



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

December 12, 2023

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Athletic Success.** Congratulations to several high school athletic teams on their recent state-level competition. These include the **Harlan HS** Lady Hawks volleyball team and the football teams from **Brennan, Harlan, and Jay** High Schools.
- **School Visits.** Dr. Craft had an opportunity to visit with **Vale MS** students during a recent career fair event. Additionally, he had the opportunity to read to Pre-K and Kindergarten students at **Rhodes ES**.
- **Anniversary Event.** The district and community celebrated the 25th anniversary of Carson ES.
- **Clinical Teachers.** 116 individuals celebrated the completion of their clinical teaching, or student teaching, experience with the District. Many of these individuals have already been hired for teaching positions in Northside. Recognition was also given to staff who served as cooperating teachers.
- **Jones Retirement.** Dr. Craft acknowledged Assistant Superintendent of Technology Services **Lori Jones** for her retirement after 22 years of employment with Northside.
- **CREST Award.** The Texas School Counselor Association recognized 62 Northside ISD schools with 2023-24 Awards for Counseling Excellence. Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students (CREST) in Texas recipients have demonstrated a commitment to using the school counseling program to improve the lives and achievement of students in academic, career, and social domains.
- **Spanish Spelling Bee.** Congratulations were shared to the winners of the 6th annual Spanish Spelling Bee.
- **Reed ES Dedication.** The official dedication event for the District's 82nd elementary school, **Katie Reed ES**, was held recently with a great turnout and featured an impressive student performance.
- **Holiday Performance.** Dr. Craft attended a performance of The Nutcracker at **Brandeis HS** and applauded the students and staff on the event.
- **Special Performance:** Prior to and at the beginning of the Board meeting students from the Vocal Jazz Ensemble from **Clark High School**, under the direction of **Leslie Paleo**, performed seasonal music for the Board and those in attendance.

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** attended a training for teachers in preparation for the annual solar car event set for the Spring and appreciated the enthusiasm and excitement of those attending. Blount shared appreciation for the NISD community and several homeowner associations who have recently collaborated with the district in providing feedback and support.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** thanked parents of student-athletes for supporting their children's commitment and hard work, and in particular those with students in their senior year.
- **Trustee David Salcido** participated in a recent NEF grant patrol, along with former NISD Superintendent **Ed Rawlinson**, to award grant awards to district teachers. He thanked Executive Director for Community Outreach & District Advocacy **Kelly Rasti** and the NEF Board members who organized and participated in the presentations.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** thanked the **Clark HS** Vocal Jazz Ensemble for their holiday performance. Duran attended a retreat held by the Northside Education Foundation (NEF) Board of Directors.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** shared that the SA City Council recognized **Marshall HS** alumni **Kin Man Hui** on his retirement as an Express-News photographer. Harle enjoyed participating in a NEF Grant Patrol along with former NISD

Superintendent **Ed Rawlinson**. She enjoyed attending the **Jay HS** state-level playoff football game stating that the team played their hearts out. Harle enjoyed speaking with students from **CAST Teach HS** as they toured the District's Central Office. She attended the **Reed ES** Dedication and said Mrs. Reed was one of the first women to do tremendous work on the Board. Harle also attended the **Rawlinson MS** Patriot Camp, a transition camp for incoming 6th graders.

- **Karen Freeman** attended the **Carson ES** 25th-anniversary event and shared that the campus namesake, the late **James Carson**, was no doubt there in spirit. Freeman congratulated **Lori Jones** on her retirement. The annual magnet school fair was a well-attended event. The **Reed ES** Dedication was a wonderful tribute to Mrs. Reed's 31 years of service to the District. Freeman acknowledged Reed ES choir teacher **Michael Vasquez** and his student performers.

Board approves calendar for 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years

Members of both the Northside Communication Network (NCN) and Northside Educational Improvement Council (NEIC) provided input into the design of the 2024-25 and 2025-26 district academic calendars. The 2024-25 calendar reflects a start date for students of Aug. 19, 2024, with the last day of school on May 29, 2025; and a start date for the school year 2025-26 of Aug. 11, 2025, with the last day of school on May 21, 2026. [Approved calendars are posted on the District website.](#)

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Ericka Dillon**, formerly a middle school Bilingual/ESL Specialist, was appointed **Director of Bilingual/ESL**.
- **Ileana Perez**, formerly Associate Principal at Forester ES, was appointed **Principal at Fields ES**.
- **James Dominguez**, formerly Associate Principal at McDermott ES, was appointed **Principal at Passmore ES**.
- **Rene S. Esquivel**, formerly Associate Principal of Northwest Crossing ES, was appointed **Principal at Tomlinson ES**.
- **Darcia Borel**, formerly a teacher at Locke Hill ES, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Jordan MS**.
- **Fernando A. Nieto**, formerly Assistant Principal at Taft HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Marshall HS**.

Revision of policy

Trustees approved a revision to Local Policy DH – Employee Standards of Conduct – which will now require an employee to notify their immediate supervisor within 72 hours of an arrest for misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), driving while intoxicated (DWI), or public intoxication (PI) charges. Previous wording in the policy only required notification of a felony arrest for these offenses.

Board approves facilities items:

- Schematic design for building upgrades at Colonies North ES – Huckabee Architects
- Interior colors for new Magnet addition at Hobby MS – Alamo Architects
- Contractor for building repairs at Transportation North Station – RCO Construction, LLC
- Contractor for dehumidification unit replacement at Braun Station ES – Comfort-Air Engineering, Inc.
- Contractor for fume hood replacement at Brennan HS – Flo-Aire Service
- Contractor for mechanical and roofing upgrades at Allen ES – CGC General Contractors, Inc.
- Contractor for mechanical and roofing upgrades at Central Office – Comfort-Air Engineering, Inc.
- Contractor for mechanical upgrades at Reddix Center – Comfort-Air Engineering, Inc.
- Contractor for portable relocations at various campuses – Dodson House Moving
- Contractor for retaining wall repairs at Rhodes ES – SBM General Contractor, LLC
- Contractor for roof replacement at Beard ES – Advantage USAA, Inc.
- Contractor for tennis court upgrades at Northside Tennis Center – Hellas Construction
- Consultant for district athletic baseball/softball complex renovations – Moy Tarin Ramriez Engineers, LLC
- Consultant for infrastructure upgrades to audio/visual at Farris and Gus Stadiums & NISD Swim Center – Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc.
- Consultant for golf practice facilities at Farris Stadium and Hardin Complex – Marmon Mok Architecture
- Change Orders:
 - 7-month chiller rental during chiller and energy control replacements (\$131,234 add)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: copier paper, and miscellaneous items for Child Nutrition. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: to Exemplars, Inc. in the amount of \$177,100 to purchase online K-5 supplemental resources that provide a broad range of performance tasks and teacher tools to build problem-solving proficiency in alignment with the Math TEKS. 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

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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.
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.)*

- 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)