



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 15, 2020**

## Superintendent's Report

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

- **School Operations after Winter Break.** The District will not bring back additional in-person learners when school resumes on Jan. 4. This will allow time to study health metrics.
- **Athletics and Holiday Events.** Thank you to Athletics and Fine Arts staff for their efforts to ensure safe events for students, staff, and families.
- **RYHT and BCEC Events with Legislators.** Dr. Woods, Trustees, and District staff have participated in virtual events with Raise Your Hand Texas and the Bexar County Education Coalition to discuss the upcoming legislative session. Dr. Woods shared his appreciation to **Naomi Miller**, Director of Governmental Relations, for helping coordinate these events.
- **Hold Harmless, FRL, Testing and Accountability Update.** There has been no movement on extending the state's ADA hold harmless provision for districts past the first 18 weeks of the school year. Through the efforts of campus staff, the District's Free & Reduced Lunch program percentages are almost back to where they were a year ago. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has announced that accountability ratings are on hold for this year. While STAAR assessments will be administered, Dr. Woods cautioned that their value will be limited to providing individual student data and should not be used to assess districts, schools, or teachers.
- **Pay Adjustment in January.** The 2020-2021 budget adopted by Trustees in August allows for Trustees to consider some addition to compensation. Dr. Woods hopes to bring a recommendation for Board consideration in January following the release of the state comptroller's revenue estimates.
- **Advocating for school staff to be prioritized with COVID-19 vaccine.** Tonight the Board will discuss a resolution advocating that school staff should be recognized as a priority group to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **AACOG Recognition.** Northside was recently recognized by the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) for our partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. Thank you to **Don Schmidt**, Assistant Superintendent for Adult and Community Services, for his continued leadership in coordinating this ongoing effort.
- **Food Bank/Blue Santa Events.** Dr. Woods appreciates the support of community partners like the San Antonio Food Bank and San Antonio Police Department Blue Santa program to ensure families have additional support this holiday season.
- **Happy Holidays.** Dr. Woods wished everyone a Happy Holidays and is thankful to close out 2020.
- **Video Moment.** The Northside Video Moment highlighted excerpts of student holiday performances. Northside Fine Arts students will be featured in the annual KABB holiday concert TV special.

## Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Katie Reed** shared her appreciation for the recent recognition by AACOG of Northside's partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. Reed recognized the work of the University United Methodist Church along with students from **Brandeis** and **Clark** high schools in the construction of 70 picnic tables with benches for use at various schools in the District. She also recognized the positive relationship the church has with **Rawlinson MS**. Reed also recognized the Salvation Army, an organization with whom she volunteers, for their work in providing clothes and toys for 700 families as well as addressing the needs of senior citizens. Reed encouraged Trustees to participate in the scheduled virtual meeting with the legislative delegation.

- **Trustee Carol Harle** expressed that this is the time of year where we celebrate our blessings, express gratitude, and share good tidings. Teachers and staff work hard to provide the best learning experience for students along with gifting students with positive relationships, caring social and emotional support, and other forms of support like love and care. The Team of Eight continues to recognize how vital and special the District family is and she wished peace, love, joy, and good tidings to all.
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** shared a personal experience of her quarantining after a family member tested positive for COVID. She expressed that while the experience was stressful, she practiced all the measures encouraged for District staff. Chumbley commended the **Harlan HS** community, specifically Principal **Robert Harris**, Head Coach **Eddie Salas**, the varsity football team and their parents, for the graceful manner in which they responded to the recent forfeiture of the state football playoff game. Chumbley recalled the District's two commitments early on at the start of the pandemic – to maintain high academic standards and to avoid any reduction in force among employees. She shared appreciation to Dr. Woods and **Dr. Rene Barajas**, Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance, for working to retain all staff. Chumbley commended the student performers featured in the Video Moment and wished all a Merry Christmas.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** also commended the student performers in the featured video. She congratulated Jim Crow on his retirement as the Executive Director of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) after 25 years. Freeman spoke of how deeply hurt she was after reading a recent newspaper article containing comments from an organization depicting Northside negatively for not yet having discussed stipends or bonuses for employees. Freeman mentioned it was always the plan of the Board to have this discussion once it could be assured the District was financially sound. Freeman stated that Trustees continue to be appreciative of employees and the work they do. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.
- **Trustee Joseph Medina** encouraged all teachers and staff to take time this holiday to spend with their loved ones. He congratulated the football teams from **Stevens**, **Taft**, and **Brennan** high schools as they continue in state playoff competition. Medina wished all a Merry Christmas.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** informed Trustees that the Public Education in San Antonio book highlighting area school districts will be ready for print soon. He thanked all staff for all they are doing through the ongoing challenges and wished everyone a happy holiday season.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** thanked the NISD Fine Arts Department and all fine arts teachers who assisted with the Video Moment. Lopez wished all District staff, students, and families a safe holiday season this year.

