



Inside Northside

# BOARDTalk

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

**March 28, 2023**

## Superintendent's Report

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

- **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. Regional Champions Marshall team were named the state Super Quiz Champions, and placed third overall in large school competition. Health Careers HS will be advancing to the National Academic Decathlon Division IV competition in Frisco, Tex.
- **Bi-District One-Act Play.** Taft, O'Connor, Harlan, and Marshall high schools qualified this week to participate in One-Act Play Bi-District competition.
- **Boys and Girls Basketball.** Both the girls and boys basketball teams had an outstanding year.
  - The Clark Girls Basketball Team made history by winning the school's first girls basketball state title. The Cougars defeated DeSoto High School, 42-37, in the Class 6A state championship game. Coaches are Head Coach **Rihana Houy**, and Assistant Coaches **Michael Byrne** and **Jennifer Woods**.
  - The Brennan Boys Basketball Team had an incredible year and are UIL State 6A State Semifinalists. Coaches are Head Coach **Koty Cowgill**, and Assistant Coaches **Ian Ward** and **Jon Sanchez**.
- **Special Olympics.** The annual Special Olympics Track and Field Meet was held at Gus Stadium earlier this month. Over five days, 1,200 athletes were able to compete.
- **Los Leones.** The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Los Leones Student Arts Festival was held recently. This event just gets better every year.
- **Beard ES Light Savers Robotics Team.** Students provided a brief presentation to Trustees on the importance of conserving energy and on the benefit of solar power.
- **School safety concerns.** With recent incidents at several campuses in the district, Dr. Woods addressed the issue of school safety and reiterated the district's continued commitment to keeping the community informed.
- **Superintendent transition.** Dr. Woods complimented the Board on their selection of Dr. John Craft as the District's new superintendent. Craft is set to begin in his official capacity soon but Dr. Woods will be available to assist and consult with Dr. Craft during the transition of leadership. This Board meeting marks Woods' final one as Superintendent.
- **Video Moment.** [The Video Moment showcases an employee](#) who worked as a custodian at Connally Middle School at night to pay his way through college, and is now a first-year history teacher and coach at Zachry Middle School.
- **Last Board Meeting for Woods.** As this was Dr. Woods' final Board meeting as Superintendent, he shared how grateful he was for his time in the District and just how much he has enjoyed working with the amazing students, parents, teachers, and staff.

## Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** informed Trustees of Texas Association of School Boards' A Day at the Capitol event scheduled for April 11.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** congratulated the high school theatre groups on their success at bi-district One Act Play competition. Congratulated the District's athletic program participants and specifically the **Clark** and **Brennan** high school teams. Lopez attended the Council of PTA's vendor event, and thanked Dr. Woods for his 31 years of service

to NISD.

- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** congratulated the **Clark HS** Lady Cougars state-champion basketball team and the **Brennan HS** boys basketball team on their successful seasons. She thanked all of Northside's athletic trainers. Saldana attended the Los Leones Art Festival and acknowledged Fine Arts Director **James Miculka** and Assistant Director **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez** for their work in facilitating the event. She wished all the soccer teams headed to playoffs the best of luck. She attended a family and community partnership event at NAC focused on community engagement. She attended the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members and thanked **Trustee Bobby Blount** for his leadership with the organization. Saldana also participated in a career fair hosted by **Mead ES** and enjoyed speaking with the students.
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** facilitated the presentation of a gift to Dr. Woods from **Steve Chumbley** on behalf of the Walter Gerlach Livestock Show. The gift was a token of appreciation for Dr. Woods' support of the annual livestock show and auction. Chumbley participated in a recent Northside Education Foundation (NEF) grant patrol event and recognized two grant recipients: **Sotomayor HS** librarian **Stacey Quick** and **Hector Garcia MS** art teacher **Cristina Valenzuela**. She also thanked NEF mascot **Evelyn Nordstrom** and **Hector Garcia MS** mascot **Lincoln Forbes** who stepped into the role of a NEF Apple mascot. Chumbley attended the Los Leones Art Festival and recognized how much the event has grown over the years. She acknowledged Director of Fine Arts **James Miculka** and all the Fine Arts staff and art teachers. Chumbley shared that she will miss Dr. Woods and his leadership and believes he has always made decisions based on what is good for children.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** has enjoyed his time as the longest serving member on the NEF grants committee. He participated in the recent Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members conference. Blount reminded Trustees of the annual solar race car competition scheduled in April. He shared his appreciation of Dr. Woods and how Woods was always recognized by students at District events.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** shared that there will be a free book giveaway – the largest library event in the District – hosted at **Brennan, Holmes, and O'Connor** high schools. She described giving the **Clark HS** girl's state-champion basketball team their medals as a highlight. Harle referenced a field trip initiative by gifted & talented staff that afforded elementary GT students a chance to participate in a scavenger hunt in downtown San Antonio. She enjoyed the recent STEM fest event hosted by students at **Jay Science & Engineering Academy** (SEA.) She closed by sharing some personal reflections of Dr. Woods in his various roles of teacher, campus administrator, and superintendent.

