

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

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, October 24, 2023  
6:00 p.m.**

**Members present**

**Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Corinne Saldana**

**Staff present**

**Dr. Craft, Mr. Galindo, Dr. Jordan, Barry Perez, Rene Barajas, Leroy San Miguel,  
Sandra Bonnett, Leticia Ramirez, Tiffany Contreras, Ben Muir, Kris Trejo, Eric Tobias**

**1. Meeting Opening**

Procedural: A. Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance  
G. Lopez

Procedural: B. Call Meeting to Order  
6:05 p.m.

**2. Public Hearing**

School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST)

Assistant Superintendent for Budget & Finance Tiffany Contreras reported that for the 21st year in a row, Northside ISD has received the highest rating of "Superior Achievement" under the state's financial accountability rating system, called the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). The primary goal of School FIRST is to improve the management of school F district's financial resources. The School FIRST rating is based upon analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2021-2022 school year, and budgetary and financial data for the 2022 fiscal year. As required by state law, Northside ISD announced and held a public meeting to distribute a financial management report that explains the District's performance under each of 20 indicators and the District's rating.

**3. Superintendent's Report**

- Northside Communications Network (NCN). Campus representatives on the Northside Communications Network (NCN) have participated in their first NCN meeting for the school year. New this year is the option for campus representatives to participate virtually. The forum hosts various topics and areas of inquiry from the representatives.
- Volunteer of the Year. The SA Food Bank honored former NISD Assistant Superintendent for Student, Family, and Community Services Don Schmidt with their Volunteer of the Year award.
- NEF Golf Tournament. The NEF annual golf tournament was a huge success raising nearly \$70,000 for the Foundation.
- Dual Credit Presentation. Dr. Craft had the opportunity to provide a keynote address at an event hosted by the Alamo Colleges District on the topic of dual credit opportunities.
- Red Ribbon Week. Schools across the District are preparing for Red Ribbon Week activities stressing the importance of remaining drug-free.
- Student Voice. Several Trustees joined the Superintendent in a recent forum held with high school seniors from several campuses to seek their input and feedback. Additional student voice forums are planned.
- CAST Teach Ribbon Cutting. While CAST Teach High School welcomed students last school year, its official school building was recently completed and opened its doors for the 2023-2024 school year. Students, staff, and families celebrated the Official Ribbon-Cutting event on Oct. 18. This innovative program is preparing the next generation of educators.
- Kick-Off Events. The District celebrated two kick-off events: middle school e-sports and bowling competitions. Both events were well attended and spirited.
- Parade of Nations. Colonies North ES students and staff hosted their annual Parade of Nations event which featured a showcase of over 30 nations.
- Legislative Update. Dr. Craft provided an update on the current called legislative special session and reiterated that he will continue to advocate for educators and public education.
- Early Voting. Early voting began Oct. 23 and will run through Nov. 3. Election Day is Nov. 7. This was a reminder to exercise your right and vote.

#### 4. 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 Gerald Lopez joined other school district trustees and school district law enforcement officials in participating in a discussion on school safety. He thanked NISD Police Chief Charlie Carnes for his participation as well.
- Trustee Bobby Blount thanked the NISD community for their high level of support and volunteerism.
- Trustee Corinne Saldana in addition to attending the student voice forum, the Parade of Nation at Colonies North ES, and the CAST Teach HS ribbon cutting, also had the opportunity to see all 12 NISD HS bands compete at the UIL Marching Competition and applauded their hard work. Saldana also recognized Brandeis HS Athletic Director Charles Bruce for showing support for the school's band at their recent Homecoming game. Saldana also attended a Go Public breakfast, the Be Well, Stay Well employee wellness event, Ag in Action, and an NSITE virtual business 2 BOARDTalk 2023-2024 published by the Communications Department, Northside Independent School District launch. She acknowledged Bandera Bowl for their support of the NISD bowling teams and for hosting their kick-off event.
- Trustee Carol Harle attended the CAST Teach HS ribbon cutting and enjoyed the opportunity to highlight the students and teachers as well as the partners in this magnet program: CAST Schools Network and UTSA's College of Education and Human Development. Harle applauded the students and staff at Colonies North ES on their Parade of Nations event and appreciated event speaker Haroon Monis, a teacher at Rawlinson MS. She also enjoyed participating in the student voice forum, the bowling team's kick-off event, and the Be Well, Stay Well event, where she had the opportunity to co-present.

