



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

April 23, 2024

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Month of the Military Child.** April is the month of the Military Child and NISD's very own **Noelani Martinez**, a **Brennan HS** student, was named the 2024 National Military Child of the Year.
- **NSITE Career Expo.** Students at the **Northside School of Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (NSITE)** engaged in career exploration activities and visited with college recruiters and various local employers at a recent College & Career Expo.
- **NEF Fun Run.** The Northside Education Foundation (NEF) hosted a successful Fun Run at Northwest Vista College that had approximately 2,000 participants. Dr. Craft thanked President **Dr. Amy Bosley** for hosting the event on the college's beautiful campus.
- **Solar Eclipse.** Dr. Craft was present at **Leon Valley ES** to view the April 8 solar eclipse. Craft thanked **Deonna Dean**, Assistant Superintendent for Middle School Curriculum & Instruction, and her staff for ensuring the day was an engaging one for students.
- **Art Teacher Honored.** Rayburn MS art teacher **Larry West** was named the 2024 National Middle School Choice Based educator by the National Art education association.
- **Trustee receives Award.** Trustee **Bobby Blount** received the James B. Crow Innovation of Governance Award from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). The award is named in honor of James Crow, longtime Executive Director of TASB.
- **School Connect.** Several NISD campuses participated in a partnership event facilitated by School Connect in an effort to help campuses develop partnership resources.
- **Jay HS Auditorium.** **Jay HS** hosted a ribbon cutting event for their newly constructed fine arts facility and auditorium. The newly constructed auditorium is part of renovations to the campus approved by voters in School Bond 2018.
- **Fine Arts Fest.** The district's annual Fine Arts Fest was hosted at the Sports Gym and showcased student art from across the district as well as various musical performances.
- **Athletes Excel.** Dr. Craft wished all of the state qualifiers in golf well and acknowledged several students who excelled in track and field events. Mentioned were **Harlan HS** student **I'yanna Webb** who set a 6A Region IV record in girls triple jump and **Elijah Hernandez** from **Sotomayor HS** who set a 6A Region IV record in the boys 400M event.
- **Video Moment:** For this month's Video Moment, we tag along with thousands of Gifted and Talented students as they participate in an outdoor adventure to "Out-create, Out-solve, and Out-think" during Survivor GT. [Watch the video here.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** praised **Wernli ES** for their recent Reader's Restaurant event which he attended. He also acknowledged **Burke ES** STEM teacher **Julianne Arsuaga**, the campus' 2024 educator of the Year, for generously assisting a family friend with an organ donation.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** commended the Northside Museum Association for a successful retiree luncheon. She enjoyed visiting **Rudder MS** for the April 8 solar eclipse, the **Jay HS** auditorium ribbon cutting, and the Senior Voice

event where high school students had an opportunity to share feedback with the superintendent. Saldana also participated in a recent Leadership TASB conference. She thanked Dr. Craft for initiating Leadership Northside, a program designed to help community members learn how NISD operates. Additionally, Saldana attended the Holmes HS talent show and the LEGO Robotics event. She closed by sharing with Trustees that their goal must be to convince legislators to fully fund public education.

- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** thanked Executive Director of Community Outreach and District Advocacy **Kelly Rasti** and her staff on organizing a successful Fun Run. She congratulated **Bobby Blount** on his TASB award. Lopez looks forward to the Battle of the Bands Fiesta event.
- **Trustee David Salcido** visited **Reed ES** and commended Principal **Chaisleigh Southworth** for quickly approaching him to assist and to ensure campus safety protocols were followed.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** shared how proud the **Jay HS** community and staff were at the recent ribbon cutting event for the campus' new auditorium.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** thanked campuses for “purpling up” to acknowledge and recognize the many military families across the district. She participated in the in the annual NEF Fun Run and also thanked **Kelly Rasti** and her staff for organizing the event. Harle acknowledged **Clark HS** librarian **Lucy Podmore** for her recent presentation for the Texas Library Association (TLA) and congratulated her on receiving the Jack Strong Stand Tall Award named in honor of former NISD librarian **Jack Strong**. Harle commended all of the district's librarians and referenced campus libraries as the “hub” of a school. She congratulated San Antonio Express News Deputy Editorial Board editor **Nancy Preyor-Johnson** on her receipt of the Charles E. Green Award for an article she wrote featuring students from **Marshall LMS HS**. The students had initiated efforts to research and advocate for expanding the district's Mexican American Studies (MAS) course to all high schools. Harle invited the students – seniors **Jonas Lokensgard, Hannah Rosales, and Marcela Hernandez** - to address the Board. **Marshall HS** MAS teacher **Anthony Gonzales** was also in attendance and recognized.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** attended several district events including the LEGO Robotics showcase and a poetry event at **Marshall HS**. She also attended the annual Retiree Luncheon hosted by the NISD Museum Association. She acknowledged NEF's Donor Appreciation event hosted at **CAST Teach HS** where the NEF recognized donors and presented several Unsung Hero awards. Freeman congratulated **Kelly Rasti** on being named the Associate Executive Director of Governmental Relations for TASB. Rasti's last day with NISD will be April 25.

