



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 10, 2019

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brian Woods reported to the Board:

- **High School Groundbreaking.** A groundbreaking ceremony for the District's 12th comprehensive high school was held in November. It is known currently by its working title, "Galm Road area" High School, but will be named for a United States Supreme Court Justice. Naming work will begin in the spring.
- **Coalition for Education Funding conference.** Dr. Woods attended the Coalition for Education Funding conference which included sobering remarks from an economist on the current state of Texas children. Texas is projected to grow by 4.5 million people from 2010 to 2020, mostly in five urban counties. Almost 21 percent of Texas children live in poverty. The state's rate of uninsured children is 11.2% (first in the nation), compared to the national average which is 5.2%. Texas lags in the nation in sending students directly from high school to college – 52% versus 67%. There are also huge race/ethnicity gaps with 25 to 34 year olds who have degrees or certificates.
- **Jay Science and Engineering Academy Fair/Academic Research Symposium.** This past weekend, the Jay Science and Engineering Academy held its annual Science and Engineering Fair/Academic Research Symposium for middle and high school students. In addition to science fair projects, students presented their academic research through history fair projects and a new strand of kinetic art and engineering. Thanks to Principal **Teresa Cuellar** and staff for coordinating this excellent showcase.
- **NEF Annual Meeting.** Monday night was the Northside Education Foundation's Annual Meeting and Donor Recognition at the Sports Gym. Thanks to the NEF Board and Director of Partnerships **Cassandra Miranda** and staff for a nice event that celebrated the partnership between the Foundation and NISD.
- **Holiday Concerts and Performances.** There are hundreds of holiday events at Northside schools featuring amazing student talent. [A listing can be found on the NISD website.](#) Dr. Woods wished everyone a Happy Holidays.
- **Briscoe MS Choir Performance.** Under the direction of **Heather Cole**, the **Briscoe MS** choir provided some holiday cheer and performed for Trustees, District staff, and visitors.

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Carol Harle** shared appreciation to the Fine Arts Department for compiling a list of holiday events throughout the District. She attended a performance of Mary Poppins at **Harlan HS** and was impressed at the collection of elementary, middle, and high school student performers. Harle enjoyed participating in a NEF Grant Patrol.
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** shared her experience participating in a NEF Grant Patrol. She congratulated students and staff in the athletic programs at **Harlan** and **Brandeis** high schools on their successful football seasons and commended the **Holmes HS** athletes and coaches for working so hard to serve as role models in their community. Chumbley enjoyed attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the "Galm Road area" High School and shared how impressed she is with members of the construction community who work with Northside and who show such high levels of commitment.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** provided an update to Trustees from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board meeting.
- **Trustee Joseph Medina** commended the commitment demonstrated by student athletes who participated in the many athletic events that took place over the Thanksgiving week. He congratulated **Harlan** and **Brandeis** high schools on their great football seasons.

- **Trustee Katie Reed** attended the NEF Annual Meeting and Donor Recognition event and recognized the **Brennan HS** Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the **Taft HS** Culinary Arts students who participated in the event. Reed attended a tree planting ceremony at **Powell ES** in honor of the late Bexar County Commissioner **Paul Elizondo**. She recognized students from **Brandeis HS** who participated in a recent Alamo Area Council of Governments event. Reed recognized the Northside Museum Association on the publication of their new cookbook. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks support the work of the association.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** attended the performance of the musical Crazy For You at **Taft HS**. He provided an update to Trustees from the Bexar County School Boards Coalition.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** reminded Trustees of an invitation from the **Luna MS** PTA for their first Tamalada event. Lopez shared appreciation to the **Briscoe MS** choir, under the direction of **Heather Cole**, who performed at the Board meeting. He also recognized Director of Fine Arts **James Miculka**, Fine Arts Instructional Specialist **James Hare**, and the performers' parents for their support.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Dr. Kimberly Ridgley**, formerly Director of Guidance and Counseling, was appointed **Executive Director of Social and Emotional Learning**.
- **Tesi Garza**, formerly principal at Myers ES, was appointed **Director of Transportation**.
- **James Mears**, formerly vice principal at Construction Careers Academy, was appointed **Principal at Construction Careers Academy**.
- **Jaime Heye**, formerly assistant principal at Clark HS, was appointed **Academic Dean at Hobby MS**.

Recognition

- **CPS Energy Check Presentation.** A representative from CPS Energy presented the Board and Dr. Woods with a check for \$168,801.73 for the District's participation in the CPS Demand Response program which reduced energy consumption.

Administrative boundary proposal reviewed

Trustees reviewed preliminary boundary changes from **Scarborough ES** to **Knowlton** and **Burke** elementary schools' attendance zones prior to the Dec. 11 School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC) meeting. The SBAC, assisted by staff, will review the staff proposals, study relevant data, conduct a public hearing, analyze information as required by policy, and make formal recommendations to the Board concerning attendance zones.

NISD seeks low attendance waivers

Trustees gave approval for the District to seek low attendance waivers at **Brauchle** and **Westwood Terrace** elementary schools. Both schools had a low attendance day this fall.

NISD seeks class-size waivers for four elementary classrooms

Trustees gave approval for the District to seek class-size waivers for four classrooms across the District in kinder to fourth grade. State law mandates a 22:1 ratio of students to teacher in kindergarten through fourth grades. A waiver is required by law should a K-4 class exceed 22:1.

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids: Science Lab Equipment; Custodial Equipment; Vehicles – Model Year 2020; HVAC Filter Media Annual Service Contract; and Infant Simulators & Supplies. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: Intech Southwest Services LLC for HP desktops and Chromebooks for the Henderson ES technology deployment; Great South Texas Corporation dba Computer Solutions for annual subscription of the District's Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services; and Southwest Texas Equipment Distribution Inc. for five convection ovens for the cafeterias at Colonies North, Leon Springs, and McDermott elementary schools and Stinson MS. For more information, contact Purchasing Director **George Ayala** 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

Carol Harle, Ph.D., *President, District 6*
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Administration

Superintendent Brian T. Woods, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Administration Ray Galindo
Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Janis Jordan, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance David Rastellini
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 7 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.)*

- 📅 January 21, 2020, 7 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road
- 📅 February 11, 2020, 7 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road
- 📅 February 25, 2020, 7 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road