



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

January 19, 2021

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brian Woods reported to the Board:

- **Operational Update.** Last week Dr. Woods released a video to parents asking them to consider virtual learning for their children to help address an increase in COVID-19 cases in the city after the holidays. Those who advocate for no in-person learning ignore two important facts. The first is that many students desperately need the resources in the building to be successful. The second is that funding to pay staff and operate the District would cease if our schools were closed.
- **Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) News and Analysis.** The State Comptroller released the Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) as part of the legislative process. The BRE is an indicator of what might happen with respect to the State's budget. While the BRE was not completely positive, it was not as bad as expected.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine.** As healthcare providers allocate doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Northside, they are distributed to staff. Nurses, police officers, and some teachers have received the first vaccine. We can't predict when or how many doses the District will receive in the coming weeks, but we will be ready.
- **Thank you Trustees.** In honor of School Board Appreciation Month, Dr. Woods thanked NISD trustees for being incredible volunteers who serve students, staff, and patrons.

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Katie Reed** shared a publication from the San Antonio Medical Foundation which referenced ongoing expansion at **Health Careers HS** and pending street improvements to the area near Health Careers and the **Nellie Reddix Center**. Reed visited **Thornton ES** and described her time at the campus as a fantastic experience. She thanked Principal **Justin Bledsoe** for providing a personal tour of the school. Reed encouraged Trustees to consider United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall as a possible namesake for the Marshall Law & Medical Services Magnet School.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** began with a statement of gratitude to her fellow Trustees in honor of Board Appreciation Month. She referenced how proud, grateful, and humbled each Board member is to serve the greatest students, educators, staff, and families of Northside. Harle commented that serving the students of the District has always and consistently been the Board's top priority. She looks forward to celebrating in February the team's eighth member, Dr. Woods, for his courageous leadership. Harle appreciated the opportunity to visit **Clark HS** and her time with Principal **Steve Zimmerman**. During her visit, she also had an opportunity to talk with librarian **Lucy Podmore** who reminded her of the District's annual LibraryPalooza event.
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** thanked Dr. Harle, who she views as a role model, for her statement to Trustees and for her leadership on the District's governance team. Chumbley visited **Powell ES** and thanked Principal **Priscilla Paul** for helping facilitate participation in a Zoom meeting with students. Chumbley spoke of the courage and heart that define the culture in Northside. She commented that this longstanding culture has been characterized by the concept of family and treating each other with courtesy and respect. Chumbley concluded by applauding Dr. Woods and all those across the District who have been role models for the concept of grit.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** enjoyed a visit to **Folks MS** and the opportunity to tour several classrooms with Principal **Shawn McKenzie**. She found all the teachers she met inspiring. Freeman thanked Dr. Woods for all he does for the staff and students in Northside and appreciates that he takes into account the best interests of students for every decision he makes.

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** was happy to hear the good news that University Health had partnered with the District to provide limited vaccinations to employees. Blount spoke to the role that public educators and school leaders play as real problem solvers. In reference to the District's culture, Blount acknowledged the cohesiveness of Board members.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** thanked Dr. Harle for her opening comments to members of the Board and expressed his own gratitude to Trustees for their commitment. Lopez looks forward to visiting **Westwood Terrace ES** following an invitation from Principal **Tom Knapp**. Lopez encouraged the Board to consider honoring District staff lost due to COVID in the coming months.

Recognitions

- **Council of PTAs, Northside Education Foundation, and Northside Museum Association honor NISD Trustees.** The Northside Council of PTAs, represented by PTA Council President **Tami Bosker**, the Northside School Museum Association, represented by **Caroline Wernli**, and the Northside Education Foundation (NEF), led by Secretary **Cathy Naiser**, honored NISD's seven Board members in a virtual presentation. Every year, the Texas governor proclaims January as School Board Recognition Month. NISD is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge the invaluable contributions that members of the Boards of Trustees make to our various districts and communities. School trustees serve as key advocates for students and work together to provide a better future for each and every student. NEF Secretary Cathy Naiser also gave a virtual presentation of NEF's 2020 Annual Report.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Wendy Tiemann**, formerly principal at Timberwilde ES, was appointed **Principal** at **Tomlinson ES**.
- **Brenda Rayburg**, formerly vice principal at Vale MS, was appointed **Principal** at **Vale MS**.
- **Carrie Moix**, formerly Social Studies Specialist in the Curriculum and Instruction Department, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Bernal MS**.
- **Robert Alvarado**, formerly assistant principal at Folks MS, was appointed **Vice Principal** at **Rayburn MS**.
- **Lynda Guzman**, formerly Academic Dean in Harlandale ISD, was appointed **Vice Principal** at **Villarreal ES**.

2021-2022 NISD official calendar approved

The Board of Trustees approved the District calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Northside ISD traditionally approves school calendars two years ahead to provide parents and students ample lead time. Given the COVID disruption along with significant changes to instructional delivery that necessitated changing the current year calendar, the typical two year lead time couldn't be accomplished. Multiple options for the calendar were shared and discussed with Cabinet, the Northside Educational Improvement Council (NEIC), and the Academics Committee of the Board. The calendar will be posted on the NISD website.

