



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

June 27, 2023

Trustees hear annual SHAC report.

Trustees were presented with the end-of-year report from the 2022-2023 NISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) by Chair **Richard Crabb**. The SHAC is a group of individuals appointed by the school district who represent various segments of the community to provide recommendations to the District on coordinated school health programming and its impact on student health and learning. Crabb reported that the Council had subcommittees focusing on four areas: monitoring the progress of the District Wellness Policy, physical activity and fitness planning, family and community engagement, and social and emotional learning.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **STEM Sisters.** STEM Sisters Summer Camp was held at two locations, with four middle schools participating. Dr. Craft visited the Ross location and was impressed with the passion and ingenuity of both the teachers and the students. STEM Sisters Summer Camp is two weeks of girl power with lots of STEM activities to spark the interest of females who are often underrepresented in this field.
- **History Camp.** The Northside Museum Association held its first-ever summer history camp. Retired NISD teachers and Museum members taught the camp. Students learned how to press flowers and design a lunch pail, played "old-timey" games, visited the Huebner-Onion Homestead, and learned about Texas history and life from 100 years ago. Dr. Craft commented it was great to see the kids interacting and playing without electronics.
- **Newcomer Summer Literacy Academy.** The ESL program holds a showcase for middle school newcomer students at the end of their Summer Literacy Academy. They showcased our newcomer refugee and immigrant students' narrative stories as well as displayed their final projects from their course of study. It was a great way to celebrate diversity in the District. He noted that 90% of the students were from Afghanistan. Craft gave a special thanks to **Damaris Gutierrez**, ESL teacher and EL Coordinator at Rawlinson MS, and all the teachers who assisted with the academy.
- **Hiring Update.** We are still looking for general education and special education teachers, bus drivers, custodians, school nutrition employees, aids, and police officers. He is hoping that the 3% general pay increase and Retention Payment will be an incentive for people to remain. Dr. Craft also thanked the Board for the Juneteenth Resolution that allowed most employees to have an extra day off this year.
- **Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA).** The District has begun exploring the Teacher Incentive Allotment program to assist with teacher recruitment and retention efforts and reward high-performing educators.
- **Legislative Update.** Dr. Craft provided an update on several legislative items, including HB 3, which adds multiple school safety requirements without full funding; HB 114, which requires DAEP placement for E-cigarette violations, including possession; SB 10, which provides a supplemental payment to certain TRS employees and includes a Cost of Living Adjustment if voters approve of the measure in November; pending Senate and House legislation providing property tax relief, and more.
- **Board/Superintendent Goals.** We will start working on the Board/Superintendent Process and Goals in August when all Trustees can be in attendance.
- **2024-25 and 2025-26 District Calendar Process.** We will be establishing a calendar committee and working with the Northside Communication Network and the Northside Education Improvement Committee and will be surveying to collect important pre-committee information.

- **2023 Commencements.** Dr. Craft commended all the high school principals during their recent June Commencements and reported that 6,895 graduates walked, with **Brandeis High School** being the most efficient for a traditional comprehensive high school with 1 hour and 25 minutes. **Taft/Communications Arts High School** came in at 1 hour 36 minutes for a high school with a magnet school.
- **Video Moment:** [The video moment is a wrap-up and a look back at our 2023 graduation ceremonies.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee David Salcido** visited **Rhodes Elementary School** for a PreK promotion ceremony and was impressed with the many different ways that Principal **Vicki Kilpatrick** and staff work to educate children including painting multiplication tables on the stairways. He also talked about meeting with a custodian who loves working for NISD.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** commended the Fine Arts program and all they do during the summer months to keep students engaged.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** recently attended the STEM Sisters Camp and said it was great to meet the girls and see their excitement and knowledge. He also gave several presentations at the TASB Leadership Institutes in both San Antonio and Fort Worth. He challenged trustees across the state to really understand the Education Code and take to heart the idea that we are to prepare kids for society by encouraging more partnerships.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** thought graduations were awesome and remarked these are her favorite days of the year. She congratulated those who were recognized at the recent Retirement and Recognition ceremony and the Partner of the Year events. She also praised Joe Espinoza and his ISM presentation that she attended with Dr. Harle at Clark High School. She thanked Principal **Lawrence Carranco** for inviting her to give out paletas at Hobby Middle School during their 8th grade field day and thanked the parent volunteers for making it so successful. Saldana attended the recent summer TASB Leadership Institute and enjoyed the three days spent learning more about how to be good trustee.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** introduced **Renee Vasquez**, who is a 2016 graduate of **Communications Arts High School**, and the current reigning Reina de la Feria de las Flores. She has a passion for giving back to the community and strives to encourage the youth of San Antonio to believe in themselves and their dreams. She also praised the success of all the graduations this year and commented that each trustee shook about 900 hands and added that it is such a joyful time and the highlight of the year. Harle attended the Rising Stars production of Lion King, Jr. and praised the students from **Jay** and **Holmes** high schools, **Hobby, Jones, Neff, Pease, Rayburn, Ross, Rudder,** and **Zachry** middle schools, for their incredible performances.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** also attended the Lion King, Jr. performance and praised all the students for their great stage presence, along with the costuming and makeup, and set design. She congratulated the Trustees and Dr. Craft on a successful graduation week. Freeman attended a San Antonio City Council meeting with Trustee Blount and former Trustee **M'Lissa Chumbley**, where the Board was recognized for being named the Outstanding Board by H-E-B. She thanked Trustee Blount for his comments during the recognition..

