



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the April 20, 2015 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Washington Early Childhood Center students led pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Spotlight

Texas Area Fund Foundation

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources introduced Carolyn Booker who serves on the Board of Directors of the Texas Area Fund Foundation. Mrs. Eiben thanked Mrs. Booker for her dedication to the Palestine community, and Mrs. Eiben also thanked the Texas Area Fund Foundation for a donation in the amount of \$25,000.00 that will be used for the revitalization of the Wildcat Golf Course.

Wildcat Soccer Team

Coach John Absalom reviewed highlights from the Wildcat Soccer season. The PHS Wildcat Soccer team was ranked #1 in state for 11 weeks by Maxpreps, and the team won the District Championship for the first time in school history. The team also advanced to the Regional Finals.

Coach Absalom introduced soccer athletes who received the following District Awards for the season: MVP of the District - Cass French; Offensive MVP - Pablo Aguilar; Goal Keeper of the Year - Bennett Gierkey; Coach of the Year - John Absalom.

First Team All-District - Wilmer Marquez, Treven Carr, Adolfo Loera, and Fabian Mendez.

Second Team All-District - Angel Renteria, Carlos Ruiz, Chris Giron, and Luis Ferretiz.

Honorable Mention - Allan Marquez, Rudy Ruiz, and Tomas Garcia.

Junior Rotarians

Jordan Hafner and Angel Renteria, PHS students, were recognized for being named Junior Rotarians for the month of April.

Students of the Month

Taylor Wehling and Adolfo Loera were recognized for being named PHS Students of the Month for April.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer gave an overview of district finances. PISD remains in a strong position financially. March tax collections appear to reflect the same percentage as the previous month; however the Anderson County tax office reported a software issue which may have caused the numbers to be inaccurate for this month. A corrected tax collection update for March will be given along with the April update at the May board meeting. 2014-15 budget expenditures are coming to a close and the district is looking ahead to planning the budget for the 2015-16 school year.

Bus Transportation Purchase

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer updated the Board regarding district plans to update the bus fleet by purchasing new buses over a period of time, and having buses reconditioned as needed. The Board approved the purchase of two buses from Rush Bus Center, a Region VII vendor; and the refurbishing of two buses by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Bank Depository

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer explained that the Texas Education Agency requires school districts to renew bank depository contracts every two years, and that PISD is eligible this year to renew the current bank depository contract if there are no changes other than the contract year. Mr. Atkeisson also noted that Prosperity Bank was the only bank depository proposal in which no fees were charged to the district. The Board approved a bank depository agreement with Prosperity Bank for bank depository services for the period from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2017.

Construction Update

Scott Hughes of Buford Thompson Company reviewed renovations taking place to the Junior High old gym and band hall which includes replacing walls, floors, ceilings, doors/ hardware, lighting, and HVAC. Mr. Hughes commended Junior High students and Stephen Cooksey, Junior High Principal for respectful behavior during the renovation process. A Junior High Office renovation will begin in the coming weeks. Doors and hardware will be installed at A.M. Story Intermediate soon. New light fixtures are 99% complete at the Southside Elementary campus and light installations will begin soon at the Northside Primary campus.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 26, 2015
- Bills paid for March, 2015
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine Athletics Department

Athletic trainer equipment in the amount of \$1,030.72 from the PHS Athletic Booster Club.
\$290.00 from Dr. Dean French to supplement the athletic program.

Palestine ISD

\$1,000.00 from Chartwells to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

\$25,000.00 from the Texas Area Fund Foundation to benefit the Wildcat Golf Course.

Palestine High School

Books valued at \$86.25 from David and Jennifer Ray.

- One Year Extension of Food Service Management Contract with Compass Group USA, Inc., Chartwells Division
- LED Sign for Northside Primary

Palestine Junior High Presentation

Stephen Cooksey, Palestine Junior High Principal introduced a video showcasing the Palestine Junior High. Mr. Cooksey also shared some recent PJH accomplishments including consistent academic improvement, as well as a District Track Championship for the 7th Grade Track Team, 8th Grade Track Team winning second place at the District Track Meet, and the PJH Band won first place at the All-Region Contest.

Personnel Approved

Kymerly Chapa	Physical Education	Palestine High School
Marcial Chapa	Physical Education	Palestine Junior High School
Kaylea Dews	4 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Heather Haas	3 rd Grade	Southside Elementary
Johnnathan Johnson	Transitions	Palestine High School
Megan Kendrick	3 rd Grade	Southside Elementary
Freta Parkes	Special Ed. Liaison	District-Wide
Brandon Phillips	History	Palestine Junior High School
Jacob Peacock	History	Palestine Junior High School

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

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Deborah Blackwell, Dathan Brestel, Karen Buckland, Maria Dominguez, Sharde McCain, Sharon Nichols-Polk, Kelvin Polk, Victoria Richardson, and Rebecca Tapia.

Internet Safety Guidelines

David Long, Director of Technology, explained that school districts are required by the Texas Education Agency to have board approval for their method of internet content filtering. The Board approved Fortinet as the District's current method of content filtering.

2015-2017 Technology Plan

The Board approved the Technology Plan for 2015-17 as presented.

Superintendent's Report

As of the 143rd day of 2014-15, district student enrollment was 3,362.

The possibility of needing additional classroom space for 2015-16 due to Sanderson Farms locating in the community was discussed. It is not completely clear at this time, but it does not appear that additional space will be needed.

End of year activities:

Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce	
Teacher Appreciation Reception	May 6, 2015 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Band Concert	May 19, 2015 6:00 p.m.
Secondary Academic Honors Program	May 21, 2015 6:00 p.m.
Memorial Day Holiday for Staff & Students	May 25, 2015
Elementary Academic Awards	May 26, 2015 6:00 p.m.
Choir Concert	May 28, 2015 6:00 p.m.
CTE Banquet	May 29, 2015 6:00 p.m.
Employee Service Awards	June 2, 2015 6:00 p.m.
Graduation	June 5, 2015 8:00 p.m.

Texas 84th Legislative Session Update:

Due to the pending school finance lawsuit, both the Texas Senate and Texas House plan to provide schools additional funds. However, the Senate and House do not agree on how to do this. The House is proposing to give more funds than the Senate, but the House wants to cut allotments that districts currently receive. The Senate is showing support for vouchers, but the House is not for vouchers. Senate Bill 149 is expected to pass and will provide relief for students who have not met all current graduation requirements. If it passes, House Bill 2804 would provide relief within the Texas testing accountability system. Both the

Senate and House want to provide tax relief for Texas citizens. The Senate feels that extending homestead exemptions for property owners would be best, while the House prefers to cut sales tax.

Next Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.