



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.

May 23, 2023

Two incumbents and two new Board Members take oath of office

David Salcido and Dr. Karla Duran are officially members of the Board of Trustees. Salcido represents Single Member District 1, a seat previously held by Trustee Joseph H. Medina. Duran represents Single Member District 3, a seat previously held by Trustee M'Lissa M. Chumbley. In addition, Gerald B. Lopez, District 2 Trustee, and Robert Blount, Jr., District 4 Trustee, were re-elected for additional four-year terms. All four were sworn in by Judge Sid Harle.

Trustees elect Bobby Blount as new Board President

Trustees elected Bobby Blount as the president of the School Board, with Corinne Saldana elected Vice President, and Gerald Lopez as Secretary.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Pillars of Character Pep Rally.** Dr. Craft attended a Pillars of Character Pep Rally at Murnin ES. He stated that it was great seeing all the students so excited and thanked **Principal Amber Freeman** and her staff.
- **Student Voice Meetings.** Dr. Craft reported that he held two Student Voice listening sessions in the district to garner feedback from those who are impacted the most by what we do – our students. Not only were the students incredibly articulate, they were also very appreciative highlighting the programs they had the opportunity to engage in over the past 13 years. The feedback received will prove beneficial to ensuring we are continuously working to improve the overall learning experience for our students in the future.
- **Superintendent Receptions.**
 - **Dr. Woods Retirement Reception:** We had a great turnout for the reception honoring Outgoing Superintendent Dr. Brian Woods and his wife Meredith and son Aiden.
 - **Dr. Craft Welcome Reception:** Dr. Craft shared appreciation for the recent welcome reception and thanked several district departments for their help with the event: **Jason Villasenor and Warehouse staff, Gabriela Reyna** and the **NISD Catering Staff, and Bill Bias** and the custodial staff at the **Northside Activity Center.**
- **FFA banquet at ASTA.** Dr. Crafted attend the Agriculture Science and Technology Academy's (ASTA) annual FFA banquet.
- **Strong Fathers/Strong Child event.** The Title 1 Even Start Family Literacy Program held a "Strong Father/Child Saturday" event to showcase the importance of male role models. Research shows that when dads engage in their child's education that child is a much stronger student. Thanks to **Dr. Kimberly Ridgley**, Executive Director of Whole Child Development; and **Brenda Faz-Villarreal**, Coordinator for coordinating the event.
- **A.C.O.R.N. event at O'Connor HS.** Dr. Craft reported that he attended this event where hundreds of elementary and middle school students came together to share how they have been transforming their campus outdoor environments and what they have learned along the way. The event included 47 booths with student exhibitors doing presentations on a variety of nature and sustainability topics.
- **NISD StoryFest.** He also attended Story Fest, a free and fun literacy event held at Vale MS this past weekend, that is geared toward elementary students (Pre-K through 5th grade) and included storytellers, national and local authors, book giveaways, summer reading promotions, and lots of opportunities to help young students develop a love of reading

- **Electrify Your Strings.** Craft attended the annual Electrify Your Strings this past weekend and enjoyed watching nearly 1,400+ elementary and secondary orchestra students and their teachers have fun learning to rock out.
- **Legislative Update.** Dr. Craft provided a brief legislative update.

