



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the November 26, 2012 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Barbara Dutton, Northside Primary Principal along with Northside Librarian, Charla Higginbotham; introduced Northside STAR Readers, who led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. **Many thanks to Perry Cole, Triston Fuller, Landan Henry, Ethan Irlanda, Jaquelin Lara, Zachery Reagan, Natalie Smith, Peyton Giles and Trey Velesquez, Isaac Delgado, Mario Escalante, Anai Estrada, Kaidence Gardner, Camille Lowe, and Ebony Luckett and their parents who brought them to the meeting!**

Spotlight

Students of the Month

Palestine High School, students of the month for November are Amy Witt and Alex Meyers.

Amy Witt was introduced by PHS Teacher, Stephanie Boone. Amy is involved in theater arts, Interact and Student Council. She is involved in her church youth group and volunteers at Cartmell Home for Aged. Amy plans to attend Texas A&M University and pursue a degree in nursing.

Alex Meyers was at Texas A&M University at a Corps of Cadets event and was unable to attend the board meeting.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

Junior Rotarians for the month of November are PHS students, Anna Phelps and Gregory Conner.

Anna Phelps is a member of the Wildcat Band, Indoor Drumline, and Winterguard. She participates in the Anderson County Community Chorus & Orchestra. Anna plans to earn a degree in music and attend Tyler Junior College and complete her education at the University of North Texas.

Gregory Conner was introduced by PHS Teacher, Janice Magee. Gregory is a member of National Honor Society, Interact, the Wildcat Band, and the baseball team and is involved in many community projects. He plans to attend Stephen F. Austin State University where he has earned a scholarship or Texas A&M University and pursue a degree in physical therapy. He has been nominated to two Pre-med camps, one at SFA and one in Washington D.C. Gregory is in the top 10 percent of his class and was recently officially accepted to Texas A&M.

Design-Build Project Update

Terry Gober of Buford-Thompson Construction Company presented the Board of Trustees a construction update for the Design Build project. Phase III of the project, a culinary arts classroom and café is expected to be complete by December 25th. Phase IV, softball facilities for PHS is underway and is the final phase of the Design-Build Project.

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 Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall gave a financial report. Superintendent Marshall reported that the Palestine ISD 2011-2012 financial audit is complete. The District’s 2011-2012 budget reflects a surplus in the amount of \$800,000. Superintendent Marshall stated that this budget surplus shows that all Palestine ISD staff has been careful with expenditures.

Eminent Domain Resolution

The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to authorize the Superintendent to notify the comptroller of the District’s authority to exercise power of eminent domain, which is required by Government Code Section 2206.101(b).

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2012
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 29, 2012
- Bills paid for October, 2012
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine Middle School

\$2,751.61 from the Palestine Ladies Golf Association to assist with the start of a golf program at Palestine Middle School and to encourage female golf participation.

PHS Band

\$100.00 from Barbara Summerlin to be used for the band program.

Palestine High School Athletics

\$278.33 from the Jeff and Deanne Atkinson for the purchase of rally towels for PHS football game.

Palestine High School Theater Arts Department

\$1,800.00 from Sew What! for fabric which will be used for costuming and set decoration for theatre productions.

Credit by Exam

The Board of Trustees approved that Credit by Exam be administered to students in December 2012 who requested an exam prior to the deadline.

PreK Centers of Excellence

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources reported that Washington Early Childhood Center and Palestine High School have been designated as PreK Centers of Excellence by the Texas Education Agency. The District will receive more information on this topic that will be shared at a future board meeting.

Campus Presentations

A.M. Story Intermediate is “taking students on a Learning Safari of many opportunities”, said Principal Brandon Jayroe. Story is working to build strong learners, strong citizens, and a strong community. All staff members provide tutorials for students in small groups and one on one. Story has also requested that community members participate in the tutorial program and now has five community members helping with student tutorials. A “Time to Teach”, “Bully Proofing Your School”, Peer Mediation, DARE, Student Council, and “Watch DOGS” are all helping to build strong citizens at the campus. Story is working to develop a recycling program to teach students the importance of protecting their environment. Beyond the 3 R’s, students who maintain an 85% average or higher may participate in academic clubs and athletic clinics. Story’s goals are 1) Nothing Less Than Excellence. 2) “Serious Fun”. 3) Story will become recognized as a Blue Ribbon Campus. Principal Jayroe thanked the A.M. Story Intermediate Parent Teacher Organization for all of the help they provide the campus.

Palestine Middle School Principal, Larissa Loveless shared that the Palestine Middle School is a team with a mission to provide academic excellence and opportunities for individual, social and emotional achievement in a supportive environment enhanced with community partnerships. The campus has grown over the past three years with an enrollment of 400 in 2010, 417 in 2011 and a current enrollment of 444. The campus has transitioned to an eight period day in order to provide time for math and science labs. Additional staff is also providing more time for math and science. A STEM learning program encourages students to think outside the box and find alternate resources when obvious choices are not available. A spring Fish Camp is held for incoming 7th graders where the students are walked through a day at Palestine Middle School. Principal Loveless stated that through the collaboration of all staff and the support of community, Palestine Middle School is a great place for students.

Reporting of Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources reported on the District’s highly qualified teacher status. Overall, 99% of classes are taught by highly qualified teachers and the District expects to be 100% highly qualified soon.

Personnel

Robert Brooks	Special Education	Southside Elementary
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Legal Services Retainer Agreement

The Board of Trustees approved to renew an agreement with Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos, Green, and Trevino, P.C., Attorneys at Law to provide legal services to the District for the 2012-2013 school year.

Employee Retention Incentive

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Jason Marshall would like to show appreciation to Palestine ISD employees and encourage Palestine ISD staff members to remain with Palestine ISD. The Board of Trustees approved an employee retention incentive that will provide Palestine ISD professional employees \$600.00 and paraprofessionals \$300.00.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that enrollment is at about 3,290. The Ladycat and Wildcat basketball season just began and soccer will begin soon. The public school finance lawsuit is expected to conclude January 2013. A legislative board meeting will be held on December 10th in which area school districts will meet to discuss a legislative platform for the next legislative session that will be shared with our elected officials.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
December 17, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.**