



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.

April 25, 2023

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **First Day in NISD.** Dr. Craft reported that he started his first day in Northside ISD by visiting **Villarreal Elementary School**. He thanked the **Ross Middle School** Mariachi that performed early in the morning under the direction of **Jesus Gachupin**. He also thanked Principal **Roxanne Gutierrez**, Kindergarten teacher **Monica Parker**, and ECSE Collab teacher **Suzette Reyes** for opening their school and classroom for his visit.
- **NISD Museum Association.** Dr. Craft met with members of the Northside Museum Association and several retirees including **Dr. Caroline Wernli** who gave him a very high-level synopsis of the rich history of NISD.
- **School Safety Symposium.** Dr. Craft discussed that the District held a School Safety Symposium at **Brennan High School** focusing around school safety and awareness. Thanks to **Chief Charlie Carnes, Diana Ely, Kimberly Ridgley**, and many others who did a fantastic job preparing and delivering important information and engaging in very important dialogue. Also, thank you to **Dr. John Trimble** and his staff for hosting the event.
- **Esports.** Dr. Craft was introduced to Esports when he attended the Spring 2023 Esports Championships at NAC. The event featured tournaments in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Rocket League, and League of Legends. He stated that he was not aware of the magnitude of esports, which is a \$14 billion industry. Special thanks to **Matt Frymire** and **Carrie Squires** who led the charge for this incredible event.
- **Recent campus visits.** Dr. Craft visited several campuses this past couple of weeks including **Driggers Elementary School** visiting with Principal **Paul Brusewitz**, Associate Principal **Melissa Alvarez**, STEM teacher **Sarah Aguiar**, GT teacher **Katherine Pentz**, Librarian **Alyssa Burnett**, and **Lisa Delgado**, School Age Parenting Program.
- **Solar Car Races.** Dr. Craft attended the 26th annual Texas Solar Race Car Event which was held this past Saturday. Thanks to all the sponsors, the parents who support it, **Amalia Sollars**, and especially **Bobby Blount** who remains the architect behind this annual event.
- **Fine Arts Fest.** Dr. Craft visited the Northside's annual Fine Arts Fest held this past weekend showcasing amazing original artwork from hundreds of elementary, middle, and high school students. In addition to the art, various dance and musical groups performed.
- **Legislative Update.** Dr. Craft reported that with 33 days left in the Legislative Session the district continues to track legislation, in particular around school safety and school finance.
- **C-SPAN Award Winner.** Dr. Craft recognized **Marshall HS** senior **Kyle Ward** on winning third prize in C-SPAN's annual student documentary competition. Ward will be attending the UT Film School next year.
- **Administrative Professionals Week.** Dr. Craft thanked all Administrative Assistants across the District stating that their role is vital to ensuring our success as an organization.
- **Video Moment.** Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides students with the academic knowledge and technical skills they need to gain entry to high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand industries. [Tonight's Video Moment showcases the culinary arts program at Marshall High School.](#) Chef B.J. Salter is one of those special teachers who loves to see her students exceed their own expectations and never gets tired of seeing her students grow, learn, and become not just better cooks, but better people in the process.

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** expressed how much of an honor it is for the NISD Board of Trustees to be up for consideration for an H-E-B Excellence in Education Award for Outstanding School Board. Freeman recognized and thanked **Joseph Medina** and **M'Llissa Chumbley** for their service on the Board.
- **Trustee Joseph Medina** congratulated the **Clark HS** Lady Cougar state champion basketball team. Medina, in his last Board meeting as a Trustee, thanked his fellow Trustees, District Cabinet members, Dr. Woods, Dr. Craft, and his district constituents.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** shared that the district's Educator of the Year celebration was a great event. She appreciated the opportunity to visit the state capitol to advocate for school funding. She enjoyed attending the annual Retiree luncheon as well as the Solar Cars event. Saldana thanked all the district's coaches, club sponsors, and senior class sponsors for their work. She recognized the state-champion **Clark HS** basketball team and their Head Coach **Rihana Houy** who was named the Express News Coach of the Year. Saldana expressed what an honor it was to serve with Trustees Medina and Chumbley and thanked them for their service.
- **Trustee M'Llissa Chumbley** visited with Child Nutrition Director **Thomas Wherry**, Assistant Director of Operations **Barbara Castillo**, and Senior Operations Manager **Risa Trevino** following concerns shared with her about the quality of cafeteria food. She visited **Rudder MS** and had an opportunity to see the work that goes in preparing and serving nutritious meals for students. She thanked Principal **Paul Ramirez** and all the Child Nutrition staff for their hard work. Chumbley thanked the staff who worked to organize and facilitate the Safety Symposium hosted at **Brennan HS** and recommends the presentations be offered at additional campuses. Chumbley enjoyed attending the recent eSports event and shared hearing positive feedback from a parent. She thanked Executive Director of Teaching and Learning **Diana Ely**, Director of Academic Technology **Carrie Squyres**, Academic Technology Coordinators **Matt Frymire** and **John Moran**, and all the eSports coaches for making the event a success. She thanked **Karen Freeman** for organizing the grass roots efforts to advocate for the district and public education. Chumbley enjoyed the Retiree Luncheon event. She visited **Villarreal ES** and read to **Hannah Sandoval's** first grade class. She acknowledged Principal **Roxanne Gutierrez** and Principal's Secretary **Evelyn Calvillo**. Chumbley congratulated **Ross MS** librarian **AJ Talamantez** for receiving a grant to fund an outdoor classroom space on the campus. Chumbley offered her thanks to the NISD community for the opportunity to represent them on the Board for 28 years. Chumbley has served with five superintendents during her time on the Board. She recognized District staff including Deputy Superintendent **Ray Galindo**, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent **Monica Guerra**, Assistant Director of Communications **Monica Faulkenbery**, Executive Director of Communications **Barry Perez**, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations **Leroy San Miguel**, and Executive Director of Construction and Engineering **Jacob Villarreal**. Chumbley ended her remarks by expressing how much she loved and appreciated her fellow Trustees and how proud she is to have served on the Team of 8.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** recognized the elementary and middle school science department for 26 years of successful Solar Car race events sponsored by NISD, the U.S. Air Force, the MITRE Corporation, and UTSA. Blount congratulated the **Clark HS** Lady Cougars on their state championship win and thanked Trustees Medina and Chumbley for their service on the Board.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** enjoyed a recent NPR feature highlighting CAST Teach HS and its students. She also enjoyed attending a dress rehearsal of a theatre performance of Moana by students at **Pease MS**. She also enjoyed the Big Book giveaway hosted at three NISD schools which was a great success, and participated in the annual NEF 5K event. Harle appreciates the district's efforts to honor military families and recognized **Dianna Fryer**, the Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) school liaison. Harle encouraged individuals to visit and celebrate the district's libraries which have changed over time. She recognized the NISD Council of PTA's for sponsoring a digital safety and citizenship presentation which will be held on May 2. She acknowledged **Brauchle ES** teacher **Carol Hudson**, **Jones MS** teacher **Genesis Segura**, and her fellow Trustees who are all finalists for H-E-B Excellence in Education awards. Harle thanked Trustees Medina and Chumbley for their Board service.

