



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the January 22, 2015 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Pledges

The Northside Primary KEY Class led pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

Stacy Kolander and Luis Ferretiz were recognized as Junior Rotarians for the month of January.

Students of the Month

Sarah Coleman and Rigo Serralde were recognized for being named PHS Students of the Month for January.

Recognition of Board of Trustees

In observance of school board appreciation month, PISD Board members were recognized. Colorful banners decorated the board room with TASB's board appreciation theme, "A Work of Heart" in mind. Each board member received a basket full of treats, and aprons with their names monogrammed on the logo, "A Work of Heart". A production of the PHS Broadcast Journalism Class was shown featuring PHS students thanking the Board for the many ways they serve Palestine ISD. Chartwells Food Service made a donation to the East Texas Food Bank in honor of the Board. The donated funds will be used for the Backpacks for Kids Program and will provide Palestine ISD students who qualify with weekend meals. Board President, Stanley Sokolowski, expressed gratitude to staff and students for everything.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, reported that tax collections were ahead of last year at this time. Due to the rising student population, the 2014-15 budget may need an adjustment later in the spring.

2013-14 Financial Audit Report

John LeGard, of Smith, Lambright, and Associates, P.C., presented findings of the District's 2013-2014 financial audit. For the year ended August 31, 2014, the District reported total revenue of \$39,550,015 from local, state, and federal sources. Expenditures were \$41,671,039 which included \$2,350,584 of capital projects costs. At the completion of the year, a remaining fund balance of \$16,190,158 was reported.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2014
- Bills paid for December, 2014
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Innovative Course in Cosmetology Education
- Donations

Wildcat Golf Course

Dallas Cowboys football tickets valued at \$500.00 from Lee Loveless to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

\$500.00 from Keith and Suzanne Eiben to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

Palestine ISD TACE

Gift card valued at \$25.00 from Brookshire's to benefit the TACE Multicultural Christmas Program.

Candy plates valued at \$100.00 from Court Drive Church of Christ to benefit the TACE Multicultural Christmas Program.

Vegetables valued at \$34.52 from El Natural to benefit the TACE Multicultural Christmas Program.

8 oz. cups from El Toro Mexican Restaurant to benefit the TACE Multicultural Christmas Program.

Palestine High School Athletics

\$2,852.00 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club to be used to purchase two exercise bikes for rehabilitation and workouts.

\$1,764.15 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club to be used for tennis, golf, soccer, and baseball.

\$648.50 from Sharon Evans to purchase an advertisement sign for 2015.

Palestine High School FFA Department

\$300.00 from Michael Bennett to benefit the PHS FFA Department.

Palestine High School Student Council

\$149.50 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club to benefit PHS Student Council.

Public Hearing to Discuss Texas Academic Performance Report for 2013-14

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, reviewed the 2013-14 results of the Texas Academic Performance Report for Palestine ISD. The district and all campuses met the state's standard. Palestine High School received distinction designations for Academic Achievement in Math and Science, Top 25 Percent: Closing Performance Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness. Palestine Junior High received distinction designations for Academic Achievement in Science and Social Studies, and Postsecondary Readiness. Stanley Sokolowski, Board President offered an opportunity for public comments or questions. There were none.

High School and Junior High Course Guides for 2015-2016

2015-16 course guides for Palestine High School and Palestine Junior High School were approved.

Policy Update 101

The Board of Trustees approved Policy Update 101 revisions, affecting local policies BE, CH, DGBA, EB, FFG, FMG, FNG, and GF.

Policy GKA (Local) Revision

A revision to Policy GKA (Local) was approved that will prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes or any other vaporizing device on District property at all times.

Policy CH (Local) Resolution

The Board adopted a Policy CH (Local) resolution to establish criteria for accepting electronic bids or proposals.

Personnel

There were no personnel recommendations.

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Emmanuel Brown, Kyle Johnson, and Janeva Robertson.

The Board of Trustees approved the Superintendent's evaluation that was previously completed and shared with the Superintendent in closed meeting.

The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to extend Superintendent Jason Marshall's contract by one year to include the 2017-2018 school year.

Legislative Priorities for the 84th Texas Legislative Session

The Board adopted a resolution in support of a joint legislative platform that Palestine ISD and all Anderson County public school districts worked together to develop. The joint legislative platform will be shared with elected officials to inform them of areas that need to be addressed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session. The greatest areas of concern for Anderson County Public Schools include:

1. Improvements in state funding formulas for public schools ensuring equitable funding for all students in Texas.
2. The need for additional money that would allow an increase in pay for teachers and increased benefits for the Texas Teacher Retirement System (TRS).
3. Ensuring that no public school funds should be used to pay for education vouchers or private school education.
4. Further reducing the number of STAAR tests given to students (especially younger students).
5. Working to prevent the national Common Core Curricula being adopted by the State of Texas.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marshall reported that the current District enrollment is 3,354.

An Election will be called at the February 23, 2015 board meeting. The Election will be held May 9, 2015 for the purpose of electing two trustees to fill expiring terms.

Palestine ISD administrators will attend the Texas Association of Schools Administrators Midwinter Conference in January, 2015.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
February 23, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**