Recognitions

- **Special Recognition.** Senator Jose Menéndez presented Dr. Brian Woods, retiring NISD Superintendent, a gavel as well as a resolution from the Bexar County Legislative Delegation recognizing his 31 years of service to the students and staff at NISD. Senator Menéndez also commended the Board for being named the Outstanding Board by the H-E-B Excellence in Education program.

Trustees approve Flexible School Day for Chavez Academy.

Trustees approved an optional flexible school day for the Chavez Academy for the 2023-2024 school year. This is an annual application that must be submitted to TEA if districts plan to participate in the Optional Flexible School Day Program. The goal of this program in NISD's Chavez Excel Academy is to improve graduation rates for students who are in danger of dropping out of school, have dropped out, or who are behind in core subject courses.

Trustees approve Alternative Certification Reimbursement Program.

In an effort to expand the teaching pool, especially in the areas of CTE, special education, math, science, and English, Trustees approved the Alternative Certification Reimbursement Program allowing those with a Bachelor's Degree to explore the opportunity to teach. The Alternative Certification Reimbursement Program would reimburse candidates up to \$5,000

upon finishing the program, attaining their Statement of Eligibility/Intern Certification, and agreeing to a three-year commitment.

Board representatives selected.

Trustees voted on Board appointments to several organizations:

TASB Delegate Assembly: **David Salcido** as delegate with **Gerald Lopez** as alternate

Board representative to the Northside Education Foundation: **Dr. Karla Duran**

Northside representative to the TASB Board of Directors: **Dr. Carol Harle**

Board representatives to the District Safety Committee: **Bobby Blount and David Salcido**

Trustees approve NISD Advocacy Resolution.

Trustees approved seven advocacy resolutions for submission to the Texas Association of School Boards' Delegate Assembly.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Adrian R. Gutierrez**, formerly Assistant Director for Student Information Systems, was appointed **Director of Student Information Systems**.
- **Kristina M. Diaz**, formerly Associate Principal at Krueger Elementary School, was appointed **Principal at Rhodes Elementary School**.
- **Christina B. Reyes**, formerly Administrative Intern at Kallison Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Allen Elementary School**.
- **Adrianna Martinez**, formerly a STEM teacher at Boldt Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Boldt Elementary School**.
- **Krista C. Ackles**, formerly Campus Program Coordinator at Construction Careers Academy, was appointed **Associate Principal at Construction Careers Academy**.
- **Elizabeth Puente**, formerly Administrative Intern at Esparza Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Esparza Elementary School**.
- **Rogelio Villalobos**, formerly Associate Principal at Passmore Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Leon Springs Elementary School**.
- **Shawn Marie Simmonds**, formerly Assistant Principal in Corpus Christi ISD, was appointed **Associate Principal at Glenoaks Elementary School**.
- **Amanda Fraser**, formerly Associate Principal at Michael Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Hoffmann Elementary School**.
- **Marissa Barboza**, formerly a teacher at Murnin Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Powell Elementary School**.
- **Dr. Brandon M. Tate**, formerly Administrative Intern at Rudder Middle School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Steubing Elementary School**.
- **Amanda Mayfield**, formerly Assistant Principal at Sotomayor High School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Warren High School**.
- **Ramses Escobedo**, formerly GT Coordinator at Brennan High School, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Harlan High School**.

- **Brandon G. Utterback**, formerly Department Coordinator at Stevens High School, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Sotomayor High School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for drainage upgrades at Stevens High School – W.R. Griggs Construction Co.
- Contractor for generator and UPS replacement at Richland Hills Data/Support Services – Central Electric Ent. & Co.
- Contractor for ramp replacement at O’Connor High School – Dodson House Moving
- Contractor for rehabilitation of structural piers at Glenn Elementary School– SBM General Constructor, LLC
- Contractor for roof replacement at Mary Hull Elementary School – Port Enterprises, Ltd.
- Consultant for multi-zone/unit vent replacement at Allen Elementary School – Wallis Engineering Group, Inc.
- Consultant for athletic flooring and lighting upgrades at Marshall High School – NextGen Architects, LLC
- Consultant for canopy upgrades at Northside Alternative High School – Persyn Engineering

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: uniforms for Child Nutrition; reading intervention services; Fine Arts consultant services; wastewater treatment routine maintenance and operation; chain link fence material and installation; water quality, detention pond services, and inspection; and student/athletic catastrophic and felonious insurance. For more information, contact the Purchasing Department at 210-397-8700.

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| <p>You may mail correspondence to:</p> <p>Trustees c/o NISD 5900 Evers Road San Antonio, TX 78238</p> <p>You may email them at info@nisd.net.</p> <p>For additional information, call 210-397-8770.</p> | <p><u>Board of Trustees</u> Bobby Blount, <i>President, District 4</i> Corinne Saldaña, <i>Vice President, District 5</i> Gerald B. Lopez, <i>Secretary, District 2</i> David Salcido, <i>Trustee, District 1</i> Karla Duran, Ph.D., <i>Trustee, District 3</i> Carole Harle, Ph.D., <i>Trustee, District 6</i> Karen Freeman <i>Trustee, District 7</i></p> <p><u>Administration</u> 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</p> |
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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.)*

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