



Inside Northside **BOARD**Talk

BOARDTalk is published to help keep staff and citizens informed about actions of the Northside Independent School District Board of Trustees.

January 24, 2023

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brian Woods reported to the Board:

- **Alamo Promise expansion.** Alamo Colleges Promises has expanded to all NISD high schools. This program allows for tuition assistance with the intention of educating more students.
- **Bexar County delegation luncheon.** Dr. Woods thanked the board members and **Kelly Rasti** for their participation and coordination in a luncheon with our Bexar County legislative delegation. The discussion was led by trustees who were able to talk about what they hoped to see in the District going forward.
- **Visit to Uvalde CISD.** Dr. Woods visited Uvalde CISD with TEA officials to offer assistance in securing more funding for the new Robb Elementary School and provide additional advice regarding safety and security. Uvalde's buildings average 65 years old, meaning there is a lot of work that needs to be done.
- **Sanchez-Lopez inducted into TDEA Hall of Fame.** Dr. Woods and his wife were happy to attend a reception honoring **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez**, Assistant Director of Fine Arts, when she was inducted into the Texas Dance Educators Association's Hall of Fame Award recently. The award is the most prestigious award achieved by an individual who has made a significant historical, unique, or innovative contribution to Fine Arts Dance and Drill Team in the state of Texas.
- **Clark HS Gym renaming ceremony.** The District held a renaming ceremony for the Clark HS gymnasium in honor of long-time employee Kevin Hamilton. Hamilton was a proud product of NISD having attended Colonies North ES and Hobby MS, and was in the first graduating class of Clark HS. He served as a coach and teacher at Clark, and Assistant Athletic Director for the District, retiring after serving a total of 34 years at NISD. He passed away in 2022 after a long illness.
- **Esparza 50th.** The Esparza Elementary School community celebrated 50 years with a beyond standing-room only crowd at their anniversary event last week. A special thanks to those who helped make this event so special.
- **Ag Mech show and Gerlach.** Dr. Woods attended the Gerlach Ag Mechanics show which is the kick off to the Gerlach Show which is going on this week. He was amazed seeing all the innovative products created by Northside Ag students. Of note was a 60-foot hay bale mover with hydraulics created by three students who told him that it would retail around \$75,000-\$100,000.
- **Swimming district meets.** Congratulations to the numerous NISD students from all our high schools who qualified for the next round of regional meets.
- **Board Appreciation Month.** January is Board Recognition Month, and NISD joins the Texas Association of School Boards and the 1,026 other school districts throughout Texas to thank our locally elected trustees for their service, and to educate the community about the important role that a school board plays in shaping the lives of children and communities.
- **Video Moment.** [The video moment is about two Briscoe Middle School teachers with a creative flair for teaching history.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** is looking forward to the Board's H-E-B interview next month and is honored to be one of five Boards in Texas to be considered a finalist. She also congratulated **Dr. Woods** on receiving the prestigious

Golden Deeds Award that he will receive next week at the TASA Midwinter Conference.

- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** thanked Dr. Woods and board members for recognizing and attending the induction ceremony for **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez** into the TDEA Hall of Fame saying that it meant a lot to her to have them in attendance. He recapped his recent visit to **Sul Ross MS** where he had the opportunity to explore their partnership with Boeing. He noted that the 8th grade AVID students were knowledgeable about finding real-world solutions and thanked Boeing Aeronautics for giving them another way to engage in STEM. He also gave kudos to all student performers involved in the Middle School Winter Spectacular and thanked **James Miculka** and the Fine Arts staff for their efforts. He thanked **Linebarger Attorneys at Law** for the recent Board Appreciation barbecue dinner.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** thanked Dr. Woods for caring about the Board, NISD students, and Uvalde CISD. She congratulated Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez on her induction, and recognized **Jay HS** for their toy and shoe drive that took place during the holidays. She also commended the performance of the Fiddler on the Roof theater production and the naming of the Kevin Hamilton gym at **Clark HS**; and thanked **Gabe Fuentes** at **Brandeis HS** for leading the Mamma Mia theater production at Brandeis HS. She praised **Brandeis HS** junior **Rian Forestier** and her campaign to help middle school students receive proper shoes to be able to play in her favorite sport of basketball. She enjoyed attending the 50th anniversary celebration at **Esparza ES**. She also visited the Boeing Aeronautics project at **Ross MS** with the 8th grade AVID students and was amazed with the products the students are creating. She thanked Board President **Karen Freeman** for her assistance with the Region 20 Advocacy training, and thanked all the basketball and swim coaches for their time and dedication to their programs. She extended her condolences to **Holmes** and **Sotomayor** high schools in the loss of their plant manager **Max Garcia**.
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** thanked Clark HS Principal **Steve Zimmerman** for submitting the nomination to name their gym in honor of Kevin Hamilton. She also thanked **Stan Laing** for creating a meaningful way to honor him and his legacy. She thanked Trustee **Gerald Lopez, Valerie Sisk, David Empson**, and everyone involved in the inaugural Cricket match that took place between **Marshall** and **Clark** high schools. She thanked **Dr. Woods** and Alamo Colleges District Chancellor **Dr. Mike Flores** for their support of the two-plus-two partnership with Palo Alto College. Students in this program will graduate from **Agriculture Science & Technology Academy (ASTA)**, enroll at Palo Alto (with free tuition made possible by Alamo College Promise), and be guaranteed admission to Texas A&M College Station with 18 credit hours plus additional dual credit at ASTA. Chumbley enjoyed the **Esparza** 50th anniversary celebration stating that Esparza and **Ross** are community schools which could be seen by the packed event and wonderful stories about former and current faculty and staff. She loved that around 34 of the Gregorio Esparza family and descendants attended the celebration. She also shared that she had the opportunity to go wedding dress shopping with her soon-to-be daughter-in-law (something she thought she would never do having four sons) and was able to support her grandson at the Nueces County Stock Show where he placed 7th – continuing the Chumbley family tradition. Chumbley commended Ross MS Family Liaison **Irene Alvarez** for securing a partnership with Boeing. This 12-week program offers students a different STEM lesson each week, where students create their own program and present it in a “Shark Tank” style presentation. Students will earn a certificate and a free laptop upon completion. These students were able to present their projects to Governor Greg Abbot recently at Tech Port SA, which was just named the Boeing Center. Chumbley recognized the talented families on the school board including the granddaughter of Trustee **Corinne Saldana** who was the lead in Mamma Mia at Brandeis HS; and the wife of Trustee Gerald Lopez who was inducted into the TDEA Hall of Fame. She also thanked NISD staff **Dr. Woods, Ray Galindo, Steve Daniel, and Valerie Sisk** for attending Gerlach this week, and mentioned that the 50th Anniversary of the Walter Gerlach Stock Show is dedicated to her husband, **Steve Chumbley**.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** visited **Brauchle ES** and met with students in the Robotics and Solar Car program who are working on incredible projects. He also visited **Timberwilde ES** who gifted him with a portrait which represents Northside well and was one of the best gifts he has ever received. He extended kudos to Timberwilde Principal **Valerie Arce** and her campus in demonstrating a high level of respect for the Board of Trustees. Blount noted that he has spoken at two Dream Week panels, one of which was centered around public, private, charter, and homeschool education and was a balanced discussion on education that benefits all of San Antonio.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** commented on the impact of the **Clark HS** production of Fiddler on the Roof. In her conversation with students, many explained that they felt that this production was a timely representation that resonated with many in regards to events happening in other parts of the world. She thanked **Barry Perez, Monica Faulkenbery, and Sharon Sanchez** for their work on the H-E-B nomination for the Board. She gifted the Board of Trustees cookbooks in honor of each of them being an important ingredient to their work as a Board member. She is

excited and honored to be speaking at Founder's Day at **Marshall HS** and encouraged the Board to get their outfits ready to go with the theme of "Peace-Love-PTA." She also is excited about the upcoming first Cultural Diversity Day to be held at **Marshall HS** on March 4.

