



# BOARD NOTES

## **A Summary of the August 20, 2015 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **Public Hearing**

A Public Hearing began at 7:00 pm to discuss the District's proposed budget and tax rate for 2015-16. David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer presented information for the 2015-16 budget planning process. David Atkeisson explained that even though tax rates remain the same, districts are required to announce that taxes will increase due to increased property values. There were no questions from the public.

The public hearing adjourned and the regular meeting began at 7:24 pm.

### **Oath of Office**

The Honorable Judge Jeff Doran administered the oath of office to newly appointed board members, Jeffrey Schwab and Daniel Tatum. Jeffrey Schwab will serve in Place 3 to complete the term of Dana Staples until May, 2016. Daniel Tatum will serve in Place 4 to complete the term of Rickey Ferguson until May, 2016.

### **Construction Defects from May 2009 Bond**

Superintendent Marshall explained that there were construction defects related to the 2009 bond at the Junior High, High School, and the Administration Office. Those defects had not been able to be resolved within a reasonable amount of time with the construction company that had completed the work, Balfour Beatty Construction Company. The Board approved that the District retain Gravely & Pearson, L.L.P., to initiate litigation related to the construction defects at Palestine ISD.

### **Financial Report**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer stated that the 2014-15 budget was nearing its end. The district expects to receive final revenue from the state in the near future, however the district does not anticipate there being a surplus in the final 2014-15 budget. Tax collections have exceeded 100% in 2014-15 from current and past due tax collections.

### **Fuel Bids**

The Board tabled the consideration of fuel bids due to the district not receiving bids by the time of the board meeting. The item will be considered at a future board meeting.

## **2015-2016 Tax Rate**

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer explained that the district's current tax rate would raise more funds in 2015-16 than in 2014-15 due to an increase in property values. Therefore, the district will not need to increase taxes for the 2015-16 school year. The Board adopted a tax rate of \$1.566, which is \$1.17 for maintenance & operations and \$.396 for interest & sinking. This is the same rate that has been adopted each year since the 2011-2012 school year; however, the district is required by state law to announce that this is a tax rate increase due to increased property values.

## **2015-2016 Budget**

The Board of Trustees adopted a budget for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$28,852,031.00.

## **Consent Items Approved**

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2015
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of July 27, 2015
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of July 28, 2015
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of August 11, 2015
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of August 12, 2015
- Bills paid for July, 2015
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

### Palestine Athletic Department

\$1,000.00 from Daniel R. Bova to the PHS CTE Department to be used to purchase t-shirts for Palestine School of Business students.

- Resolution Regarding Budget Transfers Between Functions
- Anderson County Appraisal District 2016 Proposed Budget
- Gifted and Talented Timeline for 2015-16
- 2015-16 Honors Classes – Algebra 1 & 2 PAP, Calculus AP/Dual Credit, Pre-Calculus PAP/Dual Credit, Pre-Calculus PAP, Geometry PAP, Statistics Dual Credit, English 1 & 2 PAP, English 3 AP/Dual Credit, English 3 Dual Credit, English AP/Dual Credit, English 4 Dual Credit, Spanish 2 PAP, Spanish 3 PAP, Spanish 4 AP, Biology PAP, Biology 2 AP/Dual Credit, Chemistry PAP, Chemistry 2 AP/Dual Credit, Anatomy & Physiology PAP Dual Credit, Environmental Science AP, Principals of Engineering PAP, Physical Science Dual Credit, Government/Economics AP, US History Dual Credit, US History PAP/Dual Credit, World Geography PAP, and World History PAP.
- 2015-16 Grading Procedures – Revision requested by PISD Board of Trustees – Will be considered at a future board meeting.
- 2015-16 Wellness Plan – Information Item
- Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis – Information Item – The letter to parents requesting food allergy information was updated to include the statement that the nurse's office must have a Doctor's note to administer prescribed anaphylaxis medication.
- Qualified Appraisers and PDAS Calendar for 2015-16:  
Appraisers - Sheila Bradley, Stephen Cooksey, Jenny Cunningham, Barbara Dutton, Suzanne Eiben, Michael Esparza, Carol Herring, Rhonda Herrington, Linda Holmes, Tammy Jones, Chris Kiser, Larissa Loveless, Grace Mancilla, Jason Marshall, Joseph Mason, Melissa Molandes, Breck Quarles, Sharon Reed, Lolita Shead, William Stewart, and Cody Tunstall.

## 2015-2016 PDAS Appraisal Calendar

First date observations may be conducted for appraisal purposes	September 14, 2015
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 9-13, 2015 November 20 & 30, 2015 December 14-18, 2015 January 5, 15 & 17, 2016 February 12 & 16, 2016 March 11 & 21, 24 & 28, 2016 April 1 & 5, 2016 May 19 & 23, 27 & 31, 2016 • All campus level testing dates.
First Date for annual summative conferences	March 28, 2016
Last date formal observations may be conducted for appraisal purposes	April 22, 2016
Last date for annual summative conferences	May 11, 2016
Date that appraisal documentation is due to personnel office	June 1, 2016

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. Appraisers are required to follow the prohibition of observations according to the campus testing calendar.

### 2014-2015 Academic Accountability Rating

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services presented information regarding district and campus accountability ratings for 2014-15. The district and all campuses “Met Standards” in all areas, and Palestine High School earned the following distinction designations: Academic Achievement in Reading/ELA, Academic Achievement in Mathematics, Academic Achievement in Science, Top 25% Student Progress, and Top 25% Closing Performance Gap.

### 2015-2016 Teacher Shortage Areas

Teacher shortage areas for 2015-16 were approved by the Board which will allow the district the ability to recruit and retain qualified teachers and to help reward teachers through loan forgiveness opportunities.

Approved shortage areas for 2015-16:

- Bilingual/English as a Second Language
- Career and Technical Education
- Computer Science
- English as a Second Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Special Education – elementary and secondary levels

### **Personnel**

There were no personnel recommendations.

### **Vision 2020 Strategic Action Plan**

Superintendent Marshall reported that Palestine ISD will embark on a new five year Strategic Action Plan, titled Vision 2020 that will guide the district through 2015-2020. The district will seek input from parents, staff, community members, and the Board of Trustees. A draft of the plan will be presented at the December board meeting. In January or February, the plan will be brought before the board to request approval.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that students would begin the 2015-16 school year on Monday, August 24, 2015.

The Board of Trustees reflected on site visits they made to campuses on August 11 & 12, 2015. Board members stated that they enjoyed seeing the campuses in person, and that the Junior High looks great after recent renovations by Buford-Thompson Construction Company.

**Next Regular Board Meeting  
September 28, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**