#### 5. Recognitions

Information: A. Recognition of Purple Star designated campuses

Ten NISD campuses earned the Purple Star Campus Designation for the 2023-24 school year from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). They are Behlau, Mora, Scarborough, and Wernli elementary school; Bernal and Luna middle school; and Brennan, Harlan, Jay, and Stevens high schools.

The Purple Star Campus Designation recognizes Texas district and charter schools that show their support and commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families. This special honor was created effective April 9, 2020, by the 86th Texas Legislature.

Information: B. Recognition of 2022-23 Northside Leadership Academy Cohort

2022-2023 Northside Leadership Academy Cohort. Trustees recognized district staff members who completed the 2022-2023 Cohort of the Northside Leadership Academy (NLA). NLA is a district initiative to develop aspiring campus and department leaders and includes a year-long course of informational sessions and practice.

Presented by: Ray Galindo

#### 6. 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.

Terry Zablocki - Actively pursue sensory or removal of a trustee  
Code of Ethics - Trustees should be held to the highest inside and outside activities  
6mths to resolve  
Recommend: student code of conduct extra-curriculum activities should be the same as the Board  
The integrity of the board and accountability  
She has witness 4 funerals of students due to drunk driving

Wanda Longoria - AFT  
Thank Dr. Craft, K. Freeman, K. RASTI, C. Saldana For attending Mayor against the threat of vouchers  
Vouchers w/no accountability leaving schools broken and crippled  
Covid 19 response protocol - Consider giving 5-10 days so staff and students do not spread to others. Must provide medical notes

Bill Thomas - NISD for 19 years MS Science  
Consideration - Conference Times - uninterrupted  
Not ok to take away a teacher's conf. time

Jamie Espara - her child - spec. ed  
Accommodation not being met.

1 Requirement accommodation - administered on paper and read to her. She was successful with this accommodation and passed standardized testing.

No longer avail. please look into why this was taken away.

R. Galindo will follow up with her.

## 7. 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 September Board Meetings
- Action (Consent): C. 23-24 Bilingual Exception Waiver
- Action (Consent), Approval: D. Awarding of Bids, Request for Proposals, and Purchases over \$50,000
- Action (Consent), Approval: E. Quarterly Investment Report - August 31, 2023
- Action (Consent), Approval: F. Consideration and approval of an order authorizing the issuance by the Northside Independent School District of its fixed rate unlimited tax school building and/or refunding bonds in one or more series (as designated by purpose and series); levying a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax for the payment of one or more series of bonds; delegating the authority to certain members of the board of trustees and district staff to approve and execute certain documents relating to the sale of each series of bonds; and providing an effective date
- Action (Consent), Approval: G. Consideration and approval of an order authorizing the issuance by the Northside Independent School District of its variable rate unlimited tax school building and/or refunding bonds in one or more series (as designated by purpose and series); levying a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax for the payment of one or more series of bonds; delegating the authority to certain members of the board of trustees and district staff to approve and execute certain documents relating to the sale of each series of bonds; and providing an effective date
- Action (Consent), Approval: H. Consideration and approval of an order by the board of trustees of the Northside Independent School District authorizing the remarketing of "Northside Independent School District Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building and Refunding Bonds, Series 2019"; delegating the authority to certain members of the board of trustees and district staff to approve and execute certain documents relating to the remarketing of the bonds; and providing an effective date
- Action (Consent), Approval: I. Consideration and approval of a resolution by the board of trustees of the Northside Independent School District appointing BOKF, NA as the successor paying agent/registrar for certain currently outstanding indebtedness of the district; delegating the authority to certain authorized officials to take all actions necessary to effectuate the replacement of the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as the district's paying agent/registrar; and other matters in connection therewith
- Action (Consent), Approval: J. Exterior Colors - William P. Hobby Middle School Magnet
- Action (Consent), Approval: K. Exterior/Interior Colors - M'Lissa M. Chumbley Elementary School
- Action (Consent), Approval: L. Contractor for Energy Control Upgrades - Frances M. Rhodes Elementary School - RFCSP #2023-073
- Action (Consent), Approval: M. Contractor for Fire Alarm Upgrades - Paul W. Ott Elementary School - RFCSP #2023-078
- Action (Consent), Approval: N. Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades - Leon Valley Elementary School - RFCSP #2023-075
- Action (Consent), Approval: O. Contractor for Roof Replacement - Murray E. Boone Elementary School - RFCSP #2023-070
- Action (Consent), Approval: P. Contractor for Surveillance Camera Upgrades - Various Campuses - RFCSP #2023-080
- Action (Consent), Approval: Q. Change Orders
- Action (Consent), Approval: R. Consultant Appointments
- Action (Consent), Approval: S. Construction Delivery Methods
- Action (Consent), Approval: T. RM Consultant, RFQ 2023-153

