



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the November 18, 2019 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Pledges

Grace Mancilla, Southside Elementary Principal, introduced Southside Elementary 3rd grade students who led pledges of allegiance to the American and Texas flags. Mrs. Mancilla shared that each of the students had been chosen by their teacher for exhibiting positive character traits. Students included: Shelby Bradford, Hailey Bradford, Kaitlyn Gonzalez, Carrigan Absalom, Cash Tunstall, Connor Willoughby, James Bittick, Allison Deluna, and Janeisy Dubon.

Spotlight – PHS Choir

Leslie Hooe, PISD Choir Director, introduced high school choir members and shared the following accomplishments from the UIL Region 21 All-Region Choir Contest:

In the All Region Honor Choir contest (JV track) the following students placed - Soprano Section: Brittany Burke (1st Chair), Gabby Knox (4th Chair), Na'Tasha Acevedo (6th Chair), Katie Wheat (13th Chair). Alto Section: Esther Egbe (1st Chair), Joy Ruffin (2nd Chair), Kemper Clamon (7th Chair), and Jazlyn Todd (11th Chair).

In the All Region Small School Contest (Varsity track) the following students advanced - Soprano Section: Emalyn Nicholson (3rd Chair), Allyson Byrd (11th Chair), and Nicholla Webb (18th Chair). Alto section: Skylar Jones (23rd Chair). Bass section: Wesley Smith (5th Chair) and Corbin Hughes (15th Chair).

In the Pre-Area All Region Small School Contest (next level of All Region Small School) Emalyn Nicholson and Wesley Smith both advanced. The students will compete for a seat in the Texas All State Choir on Saturday, January 11th in Carthage, TX.

Spotlight – PHS Volleyball

Janae Evans, PHS Volleyball Coach, introduced team members (Katy Litynesky, Ka'Zem Wood, Ke'Ondra White, Raina Hanzik, Shaila Arthur, Chynna Logan, Monique Thompson, Kacie Danchak, Jan'Aa Johnson, and Aleeya Grayson) and shared season accomplishments: Volleyball Team placed 3rd in District and made first round of the playoffs for the 3rd consecutive year.

Spotlight – Fall Tennis

Tennis team was not able to attend board meeting due to Tennis Meet.

Spotlight – PHS Cross Country

Luis Hernandez, Girls' Cross Country Coach, introduced team members (Suzie Francia, Savannah Harris, Samantha Chitus, Karina Guitierrez, Kaycie Danchak, Helena Lara, Camila Dominguez, Yarizeth Garcia, and Lauren Rocha) and shared season accomplishments: Varsity Girls' Cross Country placed 1st in District and made it to Regional competition for the 15th consecutive year.

John Absalom, Boys' Cross Country Coach, introduced varsity team members (Luis Rangel, Luis Castillo, Garrett Bowden, Michael Guzman, Raul Ramirez, Jonathan Sanchez, Lizardo Lemus, and Michael Chaidez) and shared season accomplishments: Boys' Cross Country Varsity team won the District Championship for the 14th consecutive year, and were Regional runner-ups. Third consecutive year to compete at the State Meet: At the State Meet, Luis Rangel finished in 6th place of 151 runners breaking the school record by almost a full minute with a time of 15:36. Other runner times at the State Meet were: Michael Guzman (17:02), Michael Chaidez (17:07), Garrett Bowden (17:30), Luis Castillo (17:35), Raul Ramirez (18:34) and Jonathan Sanchez (19:22).

Spotlight - Palestine High School Junior Rotarians

Kara Richmond and Carlos Adame were recognized for being selected to serve as Junior Rotarians for the month of November. Each student was presented a certificate for their accomplishment.

Spotlight - Palestine High School Students of the Month

Taylor Kelly and Ricardo Benitez were recognized for being chosen as Students of the Month for September. Each student was presented a plaque for their accomplishment.

