



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the September 16, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Amanda Jackson, A.M. Story Intermediate Principal, introduced fifth grade students, **Ty'rianah Owens** and **Jacoby Campbell**. Thank you to these students for leading pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Spotlight - Palestine High School Students of the Month

Karen Buckland, PHS English Language Arts teacher introduced Cheyenne Masters and Caleb Abernathy, the PHS students of the month for September.

Cheyenne Masters is an honor student, a member of the PHS Wildcat band and captain of the Kik-Kat drill team. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Arlington to begin her undergraduate studies leading toward a career in pediatric medicine.

Caleb Abernathy maintains academic excellence and competes on the PHS cross country and soccer teams. He plans to attend Baylor University.

Spotlight - Palestine High School Junior Rotarians of the Month

William Stewart, PHS Principal introduced Chanel Calhoun and Eric Gonzalez who were chosen as the PHS Junior Rotarians for September.

Chanel Calhoun is a member of the National Honor Society, serves as co-captain on the cheerleading team and is the PHS yearbook editor. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and study law.

Eric Gonzalez participates in football, track, baseball and power lifting and is a member of the National Art Society. He is most proud of his parents and his Mexican heritage and plans to attend college after high school graduation.

Spotlight - Palestine ISD Maintenance Staff

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer expressed appreciation to PISD Maintenance staff for an admirable job getting school facilities ready for the new school year and preparing for the televised football game at Wildcat Stadium on Thursday, September 5, 2013. Mr. Atkeisson announced that Jack Dalaba will serve as the PISD Facilities Resource Manager and Jacob Wheeler will serve as Building Operations Manager.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer stated that tax year ending August 31, 2013 is being finalized and the District expects to collect 99.37% of budgeted taxes. Palestine ISD is very grateful to taxpayers for supporting the school district in this manner. The District expects its final payment from the Texas Education Agency to be slightly more than 100% of budgeted revenue for 2012-13. Mr. Atkeisson praised Palestine ISD principals and budget managers for a tremendous job budgeting and spending appropriately. A public hearing will be held during the October 21, 2013 board meeting to discuss the District's FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) status for 2011-2012.

USDA Meal Requirements

Mimi Spreen, Palestine ISD Food Service Director introduced the District Manager for Chartwells School Dining Services, Mike Leonard and Molly Platts, Dietician for Chartwells. Mrs. Platts presented new USDA meal patterns that all districts are required to implement by July 1, 2013 for the 2013-14 school year. In 2013-14 at least half of grains must be whole grain-rich for lunch. In 2014-15 all grains must be whole grain-rich at breakfast and lunch. For breakfast meat or meat alternates (eggs, cheese, peanut butter, tofu) can be substituted for grain, ounce for ounce, to meet weekly grain minimum once the daily grain minimum has been met. Schools are also required to offer at least two varieties of milk, flavored milk must be fat free (skim) and white can be 1% or fat free. However, students are not required to take the milk to make it a reimbursable meal at lunch, they can take 3 of the 5 choices, however, one item must be a fruit or vegetable. Water is available in every cafeteria free of charge either from the water fountain or from a pitcher provided in the cafeteria. In 2014-15, sodium targets go into effect limiting the amount of sodium that may be used. Palestine ISD has already begun reducing sodium while substituting with herbs and salt free ingredients to promote flavor.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 26, 2013
- Bills paid for August, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine Junior High

Popsicles and ice cream from Wal-Mart, valued at \$50.00 for a back to school party for junior high students and parents.

- 2013-2014 School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Committee Members
District Representatives - Carolyn Martin, Co-Council Chair; Joe Tinsley, Law Enforcement; Mimi Spreen, Nutrition; Gay Dunn, Health & Safety Region 7
Palestine High School Representatives – Linda Bowser, PHS Nurse; Dustin Barron, PHS Trainer; Breanna Jackson, PHS Student; Brian Thlang, PHS Student; Wanda Jackson, PHS Parent; Jamie Hatfield, PHS Parent
Palestine Junior High Representatives – George Booker, PJH Nurse; Jessi Jones, PJH Community; Kim Harris, PJH Parent
Northside Primary – Karen Bledsoe, Northside Nurse; Tracy Niedecken, Northside Community; Lucinda Wheeler, Northside Parent; Melissa Winkler, Northside Parent
Southside Elementary – Cheryl Walding, Northside Nurse; Melissa Molandes, Southside Asst. Principal; Jumah Absy, Southside Parent; Christina Campbell, Southside Parent; Cathlina DeSantiago, Southside Parent; Sharronn Laughlin, Southside Parent; Michel Thompson, Southside Parent; Sydney Jordan, Southside Community
A.M. Story Intermediate – Selena Jowell, Story Nurse; Joanna Barnes, Story Community; Stacy Bennett, Story Parent; Jana Plumber, Story Parent; Vicky Valentine, Story Parent

Washington Early Childhood Center – Liz Missildine, Washington Nurse; Kristy Marcellus; Washington Teacher; Byronne Barnes, Washington Parent.

2013-2014 Open Enrollment Report

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources reported that the District currently has accepted 60 transfer students for 2013-14 which is an increase from 42 transfer students at this point last year. Forty-one of the 60 transfer students were not enrolled in PISD during the 2012-13 school year. There were four transfer students who graduated from Palestine ISD in 2012-13.

Personnel Approved

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| Eric Haltom | Intervention | Southside Elementary |
| Danielle Walston | Permanent Substitute | A.M. Story Intermediate |

Public Hearing

A public hearing was held to discuss pay for contract employees who will be providing instruction in the TACE (Texas Afterschool Centers for Education) program. Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources explained that HB 483 amended Texas Government Code 180 so that it prohibits a school district from paying an employee more than the person is owed under a contract without a public hearing.

Because in some cases, the afterschool instruction begins immediately following the students' instructional day, staff members may still be within the time of their contract day as the TACE instruction begins. Therefore, the reason for the payment is to compensate instructional staff for their supplemental work in the TACE program. Tasks usually completed during the contract day must be completed after hours on the days when the employee works in the TACE program.

The public purpose that is served by making the payment is to benefit students' opportunities for academic success through the supplemental instruction that will be provided by highly qualified staff persons who are knowledgeable of the students' needs.

The amount of the payment will be \$35 per hour for professional staff and \$25 per hour for non-professional staff. The source of the payment is federal funding, through TEA, from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant, with the terms of distribution of the payment being monthly according to submission of documentation of hours worked.

Board President, Wade Hobbs asked all in attendance if there were any concerns or comments regarding the information. There were no comments from the public.

The Palestine ISD Board of Trustees approved to allow Palestine ISD to pay contract employees who will provide instruction in the TACE programs.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that the current student enrollment is 3,262 which is almost 100 students more than the number used to calculate the 2013-14 budget.

Superintendent Marshall shared with the Board that many employees have expressed appreciation for the health insurance assistance the District is providing.

Planning is underway for a PISD Board of Trustees and Superintendent, Team of 8 Training to be held on Monday, October 28, 2013.

Superintendent Marshall invited everyone to enjoy the Wildcat Weekly newsletter produced by the Palestine High School Printing and Imaging Technology class taught by Paul Carr. The students produce and send Wildcat Weekly out to all staff each Friday. A two week look-ahead calendar of events is included on the last page of the newsletter. The newsletters are posted under District Announcements on the main page of the District website, www.palestineschools.org.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
October 21, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**