

**NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
5900 EVERS ROAD, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78238**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
6:00 PM**

Members present

Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Staff present

Dr. Craft, Ray Galindo, Dr. Jordan, Rene Barajas, Leroy San Miguel, Kris Trejo, Kelly Rasti, Nicole Franco, Ben Muir, Jerry Woods, Sandi Bonnett, Valerie Sisk

1. Meeting Opening

Procedural: A. Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance

Procedural: B. Call Meeting to Order
6:00 p.m.

2. Superintendent's Report

- Inclement weather. Dr. Craft applauded the efforts of maintenance and custodial staff members for going "above and beyond" their duty to ensure facilities were ready following the frigid weather on the MLK holiday. He also thanked the transportation employees as they maneuvered both cold and wet weather lately.
- Leadership Northside. We kicked off Leadership Northside this month and we had a great first session with our community ambassadors interested in learning more about NISD operations and culture. Leadership Northside seeks to empower stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to effectively advocate for Northside and public education.
- Bexar County Truancy Symposium. Dr. Craft thanked Pam Gould, Assistant Director of Student Advocacy & School Choice (SASC), and all those who helped organize the symposium. He was glad to host the collaborative event to ensure we all work together to get students to school.
- Visit to NSITE. Dr. Craft visited NSITE recently and met four graduates from 2023 who were peer-coaching students. He enjoyed learning about the cybersecurity program and the tremendous opportunities provided for students.
- STEM Night at Lewis ES. Dr. Craft enjoyed a recent visit to Lewis ES and their STEM Night. He observed students engaged in a variety of activities. He thanked Principal Kendra Merrell, Associate Principal Shane Murnin, and the entire Leopard staff for their hospitality.
- Student Voices. The second student voice meeting was held and conversation included Dual Credit, AP, and OnRamps opportunities and access as well as TSI and SAT/ACT prep work.
- Texas AP Honor Roll. Dr. Craft congratulated Communications Arts HS, Health Careers HS, O'Connor HS, and Brandeis HS for making the 2023 Texas AP School Honor Roll.
- Middle School Dance Spectacular. Dr. Craft expressed his congratulations to all the middle school dance instructors and students for outstanding performances this past week at the Middle School Dance Spectaculars held for two nights at Stevens HS.
- Beauty and the Beast. The Sotomayor HS Theater Department put on Beauty and the Beast and Dr. Craft was excited to play the baker in one of the performances. This was his first time to ever perform in a production such as this and was amazed at all the behind-the-scenes efforts that go into putting on such a performance. He thanked Theater Arts teacher Adriana Vela and all the students for an outstanding production.

- Gerlach Livestock Show. The Gerlach Livestock Show kicked off this week and runs through Saturday, Jan. 27 with the Auction and Sale. Last year's sale and auction raised a record \$1.5 million for students.
- National Cheer Competition. Congratulations to all of our NISD High School cheer teams who competed in the National Cheer Association (NCA) competition this past week, especially to Warren and Brennan high schools who are national winners. Dr. Craft showed off an NCA jacket that he received for having two national champions in our district.
- Video Moment: In Northside ISD, teachers are not only planting seeds of knowledge but are giving students the tools to provide a lasting impact on the environment and the community. Through a program called C.A.N.O.P.Y (Cultivating and Nurturing Our Planet's Youth), students at three NISD campuses gathered to plant a "forest of trees" on their campus. The Elementary Science Department hopes to eventually plant tree forests at all NISD elementary campuses and then at all secondary campuses. Click here to learn more about this amazing program.

3. Board Member's Report

Reports: A. Board Members who wish to speak will report about current events, announce achievements or special recognitions, and share other information that may be of interest to Trustees or citizens. No action is required.

