



BOARD NOTES

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

There were no spotlight items due to students being out for the President's Day holiday. The Palestine High School Students of the Month and Jr. Rotarians for February and March will be recognized at the March 24, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the 2013-14 budget is on track and expressed appreciation to principals and department heads for adhering to the budget structure.

Financial Audit

Smith, Lambright, & Associates, P.C. was approved to provide the Palestine I.S.D. Financial Audit for fiscal year ending August 31, 2014.

Update on Transportation Fleet

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented an update on the District's transportation fleet. A year ago PISD implemented a plan to purchase new buses and maintenance vehicles to replace those beginning to have mechanical issues and needed repairs. The plan allows for a few vehicles to be purchased each year rather than having to purchase multiple vehicles at one time. In 2012-13, the District purchased two buses. The Business Department will request the Board's consideration in March or April for the purchase of one or two buses/vehicles prior to the 2014-15 school year.

2013 GOLD Leadership Circle Award

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, shared that the District received the 2013 GOLD Leadership Circle Award from the Texas Comptroller's Office for the second year in a row. The award is based on the District's success in implementing financial transparency. Superintendent, Jason Marshall, commended Mr. Atkeisson and his staff for their work that has made District information easily available to the public.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2014
- Bills paid for January, 2014
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine High School

Books valued at \$272.72 from Celia Magee to be used in the PHS Library.

Northside Primary

Childrens' books valued at \$50.00 from Tiffany Young and Kimberly Homann to be used for a service learning project by the UT Tyler Education Program.

Palestine I.S.D.

Eight artificial Christmas trees valued at \$341.90 from Wal-Mart Distribution Center.

Equipment valued at \$9,550.00 from Grace United Methodist Church to be used for PISD Golf Program.

Texas Public Schools 2014

The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution titled "Celebrate Texas Public Schools 2014" (formerly known as Texas Public Schools Week. The resolution encourages that we remain committed to strengthening our schools and encourages all residents to visit their local schools during the week of March 3-7, 2014. "Leave your Mark" has been designated as this year's theme to focus on the significant accomplishments our state has made in educating all students.

2014-2015 School Calendar

The Board of Trustees approved the school calendar for 2014-2015. The first day of school for students is Monday, August 25, 2014. Staff development days prior to the start of school are Friday, August 15th and Monday-Friday, August 18th-22nd. Monday, October 13th, will be a holiday for staff and students. Students and staff will be off the entire week of Thanksgiving from November 24th through the 28th. The last day of school will be Friday, June 5, 2014. The District will request a waiver from the Texas Education Agency this spring for 3 staff development half days. If approved by TEA, staff will use the 3 half days for the disaggregation of data and development of individual academic needs for students.

Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR)

A Public Hearing was held to discuss the Texas Academic Performance Report for 2012-13. Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, presented an overview of the District's results. The District and all campuses met the standard for the state and federal accountability systems. The high school received a distinction in math, and junior high received a distinction in reading/ELAR. The junior high also received a 25% progress distinction as they were among the top 25% of their cohort group. Copies of the report will be available on the district's website and a notebook containing the report will be available to the public at each campus.

The Board of Trustees approved Campus Performance Objectives for each campus as required by the Texas Education Code. School districts must set objectives in each campus improvement plan based on the TAPR to periodically measure progress towards performance objectives.

Cheerleading & Drill Team Constitutions

The Board of Trustees approved Cheerleading and Drill Team Constitutions for 2014-15. The Cheerleading Constitution rule stating that cheerleaders who missed more than 2 planned practices during the summer would result in immediate dismissal from the squad was replaced with, "cheerleaders missing practice without a doctor's note or school related reason will receive three demerits". There were no changes to the Drill Team Constitution.

Personnel

The Board of Trustees approved contract extensions for Administrators and Directors as recommended by Superintendent Jason Marshall.

Board of Trustees Election

The Board of Trustees approved an order and notice for an election to be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014. The purpose of the election is to elect officers for Place 6 and Place 7 of the Palestine ISD Board of Trustees.

The Board also approved a joint election agreement with the City of Palestine.

Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation

The Board reviewed results of their self-evaluation for 2013-2014.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Jason Marshall, shared that the current student enrollment is 3,246; an increase of 10 students from the previous month.

The PHS Boys' Varsity Basketball Team will play Jasper in the Bi-District round of the state basketball playoffs at Nacogdoches High School on Tuesday, February 18th at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The PHS Varsity Baseball Team will play Alvarado at The Ballpark in Arlington (Texas Rangers Stadium) on Friday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free for this game.

The District will be out for spring break the week of March 10-14, 2014.

In the Texas School Finance Trial almost a year ago, District Court Judge John Dietz ruled the system Texas uses to finance public education unconstitutional. In the second round of the trial, Judge Dietz will weigh whether actions the Texas Legislature took this past summer will alter his February 2013 decision in which approximately 60% of funding that had been reduced in the 2011 Legislative Session was returned to schools. Closing statements have been made and both sides are now awaiting Judge Dietz's decision. The case is expected to be appealed to the United States Supreme Court. Superintendent Marshall urged citizens to vote in upcoming elections for leaders who are friends to public schools.

The University Interscholastic League has announced reclassification and realignment for 2014-2016. Palestine ISD will move from 3A to 4A. In football, PISD will play Carthage, Kilgore, Henderson, Brownsboro, and Chapel Hill. PISD will remain in the current district for basketball and will play Fairfield, Groesbeck, Mexia, and Rusk.

The Texas Association of School Boards Summer Leadership Institute dates are set for June 19-21, 2014 in San Antonio and June 26-28, 2014 in Fort Worth.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
March 24, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**