



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the October 27, 2014 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

Northside Primary students led pledges to the American and Texas flags. Barbara Dutton, Northside Primary principal introduced Northside PTO members, Stacy Carr, Julia Torrez, and Elaine Freeman and thanked them for all that they do for the Northside campus. The students presented the Board of Trustees with Homecoming Spirit Sticks and Finger Mums.

### **Spotlight**

#### **Palestine High School - Junior Rotarians**

PHS students, Gabrielle Meyers and Tyler Strickland were recognized for being named Junior Rotarians for the month of October.

#### **Palestine High School - Students of the Month**

Morgan Whitfield and Tyler Barnard were recognized as PHS Students of the Month for October.

### **Principal Recognition**

Board Secretary, Dyna Tutt read a proclamation from Governor Rick Perry proclaiming October 2014 to be Principals Month. The proclamation encourages all Texans to acknowledge the important role principals play in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, President Sokolowski thanked the principals for their efforts to make Palestine ISD a world class academic organization.

### **Construction Update**

Scott Hughes of Buford-Thompson Construction Company presented an update to the Board regarding Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) projects. Mr. Hughes shared that Buford-Thompson would begin applying a stain product to the exterior masonry at A.M. Story Intermediate. The masonry has become discolored and was not able to be cleaned. Prior to deciding which stain to use, Superintendent Marshall visited a facility where the product had been applied eight years earlier and that facility still looks great. Jacob Wheeler, PISD Director of Operations also researched to see if there were any other products available that the district should consider for the Story masonry. Every recommendation that Mr. Wheeler received recommended the stain product that Buford-Thompson is recommending for the Story masonry. Buford-Thompson is scheduled to begin the staining in November, however if any odor is detected that affects students or staff, the staining will be stopped and resumed at the summer break.

### **Tax Collection Update**

Robert Myers of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C., Attorneys at Law presented an update for current and delinquent property tax collections. From 2009 to 2013, Palestine ISD total annual tax collections have exceeded the amount of taxes levied at slightly more than one hundred percent for each of those years.

## **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer reported that the District has received approximately \$700,000 in current year tax collections, a good amount considering that taxpayers received their tax notices less than one month ago.

## **Public Hearing for Schools FIRST Report**

A public hearing was held to discuss the District's Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) District Status for 2012-2013. Chief Financial Officer, David Atkeisson reported that Palestine ISD earned a rating of Superior Achievement, the highest rating a district can earn. There were no comments or questions from the public.

## **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2014
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 29, 2014
- Bills paid for September, 2014
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

### Palestine ISD TACE

For the Hispanic Heritage Month TACE Celebration.

Gift card valued at \$100 from Wal-Mart

Gift card valued at \$25 from Brookshire's.

Tomatoes valued at \$15 from El Natural Deli & Bakery.

2 yogurts valued at \$10 from Sweet Frog Frozen Yogurt.

2 dinners valued at \$15 from Whataburger.

2 dinners valued at \$26 from Cotton Patch.

Gift certificate valued at \$50 from Dry Clean Super Center.

Mug valued at \$15 from Bon Appetit.

Dinner for 2 valued at \$20.00 from Shep's Bar-B-Que.

One night hotel stay valued at \$110 from LaQuinta Inn of Palestine.

### Palestine High School

\$288.51 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club for concession stand work.

\$250.00 from Larry & Jana Coker for tennis equipment and uniforms.

\$150.00 from Katherine Kimbrough for tennis equipment and uniforms.

\$500.00 from Jackson Hanks for t-shirts for Palestine School of Business class.

\$1,980.00 from PHS Athletic Booster Club for Cross Country girls warm up suits.

\$250.00 from All Star Ford for t-shirts for Palestine School of Business class.

\$250.00 from Charles Drane/CD Consulting for t-shirts for Palestine School of Business class.

\$250.00 from Southwest Hills Veterinary Clinic for tennis equipment and uniforms.

\$100.00 from Cash Max to support the PHS football team.

\$250.00 from Oak Floor Supply in Tyler, Texas for tennis equipment and uniforms.

### Northside Primary

Backpack combos valued at \$25.00 from Lucas Howard

Books valued at \$25.00 from David & Carolyn Egerstaffer.

- Addendum to Student/Parent Mobile Device Handbook and Agreement and Responsible Use Guidelines.

## **Mobile Device Deployment Update**

Shannon Leisure, District Educational Technology Coordinator presented an update on the deployment of mobile devices to students. Students in Junior High and High School received iPads prior to the start of

school. Currently, 750 devices are being prepared for deployment to students in grades 4-6 in November and January. For grades PK-5, students are given opportunities to access mobile technology and learning through iPad carts. All students in grades 4-12 have access to Edmodo, a communication piece from which students receive online assignments from their teacher. Technology professional development is ongoing throughout the district to provide teachers with the needed skills to ensure that students receive quality technology instruction.

### **Campus Presentation**

Barbara Dutton, Northside Primary Principal shared that the Northside campus takes a positive approach with students. Each student is greeted by their teacher every morning with the student choosing if they prefer a handshake or a hug from their teacher. Students in the hallway earn pink tickets for using appropriate procedures, then once a class has earned the required number of pink tickets they are rewarded with a popcorn party. The “Honorable Character” program teaches students the characteristics of good behavior. Lots of experiences are provided for students to help them become good writers. Some of those experiences include a career day, fire prevention show, science show, a skating unit, robotics presentation by high school students, and many other learning experiences throughout the year. Students participate in Physical Education and also have a recess period each day. New at Northside this year is the LAUNCH program for students who exhibit advanced levels in reading and math, and a KEY class for students whose parents wish to delay the start of Kindergarten for one year.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

A Beesley Project press conference and fundraiser will be held at the end of November. The Beesley Project is a result of the work of Philip Beesley, whose recent work focuses on responsive architecture, which explores how natural and artificial systems interact. Palestine Junior High students are participating in the Beesley Project that was brought to PISD by Lucinda Presley, Director of the Institute Where Creativity Empowers Education Success.

The District is in the process of working with all Anderson County public school districts to develop a joint platform for the Texas 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. A meeting will be held the first week of December to set the joint platform.

Anderson County will hold a General Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. The following PISD locations will be used as polling locations: Palestine High School, Washington ECC, and the PISD Administration Office.

District enrollment is currently at 3258, enrollment numbers are up for Career and Technical Education courses, and daily attendance is good.

Cross Country girls and boys have completed their regular season and will compete at Regionals.

The Palestine Association of Realtors’ held their monthly meeting at the Wildcat Café in October. A.M. Story Intermediate students gave an iPad presentation, Northside Primary students made pumpkin centerpiece decorations for tables, and PHS Culinary Arts students prepared and served a meal for the realtors. Staff and students did a great job hosting a Wildcat Golf Course fundraiser this month to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

Board President Sokolowski congratulated Rhonda Herrington, WECC Principal for being named “Volunteer of the Year” and Superintendent Jason Marshall for being named “Citizen of the Year” for 2014 by the Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Next Regular Board Meeting  
November 17, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**