- Trustee Bobby Blount highlighted the upcoming Go Public Night at the February 2nd San Antonio Spurs game which will spotlight NISD. Trustee Blount expressed gratitude to Dr. Craft for collaborating with Bexar County superintendents to explore a potential partnership with the NCAA's Final Four event next year, which would include a reading competition for 3rd graders. Trustee Blount also thanked Stan Laing, Assistant Superintendent of Athletics, for his work with Stephen Mackey to share his message with NISD students.
- Trustee Corinne Saldana recognized several departments she's visited recently, including the NISD Child Nutrition Department which she said was an incredible experience when she learned about the planning that takes place to provide nutritious meals at every Northside school. Trustee Saldana also visited the Northside Museum and enjoyed learning more from the museum's ever-changing exhibits, especially the detailed timeline describing important milestones. She encouraged people to donate books for infants and toddlers to the museum. Trustee Saldana commended Northside Threads for expanding its services to provide both clothing and food, expressing gratitude to Aqua Star Laundry owner Naj Ishmael for his generous donation. Trustee Saldana praised the Warren HS cheerleading squad for their help washing and folding clothes for Northside Threads. In addition, Trustee Saldana congratulated the Northside Athletics Department on successful basketball and soccer seasons taking place. She had the opportunity to see the Fine Arts Department from Clark HS perform "Bye Bye Birdie" with a full orchestra and said it was impressive. Lastly, Trustee Saldana praised Mead ES for its recent Academic Night with significant parental participation.
- Trustee Gerald Lopez stated that he is very impressed with how NISD works with the community. He thanked Assistant Superintendent of Whole Child Dr. Kimberly Ridgley and her staff for providing such valuable services to our students, teen parents, and others and expressed especially the work done through the Next Level Youth Opportunity and the impact it has on our students and their family's lives. He also reported about an email that he received from Frank Azola, Commander for the American GI Forum Chapter for Miguel Hernandez, Jr., who was invited to tour Hector Garcia MS. Mr. Azola was very impressed with the campus and staff and the quality of education that his grandchildren are receiving. He commended Principal Mark Lopez and Associate Principal Mateo Macias. Trustee Lopez also thanked Ross MS and Principal Faustino Ortega for the Trustee Appreciation Luncheon. He, along with fellow Trustees Saldana and Salcido, also serve as mentors at the campus.
- Trustee David Salcido participated in the presentation of four Innovation Grants for the Northside Education Foundation. He enjoyed seeing the excitement in the students' eyes as they surprised the teachers. He plans to visit the classrooms again as they put the projects into action. He also thanked Dr. Craft and the Child Nutrition Department for beginning to transition to biodegradable trays in our cafeterias.
- Trustee Karla Duran visited Timberwilde ES and thanked them for welcoming trustees to help with a parent event. Dr. Duran also had the opportunity to tour the NISD Police Department's Communication Center and recognized the tremendous work of NISD dispatchers. Dr. Duran

recognized 9-year-old Northside student, Mateo Lopez, for his recent Mariachi performance with Kelly Clarkson.

- Trustee Carol Harle thanked Dr. Craft for his work hosting Student Voices, where students had the opportunity to discuss topics like TSI, GPA, and class rank while networking with other students. Dr. Harle praised the Middle School Winter Spectacular, as a successful recruitment tool showcasing each school's unique personality. CAST Teach High School Sophomores Jasper Pearson and Anna Pater were recognized as the winners of the \$5,000 NEF Innovation Grant for their proposal to create a wellness room pilot program at their high school to support students. Dr. Harle also highlighted the upcoming Region 20 grassroots TASB event, encouraging board members to invite colleagues from across the region. Dr. Harle also recognized the impact the annual Gerlach event has had on the lives of countless Northside students.
- Trustee Karen Freeman also attended the opening day of "Bye Bye Birdie" at Clark HS and said the play was wonderful. She appreciates that the Fine Arts Dept. provides amazing opportunities for Northside students to excel. Trustee Freeman also attended Student Voices and commented that the conversations were wonderful. She thanked Dr. Harle for her work with the grassroots TASB event.

