



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the January 23, 2017 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Spotlight

Culinary Arts

The PHS Culinary Arts class was recognized for their professionalism and for providing great food at catering events within the community.

Junior Rotarians

Keyana Willis and Kadley Harmon were recognized for being named Junior Rotarians for the month of January.

Palestine High School Students of the Month

Anna Yeakey and Jason Zenn were recognized for being named PHS Students of the Month for January.

School Board Appreciation

In observance of school board appreciation month, Superintendent Jason Marshall thanked the Board for always putting students first in their decisions. Superintendent Marshall reminded that the Board had been named the Region 7 School Board of the Year in 2014-15 and although the Board had several new members since that time, the transition of the new members had gone very well.

Palestine ISD students from each campus presented handmade gifts to Board members that they made using the Texas Association School Board's 2017 school board appreciation theme, "All Star Team". The PHS Culinary Arts class prepared and served dinner for Board members. President Sepulveda and each Board member expressed appreciation for the recognition and thanked district and campus staff for all that they do for students.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the district's revenues are strong, and that the district had received 35% of tax collections as of December 31, 2016. Mr. Atkeisson expressed appreciation to the Board for their support, and to taxpayers, parents, and students for their diligence in paying taxes and ensuring good student attendance which contributes to a good financial status for the district.

Budget Amendment Approved

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the district's revenue for the year had increased from original budget projections. The increase is due to first semester Average Daily Attendance being 75 students ahead of the number used to set the current budget, and Weighted Average Daily Attendance being up in a corresponding manner. Mr. Atkeisson stated that although the increased enrollment trend may not hold exactly as is throughout the year, he felt comfortable in recommending a revenue adjustment in the following manner: Increase revenue from the Foundation School Program (199/5812) from the current amount of \$13,911,265 to \$14,211,265, an increase of \$300,000. Budget amendment approved as presented.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2016
- Bills paid for December, 2016
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine ISD

\$100.00 from Germ Blast.

Palestine High School

\$3,000.00 from The Gragg Foundation to benefit the PHS Ag Barn.

\$10,000.00 from Michael Sunday to be used for scholarships to assist with the college education of four qualified students in the AG Department. Donation made in memory of Francis Sunday.

\$250.00 from the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce to provide a scholarship for Jake Neal, PHS student.

Palestine High School Athletics

\$110.00 from All Day Athletic Association (Adrian Peterson) to be used for foam fingers for 2016 football season.

- Resolution in support of the Repeal of A-F School Rating System
- Resolution in support of Region 7 Superintendent Legislative Priorities for 2017
- 2016-2017 District and Campus Improvement Plans

Campus Presentation

A campus presentation for the Palestine Junior High School campus was tabled. The presentation will be given at the February 20, 2017 school board meeting.

2017-2018 District Calendar

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, informed the Board that a calendar committee made up of PISD staff members had met to begin the process of adopting the 2017-2018 calendar. Committee members will communicate information from the meeting with their campus regarding the process and timeline for calendar adoption. The calendar committee will meet again in February and a proposed calendar will be presented for approval at the February school board meeting.

Superintendent Marshall noted that PISD has received confirmation from the Texas Education Agency that the district is now listed as a District of Innovation. Therefore, if the legislature should make changes to HB2610 which affects calendar flexibility for schools, Palestine ISD would not be affected for five years due to District of Innovation status that the district will have for five years beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Non-Traditional High School

Superintendent Marshall reported that the district is continuing to investigate the potential implementation of a Non-Traditional High School or charter school. Mr. Marshall informed the Board that Trinity Valley Community College has been a good partner for the district in the process. The district has applied for a charter school grant and a HVAC grant, but the district has not received notification on whether the district will receive the grants. The district has held meetings and completed surveys since the spring of 2016 to determine student interest in a non-traditional high school. At this point, the number of students interested may not justify opening the new campus for the upcoming school year; however the district will continue investigating student interest, possible facility locations, financial considerations, and will make a decision based on findings.

Personnel

The Board approved to extend Superintendent Jason Marshall's contract by one year to include the 2019-2020 school year, and also approved the 2016 Superintendent Evaluation.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported on the following:

- District student enrollment was 3,444 as of January 20, 2017.
- Calendar of Events: Basketball season is midway. Soccer and Tennis seasons have begun. Palestine High School hosted UIL Invitational Meet in January.
- Principals are preparing for spring STAAR testing.
- An action item calling for an Election to be held on May 6, 2017 will be placed on an upcoming agenda for the purpose of electing 2 trustees for Places 6 and 7 due to expiring terms.
- Superintendent Marshall and Palestine ISD administrators will attend the Texas Association of Schools Administrator Midwinter Conference from January 29-31, 2017.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
February 20, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.**