



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the June 19, 2017 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Public Comment

DaWanda Lacy, PISD Parent, spoke regarding her concern for athletic personnel issues.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, reported on the district's current financial status, end of year budget projection for 2016-2017, and planning for the 2017-2018 budget. Mr. Atkeisson stated that the district expects to have a balanced budget at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. A budget amendment may be needed later this summer to cover costs that were not included in the current budget for warranty repairs. The repair costs should be covered at the conclusion of the construction lawsuit, which Gravely & Pearson, L.L.P. is handling for the district. Valerie Cantu, an attorney with Gravely & Pearson is expected to review warranty construction items during a facility walk-through with Balfour Beatty Construction on Monday, June 26, 2017. Planning for the 2017-2018 budget has been delayed due to some school finance information not being available until the state legislature meets for a special session later in the summer.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 22, 2017
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of May 31, 2017
- Bills paid for May, 2017
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations
- Palestine Junior High School
 - 15 large pizzas for Class of 2021 - 8th grade dance from Domino's Pizza valued at \$164.85.
- A.M. Story Intermediate
 - 2016 Educational Alliance Poster Grant in the amount of \$500.00 from Spencer Distributing through Exxon Mobil to be used for math and science.
- 2017-2018 Credit by Exam Timeline
- 2017-2018 Academic Calendar Revision – Change in Flex Day from November 3 to November 10, 2017
- 2017-2018 Student Tuition - \$3,000.00 for School Year
- Addition to Palestine ISD Local Policy: Policy FFA (Local) that addresses general wellness of all students and is the guideline for the District Wellness Plan.

Report on LAUNCH, Gifted & Talented, and STEAM Programs

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented the following update on services the district provides through LAUNCH, Gifted & Talented, and STEAM Programs:

The LAUNCH Program which will begin its fourth year this fall was designed by the district to address learning opportunities for students who demonstrate an ability to succeed in an accelerated learning setting. State required Gifted and Talented instruction is provided to GT identified students through the LAUNCH Program. New learning components that will be offered through LAUNCH for the upcoming school year include coding and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) activities. The LAUNCH Program prepares students for the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) Programs at Junior High and High School, as well as, prepares students for PreAP (Pre-Advanced Placement) classes at Junior High, and AP (Advanced Placement) and dual credit classes at High School. Principles of engineering, aerospace engineering, and other higher level programs are part of the STEAM Program, and the district is looking for ways to further integrate the arts into curriculum. Mrs. Jones informed Board members that an update on testing requirements and criteria for placement in the LAUNCH, GT, and STEAM programs will be shared at a future school board meeting.

Report on STAAR Scores & Accountability

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented the following information on the district's 2017 STAAR scores and accountability:

Based on initial STAAR scores it appears that each Palestine ISD campus and the district will meet the state's standard on 2017 STAAR tests. Of the 22 areas tested, the district had improved scores in 13 areas, there were decreases of one or two points in a couple of areas, and areas that had the largest decrease were areas in which the state's passing rate had increased the most.

New this year on the Texas Education Agency website is a portal in which parents can access their child's STAAR/EOC/TAKS results.

Accountability ratings are expected in August or September and will be shared at a future board meeting once the district receives the 2016-2017 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). Texas school districts expect to receive preliminary (not official) A-F ratings from TEA in November or December, 2017, and school districts expect official A-F Ratings to be issued for the first time in August 2018.

Election of PISD Board of Trustees Officers

The following board members were elected to serve as officers and will begin serving a one year term at the next school board meeting.

Brandon Sheeley, President
Dyna Tutt, Vice President
Michael Bennett, Secretary

Personnel Approved

Blank, Kristen	Business	Palestine High School
Catala-Cano, Patricia	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Cotton, Carrie	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Drinning, Kathy	2 nd Grade	Southside Elementary
Durham, Ashley	Science	Palestine Junior High
William, Flori	Science	Palestine High School
Herber, Chuck	Band	Palestine Junior High
Hopson, Amy	5 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Logsdon, Susan	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Marino, Melanie	2 nd Grade	Southside Elementary
Medlock, Joshua	Special Education	Palestine Junior High

Nichols, Angela	TACE Coordinator	A.M. Story Intermediate
Oas, Lori	5 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Parrish, Cheryl	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Perez, Maria Norma	Special Education	Palestine High School
Ramirez, Ramona	Writing	Palestine Junior High
Reeves, Erica	6 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Scoggin, Gary	Welding/Manufacturing	Palestine High School
Stallings, Robin	6 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Symmank, Crystal	4 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Vaughn, Kaysi	Math	Palestine Junior High

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Megan Aylor, Alexis Burnett, Brittany Byrd, Aaryn Chapman, Stacia Collins, Teresa Gold-Carter, Jessie Little, Vanessa Looman, Lisa Turner, and Jessica Wooden.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marshall reported on the following:

Highlights from the 85th Texas Legislative Session:

When the regular session ended on May 29, 2017, there were no major changes in the area of school finance reform. No assistance was provided for current school employees' health insurance; however, retiree health insurance was increased by approximately half a billion. There were no changes to the pension plan. There were no changes in the area of testing accountability; however, changes from two sessions ago have helped districts with testing concerns. A special legislative session will be held later this summer to consider items that affect public education including a \$1,000 teacher pay raise from current dollars (no new funding), and school choice (vouchers) for special education students.

A Budget Workshop will be held at the regular school board meeting on July 17, 2017.

A Legislative Update and Board of Trustee Team Building will be presented by Colby Nichols and Terry Smith on July 24, 2017.

The Budget and Tax Rate will be adopted for the 2017-2018 school year at the regular school board meeting on August 21, 2017

Five board members will attend the Texas Association of School Boards Summer Leadership Institute in Fort Worth on June 22-24, 2017.

A calendar of PISD summer and Back to School events was given to board members.

Next Regular Board Meeting
Monday, July 17, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.