## Recognitions

- **NSITE students, National Speech and Debate Association competition.** The NSITE/Holmes Speech and Debate Team attended the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) National Qualifier in late February. The meet is only open to NSDA members and schools are given slots based on student participation at speech and debate invitationals during the school year. Athan Swick, a senior at NSITE, is the first student in NSITE/Holmes history to qualify for the National Meet, by placing third in International Extemporaneous Speaking. The national competition will be held in Phoenix this summer. In addition, Swick placed 10th and Junior Mariam Botana De Armas placed 14th in Congressional Debate.
- **Sasha Luevano, 2023 Administrator of the Year for the Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education.** Sasha Luevano, Adult Education Program Coordinator, was named the Administrator of the Year for the Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education during their annual conference in February. The recipient of this award must demonstrate a contribution to adult education at the community, state, and/or national levels. The Outstanding Administrator of the Year Award is awarded to an adult education administrator with five or more years of experience who has made an outstanding contribution to others.
- **Academic Decathlon Qualifiers.** From the regional Academic Decathlon competition, four teams advanced to the state competition – Marshall HS, Warren HS, O'Connor HS, and Health Careers HS. And for the second time in a row, Health Careers High School won the state title and is advancing to the National Academic Decathlon Division IV competition in Frisco. In addition, the Marshall team was named the state Super Quiz Champions, and placed 3rd overall.

## Trustees approve Summer Programs

Trustees approved 2023 Summer Programs which include regular summer school, additional days school year (ADSY), summer school for student groups, and enrichment experiences. Information about summer learning opportunities will be posted on the NISD website soon.

### **Board approves adoption of State Instructional Materials.**

Trustees approved the adoption of instructional materials for the 2023-2024 school year for Health Education and Physical Education.

### **Resolution regarding voucher legislation**

Trustees voted on a resolution calling for the Texas Legislature to reject any diversion of public dollars to private entities in the form of education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes.

### **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:**

- **Lisa Mendez**, formerly Associate Principal at Mary Hull Elementary School, was appointed **Principal at Carson Elementary School.**
- **Carrie Lewis**, formerly Administrative Intern at Martin Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Blattman Elementary School.**
- **Cynthia Castillo**, formerly Associate Principal at Glenoaks Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Brauchle Elementary School.**
- **Latoiya Chawayipira**, formerly math staff development specialist at Forester Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Galm Elementary School.**
- **Jacob Salinas**, formerly Assistant Principal at Harlan High School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Harlan High School.**

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

- Schematic Design for facility upgrades to the existing Agriculture Science and Technology Academy – Kaarlsen Noonan Rittimann Garcia Architecture
- Contractor for administration suite replacement and energy control upgrades at Rayburn Middle School – CGC General Contractors, Inc.
- Contractor for building replacement at Westwood Terrace Elementary School – Casias Construction, LLC
- Contractor for tennis court upgrades at Jones and Rawlinson middle schools – Hellas Construction, Inc.

### **Trustees review policy**

- First reading of local policies in TASB Update #120
- Review of Legal Policies in TASB Update #120
- First reading of CO (LOCAL) Policy
- Recommendation of Deletion of EFAA (Local) Policy
- First reading of GKD (LOCAL) Policy

### **Bids for goods approved**

Trustees approved the following bids: furniture for CAST Teach High School, Special Education supplies and equipment, and Special Education audit services. 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.)*

- 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)