



# BOARD NOTES

## A Summary of the April 21, 2014 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

The following Washington Early Childhood Center students led pledges to the American and Texas flags: Adan Chavez, Jose Penaloza, Jamerykah Dryden, Juan Flores, Trenton Velasquez, and Avery Davis.

### **Spotlight**

#### **YMCA Youth in Government Students**

Sandy Webb, Youth & Government Lead Advisor shared results from the 67<sup>th</sup> Youth in Government High School State Conference at the State Capital in Austin, Texas. The following students received the honor of YG District Distinguished Delegate: Abby Earle in Cyber Media, MaKayla Baker in State Affairs Forum, and Anna Gallegos in Junior Legislative. MaKayla Baker was elected to serve as the 2015 Youth in Government State Affairs Forum State Officer for the Texas Youth in Government Governor's Board. Jakob Ward was voted State Distinguished Club Delegate. At the 9<sup>th</sup> Junior Youth in Government State Conference, Morghyn Harper was voted Jr. State Distinguished Club Delegate.

#### **UIL Academic Regional Qualifiers**

Palestine High School students who participated in UIL Academics were recognized. Kathleen Brown, UIL Academic Coordinator, shared achievements from district competition.

1<sup>st</sup> Place Current Issues and Events Team: Jaren Crist (1<sup>st</sup> overall), Jacob Houck (2<sup>nd</sup> overall), Cody Prell (3<sup>rd</sup> overall), Sarah Coleman (4<sup>th</sup> overall), and Caleb Abernathy (Alternate).

1<sup>st</sup> Place Science Team: Riley Martine (1<sup>st</sup> overall and Top Biology Score), Eli West (3<sup>rd</sup> overall and Alternate Top Physics Score), Nathan McEwen (6<sup>th</sup> overall), and Austin Evans.

Lincoln Douglas Debate Team: Charlee Cockrell (1<sup>st</sup> place), Jaren Crist (2<sup>nd</sup> place), and Brenda Reyes, Alternate (4<sup>th</sup> place).

Number Sense: Brianna Minter (3<sup>rd</sup> place).

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Computer Science Team (Alternate): Destiny Harding (4<sup>th</sup> place) and Kyle Hayes (6<sup>th</sup> place).

Informative Speaking: Rigo Serralde (6<sup>th</sup> place) and Brenda Reyes (5<sup>th</sup> place).

Spelling and Vocabulary: Penny Fulgham (6<sup>th</sup> place).

Math: Nathan McEwen (4<sup>th</sup> place) and Riley Martine (6<sup>th</sup> place).

News Writing: Shanna Avila (6<sup>th</sup> place).

The Current Issues and Events, Science, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Computer Science teams and Brianna Minter in Number Sense will advance to the regional UIL competition in Brenham, May 2-3, 2014.

### **Ladycat and Wildcat Soccer**

Coach Lance Angel introduced John Absalom, PHS soccer coach and stated that he is very proud of Coach Absalom for his successful soccer program, and for being named Coach of the Year. Both the girls and boys soccer teams were Bi-District champions in 4A competition this season during which Coach Absalom celebrated his 400<sup>th</sup> career win. Coach Absalom gave credit for the soccer program's success to the students and their work both on the field and in the classroom, and thanked PISD Administration for their support. The soccer program looks forward to even more success in 2014-15 with the formation of a 3A alignment.

### **PHS Students of the Month and Junior Rotarians for the Month of April**

Students of the Month: Tristan Seal and Trevan Jones  
Junior Rotarians: Tabatha Sweet and Marquis Clark

### **Outstanding Wildcat**

Pablo Torrez, PHS student was recognized for being an outstanding Wildcat. He is a dedicated PHS student who is always willing to donate his time where needed. Pablo participates in soccer and Spanish Club, volunteers for the Adopt a Highway Program, and can always be counted on to raise and lower the flags for the campus each day.

### **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, stated that the District tax collections are currently 98%, which is 4% higher than at this same time last year.

### **Lawn Care and Landscape Services Contract**

After evaluating operations to identify any needed efficiencies, the District identified that outsourcing lawn and landscaping functions would provide a cost and labor savings for the district and then issued a formal Request for Proposals. Palestine ISD received one response from Adam Kent Landscaping. The Board awarded a one-year renewable Lawn Care and Landscaping contract to Adam Kent Landscaping.

### **Qualified School Construction Bond**

The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution authorizing a Qualified School Construction Bond that will enable the District to begin a Design-Build Project to provide needed physical improvements and technology infrastructure for all campuses. However, A.M. Story Intermediate and Palestine Junior High School will be priorities as all other campuses received the majority of the construction and renovations provided by the May, 2009 construction bond. The Board approved the resolution authorizing the QSCB with the provision that the Palestine community be afforded the opportunity to purchase bonds. The Qualified School Construction Bond will provide funds in the amount of \$6,420,000.00 that will be repaid over a period of 15 years with an interest rate of approximately 0%. This construction bond will not incur any tax increase for taxpayers.

### **Design-Build Firm Selected**

The Board approved the selection of Buford-Thompson Construction Company as the Design-Build firm for the current Design-Build Project. Two companies submitted proposals and the District completed rubrics for each company to help determine which company would best serve the District. Buford-Thompson received the top score based on overall experience with the Design-Build process and a prior working relationship with Palestine ISD.

### **Independent Architect Selected for Design-Build Project**

The Board approved the selection of Michael W. Marrs Architects to serve as the District's independent architect for the current Design-Build Project.

