



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the August 20, 2012 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

A public hearing was held prior to the regular board meeting to discuss the District's proposed 2012-2013 budget and tax rate. David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer; presented information to the Board of Trustees regarding the budget planning process that has taken place over the past several months. Though the District will receive fewer state funds; additional federal grants, changes in the utilization of existing grants and other savings will help compensate for the reduction. The proposed tax rate for 2012-2013 is the same as the 2011-2012 rate.

Spotlight

The following area businesses were recognized for providing jobs to Palestine ISD students who participate in the Vocational Adjustment Class at Palestine High School; Legacy Ranch, Gateway Community Partnerships Inc., Wal-Mart Supercenter, Billie Whitley & Son's Auto, Domino's Pizza, and Vance Brothers Auto Supply. Dee Dietz, Director of Special Education and Sherolynn Villa, Vocational Adjustment Coordinator; presented certificates of appreciation to each of the businesses. The VAC Program's purpose is to successfully transition students with disabilities from the school environment to the work place with the necessary skills to acquire and sustain employment in today's market.

Sam Stanley, Energy Education Specialist for Palestine ISD; introduced Marcus Loughlin, Regional Vice President of Energy Education. Mr. Loughlin presented an Energy Environmental Stewardship Award to Palestine ISD for excellence in conserving energy. Since the implementation of the Energy Education program at Palestine ISD nineteen months ago; the district has saved enough energy to equal 107 cars being removed from the road, and the planting of 15,240 pine trees.

Design-Build Project Update

Terry Gober of Buford-Thompson Construction Company, presented the Board of Trustees a construction update for the Design Build project. This project includes the renovation of the Palestine High School career and technology building. Phase I of the project includes four renovated classrooms that will be complete and ready for the first day of school. A covered canopy has been added from the CTE building to other campus locations, and new fencing has been installed at the exterior of the shop areas. Phase II of the Design Build project will be complete by October 15, 2012. Phase II will provide a newly renovated culinary arts food lab and café, cosmetology area, health science facilities, broadcast journalism studio, criminal justice classroom, engineering/robotics classrooms and restrooms. The Phase II construction area will not be accessible by students until it is completed to ensure their safety.

Pictures of the projects and aerial photos of the construction sites can be viewed on the district website at (www.palestineschools.org). Go to "About PISD" at the top of the page, then select "Construction Updates".

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer; stated that the District has received 94% of budgeted revenue and has completed 90% of expected expenditures as of July. The District has received slightly more than 97% of its property tax collections.

Resolution Regarding Budget Transfers

The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to grant administrative staff permission to transfer funds between functions without Board approval provided there is no change in the total budget. This does not apply to amendments that affect the overall total of the budget.

2012-2013 Tax Rate

The Board of Trustees adopted a tax rate of \$1.566, which is \$1.17 for M&O and \$.396 for I&S, which is the same rate adopted in 2011-2012. However, the District is required to state that this is a rate increase due to increased property values.

2012-2013 Budget Adopted

The Board of Trustees adopted a budget for 2012-2013 in the amount of \$24,410,042.00. David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer; stated that the budget is a solid, tight, workable and balanced budget. Teachers will receive a fair salary increase. The instructional and curricular budget will also increase slightly.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 16, 2012
- Bills paid for July, 2012
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations
 - Palestine High School Athletics
\$2,775.00 from PHS Athletic Booster Club for drinking station for all athletic programs.
 - Palestine High School Athletics
Four large pizzas valued at \$24.03 from Little Caesar's Pizza for coaches meals during two-a-days.
- Anderson County Appraisal District 2013 Approved Budget
- Credit by Exam Administration for August, 2012
- 2012-2013 Dyslexia Plan
- Contract for Administrative Appeal of Comptroller's Property Value Study for 2009 and 2010

District Improvement Plan

The Board of Trustees approved the District Improvement Plan for 2012-2013.

Campus Improvement Plans

The Board of Trustees approved Campus Improvement Plans for 2012-2013.

Honors Classes

The Board of Trustees approved the following honors classes for 2012-2013: Algebra 1 PAP, Algebra 2 PAP, Calculus AP, Geometry PAP, Pre-Calculus PAP, English 1 PAP, English 2 PAP, English 3 AP, English 4 AP, Spanish 2 AP, Spanish 3 PAP, Spanish 4/5 AP, Biology PAP, Chemistry PAP, Chemistry 2 AP, Environmental Science AP, Physics PAP, Government/Economics AP, US History PAP, World Geography PAP, and World History PAP.

Early Reading Standards

The Early Reading Standards Plan for 2012-2013 was approved.

Policy EIF (Local) Revision

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; presented information for a revision to Policy EIF (Local). The Board of Trustees approved the revision which changes the number of credits required for graduation as indicated:

Minimum program – 4 credits in addition to the number required by the state, making the PISD requirement 26 credits. (changes from 24 credits)

Recommended and Advanced/Distinguished program – 2 credits in addition to the number required by the state, making the PISD requirement 28. (changes from 26 credits)

Drug Testing Information

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; presented information on the student drug testing program. Palestine ISD implemented student drug testing in the 2005-2006 school year. In 2010-2011, no positives were detected in 97% of students tested. In 2011-2012, no positives were detected in 99% of students.

Consideration of Drug Testing Policy

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; provided the Board of Trustees information regarding Policy FNF (Local), which includes the District's current drug testing policy. The Board will consider at a future meeting; allowing students who meet certain stipulations including required drug counseling to return to the classroom sooner than the assigned date.

Responsible Use Guidelines for Technology

The Board of Trustees approved responsible use guidelines for technology required by Policy CQ (Local). The guidelines will be included in the student and employee handbooks.

Transfer Students

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; provided the Board of Trustees a list of students who have requested transfer into PISD. Currently, 42 students have enrolled under open enrollment and have been accepted by the Superintendent and/or designee for the 2012-2013 school year.

Personnel Approved

Jenny Cunningham	DAEP	Palestine High School
Sukari Holmes	2nd Grade	Southside Elementary
Zerita Johnson-Thomas	Math Lab/TTIPS Grant	Palestine High School
Lolita Shead	Social Worker/TTIPS Grant	Palestine High School
Sara Stevens	Kindergarten	Northside Primary
Lauren Tyler	Counselor	Palestine High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignation of Christine Tirado.

The Board approved changes to the Superintendent's contract to meet compliance with new Internal Revenue Service guidelines.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall gave an update on back to school events. Meet the Wildcats will take place Tuesday, August 21st. Jim Bob Solsberry will present a teacher training on Wednesday, August 22nd. The Ministerial Alliance will provide a lunch for all staff on Wednesday in the new PHS cafeteria.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
September 17, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.**