



Inside Northside

# BOARDTalk

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

February 27, 2024

## Superintendent's Report

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

- **TMEA Conference** - Dr. Craft applauded the **O'Connor HS** Jazz Band, which was a Featured Command Performance at the recent Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) conference. This is a massive conference with over 8,000 music educators from across the country. Great job!
- **Signing Day** - Dr. Craft recognized and congratulated the many NISD student athletes who signed to collegiate programs.
- **Founders Day** - Dr. Craft thanked our Northside PTAs and everyone who made Founders Day a success. This was a wonderful event that he enjoyed attending.
- **Random Acts of Kindness Week** - Last week, NISD celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Week. Dr. Craft thanked **Dr. Kimberly Ridgley** and the efforts of the Whole Child department during this week.
- **RootEd** - Dr. Craft recently met with RootEd founder **Genevieve Sugalski**. During their conversation, he had the opportunity to learn more about RootEd and its promotion of public education.
- **Mid-Year Graduation** - NISD recently celebrated 97 of our mid-year graduates alongside their family and friends. Dr. Craft congratulated them on receiving their diplomas and thanked everyone who made the event a success.
- **Read Your Heart Out** - Dr. Craft loved participating in **Hoffmann Elementary's Read Your HEART Out Day** event on Valentine's Day and mentioned that PreK students have a special place in his heart.
- **Destination Imagination** - Congratulations to all who participated in Destination Imagination. Dr. Craft attended a parent showcase at **Forester ES** and had the opportunity to see the creativity of students at all levels. Dr. Craft commented that it was great to learn about their projects and the problems they're solving.
- **Texas Public Schools Week** - Dr. Craft recognized public educators across the state and nation and thanked them for their important work.
- **State Academic Decathlon** - Dr. Craft congratulated **Warren HS** for placing second in this year's State Academic Decathlon meet.
- **State Champion Swimmer** - Dr. Craft also congratulated all students who competed and recognized **Evan Croley** from **Clark HS** for earning a gold medal at the UIL State Swim meet.
- **Basketball Playoffs** - Congratulations to the **Harlan, Clark, and Brennan** high schools girls basketball teams who participated in the regional tournament last week. Clark and Brennan went head to head in the regional finals and faced off in double over time. Dr. Craft loved the determination of both teams and is proud of their efforts. Good luck to the **Brennan Lady Bears** as they advance to the State semifinals this weekend at the Alamodome.
- **VASE** - Dr. Craft congratulated the 36 NISD student artists who qualified to compete in next month's Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) art competition in San Marcos. The mission of the High School VASE event is

to recognize exemplary student achievement in the Visual Arts by providing high school art students and programs a standard of excellence in which to achieve.

- **LibraryPaloosa** - This year's LibraryPaloosa at **Brandeis HS** was a hit. This was the first time Dr. Craft attended and he enjoyed listening to messages from authors and seeing so much talent. Kudos to all who organized this event, especially Co-Chairs **Sheryl Stoeck and Lucy Podmore**.
- **Early Voting** - Dr. Craft reminded everyone that early voting concludes this week and March 5 is election day. He encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote.
- **Video Moment:** February is Black History Month and in celebration and recognition students at Taft High School put on a celebration of accomplishments, cultures, and artistry through the art of dance, poetry, singing, and much more. [Watch the video here.](#)

## Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** had the opportunity to attend the regional portion of the National Science Bowl. This competition brings in public, private, charter, and homeschooled students. He thanked the Northside Science Team for their efforts in hosting this competition and congratulated **Brandeis HS** on their second-place win. He enjoyed attending the competition. He also attended the **Ott ES** Chili competition and had a wonderful time judging. He provided a special shoutout to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority that hosted a town hall to discuss the importance of a board member. He was invited to sit on the panel during the meeting and thanked the Delta Sorority for including him. The Bexar County School Board Coalition will meet on March 13 to discuss the importance of the Up Partnership, Ready to Work program, and how these initiatives align with the board's role. He mentioned that the board was also invited to meet with RootED and TASB to share a presentation outlining what they have learned about addressing vaping.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** participated in a leadership conference in Corpus Christi, Texas. During this conference, she had the opportunity to talk about Northside. The feedback she received from the audience was that they appreciate all Northside does to take care of veterans. Trustee Saldana thanked all who made last month's Board Recognition Month special including principals, the Brandeis Student Council, and many others. Additionally, the artwork they received was beautiful. Trustee Saldana mentioned that the annual Special Olympics event is happening this week. She had the opportunity to attend on Monday and enjoyed watching the incredible opening ceremony. Trustee Saldana also attended Library Paloosa and thanked all that made the event a huge success. She congratulated all NISD students that participated in college signing days, Founders Day, and mid-year graduation. Members of the board visited **CAST Teach HS** and had the opportunity to view and judge fantastic student projects. She provided a special shoutout to **Gabriel Fuentes**, theater arts teacher at **Brandeis HS**, for a wonderful production of the Little Mermaid musical. She thanked all of our coaches and is appreciative of the dedication of our students. She had a wonderful experience at the girls basketball tournament.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** mentioned that the board cares about the community. Trustee Lopez thanked the Northside Council of PTAs for honoring him with an award. The PTA Board does a phenomenal job in assisting campuses with planning field trips and fundraising. He mentioned that he volunteered at the San Antonio Food Bank Mega Distribution at Gus Stadium alongside Trustee Salcido and Dr. Craft. The day they volunteered was the 90th mega distribution, and we are quickly approaching the 100th. A special thank you to **Don Schmidt** for the role he plays in coordinating these distributions and in bringing in volunteers each week. He thanked **USAA** and **Holy Cross HS**, his alma mater, for also volunteering that day. He also gave a special shoutout to Next Level Gen., and to **Coach Empson**, Cricket coach at Clark HS, for his effort and dedication in growing the program. He also thanked all those that made Board Recognition Month special, including those that generously gave board appreciation gifts.
- **Trustee David Salcido** participated in the San Antonio Food Bank Mega Distribution at Gus Stadium. Each food distribution services 1,200 families.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** recognized the Northside Council of PTAs for a successful Founder's Day and gave special recognition to the art and culinary students who participated in the event saying she was inspired by their passion. Trustee Duran also thanked Trustee Lopez for his work collecting backpacks for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Dr. Duran also gave a special thanks to **Holmes HS** for inviting her to attend signing day and celebrate **Isaac Martinez**, who will be attending William Woods University to play football. Isaac's mother was one of Trustee Saldana's former students and was encouraged by Saldana to finish her education. Trustee Duran also recognized **Mateo Lopez**, a Northside student recently named the world's youngest mariachi, commenting that his talent shines bright. Duran thanked the Northside agriculture and FFA students who are volunteering and participating to make this year's San Antonio Rodeo a success.

