



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the May 21, 2012 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

Students of the Palestine ISD Child Development Center did a great job leading the pledges to the American and Texas flags. These students attend the child care center at Washington Early Childcare Center and are the children of Palestine ISD staff members. Thank you to the following students and their parents: Aaron Moore, son of Randi Moore of A.M. Story Intermediate; Jaylee Jenkins, daughter of Jessica Jenkins of A.M. Story Intermediate; Peyton Barazza, daughter of Melissa Barazza of Palestine Middle School; Lucas Hubert, son of Ronda Hubert of A.M. Story Intermediate; and Gwen Cowan daughter of Michelle Clark of Palestine High School.

### **Spotlight**

#### **One Act Play**

PHS students who participated in this year's One Act Play were honored. Eric J. Cates, Palestine High School Theater Arts teacher introduced the cast and crew of the 2011-2012 One Act Play, "Sophocles' Electra". Roxanne Davis, who played "Electra" was named to the All Star Cast at District, Area, and Regional competitions. Congratulations to all of the cast and crew members for another great year: Ronnie Van Zant, Amy Witt(Area All Star Cast), Caleb Lawson, Will Folmar, Caitlyn Morrow(District, Area, & Regional All Star Cast), Haley Cook(Area All Star Cast), Greg Albright(District, Area, & Regional All Star Cast), Callie Flynn, Wyatt Marshall, and Adam Hobbs. Also included in the cast and crew were, Miriam Loers, Sasinn Ounpiyodom, Adolfo Munsinger, Gabrielle Dantin, and Jordan Hobbs. For the eighth year in a row, Palestine High School won the district competition and advanced to area. Of the 195 schools who competed in the Regional IIIA Competition, Palestine High School was in the top 24. The majority of the cast will be returning next year and will perform Seussical the Musical on October 12, 13, and 14, 2012.

#### **UIL Academics**

Kathleen Brown, UIL Academic Coordinator presented the students and results from the District UIL Academics competition. There were 34 students who placed at district and 10 advanced to the regional competition. The Current Issues & Events team of Kevin Looney, Miguel Serralde, Paul Webb, and Elizabeth Ruiz, placed 1<sup>st</sup> at district and was coached by PHS teacher, Richard Sylvester. The Social Studies team also placed 1<sup>st</sup> at district with Crystal Banuelos(1<sup>st</sup> place), Miguel Serralde(2<sup>nd</sup> place), Willis Foley(6<sup>th</sup> place) and Duncan Kern, coached by Kathleen Brown. Kody Harris placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall in Science, and received Top Biology & Top Physics honors, coached by Kathleen Brown. Kody Harris placed 1<sup>st</sup> and Amber Magee placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in LD Debate, coached by Kay Stroud. Kelcey Cockrell placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Ready Writing, coached by Kathleen Brown.

### **Junior Rotarians of the Month**

Junior Rotarians for the month of May are PHS students, Kelondria Jackson and Christian Castillo. Kelondria loves writing for the high school newspaper and plans to attend Houston Baptist University. Christian is involved in FFA, Interact, and Youth in Government. He plans to enlist in the United States Marines and would like to become an Explosive Ordnance Disposer.

### **Students of the Month**

Students of the month for May are PHS students, Jessica Guzman and Matt LaRue.

Jessica Guzman was introduced by Cinda Hudson, PHS Teacher. Jessica is a member of the Yearbook staff and National Honor Society. She plans to attend TJC this fall and pursue a Medical Assistant Degree, then transfer to University of North Texas in Denton. Her ultimate goal is to work at Children's Hospital in Dallas.

Matt LaRue is involved in Student Council and is an active member of the Southside Baptist Church Youth Group. He plans to attend Texas A&M University and pursue a business finance degree.

### **Teachers of the Year**

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented teachers who were recognized by their peers as Palestine ISD Teachers of the Year. Teachers of the year for each campus are, Summer Alcauter, Palestine High School; Jenna Williams, Palestine Middle School; Grace Ann Torma, A.M. Story Intermediate; Chris Massey, Southside Elementary; and Stacie Drinning-Britt, Washington Early Childhood Center.

Stacie Drinning-Britt was chosen to represent Palestine ISD as the Elementary Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Britt said if someone were to ask her, the secret to great teaching she would say, "Fun! Not haha fun but learning fun." She loves coming to work every day and said the greatest reward in her work is watching a child enjoy the act of learning and she is fortunate to receive this reward every day in her classroom.

Summer Alcauter was chosen as the Palestine ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Alcauter said that her expectation for her students is for them to become lifelong learners. "Knowledge and skills are formed not only in the classroom but in all different life situations. Educators have two choices, to light a fire under students' curiosity and develop it into an everlasting flame or smother it until it dies out. I choose to open doors for my students and encourage them to shine."

### **Oath of Office for Re-elected Board Member**

Wade Hobbs, Board President and Dyna Tutt, Board Vice President were re-elected by the Palestine Community at the Saturday, May 12, 2012 Election. The Honorable Judge Jeff Doran administered the oath of office to Board President, Wade Hobbs. Dyna Tutt was not able to be present and will be sworn in at a future meeting.

### **Construction Projects Update**

Walt Wood of Claycomb Associates, Architects and Brent Schreiner of Balfour Beatty, provided the Board of Trustees a construction update for Palestine High School. Painting of the kitchen, serving areas, band hall, choir room, stage, auditorium and adjacent areas is 95% complete. Stage rigging, equipment, and lighting in the stage and auditorium areas continues. Installation and connections of food service equipment is complete and being tested. The PHS project is 86% complete.

