



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the November 17, 2014 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Southside Elementary student, Jaylah Spurlock led pledges of allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

Spotlight

K-Kids

Amanda Jackson, A.M. Story Intermediate principal presented certificates of appreciation to David Bratz, Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor for Division 26 of the Texas Oklahoma District, and Sheila Carlson & Stephanie Wickware of Capitol One Bank. These individuals were instrumental in implementing the K-Kids Program at Story, and helping students with their first project in which they met their goal of raising \$1,000.00 for UNICEF by collecting loose change. K-Kids is a student led student service organization that teaches children the value of helping others, the importance of teamwork and the benefits of leadership.

PHS Cross Country

Coach John Absalom and Assistant Coach Luis Hernandez shared highlights from the 2014 PHS Cross Country season. The boys' team placed 3rd at the Regional Meet advancing them to the State Cross Country Meet where they finished 10th in Class 4A. This is the first Palestine High School boys Cross Country team to qualify for the state meet. The girls' team placed 2nd in District Competition and came in 9th out of 24 teams at the Regional Competition. This marks the 10th consecutive year that both boys and girls Cross Country teams have reached Regional Competition.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

PHS students, Ro'Kayah Beavers and Austin Garlotte were recognized for being named Junior Rotarians for the month of November.

Students of the Month

Destiny Harding and Kevin Parish were recognized as PHS Students of the Month for November.

Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB)

Scott Hughes of Buford-Thompson Company gave an update on QSCB projects. Currently, renovations are focused at the A.M. Story Intermediate campus. New flooring is being laid in the Story office area, and masonry on the exterior of the building is in the process of being stained due to discoloring caused by the weather. Mr. Hughes presented a check to PISD in the amount of \$10,000.00 to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer reported that the budget and tax collections for 2014-15 are strong and enrollment continues to remain higher than forecasted.

2014 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer informed the Board of Trustees that PISD was recently awarded a National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant in the amount of \$70,000.00 from the Texas Department of Agriculture. The grant will provide new cafeteria equipment for Palestine Junior High School and A.M. Story Intermediate.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2014
- Bills paid for October, 2014
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine High School Athletics Program

\$250.00 from Charles E. Dickens Fine Jewelry to be used for tennis equipment and uniforms.

Warm-ups for tennis program valued at \$832.00 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club.

Boys basketball shoes valued at \$1,078.00 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club.

\$3,725.00 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club to be used for rolling batters cage.

\$2,500.00 from Charles & Scarlet Drane for the Wildcat Golf Course.

\$500.00 from Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Bailey for the Wildcat Golf Course.

- Legal Services Retainer Agreement with Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos, and Green, P.C., Attorneys at Law for 2014-2015

Texas After School Centers on Education (TACE) Update

Shanna Marshall, 21st Century Project Director, presented an update on TACE after school programs for grade K-12 students that are being provided through the 21st Century Grant that the District received in 2013-14. TACE Program activities focus on academic assistance and improvement, enrichment, college and career readiness, and family engagement. Each of the campus TACE Programs is required to offer at least two TACE parents activities each month. During the first year of the grant there were 85 family activities held with 1,640 parents in attendance. So far in the 2014-15 school year, 47 family engagement events have already been held with 915 parents in attendance. Mrs. Marshall introduced each campus TACE Coordinator who reported on events that are taking place at each of the campus' TACE Programs.

Campus Presentation

Melissa Molandes, Southside Elementary principal gave a presentation titled "Southside Elementary is On Target for Success". Mrs. Molandes shared that the campus strives to make learning fun and interactive for students. Larger goals are broken down into smaller ones which make it easier for students to see their achievements as they work toward larger goals. This method of tracking goals is also more encouraging for students as well as their teachers. New at Southside this year are LAUNCH classes for students who exhibit advanced reading and math skills. The LAUNCH class targets hands on and technology based learning. Professional development is on target at Southside with teachers who have expertise in a particular area sharing their knowledge with peers during time allotted for staff development. Parent and community support as well as a great PTO program help make Southside a great place for students and staff.

Reporting of Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requires a public report of the progress of the district and its campuses toward meeting highly qualified teacher requirements. Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources reported that district-wide the highly qualified teacher status is 98.51%. Campus ratings are as follows: Palestine High School-97.80%, Palestine Junior High-98.42%, A.M. Story Intermediate-89.68%, Southside Elementary-96.99%, Northside Primary-97.14%, Washington E.C.C.-100%.

Personnel

Kandice Matthews

Special Education

Palestine High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignation of Leslie Hasler-Gail.

Superintendent's Report

The 2014 season for volleyball, cross country, and football has ended. Basketball and soccer seasons have begun.

All PISD staff members will receive a free turkey for Thanksgiving from PISD. Administrators, board members, members of the Maintenance Department, and Central Office staff will hand out the turkeys to staff members as they drive through the PISD Administration parking lot on November 19, 2014 at 3:00 pm.

Administrators will distribute retention incentive checks to PISD staff members on Thursday, December 4, 2014.

A special board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2014 in which Anderson County public schools will discuss concerns to share with elected officials prior to the 2015 Texas Legislative Session.

Superintendent Marshall asked Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources to share information about the "Hylozoic Ground" Exhibit. Mrs. Eiben explained that the "Hylozoic Ground" exhibit was created by Professor Philip Beesley and Dr. Rob Gorbet, and is a series of responsive architectural installations that move, and seem to breathe and be almost alive in response to the environment. The "Hylozoic Ground" Exhibit has been featured around the world but Palestine is only the second city in the United States to house the project. The exhibit will be on display at the Palestine Mall from November 21st through mid-January, 2015. Mrs. Eiben informed the Board that they were invited to visit the exhibit on November 21, 2014. PISD is involved with the "Hylozoic Ground" Exhibit in the following ways:

- A press conference will be held at the PHS Wildcat Café on Friday, November 21, 2014 at 11:45 a.m in which the "Hylozoic Ground" Exhibit will be announced.
- Following the press conference, the PHS Culinary Arts class will serve a meal to the Beesley team.
- PHS Robotics students will help Beesley's team install the exhibit.
- At a reception and fundraiser for the exhibit, PJH TACE students will demonstrate what they have learned from working with Lucinda Presley, ICEE Success Director.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
December 15, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**