



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the July 20, 2015 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Spotlight – Recognition of Board Member

Dana Staples was recognized for fourteen years of service as a member of the Palestine ISD Board of Trustees. Dana Staples was elected to the Board in 2001, re-elected five times, and served until June, 2015. Kathleen Brown, PHS teacher, spoke regarding Dana's commitment to Palestine ISD and thanked her for improvements in the district during her years of service on the board. On behalf of the Board; current board member and Board Vice President, Dyna Tutt, presented a plaque to Dana thanking her for impeccable service and for showing other members of the Board how to be a first class trustee. Superintendent Marshall thanked Dana for the high quality perspective she has provided as a board member, which has helped keep the Board well grounded. Dana stated that it has been an honor to serve, and that she will always cherish her time serving with the PISD Board of Trustees.

Spotlight – National SkillsUSA

Chris Kiser, Director of College and Career Readiness thanked the Board for providing students the opportunity to participate in National SkillsUSA competitions. Renda Songer, PHS Cosmetology Instructor shared successes from the 2014-15 school year. During competitions this school year there were four hundred schools that competed. Palestine ISD earned the honor of being one of the three best SkillsUSA chapters in the nation. PHS participation in SkillsUSA in 2015-16 is expected to double that of the 2014-15 school year. A National Skills USA Leadership Conference will be hosted by Palestine ISD at the Wildcat Golf Course in fall 2015.

Construction Update

Scott Hughes of Buford-Thompson Construction Company provided an overview of facility improvements that began in May, 2014. The majority of renovations by Buford-Thompson have focused on A.M. Story Intermediate and Palestine Junior High due to these campuses receiving the least renovations from the May, 2009 bond. The Story campus has a new HVAC system, parking areas, interior paint, exterior masonry stain, door hardware, flooring, and freezer/refrigerator. The Washington campus has new doors/hardware, and HVAC. Northside and Southside each have new doors, lighting, and painting has been completed. The Palestine Junior High administration office and teacher's lounge has been renovated, as well as exterior improvements, a greenhouse renovation, new doors/hardware, ceilings, flooring, HVAC, light fixtures, and painting. The expected completion date for all projects is August, 2015.

Financial Update and 2015-16 Budget Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer stated that the 2014-2015 budget remains positive as the fiscal year comes to an end. With current and back tax collections combined, the district has received 100% of tax collections for the year. A general fund budget in the amount of \$27 million is projected for the 2015-16 year, but that figure doesn't include Title funds or grant funds. Some of the goals for the 2015-16 budget are; pay step increases for personnel, a possible increase in the district contribution for employees' health insurance, upgrade of the vehicle and bus transportation fleet, and flooring replacement in the Story cafeteria. Mr. Atkeisson informed that the Board would be asked to approve a proposed tax rate at an upcoming called meeting prior to a public hearing regarding the 2015-16 budget and tax rate.

Workers' Compensation Coverage & Policy for 2015-16

Workers' Compensation coverage and policy for 2015-16 was tabled and will be considered at a future school board meeting.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2015
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of July 6, 2015
- Bills paid for June, 2015
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine Junior High

\$250.00 from Donna Barnett (retired in May, 2015) to Palestine Junior High to be used as needed.
(Return of first ten employees to resign bonus to PISD)

Palestine ISD

750 golf balls valued at \$375.00 from Paul and Andrea Morris to be used at the Wildcat Golf Course.

\$2,500.00 from the Palestine Band Boosters Club to be used for a band practice field.

Palestine High School Athletic Program

\$1653.00 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club for the Athletic Trainer.

- School Meal Prices
Lunch: HS & JH \$2.70, Elementary \$2.45, Staff \$3.10, Adult \$3.35
Breakfast: K-6 \$1.10, 7-12 \$1.35, Staff \$2.10, Visitor \$2.35
- August, 2015 Administration of Credit by Exam
- Student/Parent Mobile Device Handbook and Agreement and Responsible Use Guidelines
- Student Tuition Fees for 2015-16 -- \$1,500.00 per student/per year
- Student Dress Code Revision for Clarification Purposes – Polo style shirt clarified as shirt with button plackets.

District/Campus Start and End Times Approved

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services informed the Board that the recent legislation known as HB 2610, converts the school year from a required 180 days of instruction to 75,600 minutes. Each campus would increase their instructional day up to 15 minutes. Adjusting the length of the school day will allow the district to add approximately 30 more hours of instruction prior to the spring STAAR tests.

Start/stop times for 2015-16:
High School 8:00-3:25
Junior High 8:00-3:25
Story 8:00-3:20
Southside 7:45-3:00
Northside 7:45-3:00
Washington (not affected by HB 2610)

Policy EIC Local Revision Approved

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources informed the Board regarding a Policy EIC (Local) revision. The revision requires a valedictorian or salutatorian

To have completed the Recommended Program, the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, the foundation program with an endorsement, or the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement for graduation; and

be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school.

The addition to #2 addresses the graduation program brought with HB5. The addition of #3 addresses the determination of highest and second highest ranking students.

Personnel Approved

Bethany Hubbard	Athletic Trainer	Palestine High School
Marvin Leffler	Math	Palestine Junior High School
Kacea Logan-Harris	Special Education	Palestine High School
Claudia McNatt	Art	Palestine Junior High School
Dana Wade (Did not accept position)	Transitions	Palestine High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Jocelyn Ealy, William Phelps, and Kelsie Shultz.

TASA/TASB Delegate Assembly

Janie Sepulveda was appointed to serve as delegate, and Brandon Sheeley to serve as alternate delegate at the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Delegate Assembly on Saturday, October 3, 2015.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that extracurricular programs would begin in two weeks. New employee orientation is scheduled for August 12 & 13, 2015. A convocation service for PISD staff is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2015, and Monday, August 24, 2015 is the first day for students.

PISD will begin a new five year strategic plan in the fall of 2015, titled Vision 2020, in which the district hopes to continue improvements that were accomplished as a result of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. PISD administrators will meet for a Summer Administrative Retreat on July 21, 2015 to set a timeline and begin the new strategic planning process.

Called board meetings are scheduled for July 27 & 28, 2015 for the purpose of interviewing potential board candidates to complete the term for Dana Staples, who officially resigned in June, 2015.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
August 20, 2015**