



# BOARD NOTES

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## **A Summary of the June 13, 2011 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Luke Wallis** and **Hunter Wallis** along with Principal Jayroe and Principal Esparza, led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. Luke and Hunter will be missed by all of their friends at Southside Elementary and A.M. Story Intermediate.

### **Special Spotlight**

The Board of Trustees expressed their appreciation to **Superintendent Dr. Thomas Wallis, wife Nicole, and sons Luke and Hunter**. Board of Trustees President, Wade Hobbs presented a plaque to Dr. Wallis and thanked him for his faithful service, love and commitment to Palestine ISD. The Board wished Dr. Wallis and his family the best as they begin a new journey in Bryan, Texas, where Dr. Wallis will serve as superintendent of schools for the Bryan Independent School District.

### **Recognition of Lee Parkinson**

Superintendent Dr. Thomas Wallis expressed his appreciation to KYYK 98.3 General Manager, **Lee Parkinson** for his support of the school district. He also presented a certificate naming Mr. Parkinson to the 2011 Media Honor Roll, a program sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards. The Media Honor Roll recognizes media representatives who deserve recognition for fair and balanced reporting of news about public schools.

### **Construction Projects Update**

Walt Wood of Claycomb Associates, Architects provided the Board of Trustees an update of the construction progress.

Of the original Phase 1, 2, and 3 construction projects, all are now primarily finished except for Palestine High School. Phase 1 consisted of the renovations of Wildcat Stadium, the A.M. Story Intermediate track, the Palestine ISD Administrative Offices, and Washington Early Childhood Center and Daycare. Phase 2 included the construction of a new gym for Palestine Middle School, new additions at Northside Primary, Southside Elementary, all of these projects have been completed. Phase 3 is currently ongoing and consists of renovations and construction at Palestine High School, these projects are 59% complete. Superintendent Dr. Thomas Wallis stated that the construction budget is in great shape financially and there will be no issue completing the projects within the allocated budget. All of these projects were made possible by the tax payers of Palestine Independent School District who voted for and passed a bond in the spring of 2009.

Pictures of the projects and aerial photos of the construction sites can be viewed on the front page of the district website ([www.palestineschools.org](http://www.palestineschools.org)) by clicking on the links on the left hand side of the page.

## **2012 Anderson County Appraisal District Proposed Budget**

David Atkeisson, Director of Business Services, reviewed the Anderson County Appraisal District proposed budget for 2012. Mr. Atkeisson stated that the total budget reflects a reduction of 1.25% from the 2011 approved ACAD budget.

## **Financial Update**

David Atkeisson, Director of Business Services, informed the Board of Trustees that the District has collected about ninety-five percent of the current year taxes and about ninety-two percent of the prior year delinquent taxes. These should continue to rise over the next several months. The District has received approximately seventy-seven percent of the general revenue budget and has expended approximately seventy percent.

## **2011-2012 Budget Information**

David Atkeisson, Director of Business Services, stated that he was not yet able to present definite budget information for 2011-2012 due to the senate still being in special session. The District is expecting a reduction of approximately 1.3 to 1.5 million, however the reduction could be more or less than the anticipated amount. District administrators and campus principals have reviewed their budgets and made reductions in preparation for the expected budget shortfall.

## **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 23, 2011
- Bills paid for May, 2011
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

### **Palestine ISD**

\$1,500.00 from the Wal-Mart Foundation to be used for the purchase and repair of sound equipment and other technology for use by the Palestine ISD secondary choir program.

### **Palestine Middle School Math Department**

Two Kodak digital cameras and 2 Ipod shuffles valued at \$250.00 from Serena Alderson to be used for peer tutoring awards.

### **Palestine Middle School Math Department**

A flat screen TV valued at \$138.00 from Wal-Mart Distribution Center.

### **Palestine Middle School**

A Sanyo 18.5" HD TV valued at \$169.00 from Lee Loveless Photography to be used for peer tutoring awards.

## Personnel Approved for 2011-2012

Personnel Approved:

Shelly Gillaspie Alvarado	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
April Chatmon	Counselor	A.M. Story Intermediate
Michelle Clark	Science	Palestine High School
Kimberly Cobb	Juvenile	Palestine High School
Katie Covington	Kindergarten	Northside Primary
Aretha Davids	Math	A.M. Story Intermediate
Ronda Hubert	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Benjamin McGehee	Math	Palestine High School
Leslee McGehee	Science	Palestine Middle School
Calie Russell	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate

Superintendent Dr. Thomas Wallis accepted the following resignations: Vickie Anderson, Sandra Bledsoe, Jennifer Bragg, Teresa Carnell, Melissa Hendricks, and Veronica Melendez.

## 2011-2012 Meal Prices

The Board of Trustees approved meal prices for 2011-12:

Breakfast	PK-6 <sup>th</sup> Grades	\$1.00
	7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grades	\$1.25
Lunch	PK-6 <sup>th</sup> Grades	\$2.25
	7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grades	\$2.50

## Playground Equipment

The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of playground equipment for Northside Primary and Southside Elementary in the amount of \$25,000.00 for each campus. The cost will be covered by fund balance designated for construction.

## Flooring Renovation

The Board of Trustees approved a flooring renovation for A.M. Story Intermediate. The renovation total cost of \$68,109.00 will be covered by fund balance designated for construction.

## TASB Delegate Assembly

Dyna Tutt, Board of Trustees Vice President was elected to serve as delegate at the TASA/TASB Delegate Assembly. Wade Hobbs, Board of Trustees President was elected to serve as alternate delegate.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Dr. Thomas Wallis presented a state of the district update. Some of the highlights included were improved TAKS scores for the A.M. Story Intermediate campus, a successful first year for the Washington Early Childhood campus and daycare, much improved athletics and technology programs, a new gym for Southside Elementary students who had taken PE classes in a portable building during the construction process, and new and improved facilities throughout the District.

Dr. Wallis thanked the Board of Trustees for a great three years. He complimented the Board for their focus always being on what is best for the students of Palestine ISD. He expressed that his experiences at Palestine have been humbling and it has been an honor to work with a fantastic Board for the students of Palestine ISD, because our kids deserve the best!

Dr. Wallis also thanked Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, for doing a remarkable job over the past year in working with District administrators and principals to plan for the expected budget shortfall.

Board of Trustees President, Wade Hobbs thanked Dr. Wallis for everything he has accomplished while serving as superintendent for Palestine ISD.

**Next Regular Board Meeting  
July 18, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.**