



# 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.

**March 26, 2024**

## **Superintendent's Report**

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

- **Special Olympics.** Congratulations to the District's Lead Adapted PE Specialist and Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Settles** on two weeks of very successful Special Olympics events and congratulations to all of the student-athletes.
- **Early Childhood Literacy.** With San Antonio set to host the NCAA Final Four tournament next year, NISD is collaborating with the City of San Antonio in the promotion of early childhood literacy.
- **H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards.** NISD celebrated four nominees for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award in surprise visits to each honoree's campus. The four nominees, who will now compete with others from across the state, are **Isaac Esquivel**, Environmental Science Teacher; **Julie Minnis**, Garcia MS Head Counselor; **Michelle Fine**, Glenn ES Principal; and **Colin Varville**, Warren HS Choir Director.
- **Festival of Cultures.** Rudder MS held a very successful Festival of Cultures at Marshall HS. Congratulations to Rudder Principal **Paul Ramirez**, Marshall HS Principal **Richard Halle**, and Marshall Law & Medical Services Magnet School Principal **Margaret Bray**.
- **STEAM Fest.** Jay HS and Jay Science & Engineering Academy (SEA) held a well-attended STEAM Fest which highlighted the work of students from the campuses.
- **Athletic Successes.** Congratulations to all of the student-athletes who excelled in their seasons, including the Brennan HS boys' basketball team for advancing to the state quarterfinals, the Brennan HS girls' basketball team for advancing to the regional finals, and then to state competition, and the O'Connor HS boys' basketball team that advanced to the regional finals.
- **C.L.A.S.S. Conference.** The annual professional development event was a huge success with over 600 support staff attending. This year's event also provided attendees an opportunity to support the District's School Age Parenting Program (SAPP) and Benevolence Closet (school supplies). Special thanks to Executive Director of Teaching & Learning **Diana Ely** and her staff for organizing this annual event.
- **Read Across America.** Dr. Craft had an opportunity to read to students at **Krueger, Burke, and Driggers** elementary schools during Read Across America week which promotes early childhood literacy.
- **Los Leones Festival.** Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Los Leones Student Arts Festival was held on the grounds of Marshall HS with a record number of approximately 5,000 in attendance. This annual event highlights K-12 Fine Arts programs across the District including band, choir, strings, dance, mariachi, and strolling theater performers.
- **Leadership Northside.** This initiative involves the recruitment of individuals with the purpose of learning more about the Northside culture. Individuals had the opportunity to participate in a recent bus tour of the district that included visits to the Los Leones Art Festival and the NISD Police Department's Communications Center.
- **All-Star Game.** NISD hosted, along with San Antonio Sports and KSAT, the first annual all-star games that featured athletes from across the state in competition at the Northside Sports Gym.
- **Video Moment:** [The Video Moment showcases four Northside teachers who are state finalists](#) in the 2024 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards. The surprise announcements were made by Superintendent Dr. John Craft and H-E-B representatives during heartfelt moments filled with confetti, flowers, and hugs.

## **Board Members' Report**

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** provided an update from the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members as well as the Bexar County School Board Coalition. Blount has been attending various homeowner association meetings in an effort to provide accurate information about the District.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** attended two recent events hosted at **Marshall HS – Rudder MS’s** Festival of Cultures and the annual Los Leones Art Festival. She also enjoyed attending the C.L.A.S.S. Conference and witnessing support staff enjoying the event.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** was invited by **Ross MS** AVID teacher **Caroline Moreno** for a financial literacy activity supported by Junior Achievement and the Capital Group. He thanked Fine Arts Director **James Miculka** and his staff for the work put into organizing the Los Leones Art Festival.
- **Trustee David Salcido** served as a guest judge at the recent Los Leones Art Festival and thanked the Fine Arts Department and Marshall HS for the opportunity. He attended a Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) conference and was impressed by innovative programming offered by another Texas school district that offers an early college high school program.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** congratulated all NEF Innovation grant award recipients and encouraged other district teachers to apply for the grants offered through the Northside Education Foundation. She congratulated several district students who were recognized as Cesar Chavez Award winners. They include **Arianna Xochitl Aguero**, Taft HS; **Sofia Guadalupe Maldonado Martinez**, O’Connor HS; **Cielo Felix**, Marshall HS; **Angel Santa Cruz**, Warren HS; and **Caleb Muncrief**, Brennan HS.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** had the opportunity to serve as a judge for the H-E-B Excellence in Education awards and has been impressed by the very positive reputation NISD has among many individuals across the state. She briefed Trustees on a TASB Board of Directors meeting where there was an open call for advocacy resolutions. Harle announced that the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) is seeking nominations for the 2025 Texas Teacher of the Year until June. Harle applauded **Clark HS** for hosting Clark Conversations, opportunities for students to dialogue and learn about different cultures. She found the **Jay SEA** STEAM Fest very enjoyable and commended the students and staff. Harle reminded Trustees that the NEF Fun Run will be held at Northwest Vista College on Saturday, April 6.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** read to a first-grade class at **Krueger ES**. She attended the Los Leones Art Festival which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Freeman expressed her pride that NISD has certified art teachers in all of our elementary schools, something not all districts have in place. She thanked Fine Arts Department Director **James Miculka** and Assistant Director **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez** on a successful event.

