



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the November 18, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags were led by students from the Washington Early Childhood Center.

Spotlight

PHS Cross Country

The Palestine High School Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams were recognized for a successful season. The Girls Cross Country Team has placed second in District Competition the past four years and advanced to the Regional Meet for the past nine years. The Boys Team has won in District Competition eight years in a row and advanced to Regionals for the past nine years.

Students of the Month

Congratulations to Gabrielle Steele and Wesley Ives, the Palestine High School Students of the Month for November!

Junior Rotarians of the Month

Congratulations to Leanne Fort and Branden Dantin of Palestine High School for being chosen to serve as Junior Rotarians for the month of November!

Recognition of Elected Officials

Senator Robert Nichols and Representative Byron Cook were recognized for helping bring about positive changes for education. The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Jason Marshall thanked Senator Robert Nichols and Representative Byron Cook for the assistance they provided to Anderson County students and all Texas Public Schools during the Texas 83rd Legislative Session. Senator Nichols and Representative Cook were presented certificates of appreciation by Palestine ISD Board Members.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer presented a financial update for the 2013-14 year.

Tax Collection Update

Robert Myers of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C., Attorneys at Law presented an update for current and delinquent property tax collections on the District's behalf for the current and previous years. In 2012, the District received 102.58 percent of levied taxes. For each year from 2008 to 2012, the District has collected more than 99 percent of taxes.

Fuel Bid

Palestine ISD requested bid proposals for fuel from four companies and received three bid proposals in return. The Board approved a contract with Spencer Distributing of Palestine to begin December 1, 2013 and go through August 31, 2014. Bid proposals for fuel for the 2014-2015 school year will be requested prior to the expiration of the current contract.

Fund Balance Expenditures Associated with Construction

The Board of Trustees confirmed the prior approval of using up to \$700,000 in 2013 for costs of renovations to the CTE building that were completed in 2013.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2013
- Bills paid for October, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine High School

\$3,126.97 to Palestine High School from Wal-Mart Distribution Center's Safe Driving Program.

- Administration of Credit by Exam for December, 2013
- Palestine ISD Emergency Operations Plan
- Legal Services Retainer Agreement with Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos, and Green, P.C., Attorneys at Law for 2013-2014

Presentation by PHS Audio Video Production Department

Elvin Espinoza, Jonathan Freeman, Andrew Bourassa, and Kenny Hiatt presented a video highlight reel featuring projects the Audio Video Production Department has produced this school year. The Audio Video Production class taught by Paul Carr has been recognized by Fox News, Sooner Sports, and Vikings-Beyond the Gridiron for their work and some of the students have received job opportunities as a result of the experience they have gained. The students thanked the Board of Trustees for providing them this learning opportunity. The audio visual equipment for the class was purchased with TTIPS Grant funds.

1 to 1 Technology Update

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services gave an update of the District's 1 to 1 Technology status. The Ipad rollout is complete at the High School, 95% complete at eighth grade, and the District expects all seventh graders to have received Ipads before the Christmas holidays. Students have been very responsive to the program and are using the Ipads as learning tools.

Reporting of Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources reported that the District's highly qualified teacher status is currently 98.05%. Professional development is being completed to achieve 100% highly qualified status in all areas.

Policy Update 98

The Board of Trustees approved Policy Update 98 affecting local policies BBE, DBA, DFFA, DFFB, DGBA, DH, DNA, EC, EIA, FEA, and FEC. This update is a result of the Texas 83rd Legislative Session and addresses board member authority, employee grievances and records, employee standards of conduct, reductions in force, teacher evaluations, school day interruptions, grading, and student attendance. Policies may be viewed at www.palestineschools.org by selecting the School Board tab.

Personnel

Erin Palmer

English Language Arts

Palestine Junior High School

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that current District enrollment is 3,248.

All PISD fall extracurricular activities advanced to the playoffs.

Lunches in the Lounge were held at each campus this fall to update staff on District happenings.

All employees will receive a retention incentive the week after Thanksgiving. Each staff member will receive a turkey for Thanksgiving.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
December 16, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**