



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

June 23, 2020

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brian Woods reported to the Board:

- **Graduation.** Last week, NISD high school campuses hosted recognition events for graduates and their families. Dr. Woods thanked high school principals and their staffs for honoring graduates with class.
- **GPA/Class Rank.** No final decision has been made regarding GPA and class rank. District staff continue to gather data to allow for a decision that is in the best interests of students.
- **State guidance on funding.** In a conversation with Superintendents, Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath provided an update on state funding for next school year. While Dr. Woods appreciates the Commissioner's communication, concerns remain regarding funding for daily student attendance in a distance learning model.
- **Summer Learning.** A healthy enrollment exists for the various summer programs.
- **JumpStart.** Special programming is being planned to reengage students with school and jump start their school year through fun and high-interest activities in late July and early August. Information on registration will be communicated soon.
- **July 14 Meeting.** At the next meeting, the Board will unpack guidance from the state as it impacts the start of the school year including calendar implications and purchases required to start up the District's plan for the year.
- **Budget Recommendations.** The Board will consider extremely conservative budget recommendations. Dr. Woods said there is little doubt that we will be in an environment of increased expenditures to restart school and decreased revenues. That environment could be with us for some time.
- **Thank you.** Dr. Woods thanked Child Nutrition and Learning Tree employees, NISD police, and staff and community volunteers for their assistance in efforts to feed students and families.

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Carol Harle** attended several graduation recognition events and found that each one really focused on the concepts of pride and family. She shared her appreciation to all the custodial staff and NISD Police Department officers who helped make these events so successful. Harle recognized **Dr. Woods** and District staff for efforts to gather and garner feedback from multiple stakeholders and through multiple means.
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** recognized all the District's high school campuses and their staff for hosting successful graduation recognition events. Chumbley was able to visit **O'Connor HS** and acknowledged Principal **Jackie Horras** and campus staff for their work. Chumbley also thanked all District coaches who have worked the multiple athletics camps and for welcoming back our student athletes.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** shared appreciation to all high school administrators and staff for their work to host graduation recognition events and congratulated all District graduates.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** heard positive feedback from many parents regarding the high school graduation recognition events and shared appreciation to the staff at each campus who were so responsive and helpful.
- **Trustee Joseph Medina** congratulated all District graduates. He thanked all staff who made the graduation recognition events special for graduates and their families. Medina acknowledged Dr. Woods for his continued advocacy for school funding. Medina also shared appreciation to all District custodial staff for their hard work in preparing schools and facilities for the new school year.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** recognized this year's graduates.

- **Trustee Katie Reed** attended the **Health Careers HS** graduation recognition event and acknowledged it as a very special one for graduates and families.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Steven Zimmerman**, formerly principal at Madison HS in North East ISD, was appointed **Principal** at **Clark HS**.
- **Kathleen Cuevas**, formerly academic dean at Zachry MS, was appointed **Principal** at **Pease MS**.
- **Patricia Gutierrez**, formerly assistant principal at Marshall HS, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Marshall HS**.
- **Crystal Mitchell**, formerly transition school principal and assistant director of the Robinson Center for Young Scholars at the University of Washington, was appointed **Vice Principal** at **Luna MS**.
- **Amanda Fraser**, formerly fifth grade team leader at Franklin ES, was appointed **Vice Principal** at **Michael ES**.
- **Jamie Kollmann**, formerly student success advisor at Brandeis HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Brandeis HS**.

Trustees approve Growth & Improvement Budget for 2020-2021

Trustees approved a growth and improvement plan that focuses on campuses opening in 2020-2021 and preparing to open in 2021-2022 and the expansion of pre-kindergarten. The total Growth & Improvement budget for all funds is \$9.85 million.

Trustees approve Compensation Plan for 2020-2021

Given the State's uncertain budget outlook, Trustees approved a compensation plan for the coming school year that does not provide for a general increase in salary apart from some market adjustments. The plan will maintain all current salary schedules as well as the current step schedule.

Trustees name new middle school for Joe Straus III

Joe Straus III Middle School is the name of the new "Kallison Ranch area" middle school that opens in summer 2021. This school was funded by the voter-approved School Bond 2018. Straus, a native of San Antonio, is the former Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives from 2009 to 2019. Under Straus' leadership, the Texas House pushed for more funding of public schools, improved career readiness, reduced testing, and helped more students access needed special education services.