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** referenced her experience on the Board and the Team of 8 as being extended family. She thanked Trustees **M'Lissa Chumbley** and **Joseph Medina** for their service of 28 and 8 years respectively. Freeman welcomed incoming Board members **David Salcido** and **Dr. Karla Duran**.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** honored outgoing Trustees **Joseph Medina** and **M'Lissa Chumbley** by reciting a poem by Theodore Roosevelt.
- **Trustee Joseph Medina** thanked voters in the recent election for having their voice heard. Medina acknowledged the delegation of elected officials who represent NISD and their efforts this current legislative session.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** attended an Alamo Community Colleges District event where discussion was held on the countdown to the current legislative session. She also attended the Destination College breakfast event hosted by UTSA. Saldana commended the Student Voice initiative being led by Dr. Craft to gather input from NISD seniors. She attended the **Holmes HS** Awards Night and was excited to see that the Class of 1977 student alumni group is still active in their efforts to raise scholarship money for Holmes students. Saldana enjoyed the recent Child Nutrition Awards event. She congratulated all NISD seniors set to graduate soon and also acknowledged the senior class sponsors. She thanked Director of Governmental Relations **Kelly Rasti** for her work monitoring the current legislative session. Saldana enjoyed attending the recent H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards event where the NISD Board was named the Outstanding Board in the State of Texas. She closed by thanking outgoing Trustees **Joseph Medina** and **M'Lissa Chumbley**.
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** visited with students from **Clark HS** and thanked **Trustee Harle** and Clark HS librarian **Lucy Podmore**. Chumbley also thanked **Dr. Craft** for hosting student voice meetings with select NISD seniors. She hosted an event at **Ross MS** honoring Community Liaison **Irene Zinsmeister** and thanked Principal **Faustino Ortega**. Chumbley attended the Child Nutrition Awards Luncheon and acknowledged the NISD Child Nutrition leadership staff including **Thomas Wherry** and **Pam Kniffen**. Chumbley appreciated all of those who contributed to the planning of her recent Retirement event, including **Diana Ely**, **Bill Bias**, **Dr. Brian Woods**, **Dr. John Folks**, **Stan Laing**, **Steve Chumbley**. She also acknowledged several student groups – the **Ross MS** Mariachi under the direction of **Jesus Gauchupin** and the **Marshall HS** Cheer team and sponsor **Victoria Johnson**. She also thanked the **ASTA** FFA Officers and students who attended the event and ASTA Floriculture teacher **Brittany Bowman** for the floral arrangement. Chumbley also acknowledge NISD staff members **Ray Galindo**, **Janis Jordan**, **Leroy San Miguel**, **Jacob Villarreal**, **Richard Reyes**, **Brian Wiggins**, **Jeremy Deck**, **Monica Guerra**, **Barry Perez**, **Monica Faulkenbery**, **Tamara Cook**, **James Miculka**, **Elizabeth Sanchez Lopez**, **Teri Yasgar**, **Guy Copenhaver**, **Darrell Friedrich**, **Keith Van Prooyen**, **Jason Gonzales**, **NISD Police**, **NISD Warehouse staff**, and **NISD Catering**. Chumbley acknowledged her fellow Trustees and congratulated **Gerald Lopez** and **Bobby Blount** on their reelection to the Board and new Trustees **David Salcido** and **Dr. Karla Duran**. She thanked the NISD community for their 28 years of support, and thanked all NISD employees for all they do everyday for our kids. She wished the Board the very best.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** has enjoyed participating in the newly formed **Brennan HS** Bear Watch program. He commended the staff responsible for taking care of the many athletic fields in the District. Blount thanked those who supported him in his successful reelection bid and appreciates the many NISD supporters.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** attended the Communities in Schools Keeping Kids in School luncheon where **O'Connor HS** alumni **Dr. Simran Jeet Singh** was the keynote speaker. Harle recognized **Stevens HS** Principal **Ryan Purtell** on being recognized by the CAST Network for his campuses partnership and support of the **CAST Teach Magnet** program. Harle was honored to be able to provide remarks on behalf of the Board at the **Jones MS STEM Magnet's** end of year event.

Recognitions

- **Taft HS, TMEA Invited Jazz Ensemble.** The Taft HS Jazz Ensemble was selected as the winner of the Texas Music Educators Association's Invited Jazz Ensemble Contest. This award signifies the Taft HS Jazz Band as the finest jazz program in Texas when assessed in a field of over 512 ensembles competing.
- **State Colorguard Championships.** This past spring the colorguard units from each of our high schools participated in the Texas Educational Colorguard Association's state contest NISD won four of the state championship classifications awards. The Board recognized three of the four – Harlan HS had a campus event. Those recognized were:
 - **Sotomayor HS**, TECA Scholastic Blue Classification State Champion for the show titled "True Colors."
 - **Taft HS**, TECA Scholastic AA Classification State Champion for the show titled "Gazing into the Sun."
 - **Warren HS**, TECA Scholastic Open State Champion for the show titled "Saturday Night Fever."
- Marshall HS, Indoor Percussion State Champions. The Marshall HS Indoor Percussion unit captured their second state championship award for the show titled, "To Tame the Perilous Skies" in honor of WWII great American Fighter Pilots.
- O'Connor HS, UIL Theater State Winner. O'Connor HSS Theater students brought home the second place UIL Award for Class 5A/6A in the State UIL Theatrical Design.
- Lathan Skrobarcek, UIL 6A Boys' Tennis Singles State Champion. Lathan Skrobarcek, a student at Harlan High School, is the 2023 UIL 6A Boys' Tennis Singles State Champion. Lathan has been playing in NISD since 8th grade and has a long list of accomplishments throughout his athletic career.
- **State Track Meet State winners.** Several NISD student athletes medaled at the recent state Track and Field competition. They are:
 - **Rafe Clendenin** from **Brandeis HS**, Gold Medal in Boys' Discus Throw, Coach is **Geoffrey Myles**
 - **Armando Acevedo** from **Brennan HS**, Silver Medal in Boys' High Jump, Coach is **Gus Ortiz**
 - **Caila Lyons** from **Brennan HS**, Silver Medal in Girls' 800m Run, Coach is **Fetima Jordan**
 - **Elicia Meairs** from **Stevens HS**, Silver Medal in Girls' Shot Put Wheelchair, **Coach is Tracy Hesson**
- Board of Trustees, 2023 H-E-B Excellence in Education Outstanding Board. The Board was recognized for being named the Outstanding Board in the State of Texas by H-E-B. The H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards are designed to honor outstanding public school professionals and to thank them for their dedication and commitment. The Outstanding School Board award is designated to recognize school boards that have demonstrated real leadership in the community that it serves based on three basic criteria: academic/student progress within the district; identification of community needs and specific actions taken based on those needs; and new and creative methods for community engagement. A panel of judges from across the state pick the winners after reviewing applications and interviewing the finalists. Since the program's inception in 2002, H-E-B has awarded more than \$13 million in funding to outstanding Texas teachers, principals, public school districts, school boards, and early childhood facilities.

