



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the October 17, 2011 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

A.M. Story Intermediate students; Harley Roth, Sierra Vargas, and Dylan Johnson led the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Public Hearing

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a report of the 2009-2010 Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). Palestine ISD received an “Above Standard” rating on the report.

Spotlight

Students of the Month

Students for the month of October are Crystal Banuelos and Paul Carlson.

Janeva Robertson, PHS Culinary Arts teacher introduced Crystal Banuelos and shared that Crystal is a lieutenant on the drill team, the President of the National Honor Society and involved in many activities at PHS and in the community. Crystal plans to attend college at Baylor University or Texas A&M University.

Kathleen Brown, PHS Science teacher introduced Paul Carlson who lived in Nigeria for eight years before coming to PHS. Paul serves as the Youth & Government vice president and is currently taking courses at Texas Tech University. Paul plans to major in business or engineering at Texas A&M Commerce.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

Orlando Vargas, PHS principal introduced the Junior Rotarians of the month, Alexis Gaston and Nathan Perkins.

Alexis Gaston is an avid writer and plans to attend University of Missouri and study mass communications.

Nathan Perkins is involved in football, track & baseball, helps the elderly with landscaping and plans to study law enforcement at Sam Houston State University.

Teachers of the Year

Barbara Dutton, Northside Primary principal introduced the elementary teacher of the year, Tammy Ives, who teaches kindergarten at Northside Primary. Mrs. Dutton shared that Mrs. Ives is an exceptional teacher who can take a diverse group of learners and within a very short period of time, they are working well together. She provides a structured but warm hearted environment for her students.

Orlando Vargas, PHS principal, introduced the secondary teacher of the year, Janice Magee, who teaches Algebra and Geometry at Palestine High School. Mr. Vargas shared that Mrs. Magee is always willing to go the extra mile for her students. According to one of her students; “ If Mrs. Magee doesn’t do her job, I can’t do my job. She works hard so I work hard!”

ICEE Success

Lisa Covington, PMS Science teacher; Lori Camacho, PMS Art teacher and two of their students, Taylor Rosson and Madison Naranjo gave a presentation on what they have learned through the Institute where Creativity Empowers Educational (ICEE) Success Program. The program teaches students to use 21st Century thinking skills. This program was made possible by the contributions of Allan George, CEO of Palestine Regional Medical Center; Jackson Hanks, a local attorney and Andrew Gregory, Vice President of Education, Palestine Chamber of Commerce.

Construction Projects Update

Walt Wood of Claycomb Associates, Architects and Brent Schreiner of Charter Builders provided the Board of Trustees an update of the construction progress.

At Palestine High School, foundation work for the new PHS main building continues, structural steel framing has begun that will connect the renovated classroom area to the new PHS building. Drywall framing has begun in the auditorium, stage and control booth areas. Painting has started in the kitchen serving areas. Overall, construction at Palestine High School is 73% complete.

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

Financial Update

The Board of Trustees approved an order authorizing the issuance and sale of the District’s Limited Tax and Revenue Tax Refunding Bond, Series 2011. This will save the District approximately \$116,000 over the next five years.

Transportation Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer provided a transportation report. In an effort to improve pick up and drop off times for students, four to six additional bus routes will be added this fall, then the District will reevaluate transportation this spring.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Called Meeting of September 19, 2011
- Bills paid for August, 2011
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine ISD

School supplies valued at \$50.00 from Dollar General to be used as needed.

Palestine High School

\$600.00 from PHS Athletic Booster Club to be used to purchase girls basketball shoes.

PHS FFA

\$59.00 from the National FFA Foundation and Tractor Supply Company to be used for supplies.

STAAR/EOC Testing

Carolyn Martin, Director of Instructional Services, presented information regarding STAAR and End of Course assessments for eighth grade math and algebra. Students must do well in algebra to be successful in high school math and must also be successful in eighth math to be successful in algebra.

Palestine Middle School Corrective Action Plan

The Board of Trustees approved a corrective action plan to improve Palestine Middle School science scores. CSCOPE curriculum which is aligned to the state STAAR test has been implemented this year, CSCOPE teacher training, and the District is considering the possibility of hiring additional teachers to reduce class sizes in math and science.

Texas Title I Priority Schools Grant

Cody Tunstall, TTIPS Coordinator presented information on the TTIPS Grant that the District has received. The grant's purpose is to improve student achievement. The District's grant amount is approximately 4.9 million and covers the next three years. There are required benchmarks at the end of each year that will determine whether the District will receive the next year's funding. Two hundred Texas schools were considered for this grant, Palestine ISD is one of fifteen schools in Texas to receive the grant.

Tax Collection Update

Robert Myers, Attorney with McCreary, Veselka, Bragg, & Allen presented the District's report of delinquent property tax collections for 2010. The District collected 100 percent of delinquent taxes in 2010.

Board Meeting Dates

The Board of Trustees approved changes in dates of upcoming regular board meetings. The dates are December 12, 2011, January 23, 2012, February 27, 2012, and March 26, 2012.

Texas School Finance Litigation

The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to join together with other Texas public schools, taxpayers and parents as an unincorporated association for the purpose of speaking with one voice in the litigation of public school finance matters essential to the fair treatment of Texas taxpayers and public school children.

Personnel Approved for 2011-2012

Martha Carolina Luna-Loya

Bilingual

A.M. Story Intermediate

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that the District's enrollment is currently 3,240 which is more than last year at this same time. Superintendent Marshall informed the Board that UIL alignment numbers have been submitted and PHS is expected to remain AAA for the upcoming two years.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
November 21, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.**