Trustees approve employee pay resolution

Trustees approved a resolution authorizing a mid-year payment adjustment for employees. All full and part-time teachers, nurses, librarians and all other positions that are not under a District mid-point salary scale will receive a one-time gross payment of \$625. All other full and part-time employees who are under a District mid-point salary scale will receive a one-time gross payment equal to one percent (1%) of their midpoint salary in their salary scale. All eligible part-time employees will receive one-half (1/2) of the one-time payment paid to a similarly situated full-time employee.

In their pre-vote discussion, Trustees and the Superintendent spoke of the months of consideration given to employee compensation and the Board's consistent focus on ensuring no loss of jobs for any employee group as well as the continued financial stability of the District. Trustees referenced the initiatives enacted early during the pandemic crisis to ensure all employees continued to remain employed and continued to receive compensation as well as their continued appreciation for the hard work of Northside employees. Dr. Woods added that, while there is still significant uncertainty around our budget for the second half of this year and the 2021-22 school year, appropriate employee compensation is always a priority.

Board approves audit of District's financial report

The Board approved the audit of Northside's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ending August 31, 2020. The report consists of management's representations concerning the financial condition and operations of the District and the results of an audit performed by the certified public accounting firm of Weaver and Tidwell LLP. The audit was performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The auditors have expressed an

unmodified opinion which is the highest level of assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement, according to **Dr. Rene Barajas**, Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance.

Board approves Innovative Courses

The Texas Education Agency Division of College, Career, and Military Preparation has engaged members of the workforce, secondary education, and higher education to advise on the development of programs of study, including coherent sequences of courses, industry-based certifications, and work-based learning to ensure students are prepared for in-demand, high-skill, and high-wage careers in Texas. The Northside Career and Technical Education Department (CTE) has realigned the district programs of study and NISD is including these innovative courses: Principles of Exercise Science and Wellness, Kinesiology 1, Applied Nutrition and Dietetics, Legal Research and Writing, Speech Communication and Disorders, Speech and Language Development, and Dimensions of Diplomacy

Board approves House Bill 3 required goals and targets

House Bill 3 requires districts to adopt plans in early childhood literacy and math as well as college, career, and military readiness. These plans must include an annual review by the Board at a public meeting, an annual report posted on the website, and specific annual goals for five years at each campus. Annual goals for third grade reading and third grade math at the “Meets” level have been set as well as annual goals for College, Career, and Military Readiness. In addition, annual goals for student groups have been set using the same methodology as the aggregate goals.

COVID-19 Resolution extended

Trustees discussed and voted to extend a resolution concerning Modified Operations due to COVID-19.

Board approves facilities items:

- Schematic design for the kitchen/cafeteria renovation at **Elrod ES** as developed by Kaarlsen Noonan Rittimann Garcia Architecture
- Contractor for Electrical, Lighting, and Mechanical Upgrades at various facilities – Central Electric Enterprises & Co.
- Contractor for Fire Alarm and Mechanical Upgrades – **Murnin** and **Ward** elementary schools – CRI Electric, Inc.
- Contractor for Football Field Turf Replacement at **Farris Stadium** – Paragon Sports Constructors
- Contractor for Intercom, Fire, Clock, Sound and Mechanical Upgrades – **Rudder MS**, **Cable ES** and the **Northside Learning Center** – Central Electric Ent. & Co.
- Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – **Allen ES** – L.C. Mosel Company
- Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – **Carson ES** – L.C. Mosel Company
- Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – **Fernandez ES** – Comfort-Air Engineering, Inc.
- Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – **Steubing ES** – L.C. Mosel Company
- Contractor for Paving Upgrades – **Michael ES** – R. L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Contractor for Science Fume Hood Replacements – **Holmes HS** – Comfort-Air Engineering, Inc.
- Contractor for Synthetic Turf Football Field & Track Upgrades at **Harlan**, **Health Careers**, **Taft & Warren** high schools – Hellas Construction, Inc.
- Contractor for Portable Relocation – various campuses – 2021 Construction Related – Dodson House Moving, LLC
- Contractor for **Warren HS** Bleacher Replacement – Texas Sports Equipment, LLC.

Board approves purchase of 25 school buses

Trustees approved a request to purchase 25 school buses. State law requires that buses model year 2017 or newer must have seat belts unless the Board holds a public meeting and vote indicating that the addition of seat belts would create a financial hardship for the District.

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids: Science Lab Equipment; Security Cameras, Access Controls & Intrusion Devices; Art Supplies & Miscellaneous Items; HVAC Filter Media Annual Service Contract; Fire Suppression Maintenance; Water-Based Fire Protect System Test Inspection; Medical Equipment & Supplies; and NISD Mobile Wireless Communication. Trustees approved the following purchase order: Intech Southwest Services LLC. for the purchase of HP desktops and monitors for the Howsman, Locke Hill, Raba, and Villarreal elementary schools; Jones Magnet School; and Neff, Pease, and Rayburn middle schools technology deployments. 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*
Karen Freeman, *Vice President, District 7*
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Gerald B. Lopez, *Secretary, District 2*
M'Lissa M. Chumbley, *President, District 3*
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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. 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.)*

- 📅 Feb. 9, 2021, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center
- 📅 Feb. 23, 2021, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center
- 📅 March 23, 2021, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center