



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the August 23, 2021 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Palestine Independent School District held a Regular Meeting on August 23, 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.

Executive Session – 6:02 PM

The Board convened in Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Codes 551.071, 551.074, and 551.0821 at 6:02 PM for discussion of personnel matters, student transfer request, and 2021-2022 budget and tax rate.

Reconvene in Open Session – 6:35 PM

Public Hearing Called to Order - 6:35 PM

A Public Hearing was held for discussion of the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget & Tax Rate and 2021-2022 Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (TACE) Pay for Contract Employees

President Stanley Sokolowski called the Public Hearing to order at 6:35 PM and announced that a quorum was present.

- 1) David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed 2021-2022 budget comprised of Fund 199 General Fund (\$35,200,000); Fund 599 Debt Service (\$4,112,800); Fund 240 Food Service (\$2,015,700).

Mr. Atkeisson presented the proposed tax rate for 2021-2022 comprised of \$1.0268 for Maintenance and Operations (*M&O Tax Rate compressed as required by HB3); \$0.32 for Interest and Sinking, for a total proposed tax rate of \$1.3468 Mr. Atkeisson stated that the proposed tax rate was a reduction of \$.0579 from previous school year.

President Sokolowski offered an opportunity for questions or public comment regarding the 2021-2022 proposed budget and tax rate. There were no questions or comments.

2) Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the following information regarding contract pay for PISD employees who work in the TACE program during the 2021-2022 school year:

- Texas Government Code Section 180.007 prohibits a school district from paying an employee more than the person is owed under a contract without a public hearing where specific information is provided.
- The reason that the payment in excess of the contractual amount is being offered to the employee, including the public purpose that will be served by making the excess payment. For PISD, the reason for the excess payment is to provide quality instruction for students participating in the after-school program through the services provided by teachers.
- The exact amount of the excess payment, the sources of the payment, and the terms for the distribution of the payment that effect and maintain the public purpose. The payment of \$25 per hour would be paid to professional staff who provide services through the TACE program. The payment source is federal funding, through Texas Education Agency, from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants, with the terms of distribution of the payment being monthly according to submission of documentation of hours worked.

President Sokolowski offered an opportunity for questions or public comment regarding the TACE program pay for contract employees. There were no questions or comments from the public regarding TACE program pay.

There being no further discussion of the proposed budget, tax rate, or TACE program pay for contract employees, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Call to Order Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM.

Invocation & Pledges

The invocation was given by Trustee Michael Bennett and Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags were recited.

Spotlight

The PISD 2021-2022 District and Campus Administrative Team (listed below) was introduced. Board President Stanley Sokolowski thanked administrators for their hard work and dedication to students.

Campus Administrators: PHS Principal-Dr. William Stewart and Assistant Principals-Joseph Baker, Michael Jones and Aimee Johnson. PJHS Principal-Joseph Mason and Assistant Principals-Angela Nichols and Sam Coker. Story Principal-Toscha Reeves and Assistant Principals-Yumesha Moseley, Kyle Taylor, and Shelly Nunley. Southside Principal-Grace Mancilla and Assistant Principal-Cody Tunstall. Northside Principal-Traci Pridgen, and Assistant Principal-Theresa Love. WECC Principal-Sheila Bradley. Employee Daycare Director-Mary Brooks.

District Administrators: Food Service-Mimi Spreen, Custodial-David Caskey, Maintenance & Operations-Jacob Wheeler, Transportation-Beck Quarles, Police Department-Bruce Bradley, Nicholas Pope, and Kane Kennedy, Technology-Mark Schrader, TACE-Shanna Marshall, Special Programs-Dee Dietz, Special Education-Andi Howie, Public Relations-Larissa Loveless, Athletics-Lance Angel, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources-Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services-Chris Kiser, Curriculum Director- Sharon Reed, Curriculum-Melissa Molandes, Testing-Linda Luce, Instructional Technology-Deanne Atkinson, College and Career Readiness-Brian Howie, and CFO/Business Services-David Atkeisson.

Public Comment

Alicia Wright, PISD Parent, spoke regarding the difficulty she was having in getting her children that attend three different campuses to school on time. She also shared a concern about a campus not allowing her to walk one of her children into the building.

