



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the April 27, 2020 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Virtual Called Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Palestine Independent School District held a Virtual Called Meeting on April 27, 2020 at 5:00 PM, via Zoom software application.

Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 coronavirus, this meeting was conducted by telephone. At least a quorum of the board was present by telephone call in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.122 or 551.127 of the Texas Government Code that have not been suspended by order of the governor.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by President Michael Bennett at 5:02 PM.

Public Comment

The board meeting agenda posting notified that individuals who wished to make a public comment could sign up by calling the PISD Administration Office until 4:30 P.M. the day of the meeting. There were no requests for public comment.

Superintendent's Report

COVID-19 Coronavirus Update:

- 1) Governor Greg Abbott closed schools for the remainder of the year.
Schools have not been given clearance for in-person graduation ceremonies. A decision regarding schools being allowed to have Summer School is pending.
- 2) At Home Learning and Breakfast/Lunch - PISD continues to provide breakfast/lunch 6 days each week, but is only distributing on Mon/Wed/Fri in order to meet social distance objectives due to COVID-19 Coronavirus.
- 3) Year-Ending Procedures - District is developing a plan to close out the school year in regard to grades, textbook returns, etc and will follow social distance requirements during that process.
- 4) Summer School Preliminary Plans - District considering options for summer school, possibly technology-oriented learning.
- 5) Administrative Zoom Meetings with all administrators are held each week in order to meet social distance objectives.

School Bus Purchase via TCEQ Grant

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, informed that the district had been approved for a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Texas Clean School Bus Grant. The grant provides a rebate of \$193,725 for a total of 3 buses, an average rebate of \$64,575 (60% savings) per bus. The Board approved the purchase of 3 buses through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Texas Clean School Bus Grant.

Wildcat Stadium Turf Replacement

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, informed that the turf that had been installed at Wildcat Stadium in 2009 had recently failed a G-Max test, a test designed to measure the impact safety of a turf field. District administrators considered several manufacturers and installers in order to determine the safest and most economical turf replacement. After in-person consultations and actual field visits, Astro Turf installed by Symmetry was determined to be potentially the safest option as surveyed by Coach Angel, and also the most economical price (\$535,400) with the most flexible installation scheduling. The Board approved the replacement of turf at Wildcat Stadium utilizing Astro Turf installed by Symmetry.

Grading Guidelines Due to COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic

Superintendent Marshall presented guidelines for grading of students’ at home learning work during the school closure due to COVID-19 Coronavirus. Students in grades K-8 would receive grades of S (Satisfactory), NI (Needs Improvement), and I (Incomplete) for the second semester. High School students will receive a numerical grade for the second semester but the grade will not count in the GPA calculation.

Policy EIC (Local), Class Rank Resolution

Superintendent Marshall explained that a temporary adjustment to Policy EIC (Local), Class Rank was needed during the school closure related to COVID-19 Coronavirus. The temporary adjustment will allow the determination of local honors, including valedictorian and salutatorians, to be based on the grades available for the most recent final semester (2019-2020 first semester). The Board adopted a resolution to adjust Policy EIC (Local) for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Educator/Principal/Administrative Appraisal Waiver

Superintendent Marshall informed that due to the closure of schools in March 2020 related to COVID-19, administrators had been unable to complete the appraisal process, and that the Texas Education Agency was allowing districts to submit a waiver for 2019-2020 appraisals. The Board approved submission of an Educator/Principal/Administrator Appraisal Waiver for 2019-2020 to the Texas Education Agency.

Personnel

The Board approved term and probationary contracts of teachers for the 2020-2021.

The Board approved the following personnel.

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| 1) Bell, Yancy | Broadcast Journalism | Palestine High School |
| 2) Jones, Mary | Kindergarten | Northside Primary |
| 3) Moore, Karey | Science | Palestine High School |
| 4) Rogers, Mendall | 6 th Grade English | A.M. Story Intermediate |
| 5) Sheffield, Melissa | Counselor | A.M. Story Intermediate |

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Jack Collins, Kendrick Ellis, Brianna Guel, and Claire Lierman.

High School Graduation

The Board discussed other options for High School graduation since the district may not be able to hold a traditional ceremony due to social distancing requirements related to COVID-19 Coronavirus. No decision was made. The Board will continue discussions at the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 PM.