



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the March 25, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

A.M. Story Intermediate students in Julie Bell's Piano/Choir class led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. Thank you to Kyndal Barnes, Sebastian Mattingly, Allyson Byrd, Jacoby Campbell, William Quarles, Matthew Jackson, Bethany Thomas, Morgan Scruggs, Dulce Rangel, Mashayla Jordan, and Tamara Deckard!

Spotlight

Recognition of A.M. Story Intermediate Language Arts Teachers

Dr. Brandon Jayroe, A.M. Story Intermediate Principal expressed appreciation to fourth grade Language Arts teachers for their diligent efforts to prepare students for their STAAR reading and writing tests. The fourth grade Language Arts teachers are: Patricia Hamil, Victor Gonzales, Caroline Griffin, Laura Chapman, Megan Florence, Andrew Pearson and Carol White.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

Congratulations to the February and March Junior Rotarians!

February, 2013: Caitlyn Morrow and Walter Sheridan

March, 2013: Emily Salas and Tyler Perkins

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the Students of the Month for February and March!

February, 2013: Elizabeth Ruiz and Caleb Ellison

March, 2013: Gabrielle Dantin and Caleb Lawson

Construction Projects Update

Terry Gober of Buford Thompson Construction reviewed each phase of the Design-Build Project that has provided a complete renovation for the Palestine High School Career and Technology Building and the addition of a softball stadium. The Design-Build project is complete with only punch list items remaining.

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

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer informed the Board that the District has received 92.94% of current year tax collections. The current year tax collections are slightly ahead of the 2011-2012 collections for the month of March and 2011-2012 collections were also above 2010-2011 collections at the same time. With tax collections on target and state payments due to pick back up in April, the 2012-2013 budget is in good shape.

Bank Depository

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer stated that the District will request proposals for a bank depository in the coming months. The District's current agreement with Prosperity Bank is about to reach the end of a two year agreement.

Health Insurance Rates

District health insurance rates will increase in 2013-2014. A decline in benefits and the elimination of TRS ActiveCare 1 are also included in the proposal from the District's current employee health insurance provider. All of the plan choices would see increases with the most often selected coverage, TRS ActiveCare 2 Employee/Family increasing by \$238.

The District will consider all options to provide some type of relief for employees. Superintendent Marshall encouraged all staff to continue communicating with elected officials regarding the return of state funding that was cut from the education budget in the last legislative session.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2013
- Bills paid for February, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine High School Media Center

Books valued at \$49.97 from Wyatt Marshall. Books include *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, *Ghost Circles* by Jeff Smith, *Dragon Tears* by Dean Koontz, *Scary Stories to tell in the Dark* and *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo.

Book valued at \$29.95 from Adam Harding: *Historic Palestine: An Illustrated History* by Eric Dabney.

Books valued at \$82.94 from Gabbi Dantin. Books include *Vampire Academy Series* by Richelle Mead, *The Cat Who Had 60 Whiskers*, and *The Cat Who Played Post Office*.

Books valued at \$85.00 from the Palestine Public Library: *Atlas of the American Revolution* and *Historical Atlas of the United States*.

5 Bean bag chairs valued at \$150.00 from Adam Harding to provide comfortable seating for students to relax and read.

- Expedited Waiver for Foreign Exchange Students
- Staff Development Waiver for 2013-2014
- Certification of EMAT System for 2013-2014 Textbook Order

Local Policy Update 96

The Board of Trustees approved Local Policy Update 96 as presented. Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented information on Update 96 that affects Local Policies DEC, EFAA, and FEB.

Personnel

The Board of Trustees approved term and probationary contracts of teachers for the 2013-2014 school year.

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Debra Birdow, Risa Coleman, Erin Dickson, Kathy Elton, Dorothy Jackson, Denise McDonald, Jonathan Scoggins, Caren Scroggins, Mary Updegrave, Sandra Vaughn, Crystal White, and Deborah Woody.

Media Honor Roll Nomination

The Board selected KYYK and the Palestine Herald Press for the Texas Association of School Boards Media Honor Roll.

Discussion of Soccer Complex

The Board of Trustees discussed the possibility of allowing the YMCA to build a soccer complex on 9 acres of land donated to Palestine ISD by local attorney Jim Parsons for the purpose of providing a recreational area for students. Palestine YMCA CEO David Hendricks stated that with about 400 kids who play soccer, an additional field is needed. The Board of Trustees will consider an interlocal agreement between Palestine ISD and the Palestine YMCA for a soccer field at a future board meeting.

2013-2015 Technology Plan and Internet Safety Guidelines

The Board of Trustees approved the current content filtering in use by the District as required by the Texas Education Agency. This software (SOPHOS) recognizes staff and students by their unique login ID and applies the necessary internet content filtering accordingly. Each student with a school supplied email account is required to view and pass a test on internet safety before they can use their web account on Gaggle.

The Board also approved a Technology Plan for 2013-2015 that will be submitted to the Texas Education Agency for approval. Recently, there has been a significant increase in technology at Palestine High School due to grant funding. Hardware that is now coming out of grant control and no longer needed at High School is being dispersed to other campuses to attempt to fill their needs as best we can. In summary, the revised plan has been changed very little due to lack of State funding.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed the Board that the District's enrollment as of March 25, 2013 is 3,276 which is about 100 students higher than the number used to calculate the 2012-2013 budget.

Superintendent Marshall reviewed upcoming activities. An Area Contest for One-Act Play will be held at Hewitt Midway on Monday, April 8, 2013. The Palestine High School One-Act Play advanced to area for their performance of The Crucible at the District One-Act Play contest held on Saturday, March 23rd at Palestine High School. Board members will attend the TASB Summer Leadership Institute in Fort Worth this summer.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
April 15, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**