



Inside Northside

BOARD *Talk*

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

Nov. 14, 2023

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Veteran's Day.** Many events took place at campuses across the District in recognition of Veteran's Day. Dr. Craft thanked all veterans for their service and recognized Trustees **Bobby Blount** and **David Salcido** for their service.
- **NEF Gala.** The annual gala event hosted by the Northside Education Foundation (NEF) was a great success and the fundraising portion of the event surpassed last year's efforts. Dr. Craft recognized the NEF Board, Executive Director of Community Outreach and District Advocacy **Kelly Rasti**, and all staff and volunteers who assisted with the event.
- **Red Ribbon Week.** Campuses across the District support activities during Red Ribbon Week. Dr. Craft attended two of these events. **Hobby MS** hosted Red Ribbon activities that included students from **Clark HS. Mary Hull ES** returned to their long-standing tradition of hosting a Red Ribbon Week parade which has been a point of pride for their community.
- **Anniversary Events.** Several NISD campuses are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year: **O'Connor HS, Connally MS, and Carson ES.**
- **Athletic Celebrations:** Multiple NISD campuses and athletic teams are celebrating successful seasons. **Brandeis HS** girl's water polo team celebrates their recent Bronze medal award at the state competition. The **Harlan HS** volleyball team will be competing in the state tournament. Three football teams in the District are competing in the area round of the state playoffs this week: **Brennan, Jay, and Harlan** high schools.
- **District Surveys.** The District will begin a series of surveys to gather feedback from students, staff, and parents in continuous improvement efforts. Student and staff surveys will begin Nov. 27 and parents will be surveyed in January.
- **SA Food Bank.** In continued partnership with the District, the San Antonio Food Bank will be hosting several food distributions prior to the holiday season in support of families.
- **Outdoor Classroom.** **Leon Valley ES** received a grant from **Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds** which funded a unique outdoor classroom for the school. Leon Valley is the only school in the U.S. to win this contest.
- **Legislative Update.** Dr. Craft provided the Trustees with a summary of the current Special Legislative Session. He also spoke about recent propositions approved by voters, in particular Proposition 9 which will fund a cost of living adjustment for retired educators.
- **Video Moment:** In this season of giving, a STEM Teacher at **Burke ES** gave a gift of a lifetime. Her selflessness gave a friend a second chance at life and allowed him to look forward to a brighter future. [Click here to watch.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** applauded efforts by **Ross MS** and Principal **Faustino Ortega** for facilitating the distribution of 200 turkeys in collaboration with the SA Food Bank. Lopez is mentoring a Ross MS student and has enjoyed the experience. He was elected to the Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Advisory Board and is honored to serve with fellow member **Mercedes Bristol**. Lopez felt the NEF Gala was a great event and thanked **Kelly Rasti** and all those who assisted in organizing the event.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** visited **Vale MS** where he participated in a student-staff volleyball game. He participated in a Veteran's Day event at **Luna MS** where students lined the hallways and applauded and honored veterans as they

paraded through. **Colby Glass ES** hosted an Officers In Blue event that he attended. He recognized and thanked NISD Police Chief **Charlie Carnes** for also attending. Blount enjoyed the NEF Gala and appreciated learning more about each of the pillars. He attended a recent Artificial Intelligence conference hosted by the AI Institute.

- **Trustee Carol Harle** attended the **O'Connor HS** anniversary event and enjoyed the opportunity to speak at the event alongside her daughter who wrote the winning essay nominating Sandra Day O'Connor as the campus namesake. She thanked **Leon Springs ES** for their recent recognition of military and Purple Heart recipients. Harle encouraged Trustees to attend a planned send-off parade for the **Jay HS** football team on their way to the state playoffs. Harle is mentoring a student from **NSITE** and has really enjoyed the opportunity. She thanked **Dr. Janis Jordan**, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, and her department for an informative Academics Committee meeting.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** described the annual NEF Gala as "over the top." She shared her appreciation for all of the event sponsors and partners for their support of the foundation. Freeman enjoyed the many events in the district to honor veterans. She especially enjoyed hearing guest speaker **Brad Weber** at the Veteran's Day event sponsored by the Northside Museum Association at the Northside Learning Center.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** enjoyed participating in the recent student voice forum and appreciated hearing the students' input. She shared that the **Holmes HS** AVID students will be distributing baskets before Thanksgiving. Saldana participated in a recent Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) leadership training opportunity that afforded her the chance to visit several schools in El Paso. She enjoyed her visits to the campuses. She shared appreciation to all of the parents attending District athletic events for their commitment and support.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** welcomed **Maria Evelyn Gamez** from Texas Tech University's Health Sciences Center School of Nursing to the meeting. She recognized Marshall HS alumni **Ernest Martinez** with the Cesar Chavez Legacy & Educational Foundation. Duran appreciated all of the Dia de los Muertos events that took place across the district. She shared appreciation to **Leon Valley ES** for welcoming her, US Congressman **Joaquin Castro**, and Leon Valley Mayor **Chris Riley** for a recent visit.
- **Trustee David Salcido** attended a Veteran's Day event at **Cody ES** and thanked the staff for inviting him.

Recognition

- **CPS Energy Check Presentation.** Representatives of CPS Energy presented NISD with a check for \$368,350.53 for participation in the Demand Response program

Trustees hear safety audit report

As required by state law, school districts must conduct a safety audit of all district facilities at least once every three years. This year again, the audit was conducted by Shane Allard, NISD Safety and Security Officer, who provided a summary report of overall audit scores.

Trustees approve attendance zone for Chumbley ES & associated boundary change

Trustees heard the report from the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC) regarding the proposal for the Chumbley ES attendance zone. The SBAC conducted a public hearing on Oct. 25, and after listening to the public comments and reviewing all relevant data, made a formal recommendation to the Board regarding the attendance zone. This boundary change will affect approximately 576 projected Cole students moving to Chumbley ES, and approximately 286 projected Cole students moving to Galm ES. Chumbley ES will open in 2024 and is funded by School Bond 2022. The approved attendance zone is posted on the campus' website.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Jennifer Cipollone**, formerly an administrative intern for Neff MS, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Luna MS.**
- **David Rojas**, formerly an assistant principal at Harlandale ISD, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Rawlinson MS.**

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for access control upgrades at various campuses – 3Sixty Integrated
- Contractor for boiler replacement at Scobee ES and Steubing ES – R.E.C. Industries, Inc.

- Contractor for chiller replacement at Warren High School – L.C. Mosel Company, Ltd.
- Contractor for electrical and lighting upgrades at various campuses – Central Electric Ent. & Co.
- Contractor for roof replacement at Lewis ES and Ward ES – Topside Contracting, LLC
- Contractor for surveillance camera upgrades at various facilities – 3Sixty Integrated
- Consultant for athletic upgrades at Jay HS – NextGen Architects, LLC
- Consultant for electrical improvements for 2024 construction portables – Alderson & Associates, Inc.
- Consultant for CRAC unit replacement at Kelly Smith Technology Center – Cleary Zimmermann Engineers, LLC
- Consultant for 2024 Summer portables – KCI Technologies, Inc.
- Change Orders:
 - Mechanical CTE upgrades at various campuses (\$55,144 credit)
 - Paving upgrade at Rudder MS (\$67,435 credit)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: Excess Workers’ Compensation Insurance, and water-based fire protection system repair. 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.)*

- 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)
- Feb. 13, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- Feb. 27, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)