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

## **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, stated that the District has received 78.32% of projected revenue and has only expended 66% at this time. The District is ahead by 2% in property tax collections from the previous year. A money market investment using a portion of the general fund has increased the District's income from investments from the previous year.

The Board of Trustees approved an Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement for the Texas Association of School Boards Supplemental Employee Benefits Program. The District utilizes this program for our Section 125 Cafeteria Plan and also purchases employees' life insurance through this program at no cost to employees. The amended and restated interlocal agreement will allow the administrators of this program to form a five member governing board composed of member representatives.

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer introduced Melvin Wise, District Manager of SSC Service Solutions. SSC Service Solutions is the new provider for the District's custodial services. Mr. Wise will be in the District on a daily basis. He is a Palestine ISD graduate and currently resides in Palestine.

The Board awarded Chartwells the food service contract for 2012-2013. The Board also approved Borden for milk products, Sara Lee for bread, and Blue Bell for ice cream for the 2012-2013 school year.

## **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 16, 2012
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of April 30, 2012
- Bills paid for April, 2012
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

### **Washington Early Childhood Center**

\$651.00 from Taqueria Tacorriendo for Washington's Cinco de Mayo celebration.

### **Washington Early Childhood Center**

\$200.00 from the Pionette Garden Club for school beautification.

### **Palestine Middle School**

\$148.02 from Wal-Mart for refreshments STAAR Family Night.

### **Palestine Middle School**

\$36.00 from Wal-Mart for gift certificates for STAAR Family Night.

### **Palestine High School**

\$25.00 from Sherry's Custom Framing & Gifts for PHS Prom.

### **Palestine High School**

\$100.00 from R&R Construction Co. for PHS Prom.

### **Palestine Athletics**

\$200.00 from Melinda Duncan for East Texas Shootout Soccer Tournament.

### **Palestine Athletics**

\$400.00 from Lee Loveless Photography for East Texas Shootout Soccer Tournament.

## **Other Items Approved**

Credit by Exam - June, 2012 Administration

Federal Grants Submission for 2012-2013

## **STEM Program**

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services presented information for a STEM program that that will be implemented for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. STEM stands for Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This is a project-based engineering program and has been shown to “significantly raise scores in reading, mathematics, and science.” All 6<sup>th</sup> graders will take the foundation unit, “Design and Modeling”. For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders the program is optional with 7<sup>th</sup> graders having the option to enroll in “Energy and the Environment” and “Science of Technology”. The courses available for 8<sup>th</sup> graders are “Automation and Robotics” and “Magic of Electrons”. Students who complete the required courses will have the option of receiving high school credit.

## **Personnel Approved**

Michael Atkinson	Science	Palestine High School
Dustin Barron	Athletic Trainer	Palestine High School
Cynthia Brock	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Kari Cahill	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA	A.M. Story Intermediate
Clarissa Campbell	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Laura Chapman	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Ashley Chiles	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Southside Elementary
Sammie Davis	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Northside Primary
Tara DeFrance	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Northside Primary
Melissa Firmin	Special Education	Palestine Middle School
Victor Gonzalez	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Cherylyn Hamil	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science	A.M. Story Intermediate
Tammy Hathcock	Counselor	Palestine High School
Kevin Jackson	Assistant Principal	Palestine High School
Courtney Johnson	History	Palestine Middle School
Johnathan Johnson	ISS	Palestine Middle School
Kyle Johnson	Science	Palestine Middle School
Rebekah Kelly	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA	A.M. Story Intermediate
Shelby McElyea	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Kirk Palmer	Math Lab	Palestine Middle School
Andrew Pearson	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Corinna Peters	Audio/Video Technology	Palestine High School
Jennifer Sheets	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Northside Primary
Haylie Unger	ELA	Palestine Middle School
Kristin Willmott	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Northside Primary

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Michelle Clark, Deana Crockett, Nicole Dobbs, Erin Gray, Lori Higgins, Frances Liles(Retirement), Christopher Massey, Ashley Norris, Katie Phillips, David Richardson, Daniel Rodriguez, Frances Russell(Retirement), Cecilia Salgado, Jaclyn Schitoskey, Minerva Shirley, Antonio Solo, Merritt Stewart, Joshua Trick, Elysha Warren, and Justin Willis.

The Board of Trustees approved term contracts for Shannon Leisure and Mark Schrader and a probationary contract for Jonathan Scoggins for 2012-2013.

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to hire William Stewart as the new principal at Palestine High School. Mr. Stewart has served as Associate Principal for Palestine High School for the past two years.

The Board of Trustees approved the 2012-2014 Technology Plan.

The Board of Trustees reviewed their yearly self-evaluation.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall presented a financial report from the 1A Regional Track Meet hosted by Palestine ISD. The proceeds from ticket sales were \$17,000. The community also benefited as all area hotels were full and the teams visited the local restaurants.

The Palestine Police Department will offer a Junior Police Academy to 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students this summer. There will be three one week programs for students to educate them on the police department and students will participate in activities including an obstacle course. This will be an interesting and enjoyable program for students. A parent meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Palestine High School lecture hall.

The District has had cases of whooping cough at all of the campuses except A.M. Story Intermediate. The District does not expect any closings as there haven't been a large number of cases. SSC Service Solutions has helped keep the disease from spreading by ensuring that sterilization procedures are strictly followed.

**Next Regular Board Meeting  
June 18, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.**