## Recognitions

- **Student Hero Award. Mateo Alcorta**, a fourth grade student at Elrod ES, has received a Student Hero Award from the State Board of Education. Alcorta has made more than 1,000 masks for the community including first responders. His work was prompted by the cancellation of a concert by his favorite pop group, BTS, due to the pandemic. Alcorta decided he wanted to make masks for the musicians to keep them safe. That small mission became a bigger one as he learned to sew and crochet.

## Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Jessica Palomares**, formerly Executive Director of Elementary Administration, was appointed **Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Administration**.
- **Jose Mendez**, formerly Academic Dean at Bernal MS, was appointed **Principal at Bernal MS**.
- **Dana Gilbert-Perry**, formerly Principal at Vale MS, was appointed **Principal at Straus MS**.
- **Melinda Clark**, formerly Academic Coordinator at Jay HS, was appointed **Academic Dean at Clark HS**.
- **Javier Lazo**, formerly Vice Principal at Rayburn MS, was appointed **Vice Principal at Jones MS**.
- **Stephanie Mendoza**, formerly Assistant Director of Special Revenue and Compliance, was appointed **Director of Special Revenue and Compliance**.

## Attendance zone for Straus MS approved

Trustees approved the attendance zone for the new **Straus MS** which opens in August 2021. The zone moves 713 students from the **Folks MS** attendance area and 107 students would be moved from the **Briscoe MS** attendance area. Straus MS is located at 8992 Talley Road. The approved boundary zones for these schools will be posted on their campus websites.

## Board approves facilities items:

- Library Graphics at **Wernli ES** as developed by Sign Resource Management
- Contractor for Fire Sprinkler System Replacement – **Timberwilde ES** – Ranger Builders, LLC

- Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – **Burke** and **Michael** elementary schools – R.E.C. Industries, Inc.
- Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – **May ES** – R.E.C. Industries, Inc.
- Contractor for Tennis Court Resurfacing – **Connally MS** – Premier Courts
- Interior Colors for Building Replacement at **Westwood Terrace ES** as developed by Marmon Mok Architecture
- Change Order:
  - **Tomlinson ES** – Additional Items Required as a Result of Building Permitting Review by Bexar County – \$87,534.19 (add)

### Trustees approve resolution

Trustees discussed and voted to approve a resolution concerning the inclusion of public school personnel in the definition of frontline workers for the purposes of COVID-19 vaccine allocation.

### Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids: Copier Paper; Apparel & Awards; Graduation Supplies & Related Services; Aggregate Landscape Materials; and Vehicle - Model 2021. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: Great South Texas Corporation dba Computer Solutions for annual renewal of Cisco SMARTnet software and support; Gulf Coast Paper Company for translucent lids for square containers; Imagine Learning, Inc. for Imagine Language & Literacy and Imagine Espanol annual software licenses; Howard Industries, Inc. for Maxell Laser Projectors; and Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) for the service agreement for the monthly Medicaid processing fee for the use of site-based Medicaid administration, reimbursement, and tracking software. 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**  
**Gerald B. Lopez, Secretary, District 2**  
**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.)

- 📅 Jan. 19, 2021, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center
- 📅 Feb. 9, 2021, 6 p.m., Location TBD
- 📅 Feb. 23, 2021, 6 p.m., Location TBD
- 📅 March 23, 2021, 6 p.m., Location TBD