



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the March 26, 2015 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Spotlight

Recognition of Texas Area Fund Foundation

The Texas Area Fund Foundation was not able to be present at the meeting. Palestine ISD was awarded \$25,000.00 by the Texas Area Fund Foundation. The funds will benefit the development of the Wildcat Golf Course which will provide education and training opportunities in both golf and landscaping which can serve as a dual credit course providing 12 college credit hours.

Recognition of Lowe's

Lowe's was not able to be present at the meeting. Northside Primary was the recipient of a \$7,200.00 grant award from Lowe's of Palestine that will be used for playground equipment for the campus.

Recognition of PHS Art Students

Connie Teal, PHS Art teacher shared accomplishments from the 2015 Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE). Fourteen PHS students participated in the competition with four advancing to the State VASE Competition that will be held in April at the Dallas Convention Center. The following students will compete at the state level: Shaina Coleman, Ana Roman, Kelsey Hafner, and Amilia Thomason.

Recognition of PHS Students Earning CNA Certification

These students were not able to be present at the meeting due to their participation in a SkillsUSA Competition. Rokayah Beavers and Teresa Robinson, PHS students successfully completed the state board examination for Certified Nursing Assistant. These students are now working in the medical field and will pursue nursing degrees.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

Congratulations to these Junior Rotarians!

February, 2015	Destiny Swain and Jacob Nicholas
March, 2015	Tanisha Klopper and Mauricio Serralde

Students of the Month

Congratulations to Students of the Month for February and March!

February, 2015	Geneva Spreen and Jacob Houck
March, 2015	Amiya Thomas and Jordan Hobbs

Palestine ISD eRATE Efforts

The following Palestine ISD and Chartwells staff members were recognized for working with families to complete free and reduced meal applications ensuring that PISD qualifies for the greatest eRATE discount possible: Carol Herring, Lolita Shead, Nora Ferretiz, Mimi Spreen, Kim Gail, Melinda Defore, and Sandy Webb. School districts may receive up to a 90 percent discount on telecommunication services depending

on the school's percentage of students who are eligible for free and reduced meals. PISD currently qualifies for 85 percent which amounts to approximately \$500,000 in funds to be used for technology infrastructure.

2014 Platinum Leadership Circle Award

Superintendent Jason Marshall shared that Palestine ISD was recently awarded the Platinum Leadership Circle Award for financial transparency from the Texas Comptroller's Office. In previous years, Palestine ISD was awarded the Gold Circle status, the highest possible at the time. For 2014, PISD received the newly created highest level Platinum Award. Superintendent Marshall thanked Business Department staff for their diligence in keeping financial reports updated on the PISD website.

Video Showcase of PHS Career and Technology Education

A video production of the PHS Broadcast Journalism class was shown. The video showcased Career and Technology courses available at PHS.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer reported that PISD current tax collections are 1% ahead of tax collections at this time last year. Mr. Atkeisson expressed appreciation to district staff for being fiscally responsible.

Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Update

Scott Hughes of Buford-Thompson Construction reported that the staining of the exterior of the A.M. Story Intermediate building was 99 percent complete, and a freezer is scheduled to be installed in the Story cafeteria. Renovations at Palestine Junior High School have begun and are expected to be complete in August, 2015. New doors and hardware are scheduled to be installed at Northside, PJHS, Southside, Story, and Washington, and new light fixtures at Northside, PJHS, and Southside.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2015
- Bills paid for February, 2015
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine ISD

\$1,000.00 from Citizens National Bank to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

Palestine High School

\$200.00 from Charles Drane to assist in purchasing appropriate clothing for students attending the State Competition of Business Professionals of America.

Palestine High School

\$100.00 from Paula McAughan to assist in purchasing appropriate clothing for students attending the State Competition of Business Professionals of America.

- Certification of EMAT System for 2015-2016 Textbook Order
- 2015-16 Cheerleading and Drill Team Constitutions

Personnel

The Board approved the following personnel as presented.

Jeffrey Cotten	Ag/Construction	Palestine High School
David Credille	Science	Palestine Junior High School
Tommy Felts	TBD	
Kelcie Kuhn	Kindergarten	Northside Primary
Ty Kuhn	TBD	

Amy Robinson	TBD
Morgan Robinson	TBD

The Board of Trustees approved term and probationary contracts of teachers for the 2015-2016 school year.

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations/retirements of Sharon Bailey, Donna Barnett, Cynthia Carlson, Michele Deal, Angelia Decou, Wendy Fincher, Melissa Hendricks, Judith Hobbs, Hannah Huggins, Kevin Jackson, Sarah Kolac, Melanie Marino, Jesse Pierce, Martin Simmons, Melinda Smith, Nicholas Stauffer, Julie Waldon, Eric Whitener, and Tiffany Young.

PreKindergarten Resolution

The Board adopted a resolution that calls on the Texas Legislature to expand the state's investment in prekindergarten education, and to institute quality standards, in order for Texas to realize all of the benefits that high-quality, full-day prekindergarten programs have to offer Texas' school children.

Certification of Unopposed Candidates

The PISD Board of Trustees certified candidates for Places 1 and 2 of the Board of Trustees as unopposed as only one candidate filed to run for each of the positions. Dyna Tutt, the current Board Secretary filed for Place 1 and was unopposed. Brandon Sheely filed for Place 2 and was unopposed. Brandon Sheeley will replace Wade Hobbs, who had served in Place 2 since 2007. Dyna Tutt and Brandon Sheeley will be sworn in at the May 18, 2015 school board meeting and will serve from May 2015 until May 2018.

Cancellation of Election

The Board approved the cancellation of the May 9, 2015 Board of Trustees Election due to there being no opposed candidates.

Media Honor Roll Nomination

The Board nominated the Palestine Herald Press and KYYK Radio Station to the 2015 Texas Association of School Board's Media Honor Roll.

Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation

The Board of Trustees reviewed self-evaluation results for 2014. The Board felt that the 2010-2015 Strategic Action Plan provided a focus for the district that lead to achieving the goals outlined in the strategic plan. The Board looks forward to beginning a new five year strategic action plan that will begin in 2016. Board members expressed appreciation to Superintendent Marshall for Career and Technology Education improvements and the expansion of available career courses for students.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall informed the Board that the District's enrollment as of the 128th day of the school year is 3,350, which is 121 students higher than the first day of 2014-15 and 101 students higher than at this point in 2013-14.

A calendar of March-June activities was given to Board members.

Texas Association of School Board (TASB) Summer Leadership Institutes will be held this summer to provide Board members two opportunities to receive required continuing education training. The first will be held in San Antonio, June 11-13, and the second one in Fort Worth, June 18-20, 2015.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
April 20, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**