Cassandra Boyd, PISD Parent, spoke regarding her concern that students are getting too hot due to the WECC campus not having an awning to provide shade during after school pick-up.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported on the following:

- A. Beginning of 2021-2022 School Year Report
 1. Student Enrollment on Day 8 of 2021-2022: 3,341
 2. Extracurricular Activities: Cross Country, Football, Tennis and Volleyball seasons are underway.
- B. Upcoming Board Meeting Dates
 1. Monday, September 20, 2021, 6:00 PM: Regular Board Meeting
 2. Date TBD: Lone Star Governance Training
- C. Calendar of Events
 1. Monday, September 6, 2021: Labor Day Student & Staff Holiday
 2. Friday, September 24, 2021: End of First Six Weeks
 3. Monday, September 27, 2021, 6:00 PM: Homecoming Pep Rally
 4. Tuesday, September 28, 2021 Events:
 - a. 5:30-6:00 PM - Industrial Arts Facility Grand Opening at Palestine High School
 - b. 6:00-7:30 PM - CTE Showcase at Palestine High School
 - c. 6:00-7:30 PM - 1st Six Weeks Report Card Pick Up Night (PHS & PJHS)

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a brief financial report. Mr. Atkeisson noted that the district was in the process of closing the 2020-2021 budget and preparing to open the budget for 2021-2022.

Preliminary Schools FIRST Rating

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, informed that the district's preliminary Schools FIRST Rating for the 2020-2021 school year was A = Superior. The district's official ratings are expected in September, 2021.

2021-2022 Tax Rate

The Board approved an ordinance to adopt the tax rate for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

Maintenance & Operations \$1.0268

Interest and Sinking \$0.32

Total Tax Rate \$1.3468

Motion carried 4-0. (Note: The 2021-2022 tax rate reflects a reduction of \$0.0579 from the tax rate of the previous school year.)

2021-2022 Budget

The Board voted to adopt the following budget for the 2021-2022 school year.

Fund 199 General Fund \$35,200,000.00

Fund 599 Debt Service \$4,112,800.00

Fund 240 Food Service \$2,015,700.00

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 19, 2021
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of August 4, 2021
- Bills paid for July, 2021
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations (No donations)
- PISD Property Values and Funding Lag Revenue Required Notice: (Current year/not previous year property values are used to determine funding.)
- Resolution Regarding Budget Transfers Between Functions:
(Admin Staff may approve budget transfers between functions provided there is no change in total budget.)
- Property and Casualty Insurance for 2021-2022 School Year: (Property and Casualty Alliance of Texas (PCAT))
- Student Transfer Request
- 2021-2022 Voluntary Student Accident Insurance: (Health Special Risk, Inc.)
- 2021-2022 Handbooks (Campus, Athletic, Transportation)

Report on Early Release/Home Technology Check Day

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, reported on the district's first student early release day for the school year. On the early release day, students were required to log in from home and complete an assignment. 40-70% of students were able to successfully log in on their device. The district is working to correct issues for students who were not able to log in. The purpose of having students login from home is to prepare students for at home learning should a student be required to quarantine due to COVID or should the district have to close temporarily at some point during the school year due to the pandemic.

Beginning of Year (BOY) Student Assessments

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, reported that the district was scheduled to begin administering Beginning of Year (BOY) assessments to students during the last week of August.

TACE Pay for Contract Employees

The Board voted to approve pay for contract employees providing instruction during the 2021-2022 school year in Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (TACE) Programs as recommended.

Policy Update 117

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented Policy Update 117 revisions. The Board approved adoption of Policy Update 117, affecting the local policies CH (Purchasing and Acquisition), CV (Facilities Construction), and DEC (Compensation and Benefits – Leaves and Absences).

Personnel Approved

Baker, Joseph
Chapman, Robin

Assistant Principal
School Community Liaison

Palestine High School
Palestine High School

Report on COVID Protocol

Superintendent Marshall reported on the district's protocol for handling COVID. Virtual learning is not currently available due to there being no funding for the virtual option. The district does not currently have a mask requirement due to the state lifting the mask mandate in March of 2021. Parents will be notified if their child has been in close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID. All parents will receive a general letter of notification if there is a COVID case on their child's campus. Parents will be allowed to choose if their child who has been exposed to COVID quarantines or if they want their child to return to school as long as the child is not symptomatic. Each student will be allowed to have two (2) ten (10) day quarantine times if the student is exposed or contracts COVID. Supt. Marshall stated that the district is working to ensure that campuses and buses are sanitized each day so that as many students as possible are well and able to be in attendance at school each day.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.