Trustees discuss 2023-2024 Compensation Package

District staff presented to Trustees a general compensation proposal for the 2023-2024 school year. The proposal equates to an approximate 3% pay increase for all staff and would increase the general fund expenditure budget by approximately \$22.6 million. Trustees also heard a retention payment proposal developed to help retain existing employees and recruit new hires. The retention proposal would be paid using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to employees hired on or before Sept. 1, 2023. Payment amounts would be differentiated by employee categories.

Both the compensation and retention proposals were for discussion only and is expected to be considered by the Board at the Called Board meeting on June 13.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Sara Ramirez**, formerly associate principal at Allen Elementary School, was appointed **Principal at Allen Elementary School**.
- **Lance Enderlin**, formerly associate principal at Construction Careers Academy, was appointed **Principal at Construction Careers Academy**.
- **Vicki Kilpatrick**, formerly principal at Rhodes Elementary School, was appointed **Principal at McAndrew Elementary School**.
- **Aurelio Hernandez**, formerly associate principal at Warren High School, was appointed **Principal at Taft High School**.
- **Rachel Brisco**, formerly a teacher at Aue Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Cole Elementary School**.
- **Christina Escarcega**, formerly associate principal at Boldt Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Ellison Elementary School**.
- **Joshua Kuhlmann**, formerly associate principal at Leon Springs Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Henderson Elementary School**.
- **Amanda Munoz**, formerly associate principal at Powell Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Knowlton Elementary School**.
- **Shane Murnin**, formerly teacher at Murnin Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Lewis Elementary School**.
- **Manuel Ayala**, formerly teacher at Clark High School, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Harlan High School**.
- **Miguel Trevino**, formerly program coordinator at Marshall LMS, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Folks Middle School**.
- **Jeannette Hernandez Rainey**, formerly department coordinator at Brennan High School, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Stinson Middle School**.
- **Daisy Ponce**, formerly campus testing coordinator at O'Connor High School, was appointed **Assistant Principal at O'Connor High School**.
- **Gina Austin**, formerly assistant principal at Bandera ISD, was appointed **Academic Dean at Sotomayor High School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for electrical improvements for 2023 construction portables at various campuses – Central Electric Ent. & Co.
- Contractor for electrical improvements for 2023 summer portables at various campuses – Consolidated Electric Service, Inc.
- Contractor for gym floor replacement at Connally Middle School -- Jelco
- Contractor for MAC (Moving/Adding/Changing) Telecommunications Cabling for 2023 summer portables at various campuses – JLA Communications
- Contractor for portable relocations at various campuses – Dodson House Moving
- Contractor for SAWS Backflow Preventer Relocation - SBM General Contractor, LLC

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids: awards and recognition items; STEM supplies and materials; event ticketing, registration, and services; turf maintenance at various athletic fields; and environmental consultant services; custodial. Equipment. Purchase Orders were approved for: the City of San Antonio for Alamodome security event services for the 2023 graduation ceremonies for \$80,390; and to Brainpop.comLLC in the amount of \$319,860 for unlimited access to Brainpop, Brainpop jr., Brainpop Espanol, and Brainpop Francais. 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*
David Salcido, *Trustee, District 1*
Karla Duran, Ph.D., *Trustee, District 3*
Robert Blount, Jr., *Trustee, District 4*
Carol Harle, Ph.D., *Trustee, District 6*

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.)*

- 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)
- July 25, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Aug. 8, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- Aug. 22, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)