



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the December 16, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Northside Primary students led pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Spotlight

Junior Rotarians and Students of the Month

The following PHS students were recognized:

Junior Rotarians for December: Arika Shook and Luis Delgado

Students of the month of December: Breanna Jackson and Nathan McEwen.

Palestine High School Cosmetology Department

Melissa Vixtha and Monserrath Anguiano, PHS seniors, were recognized for their participation in the PHS Cosmetology Program. Superintendent Jason Marshall also thanked Tammy Norris, PHS Cosmetology Instructor, for her dedication to Palestine ISD. Mrs. Norris has taught the program for the past 25 years and will retire this December.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a brief financial report. Tax collections for 2013-14 are less than the amount at this point in 2012-13; however, a software error at the tax office has been identified that will be corrected soon. Investments continue to do well with the current depository.

Campus Drug Dog Visits

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, updated the Board on planning that is underway to implement a campus drug dog program on all campuses. A drug problem has not been identified; however, the District is taking a proactive approach to ensure the safety of students.

Financial Audit

J.W. Lambright, of Smith, Lambright, and Associates, P.C., presented findings of the District's 2012-2013 financial audit. Mr. Lambright stated that the district added \$582,462.00 to the fund balance in '12-13. He also commended the district for seeking and obtaining additional funding sources such as the TTIPS and TACE grants.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2013
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 18, 2013
- Bills paid for November, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Contribution to Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition

Report on Wildcat Acres

Cody Tunstall, Career and Technical Education Director, shared the progress that has been made on the Wildcat Acres project, a six acre plot of land that is being worked by students to create a sustainable farm. Joe Edens, PHS student, presented plans for a 35x40 pole barn that will be constructed by students and teachers at Wildcat Acres. The pole barn will provide a storage area and a place to house animals for student projects.

Fall Academic Report

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented an overview of academic strengths at the district and campus levels. Principals meet once each month to evaluate and plan for academic success. Progress monitoring has proven successful in the District through an increase in math scores. The 21st Century Grant provides TACE programs for each campus beginning at kindergarten to assist students in needed areas. Each campus has a data driven individualized program to assess academic needs.

Facilities & Demographics Study

Superintendent Jason Marshall shared the results of a Facilities & Demographics Study that was conducted by Dr. Don Hooper. The study provides future enrollment projections for the District, and facilities were evaluated to identify any needs. According to the study, an enrollment increase of 162 students is expected in 2014-2015, largely due to the Sanderson Farms facility that is new to Anderson County. Projected enrollment by the 2023-24 school year will be 3,558 or an increase of 298 students.

Interlocal Agreement with Grace United Methodist Church

The Board of Trustees approved an Interlocal Agreement with Grace United Methodist Church. The church recently purchased the former Meadowbrook Country Club. The school district will lease the portion of the property from the church that includes a golf course and tennis courts. As a part of the agreement, the District will pay \$1 per year and provide maintenance for the golf course, golf facilities, and tennis courts. The agreement will provide a practice area for the District's golf and tennis programs and also allow the District to provide career opportunities for students through a golf course management program.

Announcement of Board of Trustees Continuing Education

Board of Trustees President, Wade Hobbs, announced continuing education records earned by each trustee in 2013.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that the District's current enrollment is 3,251.

The University Interscholastic League announced new classifications for school districts. Palestine ISD will now be classified as 4A instead of 3A.

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

**Next Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**