



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

September 26, 2023

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Team Northside spirit stick.** The Spirit Stick from Convocations has made its way around the district keeping the Northside spirit alive. So far, recipients have included the Fine Arts Department, Maintenance & Facilities, Reed Elementary, Marshall HS/Marshall Law and Magnet Services, and Tomlinson ES.
- **Higher Education Partners.** Dr. Craft met with **Dr. Salvador Ochoa**, the new president of **Texas A&M University/San Antonio**, which is the fastest-growing University in the A&M System currently. The University made a significant announcement of expanding upon the Achiever Promise program, which covered the top 10% of high school seniors. The new Jaguar Promise casts a wider net to serve even more students across the state. Eligibility requirements have expanded to include the top 11% to 35% of seniors graduating from a Texas high school with a family-adjusted gross income of \$70,000 or less; students graduating from an Early College High School with at least 30 credit hours; and transfer students with an associate degree or 60 credit hours who have a family-adjusted gross income of \$70,000 or less. Dr. Craft also met with **Dr. Amy Bosley**, the new President of **Northwest Vista College**. They had a great conversation regarding the dual credit program and ways to potentially grow a partnership, programming, and expand opportunities for NISD students in the future. He plans to meet with UTSA leadership in the future.
- **Northside Leadership Academy.** Dr. Craft reported that the Northside Leadership Academy had its second meeting of the year and commended the Leadership development team for their hard work.
- **CAST Teach Pinning Ceremony.** Dr. Craft, CAST Teach HS Principal Ericka Olivarez, and Executive Director of CAST Schools Jeanne Russell participated in the pinning ceremony of the incoming freshmen and sophomores (and future educators) at CAST Teach HS.
- **KSAT Conversation on Vaping.** The District continues to push education and awareness to students and parents on the adverse effects of vaping. Dr. Craft recently participated in a conversation with KSAT on this topic.
- **PTA Delegate Meeting/Kick-Off.** It was a packed Northside Activity Center for the first meeting with the NISD PTA Council.
- **Colonies North building improvements.** The Colonies North Elementary School campus improvements, originally included in the 2022 Bond Proposal which the community graciously approved, included the first phase of facility improvements. The original scope of work is being amended to address structural deficiencies. As a result, Dr. Craft met the staff and Citizen Bond Advisory Committee to present the revised plan.
- **Region 20 Safety Audits.** School safety audits will continue this school year and will be conducted by the Education Service Center, Region 20.
- **Raise Your Hand Texas Event.** Several local lawmakers were recognized by Raise Your Hand Texas (RYHT) at an event hosted at CAST Teach HS. Honored by the RYHT group were State Senator José Menéndez, and State Representatives Trey Martinez-Fisher and Josey Garcia. The group also had the opportunity to tour the District's newest high school magnet program.

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee David Salcido** as a first-year Trustee has set a goal to visit all of the District's campuses. To date, he has visited 21 schools.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** announced that the Alamo Colleges District will be hosting an event on Oct. 7 in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Lopez honored local realtor **Michael Williams** for his generous donation of food and clothes to the **Ross MS** community.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** invited Trustees to attend a Dual Credit Conference being held on Oct. 14 at St. Philip's College where Dr. Craft will be a featured speaker. In honor of Human Resources Professionals Day, Duran thanked the NISD HR team for their hard work.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** attended the pre-conference of the Mexican-American School Board Association (MASBA). He shared that school district trustees will have many opportunities to collaborate this month with the various conferences and professional development opportunities available to them.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** is proud to say that the football season is her favorite time of year and she has enjoyed attending many NISD football games. She has enjoyed seeing so many parents in attendance. Saldana thanked the coaches, trainers, student trainers, and stadium personnel for their work and efforts. She enjoyed visiting **CAST Teach** and **Holmes** high schools. Saldana had the opportunity to visit a Northwest Vista math class and enjoyed visiting with a NISD student in the class. She looks forward with
- **Trustee Carol Harle** feels the school year is off to a great start and enjoyed visiting **Rawlinson MS** on the first day. She acknowledged NISD librarians **Lucy Podmore** and **Sheryl Stoeck** for a successful Library Palooza Book Reveal event. Harle then attended an e-sports kick-off event which had a great turnout from both students and families. Harle thanked **Dr. Kim Ridgley**, Assistant Superintendent of Whole Child, for her facilitation of the District's Be Well, Stay Well initiative. She also honored **Health Careers HS** graduate and author **Lorenzo Gomez** for his ability to share his personal experiences so meaningfully in his writing. Harle also attended the Mayor's Fitness Council Student Ambassadors Community Partner Night where several NISD students were honored: **Lewis Haynes, Zackeri Carrasco, Tessa Fontenot, and Mayrah Arain**.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** said the recent Raise Your Hand Texas event hosted at **CAST Teach HS** was a wonderful opportunity to honor several elected officials and to tour the campus.

