



Inside Northside

# BOARDTalk

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

**October 27, 2020**

## Superintendent's Report

### **Dr. Brian Woods reported to the Board:**

- **Progress/Return of In-Person Learners.** About 40 percent of NISD students have returned to buildings for in-person instruction and schools continue to invite those students who are struggling to return where there is room. Clubs and organizations are restarting. While the 2020-21 school year is anything but normal, we are trying to inject a sense of normalcy where we can.
- **Virtual TASA/TASB Convention.** About 100 talented Northside ISD Fine Arts students were showcased at the virtual TASA/TASB Convention earlier this month. Dr. Woods thanked the students, their instructors, the Fine Arts Department, AV and Media Production teams, and trustees for their participation.
- **Finance Update.** The State has elected to extend the average daily attendance hold harmless through the end of the first semester. District staff are bringing awareness to the opportunity for families to complete a meal application through the Free & Reduced Lunch Program. With uncertainty remaining regarding budget expenditures and revenue, the likelihood is that the budget may need to be updated more frequently.
- **NEF Virtual Gala.** In a couple of weeks, the Northside Education Foundation (NEF) will host its annual gala and recognition of the 2020 Pillars of Character in a virtual format. Thanks to NISD Director of Partnerships **Cassandra Miranda**, her staff, and the Foundation Board for their creativity in planning a virtual gala.
- **Legislative Priorities.** The District's Legislative Priorities have been drafted and will be presented at the Board's Policy Meeting next week. They are dominated by COVID-related concerns.
- **Diane Ravitch Event.** Dr. Woods enjoyed attending a recent event held by Diane Ravitch, an advocate for public education.
- **Importance of Voting.** Early Voting continues through Friday, Oct. 30, until 10 p.m. each night. The Northside Activity Center is an Early Voting location.

## Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Katie Reed** submitted a nomination for an Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) award for NISD's partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. She has represented all area school districts as a member of the AACOG Board since 2008. Reed announced that after serving on the NISD Board of Trustees for 31 years she will not seek re-election at the end of her current term in May 2021.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** recognized **Nancy Kreth**, Elementary Science Curriculum & Instruction Specialist, and **Amalia Sollars**, K-8 Science Programs Coordinator, for their role in announcing a new Project ACORN grant application process. The grant application process was made possible through a NEF donation by **Kent Page**, a past recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST), and his wife **Linda Page**. Harle enjoyed participating on a Texas Health Literacy Council panel and recognized Rhodes ES counselor **Amaris Sanchez** for her great presentation. She also recognized NISD Police Chief **Charlie Carnes** for receiving rave reviews following his presentation at an American Board of Trial Advocates conference. Harle recognized Leon Springs ES GT teacher **Lacy Greco** for the dialogue and perspective she offered as a panelist at a recent education forum.
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** praised **Katie Reed** for being a true role model for young women and for doing amazing work for NISD over her tenure as Trustee. She congratulated Executive Director of Athletics **Stan Laing** and his staff for their work facilitating the District's athletic events. Chumbley commented how good it was to see students back

together at these events. She thanked **Dr. Woods** for his leadership as both NISD superintendent as well as President of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). Chumbley recognized Trustees **Bobby Blount** and **Karen Freeman** for their work with a candidate forum hosted by the Bexar County School Boards Coalition for candidates for the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Alamo Community Colleges District (ACCD).

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** commended Trustee **Katie Reed** for her years of service to NISD. She acknowledged the student performers who represented NISD in the virtual TASA/TASB Annual Convention.
- **Trustee Joseph Medina** also thanked Trustees Blount and Freeman for their work with the SBOE and ACCD candidate forum. He commended campus administrators, counselors, and teachers for their hard work in providing ongoing support of students. Medina echoed praise for **Katie Reed** and described her as a cornerstone and shining light for the Board and the whole District.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** shared his appreciation to Trustee Freeman for her assistance with the SBOE and ACCD candidate forum. He announced the annual Science Bowl will be held virtually and gave an update of the Bexar County School Boards Coalition's project to publish a book with descriptions and information of the county's local school districts.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** has attended several District athletic events and commended **Stan Laing** and the Athletic Department staff for the safety protocols and procedures in place. He also commended **James Miculka**, Director of Fine Arts, the Fine Arts Department staff, and the District's Media Productions and AV teams for their work in preparing for the TASA/TASB student performance. Lopez congratulated and thanked **Dr. Woods** and **Katie Reed** for their leadership in NISD.

## Recognitions

- **Risk Professional of the Year. Debby Glass**, Director of Risk Management, has been selected as the Texas PRIMA 2020 Risk Professional of the Year. The award, sponsored by Texas Chapter of the Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA), is designed to recognize an individual who exemplifies excellence, innovation, and commitment to the Risk and Insurance Management field.
- **EXCEL Award Winner. Tiffany Burrell**, formerly dance teacher and now administrative intern at **Stevens HS**, was awarded the 2020-21 KENS-5/Credit Human EXCEL Award for NISD. She was recognized last month and received a silver apple and \$1,000 check.
- **All-Star Student.** Stevens HS senior **Isa Link** was recognized as a KENS-5 All-Star Student for 2020-2021. The purpose of this new award presented by KENS-5 is to highlight one exceptional student from each school district in the station's viewing area.

## Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Christina D. Escarcega**, formerly teacher at Ott ES, was appointed **Vice Principal at Boldt ES**.
- **Cynthia Castillo**, formerly administrative intern at Carnahan ES, was appointed **Vice Principal at Glenoaks ES**.
- **Darrell Pankratz**, formerly assistant principal at Williamsburg-James City School District in Virginia, was appointed **Assistant Principal at O'Connor HS**.

## Attendance zone reviewed for newest middle school

Trustees heard the boundary proposal for the **Straus MS** attendance zone prior to the Oct. 29 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. Middle schools involved in the proposal are **Briscoe** and **Folks**. Straus MS will open in 2021 and is funded by School Bond 2018.

## Public hearing: NISD earns highest financial rating 18 years in a row

Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance **Rene Barajas** reported that for the eighteenth year in a row, Northside ISD has received the highest rating of "Superior" under the state's financial accountability rating system, called School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). The primary goal of School FIRST is to improve the management of school districts' financial resources. The School FIRST rating is based upon analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2018-19 school year, and budgetary and financial data for the 2019 fiscal year. As required by state law, Northside announced and held a public meeting to distribute a financial management report that explains the District's performance under each of 15 indicators and the District's rating.

## **Budget Amendment approved**

Trustees approved Budget Amendment #1 which decreases fund balance by \$12.3 million in the General Fund. Adjustments include the addition to appropriations resulting from approved carry forward of funds including those for 2019-20 purchase order commitments and campus formula account balances. Increases to appropriations also include costs for additional staff for Health Services. An additional amount is included for the 2016 hail damage. The amendment was presented by Deputy Superintendent **Rene Barajas**.

## **Board approves Bond resolutions**

As part of a bigger debt management plan, Trustees approved bond resolutions that allow the District to issue refunding bonds for the 2012 fixed rate issue, remarket or issue fixed rate refunding bonds for the 2016 variable rate debt issue, issue new money authorizations not to exceed \$250,000,000 from School Bond 2018, and issue taxable advanced refunding bonds for various issues not to exceed \$351,245,000.

## **Board approves facilities items:**

- Schematic Design for Athletic Upgrades at **Stevenson MS** as developed by Nextgen Architects
- Schematic Design for Cafeteria/Gym Upgrades & Door Hardware at **Powell ES** as developed by Pfluger Associates Architects
- Schematic Design for Science Renovation at **Hobby MS** as developed by Alamo Architects
- Exterior Colors for Library Addition/Renovation at **Taft HS** as developed by Kaarlsen Noonan Rittimann Garcia Architecture
- Schematic Design for Playground Shade Structures at various campuses as developed by Moy Tarin Ramirez Engineers, LLC
- Change Orders:
  - 2019 Security Lobbies – 21 campuses – Return of contingency and allowances – (\$75,950.45) (credit)
  - **Hobby MS** – Bus/Student Covered Walkway – Return of allowance – (\$54,080.25) (credit)
  - **Stinson MS** – Science Classroom/Library Addition & Renovation – Return of contingency and allowances – (\$122,492) (credit)
  - **Meadow Village ES** – ALE & Mechanical Upgrades – Return of contingency and allowances – (\$106,773) (credit)

## **Trustees review safety audit**

Senate Bill 11 and the Texas Education Code require ISDs to conduct a safety audit of all district facilities at least once every three years. This year, the District's audit was conducted by **Shane Allard**, NISD Safety and Security Officer.

## **Readings of Policy**

- First Reading of Policies CCA (LOCAL) and CH (LOCAL)
- First Reading of Local Policies in TASB Localized Update #115
- Review of Legal Policies in TASB Localized Update #115

## **Board approves insurance carrier**

Trustees approved the renewal of a policy with Westchester for Property and Boiler & Machinery Insurance.

## **Bids for goods approved**

Trustees approved the following bids: Maps & Globes; Uniform Cleaning for Middle & High School; Elementary Music Equipment & Materials; Printing Supplies, Equipment & Service; Diploma Covers & Sheets; and Technology and Related Equipment Recycling. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: Ripple Effects, Inc. for Ripple Effects' digital suite; Severin Intermediate Holdings LLC for annual renewal of SmartFind Express software; Education Service Center Region 20 for the 2020-2021 commitment for Living Science Services with Region 20; ProQuest LLC for annual renewal of ProQuest software; Education Advanced Inc. for annual renewal of TestHound software; Goodheart-Wilcox Publisher for digital CTE materials required for distance learning; and Education Service Center Region 20 for Discovery Education digital streaming services for the 2020-2021 school year. 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](mailto:info@nisd.net).

For additional information, call 210-397-8770.

**Board of Trustees**

Carol Harle, Ph.D., *President, District 6*  
Karen Freeman, *Vice President, District 7*  
Joseph H. Medina, *Secretary, District 1*  
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M'Lissa M. Chumbley, *President, District 3*  
Robert Blount, Jr., *Trustee, District 4*  
Katie N. Reed, *Trustee, District 5*

**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 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](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.)*

- 📅 Nov. 17, 2020, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center
- 📅 Dec. 15, 2020, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center
- 📅 Jan. 19, 2021, Time and Location TBD