



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the April 15, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Northside Primary students; Abigail Castillo, Shannon Jackson, Nicholas Hendricks, Zoey Henderson, Richard Taylor, and Alex Homann sang the song Respect. The song teaches that we should treat our friends as family and our family as friends. The students also led the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Spotlight

Wildcat Choir Students

Chaundra Dantin, Palestine High School Choir Director shared accomplishments of Palestine Junior High and Palestine High School choir students. Seventh grade choir members, Christopher Freeman, Dominique Lacy, and Alexia Robinson, and eighth grade member, Jessica Valencia, received a Superior rating, while seventh grader, Lauren-Kay Potter, and eighth grader, Alexia Smith, received an Excellent rating at TMEA sponsored Solo and Ensemble Competition. PHS varsity choir members Geneva Spreen, Morgan Whitfield, Haley Cook, Crystal Ferguson, Branden Dantin, and Adam Hobbs earned a Superior rating for an ensemble performance at UIL sponsored Solo and Ensemble Competition and will advance to the State competition in May. Also receiving a Superior rating on a Class I solo and advancing to State were Haley Cook (sophomore), Branden Dantin (junior), Gabrielle Dantin (senior), Crystal Ferguson (senior), Jonna Ham (junior), Adam Hobbs (senior), Thomas Oger (junior), Geneva Spreen (sophomore), and Morgan Whitfield (sophomore). Senior, Amanda Taylor, juniors, Coleton Gray, Andrew Hall, and Christian Posada, and freshman, Le'Asia Coley, earned a Superior rating, and sophomore, Sarah Ellison, earned an Excellent rating after performing Class II solos.

Wildcat Band Students

Andrew Chybowski, Palestine High School Band Director introduced band students who have earned honors this year. The following students made a Superior rating at Solo and Ensemble: Haley Cook, Martha Garcia-Castillo, Elliot West will be advancing to state Solo and Ensemble, Cheyenne Masters, Jaime Pena, Gabrielle Hudson, Jordan Hafner, Gabrielle Meyers, and the trio of: Elliot West, Martha Garcia-Castillo, and Kevin Parish. The following students made an Excellent rating at Solo and Ensemble: Ashleigh Stubbs, David Gean, Kevin Parish, Giovanni Gonzalez, Justin Hays, Anna Phelps, Juan Perez, Sarah Coleman, Brittany Collins, and the quartet of: Juan Perez, Gabrielle Hudson, David Gean, and Haley Cook. The following students made an All-Region Band: Amber Magee, Elizabeth Ruiz, Gabrielle Steele, Haley Cook, Elliot West, Alicia Guzman, Sarah Coleman, and Jayson White.

The following students advanced to Area auditions: Elizabeth Ruiz, Gabrielle Steele, Haley Cook, and Elliot West and Elliot West made 4A All-State Band.

YMCA Youth in Government Students

Sandy Webb, Youth & Government Lead Advisor shared results from the YMCA Jr. Youth in Government State Conference. MaKayla Baker was named Distinguished Delegate in State Affairs and Leanne Fort was named Distinguished Delegate in Cyber Media. Three of the nine Y&G State officers elected for 2013-2014 are from the Palestine YMCA. Our State Officers are: Abby Earle-Cyber Media Chair, Chris Winfield-Broadcast Media Chair, and Faith Dingus (Westwood ISD)-SAF Chair. Sandy Webb, Y&G Lead Advisor was honored as Distinguished Adult Volunteer at the conference and was presented with a certificate and a Texas State flag that had been flown at the State Capitol in her honor.

Robotics Team

Joseph Baker, PHS STEM teacher introduced the PHS Robotics Team of Avery Fuller, Evan Fuller, and Destiny Harding who recently tested in the area of robotics automation at the Texas Skills USA Conference in Corpus Christie, Texas. The students will receive their test results in May. If they score highest of the four teams who participated in the robotics automation competition they will advance to the National Competition in Kansas City, Missouri this summer.

Congratulations to all of these students and good luck in upcoming competitions!

Congratulations to April Students of the Month and Junior Rotarians

Students of the Month: Christina Evangelista and Willis Foley

Junior Rotarians: Hanna Diaz and William Rogers

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, stated that the District tax collections are slightly ahead of last year which reflects positively on taxpayers. An early projection for the 2013-2014 budget is expected to be announced at the May board meeting.

Update on YMCA Soccer Complex Agreement

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, stated that the District is continuing to work with the YMCA to develop an Interlocal Agreement for a soccer complex. The details of the Interlocal Agreement will be reported on at the May board meeting.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2013
- Bills paid for March, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine High School Math and Science Department

\$500.00 – Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Grant for the purpose of encouraging the next generation to pursue studies and careers in fields involving math and science.

Palestine High School Media Center

Book valued at \$8.95 from Deici Salas: *Betrayed by P.C. Cast*

Summer School

The Board of Trustees approved STAAR and ESL summer school programs. Transportation will be provided for students through 8th grade. ESL summer school will be held at Washington Early Childhood Center and STAAR summer school will be held at Palestine Junior High. A workday for teachers will be held on Saturday, June 8th.

ESL prekindergarten and kindergarten students must attend a mandatory summer school of 20 days. The ESL summer school program will begin on Monday, June 10th.

STAAR summer school will be held for students who do not pass the reading STAAR for third grade and the reading and math STAAR for fifth and eighth grader students. STAAR summer school will begin on Monday, June 10th and end June 26th. STAAR summer school for High School students who did not pass their EOC exams, and who are doing credit recovery will begin on Monday, June 10th and end July 3.

Curriculum and Technology Demonstration

Shannon Leisure, District Educational Technology Facilitator and Summer Alcauter, High School Integration Specialist presented a demonstration to show how technology is changing the face of learning and expanding learning opportunities for students. Palestine High School students were featured in a video explaining how Ipad and the numerous apps available make learning fun and increase their curiosity level. Board members enjoyed an interactive Ipad lesson in which a selection of tests was displayed on their Ipad screens. Results were automatically displayed on a projector screen as tests were completed demonstrating how new technologies are exciting and motivating for students.

Personnel Approved

Michelle Merryman

Business & Finance

Palestine High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignation of Michelle Walter.

The Board of Trustees approved to propose the nonrenewal of the term contract of a teacher and authorized the superintendent to issue the appropriate notice.

Election

The Board of Trustees approved Election personnel for the Palestine ISD Trustee Election to be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Early voting will be held Monday, April 29 through Tuesday, May 7. Hours for Monday, April 29-May 3 will be 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Hours for Monday-Tuesday, May 6-7 will be 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation

The Board reviewed results of their self-evaluation for 2012-2013.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported on upcoming activities including a combined Junior High/High School Awards Ceremony on May 23 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Palestine High School Auditorium.

An Area Track Meet will be held on Wednesday, April 17 at Wildcat Stadium.

The Employee Service Awards Banquet will be held on Tuesday, May 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Service awards will be presented at 6:00 pm in the PHS Auditorium with a dinner following at 7:00 pm in the PHS Cafeteria. This extended day will take the place of the staff development day originally planned for Saturday, June 8.

Superintendent Jason Marshall gave an update on the Texas 83rd Legislative Session which is at its halfway point. According to legislative reports, a reduction in state testing is expected as well as the return of 3 billion of the 5 billion in state funding that was lost in the last legislative session. The House voted not to fund vouchers and it appears support for the initiative has decreased.

Next Regular Board Meeting

May 20, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.