



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the March 26, 2012 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Southside Elementary Star students led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. Thank you to Gage Concilio, Katherine Marvin-Lane, Anderson Morales, Tripp Morris, and Alejandra Zamarripa. Star students are nominated by their teachers for exhibiting exemplary behavior, an always willing to help out attitude and making great grades.

Spotlight

McKenze Sander, PHS student, was recognized for winning the Bronze Medal in the 123-lb Division of the Class AAA Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association State Championship. Cody Tunstall, the powerlifting coach, shared that McKenzie earned two Outstanding Lifter awards this year at the Palestine and Westwood meets and an Outstanding Deadlifter award at the Region III meet. McKenzie also set a Region III record with a 340-lb deadlift.

Recognition of Band Students

Palestine High School Band students who will be going to the State Solo & Ensemble contest were recognized.

Recognition of Choir Students

Chaundra Dantin, PMS & PHS Choir Director, introduced PMS and PHS choir students who have earned honors this year. Branden Dantin, PHS student, made the Region 21 All-Region Choir and advanced to Pre-Area and Area. The following PHS students received a rating of 1 (Superior) at the UIL Solo & Ensemble competition and will advance to state: Branden Dantin, Paige Hatfield, and Gabbi Dantin. Jacob Houck received a rating of 2 (Excellent). Palestine Middle School students, Alexia Smith and Jessica Valencia, received 1's at the Solo & Ensemble competition, and Jessica Valencia also made the Region 21 All-Region Middle School Treble Choir.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

Junior Rotarians for the month of March are PHS students, Yizel Aleman and Roberto Eguia. Yizel Aleman is actively involved in Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and is enrolled in the Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) Program at PHS. Yizel plans to pursue a degree in nursing. Roberto Eguia participates in the PHS band and drumline and works with the Palestine ISD Technology Department. He plans to attend Tyler Junior College and the University of North Texas and study computer engineering.

Students of the Month

Students of the month for March are PHS students, Lizbeth Rivas and Travis Atkinson.

Lizbeth Rivas is an active member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Club. Lizbeth plans to attend TVCC and Texas State University and study psychology.

Travis Atkinson plays football and received an Academic All State award. He is the team captain for the soccer team and also participates in cross country. Travis will attend Stephen F. Austin University and kick for the football team. He plans to pursue a degree in business or physical therapy.

Construction Projects Update

Walt Wood of Claycomb Associates, Architects and Brent Schreiner of Balfour Beatty, provided the Board of Trustees an update of the construction progress at Palestine High School. Drywall in the auditorium and dining areas is 98% complete. Food service equipment in the kitchen and serving areas is 90% complete. Air units were placed on the roof during spring break and paving in the parking area is about to begin. The PHS project is 83% complete and on schedule to open for the 2012-2013 school year.

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, informed the Board that the District has received 92% of current year tax collections which is slightly ahead of last year at this time. Mr. Atkeisson stated that District and Campus administrators are handling expenditures well and overall the 2011-2012 budget is in good shape. It is estimated that the District will need to reduce next year's total budget by approximately \$1 million due to the reduction in federal funds and inflationary costs.

The Board of Trustees approved Smith, Lambright & Associates to conduct a financial audit for the year ending August 31, 2012.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2012
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of March 5, 2012
- Bills paid for February, 2012
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report

Other Items Approved

Submission of Staff Development Waiver Request to TEA for 2012-2013

Certification of EMAT System for 2012-2013 Textbook Order

Revised Kik Kat Drill Team Constitution

Foreign Exchange Student Program

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, informed the Board of Trustees of new Foreign Exchange Student guidelines for the 2012-2013 year. In an effort to address the changes in the state assessments, the following will be required of foreign exchange students:

- Must reside in Palestine ISD
- Must be enrolled and attend class the first day of the school year
- Must be classified as a senior
- Will not graduate from Palestine ISD
- Will not enroll in any course that has an End-of-Course test

Personnel Approved

Melinda Pilger	Math	Palestine Middle School (2012-2013 school year)
Jonathan Scoggins	3 rd Grade	Southside Elementary (remainder of 2011-12 school year)

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Ashley Eylar, Gary Anderson, Jacquelyn Anderson, Cindy Barta, Josie Fields, Dianna Lancaster, Calie Russell, and Grace Ann Torma.

The Board of Trustees approved the term and probationary contracts of teachers for 2012-2013.

The Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation was tabled and will be reviewed at the April meeting.

The Board also approved the nomination of the Palestine Herald Press for the Texas Association of School Boards Media Honor Roll.

The Board adopted a resolution which calls on the Texas Legislature to reexamine the public school accountability system in Texas.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed the Board that the District's enrollment as of March 26, 2012 is 3,174. The Board was given a list of spring and end of year activities.

Next Regular Board Meeting
April 16, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.