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Corinne Saldana.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Corinne Saldana

## 8. Facilities and Operations

Discussion: A. Colonies North Elementary School 2022 Bond Program Project

Presenter: Leroy San Miguel

Budget Provisions: 2022 Bond Program

Committee: Building Committee - October 24, 2023  
Recommended Action: Discussion

The 2022 Bond Program provided for a cafeteria/gym/classroom replacement project. After the 2022 bond program was authorized, it was noticed that an older part of an existing classroom building has experienced a substantial amount of foundation differential settlement between buildings. Subsequently, a structural engineer was employed to review the settlement and it was determined the facility appears to be safe for occupation.

Craft - The surrounding area is shifting not just the school. Foundation problems in neighborhoods.

Lopez - To make sure we include community members and CBAC committees

q: Information and dates - is the majority of work to be done in the summer?

r: Design team - gather and decide for live schools as to the sequence of the order of work - including the contractors - summer is the time for demolishing "dirty" work.

Harle:

Q: CBAC committee from Colonies North Community on the committee?

R: Yes

Q: Have communities/families been given notice

R: No, bc it's informational for the Board right now. They will have to approve contractors and then the information will be sent to the parents.

Q: School Advisory Team Meeting - Can it be done through this team?

R: Yes, just waiting to follow protocol

Saldana - Bldg. Comm. Mtg has many conversations over this. Confident that this is what needs to be done. Parents know it was coming due to the Bond.

As a result of the presentation and discussions during the August 16, 2023 Building Committee Meeting, it was suggested staff engage the CBAC (Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee) to solicit input and to also present to the full Board on August 22, 2023. At the August 22, 2023 Board meeting, the Board concurred to seek input from the CBAC. Further, communication with other stakeholders, such as campus teachers was suggested. Meetings with the CBAC and campus teachers were held on September 13, 2023 and staff's proposal was well received.

Action: B. Construction Manager-at-Risk - Building Upgrades - Colonies North Elementary School - RFCSP #2024-009

Presenter: Leroy San Miguel

Budget Provisions: 2022 Bond Program

Committee: Building Committee - October 24, 2023

Recommended Action: Approval

The 2022 Bond Program provided for Building Upgrades at Colonies North Elementary School. The first phase of this construction delivery method is solicitation of the Construction Manager and establishing the fees for that service, which is based as a percentage of the construction cost. As final construction drawings are developed, a GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) is determined by the Contractor and reviewed by District Consultants. Any cost savings realized after construction is completed is returned 100% to the District.

Requests for Competitive Sealed Proposals for Construction Manager-at-Risk were received on October 10, 2023 with subsequent potential contractor interviews on October 17, 2023. Texas Education Codes and Board Policies CV and CVB authorized this construction delivery method.

Approval to award a contract for the Construction Manager-at-Risk delivery method for the Building Upgrades at Colonies North Elementary School to contractor as per attachment is recommended. The anticipated percentage is 7.750 which is comprised of cost for general conditions of construction (4.500%) and the contractor's fee (3.250%). The Final GMP figure is anticipated to be established in Spring 2024.

Motion by Carol Harle, second by Corinne Saldana.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Corinne Saldana

Action: C. Contractor for Agriculture Science & Technology Academy - Sandra Day O'Connor High School Upgrades - RFCSP #2023-032

The 2022 Bond Program provided for Agriculture Science & Technology Academy at Sandra Day O'Connor High School Upgrades. Competitive Sealed Proposals were received on October 10, 2023 with potential contractor interviews on October 18, 2023.

Staff and consultants have reviewed all submitted proposals and conducted evaluations consistent with provisions outlined in contract documents.

Approval of the contractor as per the attachment is recommended.

Presenter: Leroy San Miguel

Motion by Corinne Saldana, second by Gerald Lopez.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Corinne Saldana

Action: D. Schematic Design for Athletics, Lighting, & Energy Controls - Sul Ross Middle School

The 2022 Bond Program provided for Athletics, Lighting, & Energy Control Upgrades at Sul Ross Middle School and the schematic design is ready for presentation.

Approval of the schematic design for Athletics, Lighting & Energy Control Upgrades at Sul Ross Middle School as presented by Garza|Bomberger & Associates is recommended.

