



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the September 18, 2017 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Pledges

Sheila Bradley, Washington Early Childhood Center principal, introduced a group of students from the WECC campus who led pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Spotlight – Teacher of the Year

Marvin Thompson of Region 7 Education Service Center, presented a plaque to Kathleen Brown, PHS Science teacher to commemorate her being named the Region 7 2018 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Spotlight - Junior Rotarians

PHS student, Diana Soto was recognized for being named Junior Rotarian for the month of September. Luke Harris was also named Junior Rotarian for the month of September but was not present due to attending Constitution Day, so he will be recognized at the October school board meeting.

Spotlight - Palestine High School Students of the Month

PHS students, Serena Coker and Jesus Garcia Castillo were named PHS Students of the Month for September. They were not present due to attending Constitution Day, so they will be recognized at the October school board meeting.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Financial Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall presented a brief financial report and noted that expenditures had begun being processed for 2017-2018.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 21, 2017
- Bills paid for August, 2017
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations
 - Southside Elementary
Supplies for student and teacher use valued at approximately \$200.00 from Grace United Methodist Church.
- 2018 Anderson County Central Appraisal District Approved Budget

PISD Summer Learning Report

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, reported that over 2,000 students completed the equivalent of one month of summer learning. Based on a finding from the district's Vision 2020 Plan that summer retention skills are a concern; the district has increased the number of students being served in summer learning programs during summer 2016 and again in 2017 via the TACE Program. Testing data from end of the school year to the beginning of the school year will be compared and utilized for the progress of students.

Campus Presentation for September

Sheila Bradley, Principal of Washington Early Childhood Center, presented the following highlights from each Palestine ISD campus for the 2017-2018 school year:

Washington Early Childhood Center - Students are tested three times during the school year with CLI (Children's Learning Institute) Engage to ensure students are prepared for kindergarten.

Northside Primary - Students are focusing on writing with the Lucy Calkins Writing Program.

Southside Elementary - The campus has implemented the Lucy Calkins Writing Program, as well as, the Drumtastic Program which applies fitness, drumming, music, and educational concepts in Physical Education classes.

A.M. Story Intermediate - Students have DEAR time every morning with focus on reading and character education through book study, and Story began using the anti-bullying program, Rachel's Challenge this year to encourage kindness.

Palestine Junior High School – Junior High has built “Simply Wanting Academic Greatness” (SWAG) classes into each day with anti-bullying program incorporated, and advanced Technology class creating short commercials as students learn the different aspects of iMovie on Apple Mac computers.

Palestine High School - Students are learning to manage their time and tasks through Cat Connections which enables students to accomplish many tasks during the school day that used to take time away from after school activities, and PHS staff is participating in a book study utilizing the book “Teach Like a Pirate”.

District of Innovation

Superintendent Jason Marshall, presented a review of the PISD District of Innovation plan. School districts are required by the Texas Education Agency to notify their Board prior to implementing exemptions in the DOI plan, and districts are also required to notify their School Board of excessive class sizes. As of September 18, 2017, PISD has no classes that have exceeded the state's limitation of 22 students to 1 teacher. Since PISD received DOI status, the district has utilized the following DOI exemptions:

- Requirement for schools to have behavior coordinator on campuses
- Probationary contracts extension from one to two years
- Start of school year flexibility
- Teacher certification flexibility in hard to find areas

Graduation Requirements

Superintendent Marshall shared information for adding an extracurricular and community service component to graduation requirements local policy. Local policy was approved by the Board in reference to extracurricular participation and community service in Palestine ISD graduation requirements. Note: Specific policy code will be added during the policy review currently being conducted by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB).

TASB Voting Resolution

The Board adopted the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Culture of Voting resolution to encourage voting among school staff.

Texas Education Human Resources Day

The Board adopted a resolution that October 10, 2017 be observed as Texas Education Human Resources Day throughout the district.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marshall reported on the following:

- Current PISD student enrollment is 3,417.
- Called school board meeting to be held September 25, 2017 for purpose of update on 85th Texas Legislative Session and Team Building session.
- Lunches in Lounge will be held at each campus in October.
- Homecoming pep rally and tail gate party is scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2017. Homecoming football game and announcement of king and queen on October 13, 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.