



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the June 17, 2019 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **Spotlight**

#### **Palestine Police Department**

Palestine ISD honored the Palestine Police Department for all they do to keep the community and schools safe. Superintendent Marshall thanked Chief Andy Harvey for the police department's quick response to campuses when assistance has been needed. Mr. Marshall stated that thankfully all situations had been false alarms and the police department had responded as they would to a real emergency. Chief Harvey thanked the school district for the good partnership between the police department and schools and introduced the following officers from the Palestine Police Department: Fernando Nino, Jr., Andrew Link, Richard Johnson, and Joe Tinsley.

### **Public Comment**

There were no requests for public comment.

### **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, reported the following information:

- Tax collections strong at 102%.
- Several district investments would mature soon causing the need for reinvestment of those funds. Interest earnings on the new investments was expected to be less than earnings on the previous investment.
- Project to repair concrete at PHS scheduled to begin in May of 2020, utilizing funds awarded to district through lawsuit stemming from May 2009 bond construction.
- District to decrease 2019-2020 tax rate due to an increase in funds from the state.

### **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a brief financial update, noting that the district had seen an increase on interest from investments and that tax collections were strong.

### **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 20, 2019
- Minutes of Called Meeting of June 6, 2019
- Bills paid for May, 2019
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

#### **Palestine ISD**

Four gift cards from Subs & Dogs valued at \$20.00 to be awarded as prizes at PISD STEAM Fair.

#### **Palestine High School**

\$10,000.00 from the Gragg Foundation to be used for college scholarship for a PHS senior.  
\$250.00 from Steve & Cindi Presley in honor of Diane Jenkins to benefit the Eric Cates Theater Arts Scholarship.  
\$100.00 from Lee Loveless to benefit PHS Student Council.

PHS Athletics

\$733.00 from Karson's Kona Ice of Huntsville (Kona Ice Sales Giveback) to benefit PHS Athletics Department.

PHS Kik Kats

\$450.00 from 5J Oilfield Services.  
\$350.00 from Michael Bennett.  
\$250.00 from J&M Premier Services.  
\$250.00 from Killion & Son's Well Service.  
\$250.00 from Kim's Convenience Stores.  
\$250.00 from George Torma Air Conditioning.  
\$100.00 from Roundhouse Packaging Store.  
\$75.00 from Allyson Mitchell.

- 2019-2020 Student Tuition: \$3,000.00 (Tuition amount same as 2018-2019)
- Engagement of Smith, Lambright, and Associates for Financial Audit of the Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2019

**Report on STAAR Scores**

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services; presented preliminary STAAR scores. Mr. Kiser informed that a more detailed report on preliminary scores would be given at the July regular meeting, and that the district expected to receive final scores in August:

- Campus scores: 14 areas in which progress had been made, 7 areas of regression, and 1 area with no change.
- Southside Elementary scores reflect improvement from previous school year's Improvement Required rating.

**Summer School**

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, reported the following on summer learning:

- Summer School program in progress.
- Campuses checking with students/parents regarding summer learning projects and receiving good feedback on student progress.
- District piloting MyOnReading program. Approximately 100 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have laptop with access to MyOnReading at home. Using MyOnReading, PISD students read 3,111 books from May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Palestine ISD Safety Plan Update**

Dr. William Stewart presented the following information regarding district plans for school safety:

- District ahead of the game as a result of PISD Board making safety a priority in 2018.
- District adhering to Senate Bill 11 requirements including mental health training, law enforcement interaction training, safety teams assigned per campus, door sensors installed at PHS for new school year, digital to replace analog radios at campuses and on school buses. Perimeter and interior safety audit of campuses prior to new school year.
- Due to PreKindergarten expansion at the WECC campus, PISD Daycare was being moved to new location. Daycare will have privacy fencing and security cameras. Cars entering daycare campus must pass through a car reader to be allowed entrance.
- Automated gate to be installed at PISD Bus Barn to ensure safety of employees when returning vehicles at night.

## **Policy DC Local**

An item regarding Policy DC (Local) was not considered.

## **Personnel**

The Board approved the following personnel as presented:

1) Ball, Misty	Computer	Palestine Junior High School
2) Edmond, Malcolm	ISS	Palestine Junior High School
3) Hooe, Leslie	Choir	Palestine High School
4) Huff, Kodi	K-6 Athletic Coordinator	A.M. Story Intermediate
5) Jones, Cody	Special Education	Palestine Junior High School
6) Lindeburg, Karen	PPCD	Washington Early Childhood Center
7) McEnturff, Brandi	Instructional Coach	Special Education
8) Michael, Sherry	English/Language Arts	Palestine High School
9) Molandes, Melissa	Asst. Principal	Northside Primary
10) Muniz, Natali	Transitions	Palestine High School
11) Sanders, Jordan	Asst. Band Director	Palestine Junior High School
12) Smith, Melinda	Math	A.M. Story Intermediate

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Kelcie Kuhn, Amy Robinson, Cindy Rubalcava, and Christopher Tiner.

## **Teacher Salaries**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, shared information regarding HB3 from the Texas 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session that will provide increased funding to school districts. Mr. Atkeisson explained that HB3 mandates that school districts increase teacher pay a minimum of 30%. Mr. Atkeisson stated that the district had reviewed current salaries and calculated salary increases for teachers that would ensure that the district's pay steps 1-20 met the state's new required teacher minimum pay steps, that each teacher received a minimum \$5,000 pay raise, and that all pay steps were at least \$1,500 above the new state minimum to ensure the district's teachers are highest paid in the county. (Mr. Atkeisson noted that the \$2,500 stipend for teachers; that had been approved at the March, 2019 regular meeting, would be replaced by the new pay step calculations, and that teachers would not receive both the \$2,500 stipend (approved in March, 2019) and the salary increase (approved in June, 2019).

Teacher salary increases were approved as presented.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Marshall shared the following information:

Budget workshop to be held during the regular school board meeting on July 22, 2019.  
The district's proposed tax rate for 2019-2020 to be approved at the July regular meeting.

The district's budget and tax rate for 2019-2020 to be presented for approval at the August 26, 2019 regular school board meeting.

An update from the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session will be presented for PISD board members during fall, 2019.

Board members discussed TASB San Antonio Summer Leadership Institute they had attended June 13-15, 2019.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.