



Inside Northside

# BOARDTalk

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

**February 28, 2023**

## Superintendent's Report

### **Dr. Brian Woods reported to the Board:**

- **Board Appreciation Dinner.** Dr. Woods thanked **Taft High School** Principal **Marti Fernandez** and **Communications Arts High School** Principal **Lisa Baker** for hosting the annual School Board Appreciation Dinner. Also thanks the Taft HS Culinary for preparing and serving the food and the Taft HS Orchestra for providing the evening's entertainment.
- **Gerlach Livestock Show.** Last month was the annual Walter Gerlach Livestock Show and Sale. The auction raised another record amount for student scholarships. Thanks to the community for their continued support of this long-standing tradition.
- **Anniversary Celebrations.** Dr. Woods congratulated **Myers Elementary School** on their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, as well as **Adams Hill Elementary School** on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration event. He commended both Principal **Claudia Colunga** and Principal **Annette Castillo-Robinson** and their respective staffs on outstanding events.
- **H-E-B Excellence in Education finalists.** NISD is well represented in the upcoming H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program. The following are finalists and will be guests at the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards banquet held on April 30 in San Antonio.
  - **NISD Board of Trustees** are one of five school boards in the state chosen as Outstanding School Boards finalists.
  - **Carol Hudson**, a kindergarten teacher at Brauchle Elementary School, is a finalist in the Leadership Elementary category.
  - **Genesis Segura**, a sixth-grade teacher at Jones Middle School, is a finalist in the Rising Star Secondary category.
- **Be Well, Stay Well.** The annual "Be Well, Stay Well" Wellness Event was held this past month with an array of fun and informational activities. From climbing a rock wall to stretching during yoga to watercolor painting to cupcake icing, NISD employees had an opportunity to get in touch with their physical, social, emotional, and financial wellbeing. Thanks to Dr. Kimberly Ridgley, Executive Director of the Whole Child Dept, and her staff for organizing this event.
- **Mid-Year Graduation.** NISD's first graduation ceremony of 2023 was held earlier this month, with around 150 graduates from across the District participating.
- **Academic Decathlon.** Congratulations to the Academic Decathlon teams from **Marshall** and **Health Careers high schools** on their success at the state competition this past weekend. The Marshall team was named the state Super Quiz Champions, and they placed third overall. Health Careers HS will be advancing to the National Academic Decathlon Division IV competition in Frisco, Tex.
- **State President's Award.** Dr. Woods recognized **Monica Faulkenbery**, assistant director of Communications, for receiving the 2023 President's Award at the Texas State Public Relations Association's (TSPRA) staff conference for her long record of great work in school communications.
- **Video Moment.** February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) month, [and the video moment showcased the Clark High School welding program](#), one of a very few Level 1 certificate programs in NISD.

## Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** participated in a recent legislative conference with Trustee Saldana at the Capitol and had a chance to meet with members of the district's legislative delegation. Freeman expressed that the most important job school district trustees have is the hiring of a superintendent. She was happy to share that **Dr. John Craft** was announced as the lone finalist selected by Trustees for the position of superintendent. Craft is currently the superintendent of Killeen ISD and will replace Dr. Woods upon his retirement at the end of the current school year.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** enjoyed attending a cricket match between **Marshall** and **Clark** high schools. He had the opportunity to speak to parents and grandparents at **Martin ES** and acknowledged staff member **Isaac Gomez** for organizing the event. Lopez congratulated **Monica Faulkenbery**, **Carol Hudson**, and **Genesis Segura** on their respective awards.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** congratulated the **Clark HS** girls' basketball team competing at the state level as well as those NISD teams competing at the regional level. She enjoyed attending the retirement celebration honoring **Harlan HS** Principal **Robert Harris**. Saldana congratulated all the mid-year graduates and recognized **Monica Faulkenbery** on her recent TSPRA recognition. She recognized **Ross MS** for a unique partnership with Boeing that provided free laptops to the campus' AVID students.
- **Trustee Joseph Medina** congratulated **Dr. Woods** and **Monica Faulkenbery** on their awards and congratulated **Adams Hills ES** Principal **Annette Castillo-Robinson** and her staff on a successful 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Medina reminded Trustees that the registration for the annual NEF 5K event is open now for the April 1 walk/run. He mentioned the **Marshall HS** Cultural Diversity Day scheduled for March 4. Thanks were given to Deputy Superintendent of Administration **Ray Galindo** and his department for the growth and development provided to staff through the Northside Leadership Academy (NLA).
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** enjoyed attending a breakfast honoring **Harlan HS** Principal **Robert Harris** on his retirement and the annual PTA Founder's Day event at **Marshall HS**. She recognized all the support shown for the annual Gerlach Livestock Show & Auction, especially parents and members of the business community, and reported that \$1.6 million had been raised for student scholarships in the auction. Chumbley recognized members of the **Taft HS** Culinary program for their meal prep for the annual Board Recognition Dinner hosted by the campus. She visited **Villarreal ES** and became an honorary member of the campus' broadcast team and proudly wore and showed off her Villarreal t-shirt during the meeting. She acknowledged Principal **Roxanne Gutierrez** and staff members **Lynda Guzman**, **Evelyn Calvillo**, **Leticia McNabb**, and **Betsy Rico**. Chumbley congratulated Dr. Woods on being selected as the 2022 recipient of the Golden Deeds Award presented by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) and Texas A&M University Educational Administration and Human Resources Development. Chumbley recognized and thanked **Amy Trimble** with Orange Theory – Bandera Rd. for her continued support and partnership with **Ross MS** Principal **Faustino Ortega**, Associate Principal **Sheila Yaeger**, and Family & Community Liaison **Irene Zinsmeister** in support of staff and students.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** informed Trustees that the regional science bowl, which began 21 years ago, will be held on Saturday, March 4. He acknowledged supporters of the event including consulting firm **Booz Allen** and the **Mitre Corporation** for their support of this event. Blount also reminded Trustees of Go Public's Night with the Spurs. He closed by recognizing **Monica Faulkenbery** and Dr. Woods on their respective awards.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** attended the recent LibraryPalooza event and enjoyed spending some time with some of the participating authors. She reminded members of the board of two scheduled events: Special Olympics which is being hosted all week and the **Jay HS** and **Jay SEA** STEAM Fest to be held March 4. Harle enjoyed attending the **Adams Hill ES** 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event and acknowledged the partnership between **Ross MS** AVID students and Boeing.

