



BOARD NOTES

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

Spotlight

Howard Winkler, a Palestine ISD school bus driver was honored for being chosen by his peers as 2013 Bus Driver of the Year. This award is through Edwards Risk Management, the District's property and casualty insurance provider and recognizes drivers who have made exemplary efforts to provide for the safety of school children.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer stated that the 2012-2013 budget remains positive as the fiscal year comes to an end. A budget adjustment was approved by the Board of Trustees at the June board meeting utilizing remaining 2012-2013 funds that will allow for several projects to increase safety at several campuses prior to the first day of school.

2013-2014 Budget Information

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer reported that Palestine ISD expects to receive approximately 1 million more in state funds for 2013-2014 than was received in 2012-2013. The District plans to primarily use the additional funds for employees by helping defray health insurance and out of pocket costs. The District also plans to provide step raises for employees according to the current pay schedule.

Preliminary Schools FIRST Rating

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer presented information from the preliminary report for the Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) Report. Based on the preliminary report, Palestine ISD expects to receive a rating of Superior. The District received the highest mark on all indicators except the debt to student ratio indicator which is due to facility construction and improvements made over the past several years. Although the ratio is higher than the state recommendation, the improvements help provide students with a first class education.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 17, 2013
- Bills paid for June, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine High School Athletics

\$497.40 from PHS Athletic Booster Club for new volleyball nets and poles for the Palestine Junior High School girls' volleyball team.

Northside Primary

\$56.00 from Wal-Mart DC 6036 for 700 bottles of water for field day.

\$25.00 from Vicki Hills for art supplies.

- 2013-2014 Gifted & Talented Plan
- 2013-2014 PHS Mobile Device Handbook
- Anderson County Appraisal District Proposed Budget
- August, 2013 Administration of Credit by Exam

2012-2013 SHAC Report

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction presented a School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Report. The SHAC Committee was restructured to include more parents. The SHAC Committee's main goal in 2012-2013 was to update the Emergency Operations Plan. Some of this year's accomplishments include a district safety audit, emergency procedural flip charts to assist office staff with emergency situations, and a review of the visitor on campus policy was conducted at each campus.

District Improvement Plan for 2013-2014

The Board of Trustees approved the 2013-2014 District Improvement Plan.

Updates included in the plan are:

- 1) Alignment of programs from the elementary level to secondary level so that students are already familiar with programs when entering Junior High.
- 2) Double blocked math and reading to allow more time for intervention needs of students.
- 3) Addition of Learning 24/7
- 4) Out of school academies made available by the 21st Century Grant will provide extended learning opportunities for students.

21st Century Grant

Palestine ISD is one of nineteen schools in the state to receive the 21st Century Grant. The grant will provide funds in the amount of 8.5 million over a five year period for before and after school learning opportunities for students.

District Technology Initiative

Shannon Leisure, District Educational Technology Facilitator shared information on 24/7 Learning, a program that will be implemented at High School and Junior High in 2013-14. Students will have access to curriculum via iPad mini's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The goal is for students to enjoy learning using the latest technology and to inspire, engage, and innovate students anywhere that they may be, not just at school.

PDAS Appraisers and Calendar

The Board of Trustees approved the following qualified appraisers and the PDAS calendar for the 2013-2014 school year as presented.

Qualified appraisers are: Sheila Bradley, Stephen Cooksey, Jenny Cunningham, Barbara Dutton, Suzanne Eiben, Michael Esparza, Eric Haltom, Carol Herring, Peggy Herrington, Rhonda Herrington, Linda Holmes, Kevin Jackson, Amanda Jackson, Larissa Loveless, Grace Mancilla, Jason Marshall, Carolyn Martin, Joseph Mason, Melissa Molandes, Sharon Reed, Lolita Shead, William Stewart, and Cody Tunstall.

2013-2014 PDAS Appraisal Calendar

First date observations may be conducted
for appraisal purposes

September 16, 2013

Observations are prohibited by policy DNA on the following dates, including days before and after a holiday, semester and end of year exams, and required testing days as applicable for each campus

October 21-24, 2013
November 22 & December 2, 2013
December 16-20, 2013
January 7, 17 & 21, 2014
February 13 & 18, 2014
March 3-7, 17 & 31, 2014
April 1-4, 17, 21-25, 2014
May 5-9, 12-16, 20, 23, 27, 2014

First Date for annual summative conferences March 31, 2014

Last date formal observations may be conducted for appraisal purposes April 24, 2014

Last date for annual summative conferences May 14, 2014

Date that appraisal documentation is due to personnel office June 4, 2014

Dates for additional testing where a choice for the scheduled time is allowed and/or where testing is applicable to specific segments of the student population are also dates when observations are prohibited for those areas of the campus.

Teachscape Teacher Appraisal System

The Board of Trustees approved use of the Teachscape Teacher Appraisal System at Palestine High School for the 2013-14 school year. Teachscape was implemented at the high school in 2012-2013 as a part of the Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) Grant that the campus received. Qualified Teachscape appraisers are William Stewart, Linda Holmes, Kevin Jackson, Joseph Mason, and Cody Tunstall.

Student Transfer Tuition

The Board approved the student transfer tuition rate of \$537.00 for the 2013-2014 school year. The transfer tuition fee is waived for students who are accepted for transfer under the District's Open Enrollment policy as long as the application is received by August 1st. Transfer requests are available at the PISD Administration Building, 1007 East Park Avenue, or from the website, www.palestineschools.org under Open Enrollment Forms. The tuition rate of \$537.00 will apply after the August 1st deadline.

Personnel Approved

Shannon Clakley	Physical Education	Palestine Junior High School
Michelle Clark	4 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Amanda Jackson	Principal	A.M. Story Intermediate
Colleen Lawson	Science	Palestine High School
Alan Linson	Ag Mechanics	Palestine High School
Stephany Rosas	English/Language Arts	Palestine Junior High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Josephine Campos, Laura Chapman, Valerie Faison, Cherylyn Hamil, Mark Hughes, Martha Carolina Luna-Loya, Andrew Pearson, Corinna Peters, Virginia Ritz, Ty Robinson, and William Whiteside.

TASA/TASB Delegate Assembly

Rickey Ferguson was appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve as delegate and Dyna Tutt to serve as alternate delegate at the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Delegate Assembly on Saturday, September 28, 2013.

Nomination for Texas Association of School Boards

The Board of Trustees voted to endorse Dr. Carolyn Booker, of the Westwood ISD Board of Trustees to fill a position on the TASB Board of Directors.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported on a Bridge Summer Program the District implemented this summer to give students a jump start on the new school year.

Palestine ISD will be hosting an Educational Technology Conference entitled "iHeartDevices" on August 8th.

A reception in honor of Amanda Jackson, new principal at A.M. Story Intermediate will be held on Wednesday, July 17th at 1:00 pm.

Convocation will be held on Monday, August 19th and the first day for students is Monday, August 26th.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
August 26, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**