## **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 24, 2014
- Bills paid for March, 2014
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations
  - 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Palestine TACE Program  
350 Sports Drink Bottles for A.M. Story Intermediate School Soccer Tournament.
  - 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Palestine TACE Program  
\$200.00 to be used for TACE Program.
  - Palestine ISD  
Paint and soap valued at \$500.00 from Wal-Mart to be used where needed.
  - Palestine High School Athletics Program  
\$2,198.00 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club to be used for equipment for boys and girls track teams.
- Certification of Jason Marshall to serve as PISD Representative to Region 7 Regional Advisory Committee for 2014-15

## **Summer School**

The Board of Trustees approved ESL and TACE summer school programs. Transportation will be provided for students through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### ESL Summer Program

ESL prekindergarten and kindergarten students must attend a mandatory summer school of 120 hours. The ESL summer school program will be held Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> through July 7, 2014, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Washington Early Childhood Center.

### TACE Summer Program

A TACE summer program will be held for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who do not pass the reading STAAR, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who do not pass the reading and math STAAR and for any students enrolled in the TACE program. The summer TACE program will begin on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and end July 17, 2014. Teachers will have a workday on Saturday, June 7, 2014, if needed. The TACE summer program for 1<sup>st</sup> grade will be held at Northside Primary, and grades 2-5 will be at Southside Elementary.

The TACE summer program for students in grades 6-8 and High School students who are currently enrolled in the TACE program, students who do not pass End of Course exams, and for students who are participating in credit recovery will begin Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and end July 17, 2014 and will be held at Palestine High School.

## **Policy EIF (Local) Revision**

A revision to Policy EIF (Local) was approved, which affects academic achievement: graduation. The revisions to PISD policy are:

- Students entering prior to 2014-2015 may graduate under state programs, including the Minimum Program, the Recommended Program, and the AdvancelDistinguished Program, or the newly established foundation program.
- Options and the local district's requirements for the number of credits beyond the state's requirements:
  - The foundation program, without an endorsement (permitted only as authorized under state law and rules) requires 6 additional credits.
  - The foundation program with an endorsement requires 2 additional credits,

along with the successful completion of courses specified for each of the endorsements.

- The foundation program with a distinguished level of achievement requires 2 additional credits (Note: a student must earn a Distinguished level of achievement to be eligible for the 10% automatic admission to a state college/university.)

- State graduation credit in fine arts will not be awarded to participation in a community - based fine arts program.
- State graduation credit in physical education will not be awarded for  
Note: participation in private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus for students enrolled in high school for 2014-2015 and after.

In accordance with Texas Administrative Code § 74.62, graduation credit may be earned as a substitution for physical education through participation in drill team, marching band, and cheerleading. Physical education credit may be earned through participation in athletics.

### **2014-15 District Goals**

The Board approved the following goals for 2014-15:

- Educate, Empower, and communicate with all stakeholders to increase STAAR scores and provide a solid foundation in the core academic areas with an emphasis on math/science and cross curricular writing skills to increase state assessment measures.
- Attract and retain a highly qualified faculty and provide all teachers with staff development that assures all state mandates regarding faculty training requirements and all priority district needs are met.
- Maintain a safe and orderly environment creating an atmosphere conducive to learning including facility upgrades to support a high quality learning environment.
- Increase positive attitude of School District throughout Community by fostering Community Partnerships.
- Implement HB 5 in order to foster innovative, collaborative learning experiences through district wide STEAM education, College Readiness, and CTE certifications.

### **Personnel Approved**

Tammy Jones	Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services	Palestine ISD
Ashley McGruder	Skills Coordinator	Palestine High School
Jake Odom	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Norma Sanchez	Science	Palestine Junior HS
James Thigpen	STEM	Palestine High School
Norris White, Jr.	History	Palestine Junior HS

The Board of Trustees approved term and probationary contracts of teachers for the 2014-2015 school year.

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Robin Adams, April Chatmon, Andrew Chybowski, Wendy Hallmark, Sara Hanna, Karl Kilgore, Bonita Killgo, Carolyn Martin, Karen Masters, Debbie Nethery, Celesta Shinn, and Jewel Zenn.

### **2013-14 District Calendar Change**

The Board of Trustees approved extending hours for staff on Monday, May 19, 2014 to replace Saturday, June 7, 2014 on the 2013-14 District calendar. An Employee Appreciation and Recognition Banquet will be held in the evening on Monday, May 19, 2014.

### **Revised Board Meeting Dates**

The following board meeting dates were approved:

- Regular May Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2014
- Regular June Meeting on Monday, June 16, 2014
- Regular July Meeting on Monday, July 21, 2014
- Regular August Meeting on August 25, 2014

### **2014-16 Technology Plan**

The Board approved the Technology Plan for 2014-16. A summary of changes include:

- Very little change in eRate discounts
- Increase of internet access speed from 200 mbps to 1 gbps
- Increase of inter-campus network speeds from 1 gbps to 10 gbps
- Provide wireless for Story, Southside, and Northside
- Provide tablets for Story and eventually Southside and Northside

### **TASB Media Honor Roll Nominations**

The Board of Trustees nominated the Palestine Herald Press and KYYK Radio Station for the Texas Association of School Boards Media Honor Roll Award.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed the Board that the District's enrollment as of the 145<sup>th</sup> day of 2013-14 is 3,240, and District attendance is currently 97%.

### Upcoming Activities

Monday, May 19, 2014:

- Employee Appreciation and Recognition Banquet PHS Auditorium

Thurs-Fri, April 25-26, 2014:

- 1A Division 1 Region 3Track Meet Wildcat Stadium

Thurs-Fri, April 25-26, 2014:

- 3A Regional Track Meet Humble

**Next Regular Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**