



Inside Northside

# BOARDTalk

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

**August 22, 2023**

## Superintendent's Report

**Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:**

- **Support Leadership Institute.** The Support Leadership Institute held on July 26 went well. The event included a successful Stuff the Bus school supply drive thanks to donations from staff and special thanks to Southwest Research Institute who dropped off a truck load of supplies.
- **Servant Leadership Summit.** Working collaboratively, the NISD Athletics and Whole Child departments hosted a great Servant Leadership Summit with hundreds of students, coaches, and parents participating. With the theme, "We Are F.A.M.I.L.Y." (Forget About Me I Love You), the focus was on mental health, hope, and family. Students shared helpful tips and insights, and speakers from the world of Athletics and our Counseling Dept. provided priceless strategies. Special thanks to Assistant Superintendent of Athletics **Stan Laing** and Assistant Superintendent of Whole Child **Dr. Kimberly Ridgely** for helping to organize the event.
- **Enrichment Academies.** NISD kicked off the school year on Aug. 7 at two Enrichment Academies - **Cable** and **Westwood Terrace** elementary schools. Principals **Tom Knapp** (Westwood Terrace) and **Debra Pinon** (Cable) and their staff had a great start to the year. Texas Land Commissioner **Dr. Dawn Buckingham** had the opportunity to visit Cable ES during their first day.
- **Leadership Institute.** The school year began for District leaders at the annual district-wide Leadership Institute hosted at Warren HS. The video of this institute presentation has been made available on the District website.
- **Northside Education Foundation (NEF).** The Superintendent had the opportunity to meet with the NEF Board, including NEF Board President **Emily Persyn**.
- **Safety First.** The Communications Dept. has launched the [2023-2024 Safety First campaign](#) that includes vaping information for parents and students.
- **Custodial & maintenance team meeting.** Dr. Craft enjoyed meeting custodial and maintenance department team members and thanked dept. directors **Jeremy Deck** and **Micky Hansen**.
- **Internship Program.** Dr. Craft joined in celebrating numerous district interns as a part of SA Works at the Witte Museum.
- **Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (TXGRG) Backpack & Resource Fair.** TXGRG held a backpack and resource fair at NAC on Aug. 12 providing the opportunity for grandparents to start the year with a backpack filled with school supplies, and the opportunity to talk to several agencies about various resources.
- **Jay HS Cluster Event.** The **Jay HS** cluster hosted a back-to-school event at the San Antonio Food Bank. The event was well-attended and provided numerous resources to those who attended.

- **New Teacher Academy.** District staff hosted two New Teacher academies at **Brandeis HS** for both elementary and secondary staff.
- **Block Walk.** Dr. Craft joined approximately 500 teachers from **Ross MS** and **Esparza, Linton, Martin, Powell,** and **Villarreal** elementary schools as well as NISD Board members, and invited elected officials to walk the community. Their goal was to visit as many families as possible and greet students before the first day of school.
- **Convocations 2023.** The first day of District Convocations began Aug. 22 with the theme: **Team Northside: One Team, One Vision.** Convocation will continue Aug. 23-24. Convocation pictures can be found on Employee Connection under “Announcements.”
- **Staffing Update.** Dr. Craft provided an update to the Trustees on the current staffing situation in the District. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources **Ben Muir** and his dept. have made significant progress in ensuring vacancy numbers continue to drop.
- **First Day of School.** NISD schools will be open and ready to welcome approximately 102,000 students on Aug. 28.