Recognitions

Council of PTAs, Northside Education Foundation, and Northside Museum Association honor NISD Trustees

The Northside Council of PTAs, represented by PTA Council President **Marisa Flores-Mascorro**, the Northside School Museum Association, led by President **Dr. Caroline Wernli**, and the Northside Education Foundation, led by President **Emily Persyn**, 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 each and every student.

Board approves audit of District's financial report

The Board approved the audit of ACFR Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for fiscal year ending August 31, 2022. 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 Weaver and Tidwell LLP. 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.

Board approves hourly wage increase for some auxiliary positions

The Board approved the recommendation for four employee groups to have their minimum starting hourly rates increased. They are Child Nutrition Workers, Custodians, CDL Bus Drivers, and Instructional Assistants. (There are some exclusions and employees can speak to their supervisors for further clarification.) These employee groups have some of the highest vacancy rates. In addition, an increase in pay to existing employees in these positions was approved.

Board passes resolution to hold Board election on May 6

School Board Elections will take place on May 6, 2023. Up for election are Trustees from Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Jocelyn Dudney**, formerly Principal at Scobee ES, was appointed **Director of 504 and Related Services**.
- **Chaisleigh Southworth**, formerly Principal at Blattman, was appointed **Principal at Reed Elementary School**.
- **Adriana Garcia**, formerly Administrative Intern at Kallison ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Kallison Elementary School**.
- **Jason Padron**, formerly Boys Head Coach at Ross MS, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Ross Middle School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor approval for boiler replacement at **Fernandez ES** – Flo-Aire Service
- Contractor approval for chiller replacement at **Central Office** – L.C. Mosel Co.
- Contractor approval for fire alarm upgrades at **Forester ES** and **Wanke ES** – Central Electric Ent. & Co.
- Contractor for fire alarm upgrades at **Oak Hills Terrace ES** – Consolidated Electric Service, Inc.
- Contractor for mechanical upgrades at **May ES** and **Myers ES** – Comfort-Air Engineering, Inc.
- Contractor for mechanical upgrades at **Steubing ES** – CGC General Contractors, Inc.
- Contractor for site and utility upgrades (portables) for **Kallison ES** – SBM General Contractor, LLC.

- The following change order was approved:
 - Esparza ES – return of contingencies & allowances (\$59,206 credit)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids: professional development services and related materials for public non-profit schools, software, licenses, subscriptions, related products, and services; art supplies and miscellaneous items; HVAC filter media annual service contract; industry-based certifications and licenses for Career and Technical Education (CTE); medical

equipment and supplies; WIFI cabling E-Rate; Commscope Patch Cables E-Rate; auto mechanic hand tools and equipment; on-site maintenance of mobile climbing wall towers; and manufactured mobile home for O'Connor HS Agriculture program. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: MAR Speech Therapy for contracted speech therapy services; Exemplars, Inc. for online K-5 supplemental resources; and TPR Education LLC for the purchase of Princeton Review SAT prep classes. For more information, contact the Purchasing Department at 210-397-8700.

You may mail correspondence to:

Trustees
c/o NISD
5900 Evers Road
San Antonio, TX 78238

You may email them at info@nisd.net.

For additional information, call 210-397-8770.

Board of Trustees

Karen Freeman, *President, District 7*
Gerald B. Lopez, *Vice President, District 2*
Corinne Saldana, *Secretary, District 5*
Joseph H. Medina, *Trustee, District 1*
M'Lissa M. Chumbley, *Trustee, District 3*
Robert Blount, Jr., *Trustee, District 4*
Carol Harle, Ph.D., *Trustee, District 6*

Administration

Superintendent Brian T. Woods, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Administration Ray Galindo
Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Janis Jordan, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance Rene Barajas, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Communications Barry Perez

Board meeting information

NISD Trustees meet monthly in regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month. They may also meet in Called Meetings for workshops, retreats, or to handle routine business. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. in the Board Room, 5900 Evers Road, unless otherwise posted. Meetings are open to the public. Agendas are posted on the NISD website, www.nisd.net. Citizens who wish to address the Board must sign up to speak just prior to the beginning of the Meeting.

Upcoming School Board Meeting(s): *(See posted agendas on website as dates, locations, and/or times may change.)*

- Feb. 14, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- Feb. 28, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- March 28, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)