4. Recognitions

Information: A. Recognition of National Merit Semifinalists

Three NISD students were named National Merit Semifinalists. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). About 90 percent of the semifinalists will attain finalist standing, and about half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

- National Merit Semifinalists. Three NISD students were named National Merit Semifinalists. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). About 90 percent of the semifinalists will attain finalist standing, and about half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. 3 BOARDTalk 2023-2024 published by the Communications Department, Northside Independent School District

- Texas School Counselor Association state award winners. Three NISD employees received state awards from the Texas School Counselor Association (TSCA). TSCA recognizes deserving school counselors and individuals who support the work of school counselors during an annual awards banquet as a result of nominations accepted from school districts across the state.

- Council of PTAs, Northside Education Foundation, and Northside Museum Association honor NISD Trustees The Northside Council of PTAs, represented by PTA Council President Crystal Rivas; the Northside School Museum Association, led by Pam Sprague; and the Northside Education Foundation, led by President-Elect Lilia Gibson, honored NISD's seven Board members. Every year, the Texas governor proclaims January as School Board Recognition Month. NISD is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge the invaluable contributions that members of the Boards of Trustees make to our various districts and communities. School trustees serve as key advocates for students and work together to provide a better future for every student.

5. Citizens to be Heard

Procedural: A. Citizens wishing to address the Board regarding matters not listed on the posted agenda will be heard at this time.

Chumbley - thank you for your support for our 51-year partnership. Opportunities offered to the kids could not be done alone.

Gerlach recognition to the team of 8. Family and community!

Michelle Montemayor- PTA

22,070 Thanks for joining every PTA and asked the board to join as many schools as they can.

Barbara Miller - upset with a board member for drinking and driving and has no confidence left in the board

Please remove yourself from the board.

Vera B.

Very rudely address the board about knowing multiple language especially Spanish speaking and hopes we also promote an English spelling bee.

Addressed the board member for drinking while driving.

Does the board actually respond regarding concerns?

Board needs to hold accountability and the actions of other Board members

Nicolas Ingram - Safety and Security

#1 in our concern - Why haven't issues been fixed?

Will go outside to have these addressed.

Robert Gonzalez -

Hope something positive will come from the Board. You feel like a family and driven with the best intention

Decisions should be made from respect - Board driven by policy - Who is the superior of the Board itself

Can't wait for issues to be addressed. The burden falls on others. Address the issue from the Board and correspondence

Terry Zablocki - Number of events

Identifying arrest, assault, etc Desires the Board to take votes to handle such incidents

Board recognition week - Not seen in the same light

Duran's actions have negatively affected NISD Board.

May 20 to vote and directly choose to support

6. Consent Agenda

Approval: A. The Consent Agenda includes items that are considered routine and/or are of a recurring nature. All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be acted upon in one motion.

Action (Consent): B. Minutes from the Meetings of December

(Item S - Bus with a/c diligently working hard 95% of the fleet will have ac)

Action (Consent), Approval: C. Awarding of Bids, Request for Proposals, and Purchases over \$50,000

Action (Consent), Approval: D. Co-Operative Agreement for Board Consideration: Education Service Center Region 20, TEXAS 20 Purchasing Cooperative

Action (Consent), Approval: E. Quarterly Investment Report as of November 30, 2023

Action (Consent), Approval: F. Resolution on Investment Policy Review

Action (Consent), Approval: G. Resolution Approving Independent Sources of Instruction Relating to Investment Responsibilities

Action (Consent), Approval: H. Qualified Investment Brokers

Action (Consent), Approval: I. Contractor for Athletic Audio/Visual Upgrades - Dub Farris Stadium, Gustafson Stadium & NISD Swim Center - RFCSP #2024-037

Action (Consent), Approval: J. Contractor for Drainage Upgrades - Joe Straus Middle School - IDQ RFP #2022-164 Project #23-009-164

Action (Consent), Approval: K. Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades - Tom C. Clark High School - RFCSP #2023-095

Action (Consent), Approval: L. Contractor for New Canopy - Alternative High School - IDQ RFP #2022-164, Project #24-002-164

