



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the January 23, 2012 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

Six sets of twins who attend Northside Primary led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. The twins thanked the Board of Trustees for their new playground, bathrooms, water fountains, books, and their teachers and principals. Thank you to DeShawn & DeShaila Murray, Jad & Zade Absy, Jonah & Jacey Johnston, Andy & Anthony Garcia, Eduardo & Gerardo Lavin-Fernandez, and Kiley & Kynlie Florence.

### **Spotlight**

#### **Football Players Recognized**

Lance Angel, Director of Athletics introduced Corey Koif, Travis Atkinson, and Nathan Perkins. These Palestine High School students were recognized for being named to the 2011 Academic All State Football Team. The Texas High School Coaches Association selects students each year who not only achieve on the football field but also in the classroom.

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

Orlando Vargas, PHS Principal introduced the Junior Rotarians for the month of January, Roberto Cienfuegos and Joshua Claytor.

Roberto Cienfuegos plays soccer and football and plans to attend Texas State University in San Marcos.

Joshua Claytor participates in soccer, cross country, and track. He volunteers with the Habitat for Humanity program and plans to attend Stephen F. Austin University and study environmental science.

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

Students for the month of January are Nadia Guitz and Nico Barnard.

Janeva Robertson, PHS Culinary Arts teacher, introduced Nadia Guitz. Nadia is a senior at PHS and is a member of the National Honor Society. Nadia plays the clarinet in the PHS band; she enjoys running, tennis, and is a member of student council. After graduation, she plans to pursue a degree in nursing.

Lance Angel, Director of Athletics, introduced Nico Barnard. He plays football for PHS and is in the process of choosing a college where he will play football. Nico was selected to play in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Heart of a Champion Bowl in Tyler this summer.

#### **School Board Recognized**

The Board of Trustees was honored for their dedication and commitment to Palestine ISD. Superintendent Jason Marshall thanked the Board for their service and asked each principal to present gifts of appreciation that each campus had sent for them. Each board member received a live oak tree, fruit basket, cupcakes, chocolate covered strawberries, cards made by the students, a motivational rock, and a school board survival kit.

### **Construction Projects Update**

Walt Wood of Claycomb Associates, Architects and Jack Ream of Balfour Beatty, provided the Board of Trustees an update of the construction progress. At Palestine High School, punch list areas are 95% complete. Stairways, landings and railings have been installed. Equipment installation has begun in the kitchen and serving areas. Drywall is almost complete in the auditorium and acoustical wall panels and ceiling tile has been completed in the band and choir rooms. Overall, the PHS projects are 80% complete and on schedule to be move in ready by fall, 2012.

Pictures of the projects and aerial photos of the construction sites can be viewed on the district website at ([www.palestineschools.org](http://www.palestineschools.org)). Go to "About PISD" at the top of the page, then select "Construction Updates".

### **Wide Area Network Expansion**

The Board of Trustees approved to grant David Long, Director of Technology, permission to work with Anderson County in expanding wide area network to the Anderson County Juvenile Detention Facility. 85% of the costs will be eligible for an ERATE discount.

### **Budget Amendment**

The Board of Trustees approved a budget amendment to transfer Edujobs funds from the 199 general fund to fund 287. These funds will be utilized for teacher salaries.

### **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, informed the Board that the District is in good shape financially. This shows that district and campus staff members have been careful in managing budgets.

### **Audit Report**

The 2010-2011 Financial Audit Report was approved by the Board. The District received a clean audit opinion. The general and debt service funds both reflect increases in fund balances.

### **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2011
- Bills paid for December, 2012
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report

### **2010-2011 School Report Card**

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented School Report Card ratings for 2010-2011. Palestine High School and A.M. Story Intermediate received an "Academically Acceptable" rating. Palestine High School received a gold performance acknowledgment for the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) in Mathematics. Palestine Middle School received an "Academically Unacceptable" rating. Based on the report card ratings the District is developing core academic plans (see plans below) that will be implemented to increase student success.

### **2012-2013 Core Academic Plans**

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, informed the Board regarding the District's core academic plans for 2012-2013. Mrs. Martin stated that the District's focus for the 2012-2013 school year will be in the areas of math and science. Algebra I will be moved from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. Palestine High School and Palestine Middle School will have eight periods each day to increase opportunities for students in the areas of math and science. The career and technical program will be expanded to offer more opportunities for students.

### **2012-2013 Course Guides**

Sarah Johnson, Palestine High School Counselor, presented 2012-2013 course guide information for high school and junior high. Mrs. Johnson informed the Board that the course guide will list career opportunities for students and the courses that must be taken to prepare them for a particular career path. Education and training, health science, and broadcast journalism will be added to the paths already offered. All of the career paths already available will be restructured.

### **PHS Grading Procedures**

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, informed the Board regarding a change needed in the PHS grading procedures. STAAR End of Course (EOC) exam scores will be counted as 15% of a student's grade. For English/Language Arts, the writing and reading scores will be averaged together, then 15% of the average of the two scores applied to the student's grade. Students may take the EOC exam as many times as they wish but only the first passing grade will count in the student's grade for the course.

### **Policy EIA Revision**

The Board of Trustees approved a revision to Policy EIA (Local). Once a student has earned credit for an End of Course (EOC) assessment, any subsequent retake scores for an EOC assessment will not be included in the calculation of the final course grade.

The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to extend Superintendent Jason Marshall's contract by one year and will include the 2014-2015 school year.

### **Personnel Approved for 2011-2012**

Linda Luce	English	Palestine Middle School
Charles Murray, Sr.	Math	Palestine Middle School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignation of Robin Fitzpatrick.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed the Board that the District's current enrollment is 3,203, which is an increase of 59 students from the first day of school.

A calendar of District activities was given to the board. Spring break will be the week of March 12-16, 2012.

**Next Regular Board Meeting  
February 27, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.**