



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the February 20, 2020 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **Spotlight**

#### **Baze Chemical:**

Baze Chemical was recognized for their generous donation to the Palestine ISD Weekend Backpack Program that provides meals for students at risk of weekend hunger.

#### **Junior Rotarians of the Month:**

Morgan Shiflet and Easton Musil were recognized for being named Junior Rotarians for the month of February. Each student was presented a plaque to commemorate the honor.

#### **Students of the Month:**

Alexis Rodriguez and Christian Hutchinson were recognized for being named PHS Students of the Month for February. Janice Magee, PHS Science Department Head, shared Alexis' achievements. Randall Reeves, PHS Math Teacher/Coach, shared Christian's achievements. Each student was presented a plaque to commemorate the honor.

#### **Barbara Dutton, TEPSAN of the Year:**

Barbara Dutton, Northside Primary Principal, was recognized for being named TEPSAN of the Year by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors of the Year Association (TEPSA).

#### **Celebrate Texas Public Schools:**

In support of Celebrate Texas Public Schools 2020, the district will celebrate Texas Public Schools during the month of March with a special emphasis during the week of March 9-13, 2020.

### **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a financial report. Mr. Atkeisson informed that the district had received 76% of current tax collections, the district had earned \$27,000 in investment interest during the previous month, and that two of the district's CD's had recently matured. The district will investigate how to reinvest the mature CD funds in order to earn the maximum amount possible on those funds.

### **Financial Audit**

J.W. Lambright of Smith, Lambright & Associates, presented the PISD Financial Audit for the year ending August 31, 2019. The audit was favorable and reflects a fund balance increase in the general fund of \$1,692,957, while the combined fund balance (all funds) show an increase of \$2,900,998. The Board accepted findings of the Financial Audit as presented.

### **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2020
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of February 10, 2020
- Bills paid for January, 2020
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

#### **Palestine ISD**

\$2,500 from Baze Chemical to be used for Weekend Meal Backpacks for students.

#### **Palestine ISD Athletic Department**

\$500 from Lee Loveless for Basketball Tournament sponsorship.

- Investment Policies Review of CDA (Local) Required annual review
- PISD Police Dept. Racial Profiling Report (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement required annual disclosure regarding traffic stops)

### **School Calendar for 2020-2021**

The Board approved the school calendar for 2020-2021. The calendar contains 173 days of instruction, the first day of school is August 13, 2020 and the last day is May 20, 2021.

### **PJHS Course Guide for 2020-2021**

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented proposed revisions to the PJHS Course Guide for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Kiser informed that a welding class had been added, and that the title for all PJHS PreAP classes would be changed to Honors classes due to the College Board no longer allowing districts to use the term PreAP without paying a \$3,000 fee per class. Mr. Kiser stated that if the district finds that there is a need to return to the PreAP title, the district would consider paying the College Board fee for advanced classes. The Board adopted the PJHS Course Guide for 2020-2021 as presented.

### **PHS Course Guide & GPA Calculation for 2020-2021**

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented proposed revisions to the PHS Course Guide and GPA Calculation for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Kiser informed that the following classes would be added to 2020-2021 PHS Course Offerings: Interior Design, Greenhouse Operations and Management, Education Dual Credit, Musical Theatre, TSI Transitions, and Law Enforcement Dual Credit. The title for all PHS PreAP classes would change to Honors classes due to the College Board no longer allowing districts to use the term PreAP without paying a \$3,000 fee per class. Mr. Kiser stated that if the district finds that there is a need to return to the PreAP title, the district would consider paying the College Board fee for advanced classes. All core classes (Math, Science, English, Social Studies) will count in GPA calculation to begin with the 2020-2021 incoming freshman class to allow students the opportunity to explore non-core classes and not negatively affect their GPA. The Board adopted the PHS Course Guide and GPA Calculation revisions for 2020-2021 as presented.

## **Campus Report**

David Richardson, A.M. Story Intermediate Principal, presented a report for each of the district's six campuses. Highlights included:

### Palestine High School

- TAFE (Texas Association of Future Educators) Students had competed at State in February.
- Athletics: Boys/Girls Basketball in playoffs, Soccer continues to dominate.
- 4H Food Challenge (similar to Chopped television show) to be held at PHS on Saturday, February 22, 2020.
- Annual Math and Science Night to be held on Tuesday February 25, 2020.

