



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the June 21, 2021 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Palestine Independent School District held a Regular Meeting on June 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM, at the Palestine ISD Administration Office, located at 1007 East Park Avenue, Palestine, Texas 75801.

Call to Order

President Stanley Sokolowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 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.

Invocation and Pledges

Trustee Michael Bennett gave the invocation and pledges to American and Texas flags were recited.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall presented the following information:

- A. Future Board Meeting Dates
 - 1. Called Meeting - July 6, 2021, 12:00 PM
 - 2. Regular Meeting - Monday, July 19, 2021, 6:00 PM
 - 3. Regular Meeting - Monday, August 16, 2021, 6:00 PM
- B. Upcoming Board Training
 - 1. TASB Summer Leadership Institute (Virtual) - June 24-25, 2021

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a brief financial report noting that the district was in the process of finalizing the 2020-2021 budget, the district's tax collections remained strong, and that interest rates on investments was low.

Bank Depository

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, stated that although the district was eligible to extend the current bank depository contract with Prosperity Bank; that the district had requested proposals for bank depository. The district received proposals from Southside Bank, VeraBank, Commercial Bank of Texas and Prosperity Bank. Due to Prosperity Bank's slightly higher interest rate and a lower cost for services, Mr. Atkeisson stated that his recommendation was to award the bank depository contract to the district's current depository, The Board approved to award the depository contract for 2021-2023 to Prosperity Bank.

Engagement of Auditor for Financial Audit

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, reminded that Pattillo, Brown & Hill (PBH) provided the district's audit for Fiscal Year 2020, and that the district had established a good working relationship with PBH. Mr. Atkeisson recommended that the district approve the engagement of Pattillo, Brown, & Hill to conduct the audit for Fiscal Year 2021. The Board approved to engage the firm of Pattillo, Brown, & Hill to conduct the district's financial audit for school year ending August 31, 2021.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 17, 2021
- Bills paid for May, 2021
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations (None)
- Removal and addition of signatory authority for depository accounts
- Resolution to approve Local Policy provisions regarding intent to submit application for ESSER III Funds
- Waiver from CPR Instruction requirement for Seniors due to COVID-19
- Purchase of instruments for PISD Band Program
- Summer School Update: 627 Students Enrolled in Camp Wildcat
Camp Wildcat Enrollment by Campus (Average Daily Attendance): Northside-55, Southside-76, Story-60, JH-90, HS-346 students involved in the following classes: 10-ELA End of Course Prep, 15-Biology End of Course Prep, 34-SFA Music Appreciation, 15-TSI Boot Camp, 38-Freshman Honors World History, and 231-Online Credit Recovery

Preliminary 2020-2021 STAAR Test Scores

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, reported on the district's preliminary STAAR scores for the 2020-2021 school year. Student scores were lower, which the district had expected due to missed instruction during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Kiser informed that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) had announced that A-F ratings would be paused for the 2020-2021 school year due to ongoing disruptions associated with COVID-19.

Community Input for Utilization of ESSER III Funds

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, informed the Board of Trustees regarding meetings and surveys that the district had conducted to seek input from the community regarding the use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER III). Based on input received, suggested uses for ESSER III funds include; Supplies for students, Get kids involved and active, Work on ways to inspire students to take advantage of the PISD opportunities that are available, Provide additional time for students to catch up due to lost classroom instruction, Smaller class sizes, More teachers/para's to reduce teacher/student ratio, and Hire the best qualified personnel, along with additional pay/stipends.

Summary of 2020-2021 College and Career Readiness

Brian Howie, Director of College and Career Readiness, presented the following College and Career Readiness information for the 2020-2021 school year:

Seniors earning core complete status: 51

Seniors earning an associate's degree: 33

Local Certificates Earned: 204

TEA Recognized Industry Based Certifications earned: 108

Major Awards and Acknowledgements:

Ag Mechanics

Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion and Best of Show @ Anderson County Show

PISD won all Ag Mech classes @ the county show

2 Reserve Division Champions @ San Antonio

Reserve Grand Champion and 2 Reserve Division Champions @ Houston

FFA:

Grand Champion Breeding Heifer

Grand Champion Registered Heifer

Grand Champion Market Goat

Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat

Building Trades:

2nd place division @ Houston (Outdoor Furniture)

Culinary Arts:

1st Place 4H Food Show (side dish) @ A&M

Outdoor Education:

32 students competed in the NASP State Tournament in Belton, TX

2 students qualified for the NASP Nationals Virtual Tournament

Other Successes:

Held first Annual Ag Mechanics Show- 26 schools, 42 entries

Held first Annual "Little Hands on the Farm" tour for Elementary Students

Fire Academy Students will participate in their first "live burn" in Kilgore during summer 2021.

Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed allowing home-school students who reside within the district to participate in UIL extracurricular activities had been made a local decision by the state for Texas school districts. The Board discussed briefly. Should further discussion or action be needed, the item will be placed on a future board meeting agenda.

Personnel Approved

1) Atchley, Jamie

Diagnostician

Special Education

2) Bennett, Nathan	Special Ed	Palestine Junior High School
3) Brooks, Jaresa	PE	Palestine Junior High School
4) Coman, Rebecca	3 rd Grade	Southside Elementary
5) Coronado, Maria	Bilingual Diag.	Special Education
6) DeWitt, Jay Curt	Math	A.M. Story Intermediate
7) Donovan, John II	Head Start	Washington E.C.C.
8) Elrod, Piper	ELA	Palestine Junior High School
9) Estrada, Kathryn	Music	Southside Elementary
10) Gonzales, Kaci	Special Ed	Palestine Junior High School
11) Hargers, Brandon*	Special Ed	Palestine High School
12) Howie, Andi*	Director	Special Education
13) Johnson, Aimee*	Asst. Principal	Palestine High School
14) Lee, Christi	3 rd Grade	Southside Elementary
15) Martin, Kelly	Choir	Palestine High School
16) McGill, Vicki	Counselor	Special Education
17) Mosley, Yumesha	Asst. Principal	A.M. Story Intermediate
18) Nunley, Shelly*	Asst. Principal	A.M. Story Intermediate
19) Ann Paine* (Part-Time)	Transition Spec.	Palestine Junior High School
20) Perez, Alejandra	Bilingual	A.M. Story Intermediate
21) Smith, Dennis*	Science	Palestine High School
22) Spangrud, Shari	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
23) Taylor, Kyle*	Asst. Principal	A.M. Story Intermediate
24) Thomas, Kaymie	Asst. Band Director	Palestine Junior High School
25) Williams, Andrew	History	Palestine Junior High School

*Previously employed for PISD.

Superintendent Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Cindy Barbee, Leah Brown, Melinda Campbell, Naomi Gayle, Donna Gill, Leslie Johnson, Laura Jones, Jacob Magee, Kristen Nance, Angela Richey, Lisa Trees and Joseph Wiley.

Executive Session

The Board voted to convene in Executive/Closed session at 7:23 PM as authorized by the Texas Government Code sections §551.071, §551.072, §551.074, and §551.078 for discussion of personnel, future district plans and possible utilization of ESSER III grant funds.

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:00 PM. No action was taken regarding Executive/Closed session items.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.