
- C. Financial Report
- D. Monthly Investment Report
- E. Tax Collection Report
- F. Donations
- G. PHS Fishing Team
 - \$250 from Jimmy Luce
 - \$250 from Tucker Farris Body Shop
 - \$250 from All Star Ford
 - \$250 from A/P Contractors
 - \$250 from Voltage Vapor Shop
 - \$250 from Braly Builders Supply
 - \$250 from Dogwood Sales
 - \$250 from Ranger Air & Heat
 - \$250 from Jessica Lusk
 - \$250 from Choice Homecare
- H. 2019-20 Palestine ISD Amended Final Budget
- I. Anderson County Appraisal District 2020 Approved Budget
- J. 2020-21 Certified Appraisers Revised List (Added Toscha Reeves)

Policy Update 115

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented Policy Update 115 revisions. The Board adopted Policy Update 115, affecting local policies BF, DED, DIA, DMD, EI, FB, FD, FEB, FFG, FFH, FMF, FNG, and GF.

Personnel Approved

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| 1) Baker, Cynthia | TSI | Palestine High School |
| 2) Smith, Michael | Careers | Palestine Junior High School |

2020-21 School Calendar Adjustment

Superintendent Jason Marshall presented an update regarding the 2020-21 School Calendar. Superintendent Marshall informed that the school calendar included some Fridays that were being utilized for At-Home instruction for students who receive In-Person instruction. The Fridays in which no students were at school provided teachers with time to prepare for both In-Person and At-Home students, and teachers had expressed an interest in adding some additional Fridays for At-Home Learning to the calendar. The Board discussed the information and reached a consensus to extend Friday At-Home Learning through Friday, November 13, 2020.

Future Board Meeting Date

The Board approved a Board Planning Session to be held on October 6, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Legislative Planning

The Board discussed plans for the Texas 87th Legislative Session. The Board approved a Legislative Planning Session for Palestine ISD and all Anderson County School Districts that would like to participate in preparation of a joint legislative platform for Anderson County School Districts on November 2, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Executive Session

The Board approved to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:25 PM pursuant to Texas Government Code Section §551. 0821, for an update concerning certain students matters.

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:50 PM. No action was taken regarding matters discussed in Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.