



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the April 19, 2021 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**

The Board of Trustees of the Palestine Independent School District held a Regular Meeting on April 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM, at the Palestine ISD Administration Office, located at 1007 East Park Avenue, Palestine, Texas 75801.

### **Call to Order**

President Kurt Herrington called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM, announced that a quorum was present, that the meeting was duly called, and that notice of the meeting had been posted for the time and in the manner required by law.

### **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 for the month of April. A video presentation highlighting the accomplishments of each student was shown.

Junior Rotarians of the Month:

Kadie Bergman and Michael Chaidez

Students of the Month:

Brooke Davis and Garrett Bowden

Superintendent Jason Marshall recognized Judge Robert Johnston and Mayor Steve Presley for assistance the school district received from Anderson County and the City of Palestine during the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic. The county and city provided PISD with PPE equipment (face masks/sanitizer) valued at \$250,000.

### **Public Comment**

There were no requests for public comment.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall presented the following information:

#### Enrollment Report

Student enrollment as of April 19, 2021: 3,311

#### Extracurricular Activities

1) 2A Regional Track Meet @ Wildcat Stadium: Monday, April 26, 2021

Senior 2021 Activities

- 1) Senior Walk: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 - Seniors visit all campuses to encourage younger students about their future graduation.
- 2) Prom: Saturday, May 1, 2021
- 3) Baccalaureate @ First Baptist Church: Sunday, May 16, 2021, 4:00 PM
- 4) Graduation: Friday, May 21, 2021

#### April- May Activities

- 1) Anderson County Youth Livestock Show: April 19-23, 2021
- 2) Student Academic Awards will be held on campuses: Dates/Times TBD
- 3) Teacher Celebration - Recognition of Teachers for Completion of Reading Academy: Thursday, April 22, 2020, 4:30 PM
- 4) Employee Service Awards and Staff Appreciation Drive-Thru @ PISD Administration Office Parking Area: Tuesday, April 20, 2021

#### PISD Trustee Election

- 1) Early Voting at Anderson County Courthouse Annex on the following dates:  
Monday-Friday, April 19-23, 2021 and Monday-Tuesday, April 26-27, 2021  
Hours: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Hours extended to 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 20 and Tuesday, April 27, 2021)
- 2) Election Day: Saturday, May 1, 2021 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM at the following polling locations:  
PISD Administration Office, Palestine High School, Washington Early Childhood Center, New Fellowship Christian Church, Freedom Fellowship Church, Westwood Junior High School, and Montalba Community Center.

#### Upcoming Board Meeting/Training Dates

- 1) Called Board Meeting: Monday, May 10, 2021, 12:00 PM
- 2) Next Regular Board Meeting: Monday, May 17, 2021, 6:00 PM @ PHS Auditorium
- 3) TASB Summer Leadership Institute Dates  
San Antonio: June 16-19, 2021  
Fort Worth: June 23-26, 2021  
Virtual: June 24-25, 2021

### **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a brief financial report that included the following information: The district has currently received 65% revenue for 2020-21 school year, tax collections remain strong, interest rates are low so the district is looking for ways to maximize earnings, district is required to seek bids for food service management for the next school year, and the district will seek bids for bank depository contract for the next school year.

### **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2021
- Minutes of Called Meeting of April 14, 2021
- Bills paid for March, 2021
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

#### Palestine ISD

\$500.00 from Walmart's Volunteerism Always Pays (VAP) program.

#### Northside Primary

Scholastic books valued at \$600 from Kiwanis Club of Palestine for reading encouragement.

- EMAT Certification for 2021-22 Textbook and Instructional Materials Order
- Credit by Examination - May, 2021 Administration

### **Spring Academic Report and Summer School Programs**

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, reported on spring benchmark assessment results. Student scores were lower, which the district had expected due to missed instruction during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The district is working to help students improve scores and is also making plans for summer school/summer camps to help students catch up.

**Adjustment to COVID-19 Procedures (Face Mask Requirement Ended)**

Superintendent Jason Marshall reviewed the district’s current face mask policy that took effect at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The policy requires all staff to wear a face mask, students age 12 and over to wear a face mask, and students under the age of 12 have not been required to wear a face mask. Supt. Marshall shared results of a survey that was conducted to find out how staff felt about ending the face mask requirement, survey results reflected that more staff were comfortable with ending the requirement. The Board approved to cancel the face mask requirement for staff and students at the close of the school day on Friday, April 30, 2021. However, should any campus within the district have 3 or more confirmed COVID cases within a 7 day period, the affected campus will resume the face mask policy until cases return to 2 or fewer confirmed COVID cases.

**Announcement of Board of Trustees Continuing Education**

Board of Trustees President, Kurt Herrington, announced continuing education records earned by each trustee as of April, 2020. All board members completed the required Team Building and Senate Bill 1566 training. The required Cybersecurity training was completed by Trustees Bennett, Ingram, Tutt, Sheeley, and Sokolowski. The required Child Abuse Prevention training was completed by Trustees Bennett, Ingram, Tutt, and Sheeley. The following board members met or exceeded the required hours for additional continuing education: Dyna Tutt, Brandon Sheeley, and Davi Ingram.

**Executive Session**

Executive session was not needed, therefore was not held.

**Personnel Approved**

Term Contract Extensions for 2021-22:

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Hutchins, Michael    | Palestine High School             |
| 2) Kimbrough, Katherine | Northside Primary                 |
| 3) Roman-Riley, Maria   | Washington Early Childhood Center |

Probationary for current year, moving to Term for 2021-22 school year:

- |                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Richey, Angela | A.M. Story Intermediate           |
| 2) Torres, Tina   | Northside Primary                 |
| 3) Trees, Lisa    | Washington Early Childhood Center |
| 4) Tubbs, Sherry  | Northside Primary                 |

Probationary contract extensions 2021-22:

- |                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Almanza, Amy       | Washington Early Childhood Center |
| 2) Barbee, Cindy      | A.M. Story Intermediate           |
| 3) Fuentes, Brandi    | Palestine High School             |
| 4) Hickerson, Jessica | A.M. Story Intermediate           |
| 5) Owens, Kameko      | Palestine High School             |
| 6) Owens, Melissa     | Washington Early Childhood Center |
| 7) Prater, Nathan     | Palestine Junior High School      |
| 8) Wright, Kyle       | Palestine High School             |
| 9) Ybarra, Stevie     | Palestine High School             |

The following personnel were approved as presented:

- |                    |                 |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Allen, Joseph   | English         | Palestine High School |
| 2) Asher, Kathy*   | Science         | Palestine High School |
| 3) Mondich, Ruth   | Instruct. Coach | Special Education     |
| 4) Young, Lindsey* | Kindergarten    | Northside Primary     |

\*Indicates previously employed for PISD.

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Brynne Choate, Donna McHaney, James Love, Nikki Moore, Ann Paine, Lee Ann Richardson, and Joseph Wiley.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.