



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the December 15, 2014 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

A.M. Story Intermediate students who are members of the K-Kids Program that was recently implemented at the Story campus led pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Spotlight

Recognition of Peggy Herrington

The Board of Trustees recognized Peggy Herrington for her years of service to Palestine ISD. Mrs. Herrington is retiring after having served as an occupational therapist, teacher, assistant principal, principal, director of career & technology, and most recently as PISD Assistant Director of Instructional Services since coming to PISD in 1990.

Recognition of Junior Rotarians and Students of the Month

Junior Rotarians for December: Elyssa Gonzalez and Christopher Weaver

Students of the month of December: Haley Cook and Mason Munoz

A video produced by the PHS Broadcast Journalism class was shown featuring PHS students wishing the Board of Trustees a very Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad.

Todd Staples - Texas Department of Agriculture

The Board of Trustees recognized Todd Staples, Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture for his valuable service to Texas, the Community of Palestine, and Palestine ISD. Commissioner Staples' wife, Janet Staples attended the meeting and was presented a certificate of appreciation from Palestine ISD on Commissioner Staples' behalf as he was unable to attend.

2010-2015 Strategic Plan Update

Sheri Sides presented an update for PISD's 2010-15 Strategic Plan that she and Dr. Jenny Preston assisted the district in developing and implementing. Led by educational consultants, Dr. Preston and Mrs. Sides, the PISD Board of Trustees began the strategic planning process. The first step was the adoption of beliefs, a vision, and a mission statement. Twenty action plans were then created with input from parents, community members, teachers, and administrators. Within each action plan, goals were set and the district began working to achieve those goals. Using the Strategic Plan as a guide the district has accomplished a great deal. Some of those accomplishments include improvements in Career and Technical Education, educational technology, facilities, PISD public perception, and employee morale. The district will begin a new five year Strategic Plan in 2015.

Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Update

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that recent QSCB improvements include power washing and adding a coat of stain to the exterior of the A.M. Story Intermediate building, and carpet replacement in the Story administration offices. In summer 2015, the QSCB project will focus on needed renovations for Palestine Junior High School facilities.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, reported that tax collections are strong. Student enrollment and attendance are currently higher than what was projected for 2014-15.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2014
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 4, 2014
- Bills paid for November, 2014
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Washington Early Childhood Center

\$1,000.00 from the Rotary Club of Palestine to be used to purchase books for student use.

Palestine High School

20 – 5' x 51/2' bales of hay valued at \$1,000.00 to be used at PHS Wildcat Acres.

Wildcat Golf Course

\$2,500.00 with an additional commitment of \$7,500.00 to be paid in \$2,500.00 installments from Cliff and Nita Johnson to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

\$500.00 from Cecil & Dana Staples to be used to purchase golf balls for the Wildcat Golf Course.

\$50.00 from Mr. & Mrs. Ken McConnell to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

\$10,000.00 from Buford-Thompson Company to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

\$200.00 from Traci Ratliff to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

Campus Presentation

Amanda Jackson, A.M. Story Intermediate Principal gave a presentation for the Story campus that is home to all PISD 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students. Mrs. Jackson detailed the varying schedules and expectations for each of the three grade levels. Story's mission is to produce creative problem solvers by teaching students how to collaborate in groups. For sixth grade students, the Junior High campus is mirrored so that they are prepared for their move to Palestine Junior High the next school year. Through the district's 1:1 Technology Initiative iPads were deployed to each sixth grader during the first semester, and fourth and fifth grade students are scheduled to receive iPads during the spring semester. TACE after school programs provide additional learning support for students. In addition to core subjects, students learn the importance of being a responsible person, a person of integrity, and how to get along with others from "Character Counts" a curriculum that is used to help students develop good character.

CTE and Wildcat University Update

Chris Kiser, Director of College and Career Readiness, presented an update for the PISD Career and Technology Program and Wildcat University. Mr. Kiser reported that he and other PHS representatives recently met with Trinity Valley Community College representatives to determine whether PISD would benefit from implementing an Early College High School. During that meeting, TVCC stated that the college opportunities currently available through Wildcat University are exceptional and that TVCC has been sharing the Wildcat University model with other school districts who are interested in beginning a dual credit program. Several CTE students have completed their cosmetology certification this year and others are preparing to test for their dental assistant certification. The CTE program is involving students in internships with some students shadowing at KYYK and others at the Palestine Herald Press. Upcoming plans include students getting hands on with the renovation of a building that will be used as a golf clubhouse at the Wildcat Golf Course. At Wildcat Acres, students will begin the construction of a barn in January. In 2015-16, the PHS CTE Program is investigating the possibility of adding an HVAC course, cyber security courses, as well as, additional certification and dual credit opportunities.

Personnel

Maria Dominguez
Victoria Richardson

Athletic Trainer
Intervention Teacher

Palestine High School
A.M. Story Intermediate

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Peggy Herrington and Alexandra Naismith.

Announcement of Board of Trustees Continuing Education

Board of Trustees President, Stanley Sokolowski, announced continuing education records earned by each trustee in 2014. All board members completed the required number of continuing education hours.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall congratulated Dyna Tutt, PISD Board Vice President for the honor she received from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses for 20 years of continuous certification in critical care nursing. Ms. Tutt is a nursing instructor at the UT Tyler Palestine Campus who teaches within the Patriots Accessing Technology for Success and Savings Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program, and she is also an experienced critical care nurse at Palestine Regional Medical Center.

Superintendent Marshall reported that student enrollment is currently 3,354.

PISD hosted five playoff games during the 2014 football playoff season including one state quarterfinal game. The district's profit earned from the playoff games was \$17,873.00.

Christmas holidays will begin on Monday, December 22, 2014. Staff will return for a professional development day on Monday, January 5, 2015 and students will return to class on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

Staff members have sent cards and emails sharing their appreciation to Palestine ISD for the Thanksgiving turkey and retention incentives that PISD employees received.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**