



Inside Northside

# BOARDTalk

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

**October 24, 2023**

## **Superintendent's Report**

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

- **Northside Communications Network (NCN).** Campus representatives on the Northside Communications Network (NCN) have participated in their first NCN meeting for the school year. New this year is the option for campus representatives to participate virtually. The forum hosts various topics and areas of inquiry from the representatives.
- **Volunteer of the Year.** The SA Food Bank honored former NISD Assistant Superintendent for Student, Family, and Community Services Don Schmidt with their Volunteer of the Year award.
- **NEF Golf Tournament.** The NEF annual golf tournament was a huge success raising nearly \$70,000 for the Foundation.
- **Dual Credit Presentation.** Dr. Craft had the opportunity to provide a keynote address at an event hosted by the Alamo Colleges District on the topic of dual credit opportunities.
- **Red Ribbon Week.** Schools across the District are preparing for Red Ribbon Week activities stressing the importance of remaining drug-free.
- **Student Voice.** Several Trustees joined the Superintendent in a recent forum held with high school seniors from several campuses to seek their input and feedback. Additional student voice forums are planned.
- **CAST Teach Ribbon Cutting.** While CAST Teach High School welcomed students last school year, its official school building was recently completed and opened its doors for the 2023-2024 school year. Students, staff, and families celebrated the Official Ribbon-Cutting event on Oct. 18. This innovative program is preparing the next generation of educators.
- **Kick-Off Events.** The District celebrated two kick-off events: middle school e-sports and bowling competitions. Both events were well attended and spirited.
- **Parade of Nations.** Colonies North ES students and staff hosted their annual Parade of Nations event which featured a showcase of over 30 nations.
- **Legislative Update.** Dr. Craft provided an update on the current called legislative special session and reiterated that he will continue to advocate for educators and public education.
- **Early Voting.** Early voting began Oct. 23 and will run through Nov. 3. Election Day is Nov. 7. This was a reminder to exercise your right and vote.

## **Board Members' Report**

- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** joined other school district trustees and school district law enforcement officials in participating in a discussion on school safety. He thanked NISD Police Chief Charlie Carnes for his participation as well.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** thanked the NISD community for their high level of support and volunteerism.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** in addition to attending the student voice forum, the Parade of Nation at **Colonies North ES**, and the **CAST Teach HS** ribbon cutting, also had the opportunity to see all 12 NISD HS bands compete at the UIL Marching Competition and applauded their hard work. Saldana also recognized **Brandeis HS** Athletic Director **Charles Bruce** for showing support for the school's band at their recent Homecoming game. Saldana also attended a Go Public breakfast, the Be Well, Stay Well employee wellness event, Ag in Action, and an NSITE virtual business

launch. She acknowledged Bandera Bowl for their support of the NISD bowling teams and for hosting their kick-off event.

- **Trustee Carol Harle** attended the **CAST Teach HS** ribbon cutting and enjoyed the opportunity to highlight the students and teachers as well as the partners in this magnet program: CAST Schools Network and UTSA's College of Education and Human Development. Harle applauded the students and staff at **Colonies North ES** on their Parade of Nations event and appreciated event speaker **Haroon Monis**, a teacher at **Rawlinson MS**. She also enjoyed participating in the student voice forum, the bowling team's kick-off event, and the Be Well, Stay Well event, where she had the opportunity to co-present.

## Recognitions

- **Purple Star Campus Designations.** Ten NISD campuses earned the Purple Star Campus Designation for the 2023-2024 school year from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). They are **Behlau, Mora, Scarborough, and Wernli** elementary school; **Bernal** and **Luna** middle school; and **Brennan, Harlan, Jay, and Stevens** high schools. The Purple Star Campus Designation recognizes Texas district and charter schools that show their support and commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families. This special honor was created effective April 9, 2020, by the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.
- **2022-2023 Northside Leadership Academy Cohort.** Trustees recognized district staff members who completed the 2022-2023 Cohort of the Northside Leadership Academy (NLA). NLA is a district initiative to develop aspiring campus and department leaders and includes a year-long course of informational sessions and practice.

## Public hearing: NISD earns highest financial rating 21 years in a row

Assistant Superintendent for Budget & Finance Tiffany Contreras reported that for the 21st year in a row, Northside ISD has received the highest rating of "Superior Achievement" under the state's financial accountability rating system, called the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). The primary goal of School FIRST is to improve the management of school district's financial resources. The School FIRST rating is based upon analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2021-2022 school year, and budgetary and financial data for the 2022 fiscal year. As required by state law, Northside ISD announced and held a public meeting to distribute a financial management report that explains the District's performance under each of 20 indicators and the District's rating.

## Board approves insurance carrier

Trustees considered and approved the renewal of Westchester as the provider for Property and Boiler Machinery Insurance coverage.

## Budget amendment approved

Trustees approved Budget Amendment No. 1 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Amendments include an increase to General Fund expenditures of \$2.2 million with the majority represented by special education positions, repairs to Transportation North Station, and Police Dept. longevity pay. No amendments will be made to the Child Nutrition and Debt Service funds.

## Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Sergio Martinez**, formerly Special Education Coordinator at Southwest ISD, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Jordan Middle School**.

## Board approves facilities items:

- Exterior colors for the new Magnet addition at **Hobby MS**-- Alamo Architects.
- Exterior/Interior colors for Chumbley **ES** -- Nextgen Architects.
- Contractor for Energy Control Upgrades at **Rhodes ES** -- Yates Company, LLC
- Contractor for Fire Alarm Upgrades at **Ott ES** -- Consolidated Electric Service, Inc.
- Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades at **Leon Valley ES** -- CGC General Contractors, Inc.
- Contractor for Roof Replacement at **Boone ES** -- Port Enterprises, Ltd.
- Contractor for Surveillance Camera Upgrades at Various Campuses --JLA Communications, LLC
- Consultant for chiller replacement at **Zachry MS** -- Silber & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- Consultant for chiller replacement for **Jones MS** and **Raba ES** -- KCA Engineers, Inc

- Construction Manager-at-Risk for upgrades at **Agriculture Science & Technology Academy (ASTA)** at **O'Connor HS** – Joeris General Contractors, LLC
- Construction Manager-at-Risk for building upgrades at **Colonies North ES** – Joeris General Contractors, LLC
- Change orders :
  - **Jay HS**, addition of temporary parking lot – (\$119,286.00) (add)
  - **Carlos Coon ES**, Boiler Replacement – (\$61,660.00) (credit)

**Bids for goods approved**

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: technology and related equipment recycling; diploma covers and sheets to Jostens, Inc.; theatrical equipment and supplies; and uniform dry cleaning and alterations for middle and high schools. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: Deaf interpreter service for \$50,000 under the CTPA Interlocal Agreement with North East ISD. 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**  
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**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.)

- 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)
- Jan. 23, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)