



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the May 11, 2020 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Virtual Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Palestine Independent School District held a Virtual Regular Meeting on May 11, 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 Vice President Kurt Herrington at 5:00 PM.

Public Comment

Jodie Barnett, Jeremy Barnett, and Sylvia Bedre (PHS parents) spoke regarding inappropriate content in the book, "Incredibly Loud and Up Close", an English I reading assignment.

Superintendent's Report

- 1) COVID-19 Coronavirus Update: Cases seem to be leveling off statewide. PISD will remain careful to avoid spread of COVID-19.
- 2) Year-Ending Procedures: Last week of instruction (at home learning assignments) will be less time consuming/difficult.
- 3) PISD will host an end-of-year appreciation parade for all staff on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 9:00 AM.
- 4) Summer School will be provided for students in need of summer instruction. The district will not assign summer learning packets for advanced (PreAP/AP) courses.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a brief financial report, noting that PISD had become accustomed to a new way of handling school business due to COVID-19 distancing requirements.

Technology Purchase

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, stated that in light of the current COVID-19 situation, there was a need to augment instructional technology to facilitate home-based learning for the summer and beyond. The Board approved a purchase utilizing grant funds in the amount of \$571, 697 for iPads, laptops, and internet devices, from Dell, Apple, and Kajeet.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting of April 13, 2020
- Minutes of the Virtual Called Meeting of April 27, 2020
- Bills paid for April, 2020
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations (None received)

Personnel

The Board approved the following personnel:

1) Brooks, Ricky	DAEP	Palestine High School
2) Cleveland, Ellen	Speech Pathologist	Special Education
3) Harlow, Jana	Physical Education	Palestine Junior High School
4) Herron, Melanie	Special Education	Palestine High School
5) Hughes, Tracy	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
6) Nunley, Shelly	Diagnostician	Special Education
7) Perkins, Michele	5 th Grade Reading	A.M. Story Intermediate
8) Suarez, Maribel	5 th Grade Science	A.M. Story Intermediate
9) Washington, Katrina	2nd Grade	Southside Elementary
10) Whitlock, Cathy	5 th Grade Science	A.M. Story Intermediate

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Barbara Dutton, Donnie Leach, Erica Reeves, and Pamela White.

PHS Graduation Ceremony

The Board discussed procedures for a modified graduation ceremony due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 Coronavirus. The Board discussed safety and distancing measures that would be enacted to protect graduates and attendees, and changing the date of graduation due to not having permission from the Texas Education Agency for in-person graduation ceremonies prior to May 29, 2020. The Board approved moving the graduation ceremony (in-person) from Friday, May 22, 2020 to Friday, May 29, 2020, 8:00 PM at Wildcat Stadium.

Board Officer Election

The Board discussed the election of Board officers. Board officer elections are normally held at the next meeting following the May trustee election. However; due to school board meetings being held virtually since the month of March due COVID-19, the Board had not yet elected officers. The Board agreed to elect Board officers at the next in-person school board meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 PM.