



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the June 17, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **Spotlight**

Palestine ISD Board President, Wade Hobbs thanked KYYK Radio Station and the Palestine Herald Press for their coverage of Palestine ISD. The Palestine ISD Board of Trustees named KYYK and the Palestine Herald Press to the Texas Association of School Board's Media Honor Roll for 2013. The Media Honor Roll recognizes media representatives statewide who deserve recognition for fair and balanced reporting of news about public schools.

### **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer reported that the 2012-2013 budget will close on a positive note and planning is underway for the 2013-14 budget. The District expects to see an increase of approximately 1 million for the 2013-14 budget based on preliminary information from the Texas 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session.

### **District Safety Audit**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer shared the preliminary findings of a Safety Audit that was recently performed district-wide. Vestibules or entry areas at Northside, Southside, and Palestine High School were upgraded for safety in 2011-12 and 2012-13 during the construction process. Vestibules at the three remaining campuses; Washington Early Childhood Center, A.M. Story Intermediate, and Palestine Junior High will be upgraded for safety this summer. The District will also upgrade video recording equipment on campuses and buses.

### **Budget Amendment**

The Board approved a 2012-13 budget amendment in the amount of \$825,000 for the following:

- 1) \$350,000 for technology infrastructure and equipment upgrades
- 2) \$250,000 for security upgrades and various summer maintenance projects
- 3) \$155,000 for vehicle purchases previously approved
- 4) \$70,000 for possible instructional needs

### **Wifi Network Upgrade**

The Board approved a wireless infrastructure upgrade for Palestine High School and Palestine Junior High. The upgrade is needed to support 1:1 Technology that will be implemented at PHS and PJH this fall. Students will receive Apple iPad mini's that will be purchased with grant money.

## Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2013
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 14, 2013
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of May 14, 2013
- Bills paid for May, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- 2013-14 Vendors Approved: Milk-Borden Dairy, Bread-Flowers Bakery

## STAAR Accountability System

Sharon Reed, Palestine ISD Instructional Facilitator, presented information on the new accountability system for STAAR. The accountability system is based on four indexes.

**Index 1:** Provides a snapshot of performance across subjects, on both general and alternative assessments at the satisfactory performance standard. The index scores reflects all tests taken, averaged together, and all students taking all tests.

**Index 2:** Provides a measure of student progress by subject and student group independent of overall student achievement levels. Growth is evaluated by subject and student group. The growth measure is based on the difference between the student's current and prior year scores.

**Index 3:** Emphasizes advanced academic achievement of the economically disadvantaged student group and the lowest performing race/ethnicity student groups at each campus or district. It is designed to compare the performance of the lower performing student group to a state standard that will allow the state to meet its desired goal in postsecondary readiness by 2020.

**Index 4:** Emphasizes the importance for students to receive a high school diploma that provides them with the foundation necessary for success in college, the workforce, job training programs, or the military.

Currently, the District and all campuses have met indexes 1, 3, and 4 where applicable. Index 2 will not be available until early July and the Accountability Rating will be assigned August 8, 2013.

## 2013-14 District Goals Approved

- Educate, Empower, and communicate with all Stakeholders to increase STAAR scores across all subject areas with emphasis on math and science as well as targeting College Readiness and CTE certifications.
- 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 through implementation to create an atmosphere conducive to learning.
- Increase positive attitude of School District throughout Community by fostering Community Partnerships.
- Further our STEAM education for students and investigate facilities for each campus.

## Personnel Approved

Susan Bovard	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Elizabeth Carroll	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Northside Primary
Britta Griffin	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Julie Hearn	Life Skills	Palestine High School
Melissa Hendricks	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Northside Primary
Brittany Hickerson	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Northside Primary
Selina Jowell	Nurse	A.M. Story Intermediate

Bonita Killgo	Science	Palestine Junior High School
Glenna Lowery	Special Education	Southside Elementary
Nicholas Meyers	Special Education	Southside Elementary
Maxine Moore	Special Education	Palestine Junior High School
Leizel Nichols	Math	Palestine High School
Sisha Palacio	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Southside Elementary
Sheri Peterson	Special Education	Palestine Junior High School
Emily Ramsey	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Northside Primary
Linnatrice Riden	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Kimberli Sprague	Special Education	A.M. Story Intermediate
Ruth Stewart	Physical Education	Palestine Junior High School
Courtney Thornton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Southside Elementary
Wendy Wheat	Math	Palestine High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Amy Chachere, Tara DeFrance, Megan Florence, Caroline Griffin, Tracye Herbrough, Brandon Jayroe, Kathy Kirkpatrick, Markesha Lockett, Thuy Nguyen, Mary Ann Mann, Maribel Suarez, Juanita Walls, Abby Whitaker, and Brenton Whitaker.

### **Palestine ISD/YMCA Interlocal Agreement**

An Interlocal Agreement between Palestine ISD and the Palestine YMCA was approved with a few minor changes delegated to Superintendent Marshall for correction. Board President, Wade Hobbs abstained from discussion and voting due to his affiliation with Palestine ISD and the YMCA. The Interlocal Agreement will allow the YMCA to construct athletic fields and related structures on eight acres located in front of A.M. Story Intermediate.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall thanked area elected officials for voting favorably on decisions affecting school districts during the Texas 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session. As a result, school districts expect to see a return of a portion of state funding that was lost in the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislative session. End of Course exams were reduced from fifteen down to five that are required in order for high school students to graduate.

Board of Trustees members and Superintendent Marshall shared information from the Texas Association of School Boards Summer Leadership Institute they attended June 13-15, 2013 in Fort Worth. The Board and Superintendent enjoyed the team building opportunity and visiting with other school districts. Board members attended sessions related to Career & Technology Education and workforce preparation, school safety, and an update on HB5 including current legislative changes.

**Next Regular Board Meeting  
July 15, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**