



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the February 20, 2017 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **Spotlight**

#### **Junior Rotarians**

Ashley Waldon and Manny Romero were recognized for being named Junior Rotarians for the month of February.

#### **Palestine High School Students of the Month**

Macy Stone and Lucas Sheeley were recognized for being named PHS Students of the Month for February.

#### **Celebrate Texas Public Schools**

Trustee Sheeley read a resolution in support of Celebrate Texas Public Schools 2017. The theme for this year's Celebrate Texas Public Schools is "Power of Public". The resolution encouraged residents to visit their local schools and for the community to donate their time and talents throughout the year to make public schools even better. The Board adopted a resolution for the district to celebrate Texas Public Schools during the week of March 6-10, 2017.

#### **Financial Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall gave a brief financial report noting that the district was ahead on tax collections for the month of January, and that student enrollment and attendance have continued to be good during the 2016-17 school year.

#### **Public Hearing – Universal Breakfast Waiver**

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed the Board that the Texas Department of Agriculture requires public school campuses with 80 percent or more enrolled students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals to provide breakfast at no cost to all students unless the district receives a waiver. For the 2017-18 school year, two of the district's campuses (Washington Early Childhood Center and A.M. Story Intermediate) do qualify for universal free breakfast. Four campuses (Northside Primary, Southside Elementary, Palestine Junior High School and Palestine High School) do not qualify.

Since the age gap between these two campuses is so wide, administration feels that to charge at Northside, Southside, Junior High, and High School while participating in the free breakfast program at Story would cause much confusion and little benefit to parents. After discussion, the Board felt it in the best interest of all students to approve a Universal Breakfast Waiver to opt out of this requirement. Board President, Janie Sepulveda offered an opportunity for public comment. There were no public comments.

The Board approved the submission of a Universal Breakfast Waiver for School Year 2017-18.

### **Transportation Purchase**

Superintendent Jason Marshall updated the Board regarding the district's plan to upgrade the student travel fleet by purchasing six buses over a three year period. This year marks the third year of the plan and pending Board approval, the purchase of two additional trip buses will complete the plan. The district has received a quote from Rush Bus Center for two buses for a total of \$196,762.00. Superintendent Marshall noted that the funds were allocated in the 2016-17 original budget passed in August 2016 and the funds had been encumbered. The Board voted to approve the purchase of two trip buses from Rush Bus Center for a total of \$196,762.00.

### **Financial Advisor**

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed the Board that RBC Capital Markets has served as the district's municipal advisor for several years including the time period that includes current debt obligations. The contract with RBC CM has expired; therefore a new contract is needed. RBC CM has provided excellent service through not only debt issuance processes but in ratings and disclosure filings as well. A new proposed agreement with RBC states that the fee structure for debt issuance would remain the same and the agreement may be terminated upon thirty days' notice.

The Board approved the renewal of a contract for the term of five (5) years with RBC Capital Markets to begin in 2016-17.

### **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2017
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of February 9, 2017
- Bills paid for January, 2017
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations
  - Palestine ISD  
\$6,400.00 from Cliff & Nita Johnson Family Investments, Ltd. to be used for the Wildcat Golf Course.
  - A.M. Story Intermediate  
\$200.00 from Palestine Kiwanis Club to benefit the K-Kids Club.
- Cheerleading and Drill Team Constitutions for 2017-2018
- Renewal of Innovative Course – Microbiology and Safety for Cosmetology Careers

### **2017-2018 School Calendar Update**

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented information regarding the 2017-18 calendar planning process. Mrs. Jones explained that at the January, 2017 school board meeting Board members were informed that a school calendar for 2017-18 would be presented for approval at the February, 2017 school board meeting. However, approval of the calendar was delayed to ensure that the district is compliant with the number of school days required based on PISD's new District of Innovation status. A final calendar will be presented for Board approval at the March regular school board meeting.

### **Public Hearing – Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for 2015-2016**

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented information from the district's Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). The district and all PISD campuses received a "Met Standard" 2016 Accountability Rating. Board President Sepulveda asked if there were any questions or concerns from attendees. There were none.

## **Palestine Junior High School Campus Presentation**

Stephen Cooksey, PJHS Principal, introduced a video that was shown featuring the Palestine Junior High School campus.

## **Personnel**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Jason Marshall, and Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, a motion was made by Trustee Sheeley, seconded by Trustee Bennett to approve the following contract extensions for administrators and directors as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

David Atkeisson	1 year extension
Sheila Bradley	1 year extension
Jaime Clark	1 year extension
Robby Clark	1 year extension
Sam Coker	1 year term
Stephen Cooksey	1 year extension
Dee Dietz	1 year extension
Barbara Dutton	1 year extension
Suzanne Eiben	1 year extension
Michael Esparza	1 year term
Rhonda Herrington	1 year term (part time)
Linda Holmes	1 year term
Stephanie Johnson	1 year term
Tammy Jones	1 year extension
Chris Kiser	1 year extension
Larissa Loveless	1 year extension
Linda Luce	1 year term
Grace Mancilla	1 year term
Shanna Marshall	1 year term
Joseph Mason	1 year term
Melissa Molandes	1 year extension
Breck Quarles	1 year term
Sharon Reed	1 year extension
John David Richardson	1 year term
Lolita Shead	1 year term (part time)
William Stewart	1 year extension

### **Non-Certified Administrators**

Jack Dalaba	1 year contract
Mark Schrader	1 year contract
Jacob Wheeler	1 year contract

## **Board of Trustees Election**

An agenda item to request approval of Election Notice, and an agenda item to approve Election Workers for the May 7, 2016 Election were tabled due to the district having no opposed candidates for the May Election. Items to cancel the May Election and to certify unopposed candidates would be placed on the March, 2017 school board meeting agenda.

### **Resolution to Conform District Boundaries**

Superintendent Marshall informed the Board of a Palestine ISD and Westwood ISD boundary issue. In the fall of 2011, PISD went through the formal/legal process (under advisement of legal counsel) of moving boundaries that had been mistakenly recognized for many years as PISD boundaries. The properties became Westwood ISD and the residents affected became Westwood ISD voters. To date, the Anderson County Appraisal District has not made this change in their records. Therefore, the residents of the affected areas have continued paying taxes to PISD rather to WISD, but have not been able to vote in PISD.

To make the change on the tax roll, the Anderson County Appraisal District has requested that a resolution be adopted by the PISD Board of Trustees prior to making this change. Approval of the resolution by the PISD Board of Trustees will finalize the process and send the tax dollars to Westwood ISD. No back taxes/penalties are owed through negotiations with WISD, and the total loss in value will be approximately \$12,000.00 per year in PISD I&S tax collections, a very negligible amount.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Jason Marshall, a motion was made by Trustee Bennett, seconded by Trustee Sokolowski to adopt a resolution of the Palestine Independent School District, Anderson County, Texas conforming District Boundaries. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall shared the following information:

PISD's current student enrollment was 3,438 as of February, 2017.

Palestine ISD participated in the third Flex day for the school year on February 16, 2017. Students with the greatest academic need received assistance and teachers reviewed staff development concepts. The final Flex day for the school year will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2017.

Palestine ISD will celebrate Texas Public Schools during the week of March 6-10, 2017. Activities are planned for the families of students at each campus.

The District will be closed the week of March 13-17, 2017 for Spring Break and April 14, 2017 for Good Friday.

The Texas Association of School Boards Summer Leadership Institute dates are set for June 15-17, 2017 in San Antonio and June 22-24, 2017 in Fort Worth.

**Next Regular Board Meeting  
March 27, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.**