



BOARD NOTES

A Summary of the September 19, 2011 Palestine ISD Board of Trustees Meeting

Spotlight

Students of the Month

Students of the month, Emily Miller and Miguel Serralde were introduced by Dr. Sherry Morton. Dr. Morton expressed that she was honored to have taught both students for the past three years. Miguel plans to pursue a medical career and Emily plans to attend Texas A & M University and study accounting.

Junior Rotarians of the Month

William Stewart, PHS Assistant Principal introduced the Junior Rotarians of the month, Jessica Garcia and Will Folmar. Mr. Stewart complimented each of the students for the contributions they make in the community and at Palestine High School.

Public Comment

Barbara Dutton, Principal at Northside Primary thanked the Board of Trustees and everyone who helped with the project for new playground equipment recently installed at Northside. Mrs. Dutton read a book that the students in Jeanne Jackson's class wrote about what they saw as the new playground was put together.

Financial Update

David Atkeisson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a budget report on the 2010-2011 year in review. Mr. Atkeisson stated that the district has currently collected 97.03% of budgeted tax collections for 2010-2011 making the total revenue collections for 2010-2011 98.55%. District expenditures were 92% of the total budget, leaving one million in the 2010-2011 budget. Mr. Atkeisson stated that this shows that Palestine ISD administrators and principals have been fiscally responsible in making budget decisions.

Wire Transfers

The Board of Trustees granted authorization to execute wire transfers to the superintendent, chief financial officer, Gemma Funai and Loiette Dixon.

Consent Items Approved

- Minutes of the Called Meeting of August 1, 2011
- Minutes of the Called Meeting of August 4, 2011
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 15, 2011
- Bills paid for August, 2011
- Financial Report
- Monthly Investment Report
- Tax Collection Report

- Donations

Palestine ISD

\$500.00 from Goodwill Industries of East Texas to be used as needed.

Northside Primary

School supplies valued at \$100.00 from First United Methodist CIA Sunday School class.

Washington Early Childhood Center

\$3,076.32 from Wal-Mart Distribution Center #6036 to be used as needed.

Palestine Middle School

Flat screen TV valued at \$178.00 from Melissa Winkler of Back 9 Retirement Advisors, Inc. for Back to School Bash.

Palestine Middle School

3 cases of water from Kimberly McGuire of State Farm Insurance Agency for Back to School Bash.

Palestine Middle School

10 cases of water valued at \$19.40 from Wal-Mart Distribution Center #6036.

A.M. Story Intermediate Upgrades

The Board of Trustees approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$25,000 that will be used for new cafeteria table tops and chairs, leveling of the playground area, playground equipment, and courtyard area aesthetic improvements at A.M. Story Intermediate.

Transfer Students

Suzanne Eiben, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented an updated list of transfer students for the 2011-2012 school year.

Policy FNF (Local)

The Board of Trustees approved a revision to Policy FNF (Local). Only students in grades 7-12 will participate in the student drug-testing program.

Credit by Exam

The Board of Trustees approved a Credit by Exam timeline for the 2011-2012 school year. Credit by examination will be offered for grades 1-8 in June, 2012 and August, 2012. Students in grades 9-12 will be offered credit by examination in December, 2011 and June, 2012.

Other Items Approved for 2011-2012

- Emergency Operations Plan
- Local Safety Plan
- District Wellness Plan
- School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Committee Members

District Safety Audit

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services reported on Palestine ISD's safety audit. The district was commended in the following areas:

2011-2012 District Action Team

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional presented the list of 2011-2012 District Action Team members.

Texas Title I Priority Schools

Carolyn Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services presented information on the TTIPS grant that PISD has received. PISD staff members are currently receiving training for administering this grant.

Construction Projects Update

Jeff Edwards and Walt Wood of Claycomb Associates Architects and Jack Ream of Charter Builders provided the Board of Trustees an update of the construction progress.

Construction continues at Palestine High School. The old gym area has been converted into classrooms and remodeling in the press box area is complete. The PHS offices are temporarily located in this building until the main building is completed. A new athletic facility with offices and a gym opened the first day of school. Foundation and steel work has begun for the new PHS main building.

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”.

The Board of Trustees approved a change order in the amount of \$368,165. \$100,000 will be applied to a previous asbestos abatement at Palestine High School. The remaining \$268,165 will be applied to the Phase III construction.

AgriLife Extension Adjunct Faculty Agreement

The Board of Trustees approved an agreement with Leon County so that Palestine ISD students who live in Leon County may be excused to participate in Leon County 4H activities.

Interlocal Agreement for Student Resource Officer (SRO)

An interlocal agreement with the City of Palestine was approved by the Board of Trustees. The City of Palestine will provide a student resource officer at the secondary campuses.

Personnel Approved for 2011-2012

Kayla Pritchett	1 st Grade	Northside Primary
William Tunstall	TTIPS Grant Coordinator	Palestine ISD

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jason Marshall reported that the District's enrollment is currently 3,240. Superintendent Marshall also updated the Board of Trustees on back to school activities at the campuses, an upcoming school finance lawsuit, and board meeting dates for 2011-2012.

**Next Regular Board Meeting
October 17, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.**