



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the May 20, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Spotlight

Special Guest

A very special guest, Sophie, greeted and visited with each Board of Trustees member. Sophie is a trained and certified therapy dog explained Dee Dietz, Special Education Director. Therapy animals are used in schools, universities, hospitals, and the judicial system to provide comfort to those who struggle with social interactions. Thank you to Sharon Davis for sharing Sophie with Palestine ISD!

UIL Academics

Palestine High School's UIL Academic team members were honored for their accomplishments. Kathleen Brown, UIL Academic Sponsor shared this year's successes. Science and Current Issues and Events teams both earned first place in district competition and have advanced to the state competition this week in Austin.

One-Act Play

The cast and crew of the Palestine High School 2013 One-Act Play, *The Crucible*, were recognized. Palestine High School won the District Championship for their performance of "The Crucible", directed by Eric Cates, Palestine High School Theater Arts Director. This makes the ninth straight One-Act Play District Championship for PHS.

Art

Connie Teal, PHS Art Teacher introduced Jessica Ibarra and Riley Martine whose artwork was selected for entry in the State VASE Competition. This is quite an accomplishment for these students, as only 35 of 700 entries were selected to advance to state.

FFA

Palestine High School FFA students along with PHS Ag Teacher, Lacie Farmer presented FFA highlights for 2013. Austin Hansel placed 3rd in his steer class and made \$2,100 at the sale. Brittany Collins place 1st in her lamb class and made \$750 and Taylor Brown also placed 1st in her lamb class and made \$700. Ag sales proceeds were \$5,250 for Palestine High School. In Career Development Events, the PHS Poultry Team placed 21st out of 35 teams and 2nd in District and the Livestock Team placed 66th out of 71 teams and 9th in District.

Track

Coach D.J. Wright introduced Mason Munoz, a Palestine High School sophomore. Mason won the 800 meter event in every regular season track meet this year. He is the Region III 800 Meter champion and the Region III 1600 Meter runner-up and advanced to state in the 800 and 1600 meter events.

Students of the Month and Junior Rotarians for the month of May

Students of the Month: Taylor Maciel and Leonardo Ontiveros
Junior Rotarians: Amanda Taylor and Lucas Valencia

Oath of Office for Re-elected Board Members

The Honorable Judge Jeff Doran administered the oath of office to newly re-elected board members. Dana Staples, Rickey Ferguson, and Janie Sepulveda were re-elected by the Palestine Community to serve three year terms on the Board of Trustees at the Saturday, May 11, 2013 Election. Dana Staples will serve in Place 3, Rickey Ferguson in Place 4 and Janie Sepulveda in Place 5.

2013-2014 Board Officers

Wade Hobbs, President
Stanley Sokolowski, Vice President
Janie Sepulveda, Secretary

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer stated that he is pleased with the District's financial position and thanked the Palestine community for their support as tax collections have remained strong in tough economic times. The District remains hopeful that the Texas Legislature will return some of the lost funding back to school districts for the upcoming school year.

Bank Depository Awarded

The Board of Trustees approved Prosperity Bank to serve as the District's bank depository for 2013-2015.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2013
- Bills paid for April, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Washington Early Childhood Center

\$2,500.0 from Wal-Mart for baby furniture and rockers.

- Credit by Exam - June, 2013 Administration
- Federal Grants Submission for 2013-2014

Bus Purchase

The Board approved the purchase of two buses; a 71 passenger bus and a 14 passenger bus from Rusk Bus Center, a Region VII vendor. Due to the bond construction activities, the District had taken two years off from purchasing buses. The District will return to a rotating cycle for the purchase of buses in an effort to keep the District's bus fleet in good condition.

Personnel Approved

Keesa Boyd	Science	Palestine Junior High
Abby Cowley	Special Education	Palestine High School
William Cowley	Social Studies	Palestine High School
Kayla Fields	3 rd Grade	Southside Elementary
Wendy Hallmark	Career & Technology Education	Palestine High School
Sara Hanna	4 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Jana Jones	Kindergarten	Northside Primary
Crystal Locke	Speech Therapy	Special Education
Sulema Meyers	Math	Palestine High School
Alexandria Naismith	English/Language Arts	Palestine Junior High
Mary Jennifer Nielsen	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Sandra Norman	5 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Grace Sharp	Art	Palestine High School
Lacie Sloan	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Sherry Smith	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Casey Sowell	Science	Palestine Junior High

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Michael Atkinson, Robert Brooks, Laura Greenlaw, Cinda Hudson, Scott Lane, Carmen Marshall, Sherry Morton, Casey Williams, and Jenna Williams.

Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) Action Research Project

Palestine High School teachers; Tammy Armstrong, Kathleen Brown, Karen Buckland, Cinda Hudson, and Janice Magee presented information for a TTIPS Action Research Project in which Palestine High School is participating in this spring. The objective of the project is to lead the campus forward in transformation with a goal for at least 10% of 9th and 10th grade students to improve at least one quintile based on testing data. Core teachers were introduced to new teaching strategies for 9th and 10th grade students and learned the importance of reflecting on practices. Teachers learned from students that they should have a voice in their education as students expressed their preferred learning styles. Student data also shows a need for instructional rigor. The Action Research Project will continue at Palestine High School this fall with the transformation of classroom practices.

Palestine ISD and Palestine YMCA Interlocal Agreement

The Board of Trustees voted to table an item to consider an Interlocal Agreement with the Palestine YMCA. The item will be considered at the June 17, 2013 board meeting.

Palestine ISD Summer Board Meeting Dates

June 17, 2013 - Closed Session 6:00 pm/Open Session 7:00 pm

Regular June Meeting (normal 3rd Monday)

July 15, 2013 - Closed Session 6:00 pm/Open Session 7:00 pm

Regular July Meeting (normal 3rd Monday)

July 29, 2013 - 5:30 pm

Called Meeting – Board Training Hours: Training on New Accountability System, Budget Workshop

August 26, 2013 - Closed Session 6:00 pm/Open Session 7:00 pm

Regular August Meeting (moved from 8/19 due to Meet the Wildcats)

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall presented a financial report from the 1A Regional Track Meet hosted by Palestine ISD. The District's net profit was \$8,821.00 which is higher than the net profit from last year's meet.

End of year and summer activities:

Academic Awards Banquet	Thursday, May 23, 2013, 6:00 pm	PHS Auditorium
Baccalaureate Service	Sunday, June 2, 2013, 2:00 pm	Evangelistic Temple
Graduation	Friday, June 7, 2013, 8:00 pm	Wildcat Stadium

An academic bridge program will be offered at Palestine ISD beginning mid-July and going through the first week in August to help prepare students for the new school year.

The Palestine Wildcats vs Jacksonville Indians football game will be televised on Channel 21 of Dallas on Thursday, September 5, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

Update on Texas 83rd Legislative Session

The Texas Legislature approved to return to school districts approximately 70% in funding that was lost in the 82nd Legislative Session. This will mean a return of approximately 1.1 million to Palestine ISD. The Teacher Retirement System will not see any major changes; however employees will pay slightly more into TRS which will help keep the system solvent. Lesson plans will no longer be available through CSCOPE; however the broad range links to STAAR testing will still be available through CSCOPE.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
June 17, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**