Recognitions

- **EXCEL Award Winner. Dominique Roose**, an eighth grade Social Studies teacher at **Folks Middle School**, was named the 2023-24 KENS 5 EXCEL Award Winner during a surprise announcement at the school. [The video of the news story was shown and is found here.](#)
- **All-Star Athlete. Jackson Gutierrez**, a senior at **Jay Science and Engineering Academy**, was selected as the 2023-24 KENS5 Great Day SA All-Star Athlete.
- **Trustees sign Declaration of Respect.** On Oct. 6, all NISD students and staff will be invited to sign a Declaration of Respect as part of the District's anti-bullying initiatives. Counselors have been equipped with training, materials, and lessons for classroom presentations that teach necessary skills to students to promote a safe, respectful, and healthy school climate. Members of the Board of Trustees signed their own Declaration of Respect, as a show of support for the program spearheaded by the NISD Counseling Department led by **Mary Libby**. Dr. Craft signed on behalf of NISD staff.

Attendance zone reviewed for newest elementary school

Trustees heard the administrative boundary proposal for "Village at WestPointe West Area" Elementary School and a boundary adjustment prior to the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC) meeting and the Public Hearing on Oct. 25. The SBAC, assisted by staff, will review the staff proposal, study relevant data, conduct a public hearing, analyze information as required by policy, and make formal recommendations to the Board concerning attendance zones. Elementary schools involved in the proposal are **Cole** and **Galm** elementary schools. "Village at WestPointe West Area" ES will open in August 2024 and is funded by School Bond 2022.

Board hears report regarding One Pass Select

The Board considered a proposal from the Benefits Department about One Pass Select, a subscription-based fitness and well-being program that supports a healthier lifestyle. Employees can have access to thousands of gyms and online classes with flexible fitness options, a grocery delivery subscription, etc.

Trustees hear 24-month ESSER update

It is a requirement to provide an update to the Board of Trustees at six-month intervals regarding the use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. The evening's presentation represented a 24-month update.

Good Cause Exception Resolution

Citing a lack of qualified personnel and lack of revenue, the Board approved a resolution claiming a good cause exemption to recent legislation requiring at least one armed security officer at each district campus. The Board recently approved adding 20 commissioned peace officers to the District's police dept. but assert that at least 75 officers would need to be added to meet the state's requirement.

Board discusses longevity pay for police officers

The Board approved a proposal from Administration to offer longevity pay and stipends to NISD police officers who have licensing from TCOLE as a recruitment and retention strategy.

Naming of newest elementary school

Trustees voted to name the District's 83rd elementary school for former NISD Trustee M'Lissa M. Chumbley. Chumbley, a graduate of Marshall High School, served on the NISD Board for 28 years. She continues to be a lifelong volunteer and advocate for public education. The school, formerly referred to as "Village at WestPointe West Area" ES, will open in August 2024.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Shannon Zavala**, formerly Assistant Principal at Jordan Middle School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Jordan Middle School**.
- **Jill Chudej-Garcia**, formerly a GT teacher at Brauchle Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Meadow Village Elementary School**.
- **Ivan Castillo**, formerly the head counselor at CAST Teach High School, was appointed **Academic Dean at Vale Middle School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Interior colors for administration suite replacement & energy control upgrades at Rayburn MS – Garza/Bomberger & Associates
- Contractor for boiler replacement at Rudder MS – L.C. Mosel Company, Ltd.
- Contractor for chiller and energy controls replacement at O'Connor HS – L.C. Mosel Company, Ltd.
- Contractor for mechanical upgrades at Cody ES – Baron-Long Construction, Ltd.

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: musical instruments and supplies; art supplies and equipment; ROTC military science equipment and supplies; HVAC Control System parts, repairs, and maintenance; and maintenance supplies and services. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: San Antonio Education Fund for \$72,000 for support services for Clark, Holmes, Jay, Marshall, Stevens, and Taft high schools; Tiger Sanitation for \$30,434 for sanitation services for schools within city of Leon Valley; and purchasing cooperative fees for \$1,897. 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*
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Karla Duran, Ph.D., *Trustee, District 3*
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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. 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.)*

- 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)