



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the September 16, 2019 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Pledges

Barbara Dutton, Northside Primary principal, introduced Northside students who led pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Spotlight – Palestine High School Junior Rotarians

Dylan Fletcher and Blake Lockhart were recognized for being selected to serve as Junior Rotarians for the month of September. Dr. William Stewart introduced the students and shared their accomplishments. A certificate of accomplishment was presented to each student.

Spotlight - Palestine High School Students of the Month

Allison Gonzalez and Will James were recognized for being selected to serve as September students of the month. Allison Gonzalez was not able to be present due to attending Constitution Day in Austin, Texas. Janice Magee, PHS Math Department Chair, introduced Will James and shared his accomplishments. Will James was presented a Student of the Month plaque.

Spotlight - TACS

Barry Haenisch, Executive Director of Texas Association of Community Schools recognized Superintendent Jason Marshall for his service as 2019-2020 President of Texas Association of Community Schools (TACS), a non-profit organization that advocates for public schools. Mr. Haenisch thanked the Board of Trustees for supporting Superintendent Marshall in his work as TACS President. Mr. Haenisch also presented each board member with a copy of TACS Today magazine which contained an article regarding the Palestine ISD 4-H Program.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Financial Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall, presented a brief financial report. Mr. Marshall informed that 2019-2020 new budget year was in operation and that the district had begun receiving tax collections.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 26, 2019
- Bills paid for August, 2019
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report (Previous Month Interest \$39,664.46)
- 2018-2019 Amended Final Budget (\$31,800,000)
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations
 - Palestine High School
 - \$5,000 from unnamed donor to be used for welding and construction classes
 - \$700 from Jim Parsons for PHS Constitution Day field trip
 - 6 pizzas valued at \$75 for Choir
 - Ice valued at \$100 from JJ's #107
 - High School Choir for trip to Carnegie Hall in New York City:
 - Biologie products and free haircut/style for silent auction valued at \$102 from JC Penney Salon
 - \$195 from Barbara Dockweiler
 - \$1,000 from unnamed donor
 - \$25 from Melanie Thomas
 - \$50 from Steven Goodson
 - \$400 from Jill Michener to use for subway passes during New York City Choir trip
- 2019-2020 Certified Appraisers: Additions to list (James Coker, Michael Esparza, Laura Jones, and Linda Luce)
- Policy EIF (Local)
- Policy CKE (Local): Information Only

Summer Learning

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services reported on summer learning. Mr. Kiser shared that approximately 1,500 students participated in summer learning through Bilingual/ESL, TACE, Summer Reading Bus, MyOn Reading, and secondary summer projects. Mr. Kiser presented a comparison of student scores from End of Year (EOY) to Beginning of Year (BOY). The comparison of scores reflected a decrease from end of year to beginning of year. Mr. Kiser stated that the decrease in scores was a concern and that the district was looking at ways to help students have less regression during the summer months. Some of the methods to help student scores include: 1) Learning devices (no internet required) were given to 125 students to take home, and the district is working to provide more learning devices for students to take home. 2) Dream Box, a math program was implemented this school year for A.M. Story Intermediate students. 3) The district is investigating grants that would provide internet access for students at home. 4) Checkpoints were implemented in summer 2019 to ensure that junior high and high school summer projects are being completed by students. Of 712 student projects, 698 were completed and turned in.

Campus Report

Sheila Bradley, Washington Early Childhood Center Principal, provided an update from the district's campuses. Highlights include:

- PHS Practicum students visit Northside weekly to learn by observing, as well as teach in small groups. PHS Little Buddies visited Northside to read to kindergarten students.
- Junior High Boys' and Girls' Cross Country placed 1st at their first meet, and Junior High Football season going well.
- A.M. Story Intermediate 6th grade students received iPads to use at school and at home. Story students are learning current events, coding, how to create projects, and participating in Spanish, STEAM, engineering, and building classes.

- Northside and Southside students have completed a beginning of year reading and math assessment.
- Southside students have begun taking iPads home and students have downloaded 6,765 using the MyOn Reading Program.
- WECC and Northside students have participated in Bus Safety Training.
- WECC students have completed Brigance testing, CLI testing will begin at the end of September, and teachers have begun setting up home visits.
- ACE students and their parents had fun making mums for homecoming on Mum Making Night.

Technology Update

Mark Schrader, Director of Technology, presented an update on the district's technology program and cyber security protection. Mr. Schrader informed that the district had been upgrading and expanding the district's wired and wireless network infrastructure for the past several years, and working to increase internet access bandwidth to ensure the district can handle the increasing demands of digital learning. The district currently has a 10gb fiber wide area network linking all campuses together, a Cisco switch network that provides a 1gb wired connection to all machines in the district, completed wireless project so that we now have wireless access points in every classroom in the district, 4gb fiber connection to internet which currently exceeds the FCC's long term school connectivity goals. Virtual desktop environment has been implemented to provide resources for computer labs throughout the district and online testing required by the state. The district began a five year plan in summer 2019 to replace all computers within the district. In year one of the five year plan, PHS received new computers and PJHS will receive new computers in year two. The district purchased 170 laptops and 1,200 iPads during summer 2019. District 3,200 iPads throughout the district. District is storing student, financial, and email information in the cloud to reduce number of servers needed in the district rather than having to purchase new servers. Third party vendor? District has top industry rated firewall and antivirus for all devices. District stores confidential and high security information in the cloud helps to ensure the district's cyber security. District will select a vendor to provide an overall network assessment and comprehensive intrusion testing to help identify any possible vulnerabilities in the network. Vendor will also develop a cyber security framework to provide compliance with SB820 that requires school districts to adopt a cyber security policy.

Personnel Approved

Neal, Holly

Dyslexia

A.M. Story Intermediate

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marshall reported on the following:

- Student Enrollment: 3,411 as of September 16, 2019
- Calendar of Upcoming Events given to Board Members
- Homecoming Events
 - Community Tailgate Party: Monday, September 19, 2019
 - Pep Rally and Football Game: Friday, September 27, 2019
- School/Community Academic Task Force made up of community members, parents, principals, and teachers to be implemented for the purpose of helping students improve STAAR scores. First meeting to be held October 14, 2019.

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