

PALESTINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jason Marshall
Superintendent

"Palestine ISD... A World-Class Academic Organization"
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PRESS RELEASE

TO: Media/Interested Parties
FROM: Jason Marshall, Superintendent of Schools, Palestine ISD
DATE: Monday, May 15, 2017
RE: Recent Social Media Post

At approximately 9 pm Sunday night, Palestine ISD was informed of a potential animal welfare issue involving one of our current employees. This claim is not school-related, but it does involve a school employee. The person reporting the incident claimed that a current Palestine ISD employee is engaging in animal cruelty through improperly breeding dogs and that evidence of this cruelty was sent via text messages to another person. These text message exchanges were posted on Facebook over the weekend, and numerous people have commented on those Facebook posts. We thank the person who notified us of the electronic exchanges, and we will investigate this situation thoroughly.

Palestine ISD has received phone calls and emails (too many to return) from all over the country today. This statement serves as formal communication to all interested parties that while our primary focus is on the education of our students, we look very closely into matters involving our employees. Palestine ISD is aware that the Palestine Police Department and possibly other agencies are looking into this situation, and we will stay in communication with those agencies. At this time, the employee in question is away from her duties while an investigation is being conducted.

Again, thank you for your interest in Palestine ISD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the initials 'JM' enclosed within a circular scribble.