



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the February 27, 2012 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

The A.M. Story Intermediate Student Council led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. Thank you to Chaice Andrews, Macey Everhart, Ashley Middleton, Caden LaFontaine, Jacqueline Gonzalez, Kassidy Turner, Brianna Croon, and John Cook.

Spotlight

The Board of Trustees recognized Lucinda Presley for bringing the ICEE Success Program to Palestine Middle School which teaches students to use 21st Century thinking skills. These skills include: conceptual thinking, creative and critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creative problem solving. Mrs. Presley is the Director of ICEE Success, Inc. (Institute where Creativity Empowers Education Success). Mrs. Presley is a Palestine High School graduate.

Rashad Redix, PHS student, was honored for being named to the Texas Sportswriters All State Football Team for his accomplishments. Coach Lance Angel, Director of Athletics, shared that Rashad is one of the best he has seen play the center position. The Texas Sports Writers Association promotes the recognition of the athletic accomplishments of Texas high school student-athletes and are also dedicated to the development of sportsmanship, character, integrity, and honesty in both the student-athletes and adults involved in Texas high school athletics.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

Orlando Vargas, PHS Principal introduced the Junior Rotarians for the month of February, Victoria Garcia and Fabio Chavez. Victoria Garcia plays goalie for the PHS soccer team and has received “Most Valuable Player” awards and 1st Team All District. She plans to pursue a medical degree. Fabio Chavez participates in cross country and soccer and plays piano for his church band.

Students of the Month

Students of the month for February are Selina Morales and Jeremy Sias.

Selina Morales is involved in soccer, band, and works in the CNA program as a Certified Nurse Assistant. She has been accepted at Tyler Junior College and will pursue a degree in sonography. She works two jobs and is active in her church. Summer Alcauter, PHS Teacher, introduced Selina Morales and shared that Selina has been a joy to have in class and is very creative.

Jeremy Sias plays varsity basketball and serves as the Vice President for FCCLA and National Honor Society. He has served as a guard for the Kik-Kat drill team and participates in many community service activities. Janeva Robertson, PHS Culinary Arts teacher, introduced Jeremy and shared that he has been a pleasure to have in her class.

Construction Projects Update

Jeff Edwards of Claycomb Associates, Architects and Brent Schreiner of Balfour Beatty, provided the Board of Trustees an update of the construction progress. Palestine High School projects are 82% complete and on schedule to open for the 2012-2013 school year.

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

Jason Marshall, Superintendent, informed the Board that the District has received 63.11% of budgeted general fund revenue. 41.03% of the general fund expenditure budget is spent or encumbered and 77.29% of prior year tax collections have been received.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2012
- Bills paid for January, 2012
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine High School Athletic Booster Club

\$200.00 from George Torma Air Conditioning

\$100.00 from James Orthodontics

\$100.00 from Carol and James Herrington, DDS

\$150.00 from Michael Garcia, MD

\$150.00 from Palestine United

\$100.00 from Jeff Atkinson of Farm Bureau Insurance

These donations were used for the Boys Soccer Tournament on January 19-21, 2012.

Palestine High School Ladycat Soccer

\$500.00 from Jamie F. Meyers, DDS of East Texas Family and Surgery Center to be used for Ladycat Soccer.

Palestine High School Athletics

\$2,429.39 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club to be used for weight equipment for girls athletics.

Cheerleading Constitution

The Board of Trustees approved revisions to the Cheerleading Constitution.

A revised Drill Team Constitution will be presented for approval at the March 26, 2012 regular Board of Trustees meeting.

Texas Public Schools 2012

The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to remain committed to strengthening our schools and encourage all residents to visit their local schools during Texas Public Schools Week, March 5-9, 2012. The Board also encourages the community to donate their time and talents throughout the year to make our public schools even better.

2012-2013 School Calendar

The Board of Trustees approved the 2012-2013 school calendar. The first day of school for students will be August 27th. The District will not have Labor Day off due to the late start of school. Students will be off the entire week of Thanksgiving from November 19th through the 23rd. Teachers are scheduled to have a staff development day on Monday, November 19th but will be able to take that as a comp day if they meet staff development requirements during the summer. The last day of school will be Friday, June 7, 2013.

PreAP/AP Enrollment/Exit Criteria

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, informed the Board regarding PreAP/AP enrollment and exit criteria.

Students must meet the following criteria for each subject area in order to enroll in the PreAP/AP Program for the specific course:

- Passing grades in the content area in the preceding school year.
- Passing the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) or the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness end-of-course examination (STAAR/EOC) in the content area of the previous school year.

Students will be exited from the PreAP/AP Program under the following circumstances:

- Consistent with Palestine ISD guidelines, a student may request to be exited from the class at semester.
- Parents may request withdrawal of students from the program at the end of the 6 weeks by contacting the campus counselor and submitted written request. The approval of the request will be based upon student performance. The approval will be given only when the student has earned a failing grade in the course.
- A student who has earned failing grades in the course for two consecutive six weeks shall be exited from the PreAP/AP class.

Academic Nights

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, presented information on Academic Nights for parents and students. During the spring semester, Academic Nights will be held at each of the campuses.

The A.M. Story Intermediate and the Palestine Middle School campuses held Academic Nights on January 31st. At Story, parents received information on extracurricular activities, Response to Intervention (RTI), student learning styles, and parent tips. Palestine Middle School parents received information on the STAAR tests, Response to Intervention (RTI), and the importance of good attendance. Washington E.C.C. held their Academic Night on February 27th.

Upcoming Academic Nights:

Northside Primary

Thursday, March 8th

Students will present a "Texas" program and first grade students will sing "Our Texas".

Southside Elementary

Tuesday, March 27th

Shannon Butler, Counselor will provide an overview of the Response to Intervention RTI process. Parents will also visit the classrooms.

Palestine High School

Tuesday, April 10th

PHS Fun Night - Dinner will be provided at 6 pm for parents and students.

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

Personnel Approved

Shannon Clakley	Science	Palestine Middle School
Jamie Palmer	Math	Palestine Middle School
Terry Sloan	Science	Palestine Middle School
Abby Whitaker	Spanish	Palestine High School
Brenton Whitaker	Math	Palestine High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Jesus Garcia-Castillo, Norma Starling, and James Torrence.

Board of Trustees Election

The Board of Trustees approved an order to call for an election to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2012. The purpose of the election is to elect officers for Place 1 and Place 2 of the Palestine ISD Board of Trustees.

The Board also approved a joint election resolution with the City of Palestine and election workers.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed the Board that the District's enrollment as of February 24, 2012 is 3,189. The District will celebrate Texas Public Schools Week during the week of March 5-9th. Spring break will be the week of March 12-16, 2012.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
March 26, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.**