### Trustees hold Public Hearing on Texas Academic Performance Report

NISD's Academic Performance Report was presented by **Dr. Janis Jordan**, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and a public hearing was held, as required by Texas law. All school districts are required to publish an annual report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), district accreditation status, student enrollment and academic performance, PEIMS Financial Standards Report, a report of violent or criminal incidents, and information received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for each high school campus. The report will be available

online on the NISD website and copies of specific reports will be available upon request through the Communications Department.

### **District of Innovation Plan**

Dr. Janis Jordan presented a draft of the District of Innovation (DOI) plan developed by the Board-approved DOI committee. The next step is to post it to the website for 30 days for public comment.

### **ESSER Funds Review**

Dr. Janis Jordan provided an 18-month update to the Board on the expenditure of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. This review is provided to the Board every six months.

### **Trustees discuss Insurance options**

Director of Benefits Leticia Ramirez presented information to the Board regarding the options of either continuing with a fully-insured health insurance plan or exploring the option of moving to a self-funded health insurance plan.

### **Candidates announce plans to run for the School Board**

School Board Elections will take place on May 6, 2023. Up for election are Trustees from Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4. Candidates who have filed to run for Trustees had an opportunity to announce publicly their candidacy.

### **Trustees approve administrative appointments:**

- **Jake Smiley**, formerly Director of Business Services at Boerne ISD, was appointed **Director of Budget and Research**.
- **Melissa M. Spiekerman**, formerly Associate Principal at Blattman Elementary School, was appointed **Principal at Blattman Elementary School**.
- **Tawny Wagner**, formerly Principal at Carson Elementary School, was appointed **Principal at McDermott Elementary School**.
- **Kristen Johnson-Montellano**, formerly Associate Principal at Brauchle Elementary School, was appointed **Principal at Scobee Elementary School**.
- **Gabriella Trevino**, formerly Administrative Intern at Glenn Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Timberwilde Elementary School**.
- **Anna Lopez**, formerly Administrative Intern at NAMS and Jefferson Middle School, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Stinson Middle School**.

### **Board approves facilities items:**

- Schematic Design for a new Health Science Magnet School at **Hobby Middle School** – Alamo Architects
- Contractor for “**Village at WestPointe West area**” **Elementary School** – F. A. Nunnelly Company
- Contractor for ADA and Flatwork Upgrades for Health Careers HS, Taft HS, and Driggers ES – SBM General Contractor, LLC
- Contractor for fire alarm upgrades at **Hoffmann ES** – CRI Electric, Inc.
- Contractor for fire alarm upgrades at **Mead ES** – Central Electric Ent. & Co.
- Contractor for flooring replacement at **Brauchle ES** and **Fernandez ES** – San Antonio Floor Finishers, Inc.
- Contractor for fume hood replacements at **O’Connor HS** – L.C. Mosel Company
- Contractor for lighting upgrades at **Allen ES** and **Grissom Annex** – Central Electric Ent. & Co.

### **Bids for goods approved**

Trustees approved the following bids: general maintenance and operation services, installs, rentals and repairs; security cameras, access controls and intrusion devices; science lab equipment, and USDA commodity processing for Child

Nutrition. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: Ryder Truck Rental, Inc. for rental of tractors to pull NISD high school band trailers. 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](mailto: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](http://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.)*

- March 28, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- April 11, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- April 25, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)