



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the August 25, 2014 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Public Hearing to Discuss Proposed Budget and Tax Rate

A Public Hearing began at 7:00 pm to discuss the District's proposed budget and tax rate for 2014-15. David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer presented information for the 2014-15 budget planning process. David Atkeisson stated that property rates are up slightly, and PISD expects to receive a 3% increase from the state, however, 1.5% of the increase will be used to cover the district's portion of a TRS increase. The district's current tax rate of \$1.17 for maintenance and operations and \$.396 for interest and sinking will be sufficient for 2014-15; therefore no tax increase will be needed. 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.

Spotlight

Recognition of Carolyn Martin

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services was recognized for her service to Palestine ISD. Mrs. Martin will retire in August, 2014 with 20 years of service to Palestine ISD as a campus administrator, curriculum director, and most recently as Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services.

Palestine ISD Board of Trustees

The Palestine ISD Board of Trustees was recognized for being named Region VII school board of the year for 2014-15. Marvin Thompson, field agent with Region VII presented a plaque to the Board. Each board member also received an individual plaque from PISD to commemorate the honor.

Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Update

Scott Hughes of Buford-Thompson Construction Company presented an update for the QSCB construction projects. At A.M. Story Intermediate, painting and HVAC replacement is complete. The Junior High courtyard, Washington Early Childhood Center cafeteria duct work, and painting at Northside Primary and Southside Elementary are all complete. Consideration is begin given to painting the exterior of the A.M. Story Intermediate building.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer stated that the 2013-14 budget is nearing its end and a slight budget balance is expected at its close. Tax collections have exceeded 100% for the year.

2014-2015 Tax Rate

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer explained that the district's current tax rate would raise more funds in 2014-15 than in 2013-14 due to an increase in property values. Therefore, the district will not need to increase taxes for the 2014-15 school year. The Board of Trustees adopted a tax rate for 2014-15 of \$1.566, which is \$1.17 for M&O and \$.396 for I&S, which is the same rate as adopted in 2011-12 and 2012-13. However, the District is required by state law to announce that this is a rate increase due to increased property values.

2014-2015 Budget Adopted

The Board of Trustees adopted a budget in the amount of \$26,963,595.00 for the 2014-15 school year.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2014
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of July 28, 2014
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 28, 2014
- Bills paid for July, 2014
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Donations

Palestine Athletic Department

Fruit in the amount of \$60.00 from William George Produce for 2-a-day football workouts

- Resolution Regarding Budget Transfers Between Functions
- Anderson County Appraisal District 2015 Proposed Budget
- Gifted and Talented Timeline for 2014-15
- Credit by Exam Timeline for 2014-15
- Honors Classes for 2014-15
- 2014-15 Wellness Plan

Policy Revisions for DIA (Local), FB (Local), and FFH (Local)

Palestine ISD Academic Accountability Rating

Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services provided an overview of 2013-14 STAAR scores. The district and all campuses have "Met Standards" in all areas. Palestine High School earned distinctions for academic achievement in math and science and placed in the top 25% for postsecondary readiness. Palestine Junior High School earned distinctions for academic achievement in science and social studies and also earned a distinction for postsecondary readiness.

Campus Improvement Plans

The Board of Trustees approved Campus Improvement Plans for the 2014-15 school year. Tammy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services presented updates to the plans. Some of the updates for this year are the continued expansion of CTE and Wildcat University offerings for high school students, the introduction of additional technology through iPads at A.M. Story Intermediate, additions of the LAUNCH program and Project Lead the Way at Southside Elementary, creation of a Key class and LAUNCH program at Northside Primary, and continuing 21st Century TACE Programs for grades K-12.

Teacher Shortage Area Stipends

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources informed the Board that the Texas Education Agency has received approval from the U.S. Department of Education for teacher shortage areas for 2014-15. The Board of Trustees approved the shortage areas 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 2013-14:

- 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 Approved

Dathan Brestel	Government Economics	Palestine High School
Kevin Jackson	Dean of Students	Palestine High School
Sharde' McCain	English/Language Arts	Palestine High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignation of Christi Herrington.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that Palestine ISD enrollment for the first day of 2014-15 had increased 113 students from the first day of the previous year. Superintendent Marshall noted that an enrollment increase in grades 7-12 was likely due to increased course offerings at Palestine High School and Palestine Junior High School.

Fall extracurricular activities have begun for the 2014-15 school year.

Superintendent Marshall congratulated the PISD Board of Trustees on being named the 2014-15 Region VII school board of the year.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
September 15, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**