



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the June 15, 2015 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Spotlight

Karen Stone, PISD Band Booster Club President presented a check in the amount of \$2,500.00 to Palestine ISD to be used for a practice field for the Wildcat Band.

Spotlight

Palestine ISD honored KYYK Radio Station and the Palestine Herald Press by naming each to receive the 2015 Texas Association of School Boards Media Honor Roll Award. The Media Honor Roll recognizes media representatives statewide who deserve recognition for fair and balanced reporting of news about public schools. Jeff Michaels, KYYK Media Sports Director; and Haley Hoar, Palestine Herald Press staff writer, accepted the awards on behalf of KYYK and the Palestine Herald Press.

Spotlight

A video produced by the Palestine High School Broadcasting Journalism class was shown. The video features Anderson County public school district students showcasing their campuses. Districts featured in the video were Elkhart ISD, Frankston ISD, Slocum ISD, Palestine ISD, and Westwood ISD. The video was sent to Texas elected officials during the Texas 84th Legislative Session to create awareness for public schools.

Update on Texas 84th Legislative Session

Colby Nichols, Attorney for Powell & Leon, L.L.P., presented an overview from the Texas 84th Legislative Session. Mr. Nichols reviewed how a bill becomes a law, legislation affecting public school funding, and House & Senate Bills related to public education.

Financial Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall gave a brief financial report for David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, who was not able to be present. The district has received approximately 75% of anticipated revenue for 2014-15, and expenditures have also reached approximately 75%. Summer salaries will expend the majority of the remaining 2014-15 budget. A first read of the 2015-16 budget will be given at the July school board meeting.

Construction Update

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported on the Qualified School Construction Bond and noted that projects are going well at A.M. Story Intermediate and Palestine Junior High School. Scott Hughes of Buford-Thompson Construction Company will give a more in depth construction report at the July school board meeting.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2015

- Bills paid for May, 2015
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine High School

Pallet of water valued at \$210.00 from Walmart for Palestine High School prom.

- 2015-16 Vendors Approved: Dairy-Borden Dairy, Bread-Flowers Bakery
- 12 Month Lawn Care and Landscaping Contract with Adam Kent Landscaping
- 2015-16 Interlocal Agreement for Palestine ISD and Robertson County Special Education Cooperative
- 2015-16 Local Textbook Adoption
Math, Grades 9-12 - Publisher Name: McGraw Hill
Social Studies, Grades K-4 - Publisher Name: Pearson Education, Inc.
Social Studies, Grades 9-12 - Publisher Name: Pearson Education, Inc.

Report on LAUNCH, Gifted & Talented, and STEAM Programs

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services presented an update on the LAUNCH Program and how it impacts Gifted & Talented and STEAM Programs. The LAUNCH program was implemented in 2014-15 with the intent to introduce and expose grade K-5 students to the PreAP program, that until recently had only been available in grades 6-12. Teachers of the LAUNCH program receive extensive training during the summer in order to provide students an enriched academic setting. LAUNCH students are given opportunities to learn through the incorporation of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math (STEAM); and students also enjoy learning with iPad's, other technologies, and robotics. The district received wonderful feedback from parents of students who participated in LAUNCH this year, and an increase in nominations for the 2015-16 school year have been received. New for 2015-16 will be the opening of a STEAM Lab at the A.M. Story Intermediate campus to give students additional exposure to STEAM activities.

Explanation of 2014-15 State Accountability System

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services gave an explanation of accountability system changes for 2014-15 STAAR tests. Mrs. Jones explained that for 2014-15, students must meet the state standard for Index 1 or 2, 3 and 4. Plans are in place to address areas of concern in Reading, Math, and Writing during 2015-16 school year. The State will not include Math in accountability ratings this year to give students one year to meet increased Math standards. District and campus accountability ratings are not yet available; however, based on STAAR information received, the district expects to meet the state's accountability standard for 2014-15. Final accountability ratings are expected to be released by the Texas Education Agency in November or December, 2015.

Report on College and Career Readiness

Chris Kiser, Director of College and Career Readiness for Palestine ISD reported the following information for the 2014-15 school year.

Located on the PHS campus is Wildcat University, where students earn college hours, while also receiving dual credit for their required high school courses. This year, 43 seniors completed 525 college courses at no cost to the students or their parents. Three (3) seniors earned their associate's degree, 21 seniors graduated core complete, and 43 seniors completed at least 1 college course. PHS became a TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Testing Center this year which gives students convenient access to testing at a much lower cost (\$15) than other TSI locations (\$40-\$50). TSI Tests help determine if students are ready for a particular college course. If intervention is needed based on TSI test results, TSI Boot Camps are available to help prepare students for the college course.

PHS offers 19 industry recognized career and industry certifications. Seventy-five (75) students earned certifications this year, with the Senior class earning a total of 165 certifications. Some of the certifications

offered at PHS include; CPR & First Aid, Certified Nurse Aide, Pharmacy Technician, Vet Tech, Physical Therapy Assistant, Beef Master's, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Cosmetology, Manicuring, Electrical Technician, and Welding.

In 2015-16, a community service component will be added to the College & Career Readiness Program to teach students about giving back. A mentoring program will also be added in which older students mentor younger students to educate them on the PHS College and Career Readiness Program and all that will be available to them when they reach high school. The goal at Palestine High School is for students to be ready for college, the workforce, or a combination of the two when they graduate from high school.

Policy Update 102

The Board adopted Policy Update 102 revisions, affecting local policies CDA, DBB, DEA, DEAA, DEAB, DFFA, DHE, FNC, and FO.

Personnel Approved

Holley Collier	Elem. Tech. Specialist	Palestine ISD
Abby Cowley	Intervention	A.M. Story Intermediate
Brandi Crouch	English/Language Arts	Palestine Junior High School
Rebecca Eckerman	3 rd Grade	Southside Elementary
Johanna Faucett-Davis	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Heidi Fox	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
Jodi Harrison	Nurse	A.M. Story Intermediate
Kyle Johnson	Science	Palestine Junior High School
Cory Kuhn	Physical Education	Palestine Junior High School
Debbie Nethery	Art	A.M. Story Intermediate
Rodney Ross	Girls Coordinator	Palestine High School
Frederick Stoglin	Math Lab	Palestine Junior High School
Mindy Welch	3 rd Grade	Southside Elementary
Kaysie Woody	English/Language Arts	Palestine Junior High School
Kayla Zimmerman	English/Language Arts	Palestine Junior High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Ronda Bizzell, Jodie Calcote, Jacqueline Hamel, Brittany Hickerson, Byron Humphreys, Amanda Jackson, Jennifer Lowe, Ramona Ramirez, Stephany Rosas, Sherry Smith, and Lauren Tyler.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall and the Board of Trustees discussed the Texas Association of School Boards, Summer Leadership Institute that Mr. Marshall and some Board members attended in San Antonio from June 11-June 13, 2015. Board members felt that the training they received was beneficial, and based on information shared in group sessions; they were impressed with PISD's administrative team and the direction that the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer provide for Palestine ISD. Board members who could not attend the San Antonio SLI will attend the TASB SLI in Fort Worth from June 18 – June 20, 2015 with Superintendent Marshall.

New Board member, Brandon Sheeley, received a Local District Orientation provided by Superintendent Jason Marshall and Board President Stanley Sokolowski on June 5, 2015.

Superintendent Marshall reviewed the summer calendar of activities and a copy was given to Board members.

Next Regular Board Meeting
July 21, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.