Trustees hear budget update

Trustees heard a budget update from Deputy Superintendent of Business & Finance Dr. Rene Barajas that included a discussion of 2024-2025 campus-based Growth & Improvement units, multiple general pay increase scenarios, and the anticipated budget deficit for the 2024 budget year. The Board approved the 2024-2025 campus-based units to initiate the hiring process for next year.

Trustees discuss Texas Historical Marker designation

Trustees heard a presentation from a representative of the Northside Museum Association regarding the consideration of making the original Leon Valley Elementary School (now Northside Learning Center) a Texas Historical Marker designation. Trustees voted to proceed with the application process.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Marla Beam Reynolds**, formerly Administrative Intern at Bernal MS was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Bernal Middle School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Schematic design for athletic, lighting, and energy control upgrades at Ross MS – Garza Bomberger & Associates
- Exterior colors for the new ASTA building – Kaarlsen Noonan Rittimann Garcia Architecture

- Amendment #1 for building upgrades to include building demolition, sitework, utilities, etc. at Colonies North ES – Joeris General Contractors, Inc.
- Contractor for building replacement at Esparza ES – D.L. Bandy Constructors, Inc.
- Contractor for chiller replacement and lighting upgrades at Zachry MS – R.E.C. Industries, Inc.
- Contractor for electrical improvements for summer portables at Straus MS and Tomlinson ES – Consolidated Electric Service, Inc.
- Contractor for mechanical upgrades at Jones MS and Raba ES – R.E.C. Industries, Inc.
- Contractor for door hardware replacement at various campuses – SpawGlass Contractors, Inc.
- Consultant for floor replacement at McDermott ES – CWS Architects
- Consultant for mechanical upgrades at Braun Station ES – Skye MEP Engineering & Commissioning
- Consultant for mechanical upgrades at Linton ES – Wallis Engineering Group
- Consultant for mechanical upgrades at Risk Management – KCA Engineers, LLC
- Consultant for boiler replacement at Jay HS and Adams Hill ES – Alderson & Associates, Inc.
- Consultant for boiler replacement at Connally MS and Carson ES – Wallis Engineering Group
- Consultant for boiler replacement at Colonies North ES – Alderson & Associates, Inc.
- Consultant for boiler replacement and lighting upgrades at Evers and Galm ESs – DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc.
- Consultant for energy controls upgrades at Helotes ES – DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc.
- Consultant for electrical upgrades at Rudder MS – KCI Technologies, Inc.
- Consultant for electrical and lighting upgrades at NAHS and Family Engagement Center – Cleary Zimmermann Engineers, LLC
- Consultant for lighting upgrades at Aue, Carlos Coon & Northwest Crossing ES – KCA Engineers, LLC
- Consultant for drainage upgrades at Brennan HS – Moy Tarin Ramirez Engineers, LLC
- Consultants for paving upgrades at Myers ES and Holmgreen Center – Pape Dawson Engineers, Inc. and Arias & Associates Inc.
- Consultants for tennis court upgrades at Brennan HS, Hobby and Rudder MSs – Bain Medina Bain, Inc. and Rock Engineering & Testing Laboratory, Inc.
- Consultant for roof replacement & waterproofing at Warren HS and Linton ES – Hollon+Cannon Group, LLC
- Consultant for roof replacement & waterproofing at Communications Arts HS & Neff MS – Austech Roof Consultants, Inc.
- Consultant for roof replacement & waterproofing at Hobby MS, Cable ES, and Cody ES – Raba-Kistner Consultants, LLC
- Consultant for security upgrades at Holmgreen Center – Huckabee & Associates, Inc.
- Consultant for building upgrades at the Testing Annex – Garza Architects, Inc.
- Consultant for security upgrades at the Reddix Center – Huckabee & Associates, Inc.
- Change Orders:
 - Mechanical upgrades at various campuses (\$133,240 credit)
 - Mechanical upgrades at Locke Hill ES (\$79,130 credit)
 - Rehabilitation of structural piers at Glenn ES (\$136,722 credit)
 - New Magnet School-CAST Teach (\$60,699 credit)
 - Roof replacement at Pease MS (\$96,400 credit)
 - Construction portables at Colonies North ES (\$242,827 add)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: school bus and light truck tires; mini-bulk chemical solutions; grease trap maintenance; and occupational and physical therapy supplies and equipment. Trustees also approved a purchase order to Frontier Waste Solutions for the purchase of sanitation services for schools located within the City of Helotes. For more information, contact the Purchasing Department at 210-397-8700.

You may mail correspondence to:

Board of Trustees
Bobby Blount, President, District 4
Corinne Saldaña, Vice President, District 5

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.

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. 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 29, 2024, 4:30 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called 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)