Action (Consent), Approval: M. Change Orders

Action (Consent), Approval: N. Consultant Appointments

Action (Consent), Approval: O. Construction Delivery Methods

Action (Consent), Approval: P. School District Teaching Permit

Action (Consent), Approval: Q. Purchase of Multi-Functional School Activity School Buses

Action (Consent), Approval: R. Purchase of Mini Buses

Action (Consent), Approval: S. Approval to retrofit air conditioning on buses

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Corinne Saldana.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

7. Business and Finance

Action, Approval: A. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022-23

Per section 44.008 of the Texas Education Code, each school district is to have its fiscal accounts audited annually. The audited fiscal accounts are included in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023, of the Northside Independent School District, provided under separate cover. The ACFR includes management's representations concerning the financial condition and operations of the District and the results of an audit performed by the certified public accounting firm of Whitley Penn.

- The Board approved the audit of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2023. The report consists of management's representations concerning the financial condition and operations of the District and the results of an audit performed by the certified public accounting firm of Whitley Penn. The audit was performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The auditors have expressed an unmodified opinion which is the highest level of assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement, according to Dr. Rene Barajas, Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance.

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

Discussion: B. Discussion on SHARS Impact

8. Superintendent

Discussion: A. Discussion of Internal Audit Program

- Finance Committee Meeting is visiting and discussing the hybrid internal model
- Look to hire internal audit director position
- The Board will participate in the hiring process/screening etc. (in. house)
- asst. director will be hired at later date
- This position will report directly to the Board
- Refine and develop a policy for the Director's position. The Board will use the RFQ to hire an independent firm.
- This firm will work in coordination with the Board of Trustees

Action, Discussion and Possible Approval: B. Discussion of SA Chamber of Commerce Conference in DC

Date: February 5 - 8, 2024

Title: SA TO DC 2024

Location: Show map

Hotel Washington

515 15th St NW
Washington, DC 20004

Contact:
Avianca De La O
adelao@sachamber.org

Hotel/Registration is 3000 total
Registration - \$1900
Hotel - \$1100
Flights - Range from \$300-350

Craft supports this event for Gerald Lopez

Freeman - Thanked Kelly who is attending. Katie Reed attended prior.

Opportunity - Not to be a one and done. Continue to be involved through Kelly's involvement.

Saldana - Opposite side of this vote

Is in favor of Kelly representing NISD vs a trustee

Suggestion: This year Kelly attends solo then possibly send a trustee in the future.

Craft spent 11 years 4-5 trips a year. elec. officials like to hear from other elected officials.

Lopez - Agrees with Karen Not a one-and-done. We need to have a voice and we are partners with them

Lopez to Saldana - They want to hear the elected official. Take it more to heart. Does make an impact. Understand your

concerns but needs to be an elected official in his opinion

Harle- Feels a person who represents school boards and is more active not just a trustee (involved in SLI, TASA, TASB, etc) Someone more seasoned with all levels.

NISD rubbing elbows.

Craft - relationships matter in EO's by extending that outreach effort. The closer we get with higher elected the better chance we have to push legislation. Benefits NISD and across the district.

Salcido - Motion to send lopez

Bobby - SA is getting beat up on data and performance. It is really important right now we tell the right story. We need to say how we compare to Houston, Dallas, etc. Take it to DC in the next couple of weeks. Normally I wouldn't see it as a value but as of right now, I do. Compare Dallas SA Houston. Date testing

Freeman - Asked if anyone else is able and would like to go.

Response: NO

Duran - A part of Hispanic commerce the past 8 years - we do need more folks to be more involved but agree with Harle starting locally would be best.

Lopez - Gives us an opportunity to work with chambers locally and state as well as Kelly. Gives other people besides Dr. Woods or Katie to be in support of this.

Final comment Saldana. - There is a Grassroots meeting - Trustees should attend that.