### Palestine Junior High School

- Basketball Teams had a good season.
- Robotics Team competed in an all Junior High competition for the first time, and won the Create Award for their demonstration of a great design process. The team also made it to the quarterfinals and placed 8th out of 50 teams.
- Winter Guard has begun its season with the team attending its second competition this week.

### A.M. Story Intermediate

- The first Archery Competition for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students was held at Story on January 25th. Students will compete at an Archery Competition in Kaufman on March 6, 2020.

### Southside Elementary

- ELO (extended learning opportunity) classes started this week.
- PE students are using DrumsAlive to combine physical fitness with music and rhythm.
- Southside hosted Westwood ISD, Nacogdoches ISD, and Region 7 staff this school year for Data Driven Instruction Meetings.

### Northside Primary

- PISD Literacy Consultant is continuing literacy training for PISD elementary teachers on February 25, 26, and 27, 2020 (½ day trainings).
- Northside Art Show with Dr. Seuss theme to be held March 20, 2020.

### Washington Early Childhood Center

- Campus significant growth in CLI (Children's Learning Institute) testing that was completed recently.

## **Winter Academic Report**

Chris Kiser, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services presented Benchmark and CBA Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies scores for each campus by grade level.

## **Personnel**

Contract extensions for administrators and directors approved:

Lance Angel	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
David Atkeisson	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
Sheila Bradley	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
Dee Dietz	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
Suzanne Eiben	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
Burt Chris Kiser	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
Larissa Loveless	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
Grace Mancilla	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
Joseph Mason	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
Sharon Reed	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
David Richardson	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
William Stewart	2 Year Contract (One Year Extension)
James Sam Coker	1 Year Contract
Michael Esparza	1 Year Contract

Rhonda Herrington (Part Time)	1 Year Contract
Brian Howie	1 Year Contract
Laura Jones	1 Year Contract
Michael Jones	1 Year Contract
Linda Luce	1 Year Contract
Shanna Marshall	1 Year Contract
Melissa Molandes	1 Year Contract
Angela Nichols	1 Year Contract
Traci Pridgen	1 Year Contract
Breck Quarles	1 Year Contract
Toscha Reeves	1 Year Contract
Lolita Shead (Part Time)	1 Year Contract
William Tunstall	1 Year Contract

Non-Certified Administrators

Bruce Bradley	1 Year Contract
Jack Dalaba	1 Year Contract
Mark Schrader	1 Year Contract
Jacob Wheeler	1 Year Contract

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Michelle Dorsett and Elizabeth Morgan.

**New Youth Sports Organization**

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed regarding the possible formation of a new youth sports organization. Superintendent Marshall reminded that the City of Palestine had closed their youth athletic complex in 2019 due to ADA compliance issues. The City had approached Palestine ISD and Westwood ISD to see if the schools would consider working together to form a new youth sports organization primarily for baseball and softball. Superintendent Marshall stated that if a youth sports agreement was reached, the agreement would be presented to the Board for approval prior to implementation. The Board approved the formation of a new youth sports organization (in principle) in cooperation with Westwood ISD and the City of Palestine.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall shared the following information:

- PISD student enrollment as of February 20, 2020: 3,478
- March-April Activities
  - Celebrate Texas Public Schools: March 9-13, 2020
  - District One-Act Play: March 6, 2020
  - Spring Break: March 16-20, 2020
  - Good Friday Holiday for Staff & Students: April 10, 2020
  - Called School Board Meeting for District Planning: March 2, 2020
- Next Regular School Board Meeting: March 26, 2020 (moved from Regular Monday due to Spring Break)
- Training to be scheduled for required SB 1566 Trustee and Team Building Training  
TASB Summer Leadership Institute (Trustees discussed possibly attending San Antonio or Fort Worth SLI)

### **Executive Session**

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8:25 PM to discuss matters pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.072 Real Property, and 551.074 Personnel Matters.

Executive Session ended at 8:35 PM. The Board reconvened into open session and President Bennett stated that no action was taken in closed session.

There being no further business, President Bennett declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.