Q: What kind of glass will be used?

R: Ballistic glass\* A gun or bat could not break it.

Secured area will have an alternative route for students going into the secured location.

Lopez

Q: Surplus classrooms - taken away A145 For attendance/reception

3 gyms in cases they want to use it for other functions

Concern: are you taking away classrooms used for intervention

R: not as of right now but will check admin one more time.

Motion by Corinne Saldana, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Corinne Saldana

## **9. Business and Finance**

Action: A. 2023-2024 Budget Amendment No. 1

The General Fund is being amended with Budget Amendment No. 1. The Child Nutrition and Debt Service Funds are included but will not be amended.

There is no recommendation to amend General Fund revenue. General fund expenditures are amended to recognize a net increase of \$2.2million with the majority represented by the following:

Special Education Positions - \$979,000

Transportation North Repairs - \$500,000

Police Department Longevity Pay - \$342,000

The General Fund amendment will result in a budgeted fund balance deficit of \$31.2 million.

Trustees approved Budget Amendment No. 1 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Amendments include an increase to General Fund expenditures of \$2.2 million with the majority represented by special education positions, repairs to Transportation North Station, and Police Dept. longevity pay. No amendments will be made to the Child Nutrition and Debt Service funds.

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Corinne Saldana.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Corinne Saldana

## **10. Human Resources**

A. Property and Boiler/Machinery, RFP 2023-158

Trustees considered and approved the renewal of Westchester as the provider for Property and Boiler Machinery Insurance coverage.

Information: B. Medical and Pharmacy Reinsurance

Motion by Gerald Lopez, second by Carol Harle.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Corinne Saldana

Information: C. Open Enrollment Update

## **11. Administration**

Discussion: A. Discussion of COVID 19 Response Protocol

Covid - From the beginning to now.

NISD Supported thru June 30 - leave was provided. One of the last organizations private and public Continued and still continue to have the Food bank

Free covid testing

Work from home

Sick leave bank

3 Covid agents were hired to answer questions

As calls declined we release Covid agents

Tracked calls declined

May-released Covid agent

Q: Do we still have calls and cases?

R: Yes, but not heavily. HR dept. is there to guide employees

We continue Food Bank and cleaning schedule

Social distancing temps have come to an end

Continue as we are and allow people to mask by choice. We will continue

to follow guidelines and make the best call for the District (students and employees)

Saldana:

Q: Don't we have some kind of leave bank?

R: Yes, several layers of leave was offered to employees

Covid leave was set up. - Gave days back bc to employees since we didn't use it that often

We only had 2 employees to use Covid sick bank

Q: what happens when students get COVID? Final exams etc.

R: They are allowed to make up work and exams. We work with students on extended leave - no exemption for exams will be allowed.

Galindo - Will adjust as necessary in the near future if Covid starts to increase.

Bobby - Surveillance is useful during that time

Craft- we will continue to monitor and revisit if necessary

## **12. Superintendent**

A. NISD Team Operating Procedures

2 additional changes will be made. Edits will be in Friday Letter for review and brought back to the November Board meeting.

Action: B. Leadership NISD

- Propose draft plan - Capitalize on operations of NISD
- Would like board members to nominate 3-4 through Google form
- Kick-off January
- Information will be placed in Friday Letter on Oct. 27
- Nominations deadline: Nov 14, 2023

Harle -

Q: Is there one on Legislative or Advocacy?

R: Governance 101 and there is weaving in through all topics  
W/special session may be a need for this topic  
Q: Marketing advertising - how do we get the word out?  
R: Will work with Marketing  
S: Bet to make it interactive and engaging

Bobby - Profile of this person - Sometimes the same. Need to b  
NEIC  
Bond  
SHAC

Motion by Carol Harle, second by Gerald Lopez.  
Final Resolution: Motion Approved  
Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Corinne Saldana

Procedural: C. Future Agenda Items

AI - What committee overview of AI in NISD  
Possibly- tech or academics

### **13. 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 9:00 PM.

Discussion: B. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Jordan Middle School

### **14. 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 9:09 PM

Action, Approval: B. Appointment of Assistant Principal at Jordan Middle School

Motion by Corinne Saldana, second by Carol Harle.  
Final Resolution: Motion Approved  
Yes: Carol Harle, Gerald Lopez, Bobby Blount, Corinne Saldana

### **15. Adjournment**

Procedural: A. Adjourn the Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

APPROVED ON NOVEMBER 14, 2023