## Board Members’ Report

- **Trustee David Salcido** attended and enjoyed the first two Convocation events and had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Board at one.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** participated in the recent TXGRG community event where over 250 backpacks were distributed and various service providers were on hand to help families. He thanked the following individuals: TXGRG Executive Director **Mercedes Bristol**, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning **Diana Ely**, Assistant Superintendent of Whole Child **Dr. Kim Ridgley**, **Dr. Craft**, Trustee **Bobby Blount**, Ross MS Principal **Faustino Ortega**, and Ross MS Family & Community Liaison **Irene Zinsmeister**. Lopez also attended the Ross MS Block Walk which was featured by local media and even included a surprise visit by the Spurs Coyote. Following the first day of Convocation, Lopez shared appreciation to the Fine Arts Dept., Assistant Superintendent of Communications **Barry Perez** and the Communications Dept., as well as the Athletics and Police departments for their contributions to the event.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** attended the Summer Graduation event and thanked staff who worked summer school and helped to prep summer graduates. Duran thanked community members for supporting the various back-to-school supply drives and acknowledged, in particular, the efforts of Communities in Schools (CIS) in “stuff the bus” events. She also acknowledged the efforts of all those working to hire staff in preparation for the new school year.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** complimented Dr. Craft on two great Convocation events. He thanked **Trustee Lopez** for his work with the recent TXGRG backpack event. Blount participated in the **Ross MS** Block Walk and enjoyed connecting with staff and community members.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** enjoyed attending the Servant Leadership Summit and the **Ross MS** Block Walk events. She also enjoyed day one of Convocations and acknowledged the Fine Arts and Athletics departments for their work. Saldana also enjoyed attending the New Teacher Academies. She reminded Trustees that volleyball season is off to a great start and that football season will open on Aug. 24.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** thanked Assistant Superintendents **Stan Laing** (Athletics) and **Dr. Kim Ridgley** (Whole Child) for their efforts in organizing the Servant Leadership Summit and acknowledged event speaker **Stephen Mackey**. Harle attended a recent Bexar County Education Coalition meeting and briefed fellow Trustees.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** congratulated Dr. Craft on his first day of Convocations. She made Trustees aware of a future Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards (TASA/TASB) convention. Freeman congratulated **Trustee Saldana** on being accepted to Leadership TASB.

## Public Hearing on Budget and Proposed Tax Rate

A public hearing was held to discuss the budget and proposed tax rate for 2023-2024.

## Board Adopts 2023-2024 Budget

Trustees approved the 2023-2024 budgets for the General Fund, Child Nutrition Fund, and Debt Service Fund.

## **Trustees approve tax rates for 2023-2024**

The Board approved an ordinance fixing and levying the ad valorem taxes for the 2023-2024 school year. The total adopted tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation is \$1.0117 (\$0.6762 for Maintenance and Operations and \$0.3355 for Interest and Sinking).

## **Trustees approve administrative appointments:**

- **Kelly Rasti**, formerly the Director of Governmental Relations for Northside ISD, was appointed **Executive Director for Community Outreach and District Advocacy**.
- **Jean Karst**, formerly the Campus Program Coordinator at Jay Science & Engineering Academy, was appointed **Associate Principal at Jay Science & Engineering Academy**.
- **Anna Villanueva**, formerly a teacher at Leon Valley ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Oak Hills Terrace Elementary School**.
- **Michael Ramos**, formerly an Assistant Principal at Comal ISD, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Warren High School**.
- **Catelyn Vasquez**, formerly an Administrative Intern at East Central ISD, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Rudder Middle School**.

## **Board approves facilities items:**

- Exterior/interior colors for building replacement at Westwood Terrace ES – Pfluger Architects, Inc.
- Exterior colors for administration suite replacement & energy control upgrades at Rayburn MS – Garza/Bomberger & Associates
- Contractor for athletic upgrades at Marshall HS – SBM General Contractors, LLC
- Contractor for boiler replacement at Brauchle ES – L.C. Mosel, Co.
- Contractor for chiller replacement at Burke ES – L.C. Mosel, Co.
- Schematic design for additions/renovations for the new Digital Media Magnet School at Jordan MS – Pfluger Architects, Inc.
- Schematic design for building replacement at Esparza ES -- Kaarlsen Noonan Rittimann Garcia Architecture

## **Readings of policy:**

- Second reading and adoption of AF (Local)

## **Bids for goods approved**

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: instrument repairs, athletic uniforms, concert, guard, dance, spirit uniforms, and accessories; elevator maintenance service, vehicles, and COBRA and Cafeteria Plan administration (Section 125, Flexible Spending Account, and Dependent Care). Trustees approved the following purchase orders: Techmart Computer Products, Inc. DBA Scantex Business Systems for \$51,854 for the purchase of calculators for the High School Math and Science Departments districtwide; Mar Speech Therapy, LLC for \$357,525 for the purchase of contracted speech therapy for direct speech and language services and documentation; and to Stoney Ridge, Inc. dba San Antonio Sound & Light (SASL) for \$129,663 for the purchase of 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](mailto: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.**  
**Assistant Superintendent 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.)*

- 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)