



Inside Northside

# BOARDTalk

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

July 23, 2024

## Superintendent's Report

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

- **Summer Update.** Trustees were reminded that budget and staffing remain priorities as district staff work to prepare for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Leadership Development.** The District hosted a successful Support Leadership Institute earlier this summer for department leaders and support staff. Campus-level leaders and support staff are beginning their Leadership Institute this week.
- **We Go Public.** The Go Public Steering Committee is moving to a more grassroots approach to the work of supporting public education and will coordinate efforts through We Go Public and the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA).
- **Guest Speaker.** Dr. Craft had the opportunity to speak to the Northwest Democrats group on several educational issues.
- **Summer Production:** This year, the Rising Stars Summer Theater Camp took to the stage at the brand-new Jay High School Auditorium. The talented middle and high school students performed a production of Willy Wonka, Jr. with only two weeks of rehearsal time.

## Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** provided an update on the Bexar County School Board Coalition as well as the Board's scholarship program, Pathways, which provides financial assistance to NISD instructional assistants working towards a degree.
- **Trustee David Salcido** announced to Trustees that the Texas Grandparents Raising Grandkids organization will be providing backpacks at the Northside Activity Center on Aug.3.
- **Trustee Homer Guevara** is participating in Leadership Northside, a cohort of community members learning about the District. He thanked Principal Coach **Nicole Franco** for her role in helping facilitate this group. The most recent session featured a presentation from **Dr. Kim Ridgley**, Assistant Superintendent of Whole Child.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** recognized and thanked all district staff working through the summer months with students and those working already to start the new school year.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** announced that the **Clark HS** library was recently awarded the 2024 Sarah Jaffarian School Library Program Award by the American Library Association (ALA) for its Freedom Walk program. Harle congratulated the school and librarian **Lucy Podmore**. Harle attended a recent Teacher Fest hosted by San Antonio Leaders and Teachers (SALT) and held at the Witte Museum. She acknowledged NISD alum **Jen Maestas** for her role with this event.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** updated Trustees on plans by the State Board of Education to begin discussions related to school board and trustee trainings.

## Recognitions

- **TASB Media Honor Roll.** Trustees recognized two local journalists who were named to the Media Honor Roll by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). Trustees nominated Isaac Windes from the San Antonio Report and

Nancy Preyor-Johnson from the San Antonio Express-News. The TASB Media Honor Roll was created to recognize journalists and media outlets for reporting fair, accurate, and balanced stories on our schools.

### **Trustees hear a report on “What’s in Our Students’ Data Backpacks?”**

Dee Carney, with HillCo Partners, presented a report on the “Opportunity to Learn Index,” a different way to look at student educational needs, outcomes, local programs, and decision-making. The report focused on the unique challenges faced by educators. Leaders at every level are being challenged to think and act differently to successfully address the effects of income inequality and differences in student opportunities to learn on academic performance. Educators and researchers have long known that there is a complex set of factors converging on districts and schools that make it more or less challenging to teach all students to high levels of rigor.

### **Trustees approve to purchase of attendance credits**

Trustees heard a presentation explaining why the District will need to approve an agreement with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to purchase attendance credits in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Staff explained the agreement to purchase attendance credits is required by the TEA for districts that have been preliminarily identified as having excess revenue collections. Staff also explained that the district will not have excess revenue in 2024-2025 but is still required to enter into the agreement which effectively reduces excess revenue.

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

- **Cody Miller**, formerly Assessment & Accountability Dept. Coordinator, was appointed **Director of Adult and Community Education**.
- **Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez**, formerly Assistant Director of Fine Arts, was appointed **Director of Fine Arts**.
- **Matthew Scherwitz**, formerly Associate Principal at Los Reyes ES, was appointed **Principal at Los Reyes Elementary School**.
- **Marissa Barboza**, formerly Associate Principal at Powell ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Fernandez Elementary School**.
- **Cynthia Escajeda-Wade**, formerly Administrative Intern at Passmore ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Franklin Elementary School**.
- **Felicia Quiroz**, formerly Counselor at Reed ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Reed Elementary School**.
- **Maria Moreno**, formerly Academic Support Teacher at Villarreal ES, was appointed **Associate Principal at Villarreal Elementary School**.
- **Leticia Chapa**, formerly Assistant Principal at Jefferson MS, was appointed **Associate Principal at Luna Middle School**.
- **Anthony Allen**, formerly Assistant Principal at North East ISD, was appointed **Associate Principal at Stevenson Middle School**.
- **Araceli Farias-Vasquez**, formerly Assistant Principal at Clark HS, was appointed **Associate Principal at Straus Middle School**.
- **Abigail Beadle**, formerly Director of Curriculum & Instruction in Devine ISD, was appointed **Academic Dean at Bernal Middle School**.
- **Loiselle Tejada**, formerly Assistant Principal at Jones MS, was appointed **Academic Dean at Rawlinson Middle School**.
- **Anna Lopez**, formerly Student Services Facilitator at Rudder MS, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Garcia Middle School**.
- **Adrian Hysten**, formerly Administrative Intern at Bernal MS, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Jordan Middle School**.
- **Tashonne Davis**, formerly Testing Coordinator at Luna MS, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Jay High School**.
- **Jamie Kollmann**, formerly Testing Coordinator at Brandeis HS, was appointed **Academic Dean at Brandeis High School**.

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

- Consultant appointments for administration suite/classroom replacement at Marshall HS: Pfluger Architects, Inc.; Moy Tarin Ramirez Engineers, LLC; Terracon Consultants, Inc.; DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc.; and True North Consulting Group.
- Consultant appointments for cafeteria/kitchen/athletics replacement at Holmes HS: Huckabee & Associates, Inc.; Moy Tarin Ramirez Engineers, LLC; Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc.; DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc.; IMEG Corporation.
- Consultant appointments for Fine Arts replacement at Clark HS: Alamo Architects, Inc.; Moy Tarin Ramirez Engineers, LLC.; Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc.; Cleary Zimmermann Engineers, LLC; Combs Consulting Group, LP.
- Consultant appointments for PE locker and flooring upgrades at Brandeis HS, Stevens HS, and Connally MS— Chesney Morales Partners, Inc.
- Change Orders:
  - ASTA – unforeseen utility relocation - \$118,917.20 (add)
  - Exterior door alarm hardware upgrades at various campuses - \$861,736.25 (add)

**Readings of policy:**

- First reading of Local Policy EIC
- First reading of Local Policy FC

**Bids for goods approved**

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: ROTC Military Science equipment and supplies; Fine Arts consultant services; professional development in Special Education, Physical Education, Gifted and Talented, Bilingual Services, and related materials districtwide; Curriculum and Instruction supplies; food, restaurant, and catering services; Prekindergarten supply kits; keynote, motivational speakers, related services, and materials; custodial supplies; vehicle equipment, parts, repairs, rentals, and services; architectural hardware parts, repairs, and services; travel agency services; concert apparel; and sheet music and music materials. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: Mind Research Institute for the purchase of the ST Math Site subscription. 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***  
**David Salcido, *Secretary, District 1***  
**Homer Guevara, Ed.D., *Trustee, District 2***  
**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 before the start of the meeting.

**Upcoming School Board Meeting(s):** *(See posted agendas on the website as dates, locations, and/or times may change.)*

- Aug. 13, 2024, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center, 7001 Culebra Road (Called Board Meeting)
- Aug. 27, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)