



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the November 21, 2011 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

Southside Elementary students; Kenneth Kennedy, Joe Luis Rangel, Helena Lara, Waylon White, Belyne Velasquez, Monique Ybarra, Anderson Ramos, Lyndie Jenkins and Ruby Jenkins led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. With Thanksgiving only a few days away, the students entertained with songs about being thankful for the USA.

### **Spotlight**

#### **Palestine Fire Department**

Members of the Palestine Fire Department were honored for their dedication to students. Each year, the Palestine Fire Department educates area students on the importance of fire safety. Devin Jackson: AKA Patches, Steffan Wilson: AKA Sparky, Kaylon Wade, Alan Parker, Chance Wesson, Kayne Parrish, Johnathan Duncan, Jeff Cooper, and Alan Wilcher, Fire Marshal were presented a certificate of appreciation for their continued service to the students of Palestine ISD.

#### **Local Artists**

Sharron Jones was recognized for the mural she designed and painted for the Northside Primary Library. Matthew Ray helped with painting the mural and Charla Higginbotham, Northside Librarian organized the project. The mural is a landscape scene and covers the back wall of the library.

#### **Leaders of Tomorrow**

Palestine High School senior, Kelcey Cockrell was recognized for being chosen to represent Palestine High School as the Leader of Tomorrow. Crystal Banuelos and Emily Miller represent PHS as runners up. Trinity Valley Community College honored the three seniors at the annual Leaders of Tomorrow banquet in October at the TVCC Athens campus.

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

Students for the month of November are Kelcey Cockrell and Miguel Varnado.

Kathleen Brown, PHS teacher introduced Kelcey Cockrell and shared that Kelcey is serving as the student body president and doing an excellent job. Kelcey is also secretary of the National Honor Society, participates in science UIL academics and the girls' golf team. Kelcey plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in business finance.

Lori Higgins, PHS teacher introduced Miguel Varnado and described him as a passionate and committed student who strives to do his best. Miguel is a member of the cross country and track teams, serves in the National Guard and takes college classes. Miguel plans to attend Sam Houston State University and major in history.

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

Linda Holmes, PHS assistant principal introduced the Junior Rotarians of the month, Guadalupe De Santiago and Matt LaRue.

Guadalupe De Santiago is involved in cross country and varsity soccer and enjoys attending PHS. Guadalupe plans to pursue a career as a registered nurse.

Matt LaRue is involved in student council at PHS. He has earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. Matt plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in business finance.

### **Construction Projects Update**

Jeff Edwards of Claycomb Associates, Architects and Jack Ream of Charter Builders provided the Board of Trustees an update of the construction progress.

At Palestine High School, the home economics classroom is expected to be complete the first week of December. Structural steel framing is 60% complete and punch list items are 90% complete. Overall, construction at Palestine High School is 76% complete and on schedule.

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".

### **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2011
- Minutes of the Board of Trustees Workshop on October 24, 2011
- Minutes of the Board of Trustees Workshop on November 7, 2011
- Bills paid for October, 2011
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

#### **Southside Elementary**

Swing sets for the playground valued at \$12,000.00 from the Southside PTO.

#### **Palestine High School**

\$1,555.95 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club to be used to purchase boys basketball shoes and travel bags.

#### **Palestine High School**

\$1,212.50 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club to be used to purchase football undershirts.

#### **Palestine High School**

\$507.96 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club. Payment to boys' soccer for working two nights in student volunteer concession stand.

#### **Palestine High School**

\$263.65 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club. Payment to girls' soccer for working one night in student volunteer concession stand.

#### **Palestine High School**

Costume accessories for the theatre arts department valued at \$100.00 from Jean Mollard of Artifacts Vintage Finds.

### **Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements**

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented highly qualified teacher information for the District. Palestine ISD is 99% in compliance and working to achieve 100%.

### **Policy Update 91**

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented Policy Update 91 revisions, affecting local policies CDA (Local): Other revenues – investments, CV (Local): Facilities construction, DFBB (Local): Term contracts – nonrenewal, EFAA (Local): Instructional materials – selection and adoption, FFH (Local): Student welfare – freedom from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, and FQ (Local): Student discipline. The Board approved the revisions as presented.

### **Addition to Qualified PDAS Appraisers**

The Board of Trustees approved James Torrence, PHS assistant principal and Grace Mancilla, A.M. Story Intermediate assistant principal to be added to the list of qualified PDAS appraisers.

### **Credit by Exam**

The Board of Trustees approved Credit by Exam to be administered in December, 2011.

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

Melissa Barraza	Science	Palestine Middle School
Dianna Lancaster	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Paige Peyton	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Southside Elementary
Jocelyn Seahorn	Life Skills	Palestine High School

### **Legal Retainer Approved**

The Board of Trustees approved a legal retainer agreement for the 2011-2012 year with Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos and Green, P.C., Attorneys at Law.

### **Board Planning Calendar**

The Board of Trustees approved a revision to the board planning calendar. The AEIS report will be combined with the School Report Cards and SAT/ACT results.

### **Employee Retention Incentive**

The Board of Trustees approved retention incentives for employees. Professional staff will receive \$500.00 and paraprofessional staff will receive \$200.00 and will be paid in December. Board President Wade Hobbs abstained from voting as his wife is an employee of the district.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that the District's enrollment is currently 3,214. Some campuses have seen a decrease in enrollment, however Palestine Middle School has enrolled 12 additional students.

Renovations have begun on the A.M. Story Intermediate playground. The field will be leveled and equipment added.

The public school finance lawsuit titled "Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition" now represents more than one million students statewide including Palestine ISD students. The goal of the lawsuit is to ensure that all students throughout Texas receive the same quality of education.

**Next Regular Board Meeting  
December 12, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.**