Trustees approve agreement with Northside Booster Association

Trustees approved the annual agreement between the District and the Northside Booster Association.

Board approves facilities items:

- Exterior Colors for Bus/Student Covered Walkway at **Cody ES** as developed by Chesney Morales Partners, Inc.
- Interior Colors for Cafeteria/Kitchen Renovation at **Rudder MS** as developed by Huckabee & Associates, Inc.
- Interior Colors for Flooring Replacement at **Lewis** and **Helotes** elementary schools as developed by CWS Architects
- Contractor for Access and Intrusion Control Upgrades for ISMS – various campuses – Alterman, Inc.
- Change Orders:
 - **Neff MS** – Mechanical Upgrade – Return of contingency and allowances – (\$62,690)
 - **Brandeis, Clark** and **O'Connor** high schools – Synthetic Turf Football Field and Track Upgrades – to remediate concealed soil conditions – Not to Exceed \$214,594.58
 - Northside Support Services – Mechanical Upgrades – Return of contingency and allowances – (\$60,338.72)

Trustees approve instructional waiver

The Student Success Initiative (SSI) mandates that all students in grade 5 and 8 perform satisfactorily on STAAR math and reading assessments in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Districts are required to provide early notice to parents of students in grades 4 and 7 identified to be at risk of failure on the first administration of an assessment required for grade advancement in the next school year. Since STAAR was not given this year due to COVID-19, TEA is allowing districts to request a waiver that will exempt the district from having to send the early notice letter to parents for this school year.

Trustees hear School Health Advisory Council Annual Report

Dr. Kimberly Ridgley, Executive Director of Whole Child Initiatives, presented the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) annual report. Texas law requires the establishment of a SHAC in each school district as well as the presentation of an annual report to the Board of Trustees. The District facilitator to the SHAC is Danielle Leon. [For more information, visit the SHAC website.](#)

Application approved for Optional Flexible School Day for Chavez Excel Academy

NISD will submit an application notifying the Texas Education Agency that it plans to participate in the 2020-21 Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) for Chavez Excel Academy. The goal of the Chavez Excel Academy program is to improve graduation rates for students who are in danger of dropping out of school or have dropped out or who are behind in core subject courses. Trustees approved the application.

Trustees approve Board Committee assignments

Trustees approved chairs and members of various Board Committees. Committees and their Chairs are:

- Academics – Joseph Medina
- Finance – Gerald Lopez
- Technology – Karen Freeman
- Building – M'Lissa Chumbley
- Policy and Intergovernmental Relations – Katie Reed

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids: HVAC Controls Systems Repair & Maintenance; Chain Link Fence Material & Installation; Basketball & Soccer Equipment; Fresh Produce Purchase & Delivery; Bakery, Bread & Tortilla Products; Pre-Kindergarten Supply Kits; Workers' Compensation Third Party Administration & Related Services; Drug Testing and Post-Offer Physicals; Reading Intervention; Group Basic Employee Life/AD&D and Voluntary Employee and Dependent Life/AD&D; Voluntary Critical Illness Plan; and Installation, Removal & Repair Services for Electronic Projector Systems and Video and Audio Equipment. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: Phoenix Direct Communications Inc. for the annual renewal of live Global Positioning System (GPS) software; Intech Southwest Services, LLC for 500 Chromebooks in support of the UT OnRamps student courses; Insight Public Sector, Inc. for the annual renewal of JAMF software; Computer Solutions for the annual renewal of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) UC Managed Services; Insight Public Sector, Inc. for the FortiWeb Firewall Security application solution originally purchased under Bond 2014 project funding; NWEA for Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) universal screener and progress monitoring tool in support of at-risk students by helping teachers personalize instruction for students needing remediation or enrichment; Newsela for the Instructional online content platform in support of the new nonfiction ELAR TEKS in both High School and Middle School campuses under Proclamation 2020 IMA; and Intech Southwest Services, LLC. for 275 HP ProBooks. 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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Deputy Superintendent for Administration Ray Galindo
Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Janis Jordan, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance Rene Barajas, Ph.D.
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.)*

- ☞ July 14, 2020, 5 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (meeting conducted via video conference)
- ☞ July 28, 2020, 7 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road
- ☞ August 4, 2020, 7 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road