Motion by Corinne Saldana, second by Gerald Lopez.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, David Salcido, Karla Duran

No: Corinne Saldana

Action, Discussion and Possible Approval: C. Notice of Vacancy on Bexar CAD - Option to nominate and should if we have ability to nominate

Blount - Somerset ISD

We should nominate - if you have a candidate.

Freeman - Asked about Leo Salas

Take the opp. to nominate. Suggestion would be Chumbley or Reed.

Harle -Characteristics for this position finance, leadership etc.

Finance is our history. Trustees and other position to balance out - Joseph Medina suggestion.

Craft - Having knowlege bodies operate and communicate, finance helps but not necessary.

Time commitment. Doesn't have to be made tonight.

Saldana- Sent nomination by Friday or week from Friday, February 2nd. Submit to Mg Bring to Feb. 13 board meeting.

Discussion: D. Update on Calendar Dates

Board Dinner, Former Supt./Trustee EISO/TIA training

Procedural: E. Future Agenda Items

Kelly Smith & Driggers also include NAC - Departmental Visits in March and April 2 separate dates

9. Executive Session

Information: A. If, during the course of any duly posted meeting, the Board of Trustees determines that a closed or executive session is required regarding an item posted on the Agenda, that session will be held on any or all subjects and purposes permitted by Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, 551.084 of the Government Code (the Open Meetings Law). If a final vote is required on any matter considered in the closed or executive session, it shall be taken either upon the reconvening of the public session covered by this notice or at a subsequent, duly posted, public meeting as the Board shall determine.

President Blount announced that, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.071 the Board would convene in closed session at 9:10 p.m.

Discussion: B. LHW PROPERTY/LITIGATION - Pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code (Open Meetings Act), deliberation regarding the purchase and value of a 1.1053 acre tract of land out of Lot 18, Block A, Montes Robles Park, in the City of Leon Valley, Bexar County, Texas, located at the south corner of Eckhert Road and Robin Road; and pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, consultation with the District's legal counsel regarding the pending eminent domain proceeding numbered and styled as Cause No. 2020-ED-0073; Northside Independent School District v. LHW Development Company, et al., in the Probate Court No. 1 of Bexar County, Texas pertaining to a 1.1053 acre tract of land out of Lot 18, Block A, Montes Robles Park, in the City of Leon Valley, Bexar County, Texas, located at the south corner of Eckert Road and Robin Road.
RECOMMENDED ACTION: DISCUSSION

Discussion: C. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.076 and 551.089, consider and discuss TxSSC intruder and detection audit.

Discussion: D. Superintendent Evaluation Discussion

Discussion: E. Appointment of Assist. Supt. for Tech. Services

Discussion: F. Appointment of Principal at Carlos Coon ES

Discussion: G. Appointment of Principal at Chumbley ES

Discussion: H. Appointment of Associate Principal at Brauchle ES

Discussion: I. Appointment of Associate Principal at Evers ES

Discussion: J. Appointment of Associate Principal at Forester ES

Discussion: K. Appointment of Associate Principal at McDermott ES

Discussion: L. Appointment of Associate Principal at NW Crossing ES

Discussion: M. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Taft HS

10. Open Session

Information: A. Any required action by the Board concerning matters considered in closed meeting will be taken in open session.

The Board reconvened into open session at 11:13 PM

Action, Approval: B. Appointment of Assist. Supt. for Tech. Services

Action, Approval: C. Appointment of Principal at Carlos Coon ES

Action, Approval: D. Appointment of Principal at Chumbley ES

Action, Approval: E. Appointment of Associate Principal at Brauchle ES

Action, Approval: F. Appointment of Associate Principal at Evers ES

Action, Approval: G. Appointment of Associate Principal at Forester ES

Action, Approval: H. Appointment of Associate Principal at McDermott ES

Action, Approval: I. Appointment of Associate Principal NW Crossing ES

Action, Approval: J. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Taft HS

Motion by Karen Freeman, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Karen Freeman, Corinne Saldana, David Salcido, Karla Duran

11. Adjournment

Procedural: A. Adjourn the Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 PM

Approved on February 27, 2023