



BOARD NOTES

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

There were no spotlight items due to students being out for the President's Day holiday. The Palestine High School Students of the Month and Jr. Rotarians for February and March will be recognized at the March 25th Board of Trustees meeting.

Construction Projects Update

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that the Design-Build Project is almost complete with only punch list items remaining. The Design-Build Project included a renovation of the CTE Building and a new softball stadium and field. A grand opening for the LadyCat Softball Stadium was held at 5:30 pm prior to the Board meeting.

Pictures of the projects and aerial photos of the construction sites can be viewed on the district website at (www.palestineschools.org). Go to "About PISD" at the top of the page, then select "Construction Updates".

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer reported that overall enrollment remains up and increased numbers of students enrolled in Career Technology courses is helping to generate funds for the District. The District is in a position to renegotiate its financial depository. Requests for financial depository proposals will be sent out this spring.

Financial Audit

Smith, Lambright, & Associates, P.C. was approved to provide the Palestine ISD Financial Audit for fiscal year ending August 31, 2013.

Bus Purchase

An assessment of the District's bus fleet was recently performed and a need to update the fleet was determined by Jeffrey Hatfield, Director of Maintenance & Operations. David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer reported on the District's plans to update the bus fleet by purchasing two buses each year over the next several years.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 24, 2013
- Bills paid for January, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Revised Interlocal Agreement for 2012-2016 Between Palestine ISD and Region 7 Head Start Program

Texas Public Schools 2013

The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution titled “Celebrate Texas Public Schools 2013” (formerly known as Texas Public Schools Week. The resolution encourages that we remain committed to strengthening our schools and encourages all residents to visit their local schools during the week of March 4-8, 2013. During Celebrate Texas Public Schools week, Palestine High School will host an open house inviting the community to visit the renovated CTE Building on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 beginning at 5:30 pm.

2013-2014 School Calendar

The Board of Trustees approved the school calendar for 2013-2014. The first day of school for students is August 26, 2013. Staff development days prior to the start of school are Friday, August 16th and Monday-Friday, August 19th-23rd. Monday, October 14th will be a holiday for staff and students. Students and staff will be off the entire week of Thanksgiving from November 25th through the 29th. The last day of school will be Friday, June 6, 2013.

High School and Junior High Course Guides

Sarah Johnson, PHS Lead Counselor, informed the Board regarding course guide changes for 2013-2014. Course Guide changes approved by the Board are:

1. The technology credit requirement for graduation was deleted. This will allow students more time in their cluster choice.
2. Two new programs added:
 - a. Arts Audio Visual Technology and Communications
 - b. Graphic Design & Commercial Photography
3. Business Management and Administration & Finance will be combined and taught by one teacher during the principles portion of the course. Then students would move into the area that suits them best, either business management or banking/finance.
4. A course guide for Junior High was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Revised Constitutions for Cheerleading & Drill Team

The Board of Trustees approved revisions to the Cheerleading and Drill Team Constitutions.

Revisions include:

1. The rules and procedures outlined in both the Cheerleading and Drill Team constitutions are in effect from the time the student is selected to the Team until the next year’s tryout date. The season includes football season and basketball season, as well as other spring events, decided by Director(s).
2. Students who are currently classified as eighth grade, freshman, and sophomores may try out for Junior Varsity Cheerleader.
3. Students who are currently classified as freshman, sophomores, and juniors may try out for Varsity Cheerleader.
4. Students who are currently classified as eighth grade, freshman, sophomores, and juniors may try out for Drill Team.
5. The requirement for freshman drill team candidates to have served one year as a member of the Cheer-Kat spirit group before becoming eligible to audition for the Kik-Kat Drill Team was deleted.

Personnel

The Board of Trustees approved contract extensions for Administrators and Directors as recommended by Superintendent Jason Marshall.

Board of Trustees Election

The Board of Trustees approved an order to call for an election to be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013. The purpose of the election is to elect officers for Place 3, Place 4, and Place 5 of the Palestine ISD Board of Trustees.

The Board also approved a joint election resolution with the City of Palestine.

Anti-Voucher Resolution

The Board adopted a resolution that calls on the Texas Legislature to reject all attempts to divert public dollars away from public schools in the form of vouchers, taxpayer savings grants, tax credits, or any other mechanisms that have the effect of reducing funding to public schools. Palestine ISD will be included in the list of schools that support the Anti-Voucher resolution on the Texas Association of School Administrators website.

Name Change for Palestine Middle School

The District has received requests to change the name of Palestine Middle School to Palestine Junior High. Superintendent Jason Marshall explained that due to sixth grade students who were previously located at Palestine Middle School but are now located at A.M. Story Intermediate; the campus is now structured as a junior high. Faculty, staff, and students were made aware of the consideration of the name change. Parents were encouraged to communicate their opinions through a parental letter. An online survey was made available to all through the campus website. The results from the variety of surveys were reviewed by the Campus and District Action Teams and both voted to support the change and request Board consideration.

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the name change from Palestine Middle School to Palestine Junior High.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall congratulated the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams for making it to the playoffs. The girls made it to the Area Round but lost to China Springs. The boys will play Jasper in a Bi District playoff game on Tuesday, February 19th at Angelina College in Lufkin.

Superintendent Marshall reported that public school districts received a favorable ruling in the Texas Taxpayer and Student Fairness Coalition lawsuit. Travis County, Judge John Dietz ruled that funding for public schools is not equitable for all schools as some school districts receive more dollars per student than others. Judge Dietz also ruled that the school finance system is not adequately funded. The lawsuit is expected to be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

Superintendent Marshall shared that he along with Palestine ISD Administrators and Board Members traveled to Austin in February with Anderson County representatives to visit with elected officials regarding concerns and the current legislative session.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**