## Recognitions

- **Texas School Social Worker of the Year.** Lisa Delgado, coordinator of the NISD School Age Parenting Program, is the 2024 Texas School Social Worker of the Year. She received the award today at the 33rd annual Texas School Social Workers Conference.
- **Recognition of UIL State Champions CTE Stevens High School students.** The Stevens High School CTE Audio-Video and Commercial Photography students earned the title of UIL State Champions in Young Filmmakers Documentary.
- **Recognition of National Symphony Orchestra at Midwest Band/Orchestra Clinic.** The Brandeis High School Orchestra was selected as the national symphony orchestra for command performance at the Midwest Band/Orchestra Clinic. Only three orchestras and three bands are selected annually through a rigorous process that includes hundreds of entries. Other than selection as the TMEA honor band or orchestra, this is the most prestigious award for an ensemble nationally.
- **Recognition of O’Connor HS Jazz Ensemble.** The O’Connor High School Jazz Ensemble was selected as the winner of the Texas Music Educators Association’s (TMEA) Invited Jazz Ensemble Contest. This award signifies the O’Connor HS Jazz Band as the finest jazz program in Texas when assessed in a field of over 250 ensembles competing.
- **Recognition of TMEA All-State Musicians.** Twelve NISD Fine Arts students from nine high schools were selected to the Texas Music Educators’ Association (TMEA) All-State Band, Choir, Orchestra, and Jazz bands. All-State is the highest individual honor that a student can receive in public school music education. It represents the top one percent of student musicians in Texas. Over 25,000 students engage in the audition process with only 870 students selected.
- **Recognition of NCA National Champions.** NISD High School Cheer Teams competed at the National Cheer Association High School Nationals Competition in Dallas with two squads taking top honors. Warren High School

took First Place in the Advanced Non-Tumbling Varsity Crowd Leading Team, and Brennan High School took First Place in the Intermediate Varsity Performance Small Team Division.

- **Recognition of Academic Decathlon State Winners.** Two NISD Academic Decathlon teams placed at the state level and are heading to the national competition. Warren High School placed second in the Thomas E. Moseley State Finals from among the top 40 performing schools in the large school category. Health Careers High School placed second for Division 4 in the Frisco Invitational competition, placing among the next top 40 performing schools. Both teams are heading to Nationals.
- **Recognition of VASE & Scholastic Art Award winners.** Hundreds of NISD student artists participated in the 2024 Visual Arts Scholastic Event. This event included 1,922 adjudicated artworks with individual interviews for every competing artist. Among the 526 individual medalists from NISD who received the highest rating for their art/interview, only 36 artworks advanced to the State VASE competition which will be held at the end of April. In addition, we have some art students advancing to a National competition. The National Scholastic Art Awards recognized five Northside art students with Gold Keys at the regional event along with an American Visions Award Nominee. These students' artworks have advanced to the national competition where they will go through another rigorous adjudication.

### **Trustees hear budget update**

Trustees heard a budget update from Deputy Superintendent of Business & Finance Dr. Rene Barajas that included a discussion of several factors impacting the District's budget development. In April, the Board will be analyzing revenue estimates associated with projected enrollment and attendance, as well as considering employee compensation plans for next year.

### **Trustees approve goals as required by HB3**

HB 3 requires districts to adopt goals in third-grade reading and mathematics as well as in college, career, and military readiness (CCMR). Annually, progress towards these goals must be presented to the Board of Trustees where approval will be requested of the updated goals.

### **Trustees approve Summer Programs**

Trustees approved 2024 Summer Programs which include regular summer school, additional days school year (ADSY), summer school for student groups, and enrichment experiences. Information about summer learning opportunities will be posted on the NISD website soon.

### **Trustee Lopez resigns seat on board**

Trustee Gerald Lopez, SMD 2, announced that he is running unopposed for a seat on the Alamo Community College (ACC) District Board, and thus announced his resignation with the NISD Board of Trustees. He will continue to serve on the NISD Board until an appointment is made to replace his position. The Board will begin discussions on how to proceed forward at a Special Called meeting on April 2.

### **Trustees approve administrative appointments:**

- **Belinda Belliveau Cisneros**, formerly Academic Program Coordinator at Holmes HS, was appointed **Associate Principal at Henderson ES**.
- **Leann Kidd**, formerly Director of Training & Development with Technology Services, was appointed **Executive Director of Technology Services**.

### **Board approves facilities items:**

- Schematic design for District Athletic Baseball/Softball Complex -- Moy Tarin Ramirez Engineers, LLC
- Contractor for baseball field upgrades at Marshall HS – Texas Multi-Chem, Ltd.
- Contractor for civil improvements at Neff MS – Pronto Sandblasting & Coating & Oilfield Services Co., Inc.
- Contractor for electrical improvements at Neff MS and Allen, Cody, Colonies North & Leon Valley ES – Central Electric Ent. & Co., Inc.
- Contractor for electrical upgrades for video boards at Farris & Gustafson Stadiums – Central Electric Ent. & Co., Inc.
- Contractor for fire alarm upgrades at Brandeis HS – CRI Electric, Inc.
- Contractor for fire alarm upgrades at Support Services – Central Electric Ent. & Co., Inc.
- Contractor for flooring replacement at Galm ES – AZTECA Designs and Construction

- Contractor for moving/adding/changing telecommunications cabling at Neff MS and Allen, Cody, Colonies North & Leon Valley ES – JLA Communications
- Contractor for mechanical upgrades at Kelly Smith Technology Center – Flo-Aire Service
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Galm ES – R.L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Knowlton ES – RCO Construction, LLC.
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Northwest Crossing ES – R.L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Contractor for paving upgrades at Reddix Center – Spawglass Civil Construction, Inc.
- Contractor for tennis court upgrades at Briscoe, Garcia, and Pease MSs – Hellas Construction, Inc.

## Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: USDA commodity processing for Child Nutrition, library books and learning resources, science lab equipment, art supplies and miscellaneous items, science supplies and equipment, and CPR, BLS, first aid, AED, instructor and certification training. 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**  
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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.)*

- April 2, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called 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)