- **Trustee Carol Harle** attended the Grassroots Region 20 trustee event. During this event, they identified the top five issues facing education in Region 20. Harle also attended “The Little Mermaid” musical at **Brandeis HS** with her 88 year-old mother. She gave kudos to all students that participated and mentioned that her mother said it was better than the Majestic. She also recognized Trustee Saldana’s granddaughter in her role as Ariel. Dr. Harle recognized the Fine Arts department in this wonderful performance. Trustee Harle attended the **Carnahan ES** Cultural Fest with her grandkids. They had a wonderful time trying different types of food, asking questions, and learning about cultures from around the world. She also recognized the work of Ag Mechanics students who have created wonderful projects. Trustee Harle thanked the *SA Report* for their article on the NISD Cricket program, which has grown tremendously and has become a wonderful addition to the NISD community. She also attended the Next Level Celebration (NXL). NXL is a youth opportunity center that connects 16-24 year-old students with resources to meet their educational endeavors. This is a partnership with the City of San Antonio and Communities in Schools. Trustee Harle presented the Path Builder Ally Award, which she received at the NXL Celebration and which recognizes the efforts of the Whole Child Dept., to Director of Counseling **Mary Libby**. Trustee Harle will be attending the **Leon Springs ES** Boot Scootin’ event on March 1. There will be music, games, food and a silent auction.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** had the opportunity to attend the Little Mermaid performance at **Brandeis HS** and she recognized Trustee Saldana’s granddaughter, Mackenzie Moberly, for her performance as Ariel. Trustee Freeman encouraged the community to attend **Steubing Elementary’s** family carnival this Friday to enjoy some fun food and carnival games. Trustee Freeman updated the board on her recent visit to Washington D.C. with her husband. While there, she had the opportunity to meet with **Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s** office and present them with school swag that included a framed photo of Sotomayor High School, named after the esteemed Justice. Trustee Freeman described the experience as delightful and expressed her anticipation for further collaboration between Justice Sotomayor’s office and Northside ISD.

### Trustees hold Public Hearing on Texas Academic Performance Report

NISD’s Academic Performance Report was presented by **Dr. Janis Jordan**, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and a public hearing was held, as required by Texas law. All school districts are required to publish an annual report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), district accreditation status, student enrollment and academic performance, PEIMS Financial Standards Report, a report of violent or criminal incidents, and information received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for each high school campus. The report will be available online on the NISD website and copies of specific reports will be available upon request through the Communications Department.

### Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Joshua Kuhlmann**, formerly Associate Principal at Henderson ES, was appointed **Principal at Beard ES**.
- **Evelyn DeLeon-Garcia**, formerly Math Specialist at Meadow Village ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Carlos Coon ES**.
- **Susan Schottler**, formerly Assistant Principal at Bernal MS, was appointed **Associate Principal at Lieck ES**.

### Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor addition/renovation at Jordan MS Magnet School – D.L. Bandy Constructors, Inc.
- Contractor for athletic upgrades at Marshall HS and Jay HS – CRI Electric, Inc.
- Contractor for athletics and CTE upgrades at Neff MS – W.R. Griggs Construction, Co., Inc.
- Contractor for boiler replacement at Taft HS – Flo-Aire Service
- Contractor for civil improvements at Colonies North ES – RCO Construction, LLC
- Change Orders:
  - Roof replacement at Ross MS (\$73,390 credit)
  - Chiller replacement at Burke ES (\$132,608 add)
  - Administration suite replacement and energy control upgrades at Rayburn MS (\$132,021 add)
  - Administration, window, and ADA upgrades at Leon Valley ES (\$81,055 credit)
  - Chiller replacement at Warren HS (\$117,822 add)
  - Building replacement at Westwood Terrace ES (\$147,884 add)
  - Chumbley ES – Karst Feature Remediation (\$185,358 add)
  - Mechanical upgrades at Neff MS (\$78,834 credit)

## Trustees review policy:

- Review of Legal Policies in TASB Update 122
- First reading of local policies in TASB Update 122
- In accordance with SB 763, the Northside ISD Board of Trustees took a record vote on whether to adopt a policy authorizing a campus to employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain under Chapter 23, Education Code. The Board voted against adopting any new policy in response to SB 763, and reaffirmed support for existing local policy related to volunteers.

## Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: on-site maintenance and services of mobile climbing wall towers; library databases, online resources, and subscriptions; maintenance supplies, equipment, rentals, repairs, and services; CTE materials, inspections, and repairs; art supplies, equipment, and miscellaneous items; miscellaneous uniforms and accessories for Fine Arts Department; Unified Communications as a Service (UCaaS); and Health and Wellness Benefit Administration technology. 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**  
**Carol 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.)

- March 26, 2024, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center, 7001 Culebra (Regular Board Meeting)
- April 9, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- April 23, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- May 14, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- May 28, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)