



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the August 26, 2013 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Public Hearing to Discuss Proposed Budget and Tax Rate for 2013-2014

A Public Hearing began at 7:00 pm to discuss the District's proposed budget and tax rate for 2013-14. David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer presented an overview of revenue anticipated for 2013-14. Restored state funding is expected in the amount of approximately 1 million of the 1.5 million in reductions that were a result of the Texas legislative session in 2011. The District will use a large portion of the restored funding to provide employees with a salary increase to assist with increased health insurance costs. Gap insurance coverage will also be provided at no cost for qualified employees covered by a major medical policy. David Atkeisson stated that the proposed budget is balanced, provides a salary increase for dedicated employees, doesn't cut into services for students, and does not increase the tax rate for 2013-14.

Spotlight

Accelerated Reading Summer Program

The Palestine Public Library and Palestine ISD worked together this summer to provide an Accelerated Reading Program for students at the Palestine Public Library. Students were able to continue making Accelerated Reading progress throughout the summer. Teresa Holden, Palestine Public Library and Palestine ISD staff members, Carla Atkins, Marilyn Moore, and Palestine ISD Technology Department staff members were recognized for making the summer program possible for students.

Iheartdevices Conference

On August 8, 2013, Palestine ISD hosted its first statewide educational technology conference in conjunction with the Texas Computer Education Agency and Apple at the Palestine High School campus. There were over two hundred participants, thirty sessions, and over thirty different speakers. Lorie Gracie, Executive Director of the Texas Computer Education Agency was the keynote speaker and Maria Henderson, premiere trainer for Apple offered her expertise at several sessions. Shannon Leisure, District Educational Technology Facilitator thanked all Palestine ISD staff who assisted with the conference.

Financial Report

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer stated that the District's 2012-13 budget and tax collections remain positive. A report of final revenue and expenditures will be presented at the September board meeting.

Summer Safety Improvements

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer reported on improvements made over the summer to enhance safety. Construction to make entrances more secure was completed at Washington Early Childhood Center, A.M. Story Intermediate, and Palestine Junior High over the summer. Entrances at the remaining campuses had previously been secured during construction provided by the May, 2009 Bond. Additional security cameras were added to buses and on campuses this summer.

2013-2014 Tax Rate

The Board of Trustees adopted a tax rate for 2013-14 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.

2013-2014 Budget Adopted

The Board of Trustees adopted a budget in the amount of \$26,164,040.00 for the 2013-14 school year.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Called Meeting of June 27, 2013
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 15, 2013
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of July 29, 2013
- Bills paid for July, 2013
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Regarding Budget Transfers Between Functions
- Anderson County Appraisal District 2014 Approved Budget
- Credit by Exam Timeline for 2013-14

Honors Classes

The Board of Trustees approved the following honors classes for 2013-14: 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 PAP, Spanish 3 PAP, Spanish 4/5 AP, Biology PAP, Biology 2 AP, Chemistry PAP, Environmental Science AP, Physics PAP, Government/Economics AP, US History PAP, World Geography PAP, and World History PAP.

Other Items Approved

- 2013-14 Campus Improvement Plans
- Early Reading Standards Plan for 2013-14
- Professional Development Plan for 2013-14
- 2013-14 Wellness Plan

Report on 2012-2013 Palestine ISD Academic Accountability Rating

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services presented the District and Campus academic accountability ratings for 2012-13. All PISD campuses met the state standard. Palestine High School earned a distinction for top 25 percent student progress and Palestine Junior High earned a distinction for academic achievement in Reading/English Language Arts and also for top 25 percent student progress.

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 2013-14. 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
- Computer Science
- Languages Other than English (Foreign Language)
- Mathematics

- Science
- Special Education

Personnel Approved

Stephanie Dickson	Ag Science	Palestine High School
Charles Drane	Engineering	Palestine High School
Patricia Hamil	21 st Century Campus Coord.	Northside Primary
Olivia Henry	6 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Ernesto Hernandez-Rivas	Spanish	Palestine High School
Karl Kilgore	Math	DAEP
Ramona Ramirez	4 th Grade	A.M. Story Intermediate
Stephen Wickham	English/Language Arts	Palestine High School

Superintendent Jason Marshall accepted the resignations of Lacie Farmer, Jeffrey Hatfield, and Gretchen McLain.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that Palestine ISD had a good first day of school. Enrollment was good on the first day and expected to increase as students receive required immunizations.

Palestine ISD will play the Jacksonville Indians on Thursday, September 5, 2013 at Wildcat Stadium. Kickoff will be at 7:00 pm. The game will be televised on Channel KTXA 21 of Dallas/Fort Worth. The first 2,000 Wildcat fans will receive a free t-shirt.

KYYK Radio Station will cover portions of all area football games on Friday nights this season instead of broadcasting a play by play. For fans who would like a play by play of the football games, download the free iPhone AP, TLC Radio and tune in to hear your favorite football teams.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
September 16, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**