



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

July 25, 2023

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Newcomers Summer Literacy Academy.** The ESL program held a showcase for elementary school newcomers students at Colonies North ES highlighting our newcomer refugee and immigrant students' narrative stories and projects. It is exciting to see and celebrate diversity in the District. We will be adding a new Newcomers Program at Thornton Elementary School this coming school year as our refugee population continues to grow.
- **Community Impact interview.** Dr. Craft was interviewed on July 15 by the Community Impact newspaper regarding the future of the district.
- **Vacancy Report.** Currently, the District is working to fill 271 classroom teacher vacancies – 168 general education and 103 special education positions. To date, the District has hired approximately 690 new teachers. A retire/rehire initiative is underway to rehire certified retired educators, if they are eligible.
- **Legislative Update.** Dr. Craft testified before the House Select Committee on Education Opportunity and Enrichment. The testimony by Dr. Craft and others addressed the current TRS surcharge for the rehiring of retired educators, charter school expansion, the underfunding of public education, academic accountability, and education savings account (ESA) vouchers, among other items.
- **Video Moment:** In just short three weeks this summer, secondary students participating in the Rising Stars Theater Camp at Holmes High School performed The Lion King, Jr. It was incredible what these teachers and students accomplished in such a short time [Take a look.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** is working with Ross MS Family & Community Involvement Liaison Irene Zinsmeister to host a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren backpack donation event to benefit students from the Holmes HS feeder pattern. The group's purpose is to identify grandparents raising grandchildren and provide them relevant support services. Lopez thanked the following individuals and groups for their assistance and support: Ross MS Principal Faustino Ortega, Irene Zinsmeister, former NISD Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley, Assistant Superintendent for Whole Child Dr. Kim Ridgley, Michelle Montemayor and the NISD Council of PTA's, Northside American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the San Antonio Firefighters Association, City Public Service (CPS), and the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). The event is scheduled for Aug. 12 at the Northside Activity Center beginning at 8 a.m.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** thanked Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Janis Jordan for her help in putting together helpful information on the various District committees available for public participation. Blount also thanked all NISD high schools for hosting so many community groups on their campus athletic fields.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** thanked the NISD Grants & Recognitions Dept. and Director Sharon Sanchez for their work facilitating the grant process in the District. Harle attended a recent Teachers Fest hosted by San Antonio Leaders & Teachers (SALT). Harle appreciates all of the summer programs taking place across the District.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** shared that RootEd and Raise Your Hand Texas is hosting a panel of lawmakers and area school superintendents to speak on public education items from the recent legislative session. The event will take place July 29 at the Alamo Convocation Center.

Budget Update

District staff presented to Trustees the preliminary 2023-2024 General Fund, Child Nutrition and Debt Service budgets. There will be a called Board meeting on Aug. 8 to call for the public hearing to be held at the August 22 regular Board meeting. District staff also presented to Trustees the action required with Local Revenue in Excess of Entitlement as determined by the Texas Education Agency. The District will not have excess revenue in 2023-24 and will therefore not have to pay recapture.

Trustees hear solar energy evaluation

In an effort to evaluate ways to conserve energy, a study was conducted by a Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing (MEP) consultant to explore cost and energy savings to the District. Trustees heard a presentation regarding a solar energy concept and a case study of what that could look like at an existing NISD elementary school campus.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Stephanie Janik**, formerly Associate Principal at Oak Hills Terrace ES, was appointed **Principal at Fields ES.**
- **Nancy Garcia**, formerly Bilingual teacher at Myers ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Braun Station ES.**
- **Eryn Bell**, formerly math instructional coach, was appointed **Associate Principal at Evers ES.**
- **Lindsay Kent**, formerly instructional support teacher in Curriculum & Instruction, was appointed **Associate Principal at Helotes ES.**
- **Shannon De La Cruz**, formerly Special Education coordinator at Cody ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Howsman ES**
- **Christina Lakey**, formerly Special Education coordinator at Franklin ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Krueger ES.**
- **Lauren Masters**, formerly ESL teacher at McDermott ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Michael ES.**
- **Nicole Wall**, formerly, administrative intern at Passmore ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Passmore ES.**
- **Christina M. Lozano**, formerly Assistant Principal at Rudder MS, was appointed **Associate Principal at Ross MS.**
- **Juan Carlos Carreno**, formerly Special Education coordinator, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Holmes HS.**
- **Pete Pruneda III**, formerly Assistant Principal at Warren HS, was appointed **Associate Principal at Harlan HS.**
- **Linda Luna**, formerly Associate Principal at Jay Science & Engineering Academy, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Sotomayor HS.**

Board/Superintendent goals approved

The Board of Trustees approved the 2023-24 Board/Superintendent goals. They will be posted to the NISD website at a later date.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for additions/renovations at Hobby MS Magnet School – D. Wilson Construction Company
- Contractor for boiler replacement at Paul Taylor Field House – L.C. Mosel Company
- Contractor for chiller replacement at Brandeis High School – Victoria Air Conditioning, Ltd.
- Contractor for shower flower repair at Stevenson Middle School – Jamail & Smith Construction, LP
- Consultant for infrastructure on school safety grant program – Combs Consulting Group
- Schematic design for athletics and CTE upgrades at Neff Middle School – Garza Architects
- Long-range energy plan to reduce the district's annual electric consumption as presented by staff
- Change Orders:
 - Taft HS fume hood replacements (\$100,000 credit)
 - Stinson MS ESSER mechanical upgrades (\$130,093 add)
 - Holmgreen and Reddix Centers, ESSER mechanical upgrades (\$156,241 add)
 - Northwest Crossing ES, ESSER mechanical upgrades (\$241,460 add)

Readings of policy:

- Review of Legal Policies in TASB Update 121
- First reading of Local Policies in TASB Update 121

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: professional development services and related material; curriculum and instructional supplies; custodial supplies; prepared foods and catering services; student and family educational engagement services; keynote, motivational speakers, and related materials; Chromebook replacement parts; restroom trailers; ancillary benefits; and hardware for Child Nutrition technology. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: \$57,545 to EAS Educaide Software for the purchase of Problem-Attic School Software subscription; \$72,660 to Screencastify LLC for the purchase of video screen-capturing software for instructional purposes; \$51,714 to Proquest LLC for library software; and \$50,594 to Unified Refrigeration for equipment and supplies for the Maintenance Department. 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

Bobby Blount, President, District 4
Corinne Saldaña, Vice President, District 5
Gerald B. Lopez, Secretary, District 2
David Salcido, Trustee, District 1
Karla Duran, Ph.D., Trustee, District 3
Carole Harle, Ph.D., Trustee, District 6
Karen Freeman Trustee, District 7

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.)

- 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)
- Sept. 26, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Oct. 24, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road, (Regular Board Meeting)
- Nov. 14, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Dec. 12, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)