Recognitions

- **Texas Black Caucus of Black School Board Members (TCBSBM) honorees.** Two NISD educators were recognized by the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members at their annual Education Summit held earlier this year.
 - **Jorel Lane**, a History teacher at **Taft High School**, was named the 2023 Teacher of the Year
 - **Frank Johnson**, Principal at **Fernandez Elementary School**, was named 2023 Outstanding Educator of the Year.
- **Clark Girls Basketball Team, UIL 6A State Champions.** After countless hours of practice drills, strategy sessions, and games, the Clark Girls Basketball Team made history by winning the school's first basketball state title. The Cougars defeated DeSoto High School, 42-37, in the UIL Class 6A state championship game.

Trustees approve 2023-2028 District of Innovation Plan

On Nov. 15, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to apply to be a District of Innovation (DOI) and appointed a DOI committee to begin drafting the local plan. The plan has five exemptions: the Uniform Start Date, Probationary Contracts, Campus Behavior Coordinator provisions, Educator Certification Requirements, and the Teacher/Administrator Appraisal System. NISD submitted the district's intent to approve the DOI plan to the Commissioner in March, 2023 and the plan was posted for public feedback as required for 30 days. The DOI plan will be in effect for five years and any revisions will require a vote from the Board.

Board approves Self-Funded Managed Consumer Driven Health Plan

Trustees approved the district's move to a self-funded health care plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Self-funding of a managed consumer driven health plan only means shifting the risk from the health care provider to NISD. This shift in no way will affect an employee's current health care plan with United Health Care. Trustees also approved continuing with United Health Care as our health care provider for the 2023-2024 school year.

Trustees approve Growth and Improvement budget

The Board approved a Growth & Improvement staff proposal for the 2023-2024 school year that accounts for the addition of a new elementary school, Reed ES, and additional staffing adjustments. The approved budget allows for an increase of 101.98 campus-based staffing units.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Kimberly Anne Contreras-Tamez**, formerly Associate Principal at Cole ES, was appointed **Principal at Knowlton Elementary School.**
- **Erika Zagala**, formerly Principal at Allen ES, was appointed **Principal at Mora Elementary School.**
- **Lillyana Hinojasa**, formerly Associate Principal at Henderson ES, was appointed **Principal at Henderson Elementary School.**
- **Jennifer Foley-Ventura**, formerly a teacher at Steubing ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Mary Hull Elementary School.**
- **Jeremy Deck**, formerly Assistant Director of Maintenance, was appointed **Director of Plant Maintenance.**

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for access control and security camera upgrades at various facilities – Alterman, Inc.
- Contractor for drainage upgrades at Driggers Elementary School – R. L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Contractor for fume hood replacements at Taft High School – Comfort-Air Engineering, Inc.
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Rudder Middle School – R. L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Contractor for synthetic turf field upgrades at Jay High School – FieldTurf
- Contractor for temporary shoring at Glenn Elementary School – SBM General Contractor, LLC.
- Contractor for door hardware replacement at various campuses – SpawGlass Contractors, Inc.

Trustees review policy

- Second reading of local policies in TASB Update #120
- Second reading of CO (LOCAL) Policy
- Second reading of GKD (LOCAL) Policy

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids: Food and grocery items for Child Nutrition; Child Nutrition software; semi-truck (cab) and work vehicle rental; dairy products for Child Nutrition; utility management software; district-wide photography and related services; Child Nutrition supplies; and fresh produce for Child Nutrition. Purchase Orders were approved for: the City of San Antonio for Alamodome event services for the 2023 graduation ceremonies for \$82,503. 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

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Administration

Superintendent John Craft, 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.)*

- May 16, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- May 23, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- June 13, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- June 27, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)