Spotlight – Operation Read

The Operation Read Project was recognized for providing free books for students to take home to help them learn to read and to become better readers. Jeff Atkinson of the Kiwanis Club and Mayor Steve Presley for the City of Palestine shared that this was the second year of the Operation Read Project that provides funds for books to children in the community. This year almost \$25,000 was raised through the Operation Read Pancake Fundraiser in September, 2019. More than 8,000 books were distributed to 1,863 PK-3rd grade students who attend Palestine, Westwood, Christian Heritage Academy, and UT Tyler Innovation Academy on Wednesday, November 13, 2019. Mr. Atkinson expressed appreciation to all the volunteers and groups that have joined the Kiwanis Club in the effort including the Rotary Club, Lions Club, Altrusa Club, and the Palestine Unidos Program.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Financial Report

Superintendent Marshall presented a brief financial update. As of October, 2019, the district's tax collections were at 5.44% and the district had earned \$18,156.92 on investment interest.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2019
- Bills paid for October, 2019
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

PISD High School

\$50 for PHS Choir ETX HAS TALENT from Wendy Young Travel.

\$50 for PHS Choir ETX HAS TALENT from Stacey Braun of Sassy Bows.

\$50 for PHS Choir ETX HAS TALENT from Scott Nicholson.

\$50 for PHS Choir ETX HAS TALENT from Stanley Sokolowski.

Grill for Concession Stand valued at \$100.99 from Stanley Sokolowski.

- 2019-2020 Legal Services Retainer Agreement with Walsh, Gallegos, Trevino, Russo, & Kyle P.C.
- Credit by Exam – December 2019 Administration
- Skyward Software Approval

School Safety Update

Bruce Bradley, Director of School Safety, informed that the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) performed an onsite inspection of the district during the month of November and that the district had completed and turned in all paperwork needed for receiving permission to form a district police department. Mr. Bradley stated that the district is now waiting to be assigned an agency ID from TCOLE, and if approved would allow the district to begin operation of a school police department.

Second Six Weeks Academic Progress

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, reported on second six weeks academic progress. The report included Reading/Writing and Math benchmark scores and the percentage of students who passed the first and second six weeks for each grade level.

Campus Report

Grace Mancilla, Southside Elementary Principal, provided an update on school events for each of the district's campuses.

Policy Update 114

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, shared information regarding Policy Update 114 affecting the following local policies:

Policy Update 114 was approved by the Board as presented.

BE Board Meetings (Time required to post notice of an emergency meeting reduced to one hour.)

BED Board Meetings: Public Participation

CDA Other Revenues: Investments

CH Purchasing and Acquisition

CKC Safety Program/Risk Management: Emergency Plans

CKE Safety Programs/Risk Management

CQ Technology Resources

CQB Technology Resources: Cybersecurity

DFFA Reduction in Force: Financial Exigency

DH Employee Standards of Conduct

EHBB Special Programs: Gifted and Talented Students

FDE Admissions: School Safety Transfers

FFAA Wellness and Health Services: Physical Examinations

FFB Student Welfare: Crisis Intervention

FFBA Crisis Intervention

FL Student Records

GBAA Information Access: Requests for Information

GKA Community Relations: Conduct on School Premises

Athletic Improvement Projects

Superintendent Marshall informed the Board that approval of procedural steps (Construction Manager At Risk, Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals) were needed in order to move forward with planned athletic facility improvements.

The Board approved the following items related to athletic facility construction:

- 1) Construction Manager at Risk as the procurement method, which provides the best value to PISD for the remaining Athletic Improvements Projects.
- 2) Delegate authority to the Superintendent, to prepare a Request for Qualifications, advertise, receive responses to RFQ, and rank Construction Managers.
- 3) Delegate authority to the Superintendent/Designee to submit a Request for Proposal to the highest ranked respondent or respondents, to the Construction Management Request for Qualifications and present a recommendation to Board of Trustees for the PISD to enter into Contract negotiations with the recommended Construction Manager.

Personnel

There were no personnel recommendations.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported on the following:

- PISD total student enrollment as of November 18, 2019: 3,447
- Turkey Distribution to staff: Wednesday, November 20, 2019
- Wildcat Football Team in playoffs (Bi-District game Friday, November 22, 2019 vs Huffman-Hargrave Falcons in Bryan, Texas)
- District administrators and Board of Trustee members to distribute retention incentives to PISD staff on Thursday, December 5, 2019

There being no further business, Board President Bennett declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.