



Inside Northside

# BOARDTalk

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

**March 23, 2021**

## Superintendent's Report

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

- **Return to Learning.** Dr. Woods was glad to report that more students are returning to buildings as the 4th quarter of the school year is underway. He hopes this will not only help us finish strong, but kick off large summer programs and having most students in our buildings in the 2021-22 school year.
- **CASEL Site Visit.** The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) conducted a two-day virtual site visit in December that included interviews with Dr. Woods, Dr. Harle, Central Office leaders, teachers, students, and parents. They also virtually visited **Cole ES, Knowlton ES, Rayburn MS, Briscoe MS, and Taft HS** to observe social and emotional learning (SEL) practices and conduct interviews. CASEL provided a final report that identified strengths, challenges, and action steps NISD can take for systematic SEL implementation.
- **Hybrid School Anniversaries and Dedication.** The District is holding hybrid events for school anniversaries and dedications this year. There is limited in-person attendance with most invited to watch a livestream from home. Last month, we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Communications Arts HS** and last week, we dedicated **Dr. Caroline Wernli ES**. Later this week, we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Jones MS** and next month is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event for **Passmore ES**.
- **NEF Sporting Clay Shooting Tournament.** The NEF Sporting Clay Shooting Tournament was held last week. Thanks to NISD Director of Partnerships **Cassandra Miranda**, her staff, and the Foundation Board for a safe and successful event.
- **Vaccine Progress.** Four thousand District staff have scheduled a vaccination appointment this week. Dr. Woods thanked **Don Schmidt**, Assistant Superintendent for Student, Family & Community Services, for his work in facilitating vaccination efforts on behalf of the District and other COVID-related responsibilities. Staff that are interested in being vaccinated may still register for an appointment with University Health for either March 25 or 26. The registration link is- <http://nisdvaccine.nisd.net>.
- **TASA/TASB Legislative Process.** The recent TASA/TASB Legislative Conference featured timely topics and included legislator involvement.
- **Legislative Update.** After a slow start, the current legislative session is quickly becoming more active. District staff continue to monitor proposed legislation impactful to public education – some positively and some negatively. Good progress has been made in collaborative efforts with TASA and Raise Your Hand Texas regarding advocacy for the release of undistributed federal funds.

## Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Katie Reed** commended Dr. Woods for his role in the TASA/TASB Legislative Conference. Reed is happy to see more students returning to schools for in-person learning.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** introduced a video tribute featuring all Trustees honoring Dr. Woods as a part of Texas Public Schools Week. Harle wished all school librarians a happy librarians' month and spoke to ways the pandemic has affected their outreach. Harle referenced her connection with **Jones MS** through Communities In Schools (CIS) and is looking forward to the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the campus. She recently participated in a lunch drive thru event at **Martin ES** for CIS staff members. Harle closed by acknowledging the work of Northside's Student Advocacy and School Choice (SASC) department and recent news stories featuring the efforts of department staff. She referenced similar work to reengage students by teachers at both **Rawlinson** and **Ross** middle schools.

- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** congratulated **Wernli ES** Principal **Lori Shaw**, Vice Principal **Casey Feldt**, staff, and students for a successful dedication event. Chumbley shared appreciation to Assistant Superintendent for Facilities & Operations **Leroy San Miguel**, Executive Director of Construction & Engineering **Jacob Villarreal**, and Jesse Garza with **Garza Architects** for providing construction project updates. She thanked Trustee **Karen Freeman** for TASB updates she provides to the Board. Chumbley reiterated the acknowledgement of **Don Schmidt** for his work facilitating employee vaccinations. She also shared appreciation to other District staff who assisted including **Mary Arias**, **Guadalupe Hernandez**, **Rita Peterson**, **Lisa Rivera**, and **Yanira Ruiz**. Chumbley also acknowledged Northside's great partnership with H-E-B.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** shared that the **Wernli ES** dedication was a wonderful event and described namesake **Dr. Caroline Wernli** as a wonderful role model.
- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** enjoyed the **Wernli ES** dedication and thanked Trustees **Freeman** and **Chumbley** for attending in-person. Lopez, too, thanked **Don Schmidt** for his service to the District in leading many COVID-related initiatives. Lopez participated in the NEF Clay Shoot tournament and recognized the NEF Board and President **Jerry Lammers** and NISD Director of Partnerships **Cassandra Miranda** and her staff for their efforts in raising funds for classrooms. [Lopez shared the individual and team winners from the tournament.](#)
- **Trustee Joseph Medina** recognized District staff who prepare for the various Board Committee meetings. He also commended the **Wernli ES** community for a successful dedication. Medina welcomed back those students who have returned to in-person learning and thanked all teachers, who he described as heroes, for their work during the pandemic. Medina recognized **Dr. Woods** and District staff for working to help facilitate the vaccination of employees.
- **Trustee Bobby Blount** is pleased with recent collaboration between the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members, TASA, and the Mexican American School Boards Association and their recent honoring of retiring Executive Director of TASB, **Jim Crow**. Blount provided Trustees an update on two extracurricular events: the recently held middle and high school level Science Bowl and the Solar Cars event scheduled for April 17.

#### **Trustees approve administrative appointments:**

- **Misty Knapp**, formerly principal at Burke ES, was appointed **Director of Elementary Human Resources**.
- **Valerie Arce**, formerly vice principal at Cole ES, was appointed **Principal at Timberwilde ES**.
- **Dr. Marissa Pena**, formerly vice principal at Burke ES, was appointed **Principal at Burke ES**.
- **Autumn Peralta**, formerly vice principal at Zachry MS, was appointed **Vice Principal at Straus MS**.
- **Jennifer Myers**, formerly academic dean at Vale MS, was appointed **Academic Dean at Straus MS**.
- **Jessica Ruiz**, formerly vice principal at Meadow Village ES, was appointed **Vice Principal at Leon Valley ES**.
- **J. Kyle Shroyer**, formerly graduation coach at Brandeis HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal at Brandeis HS**.

#### **Trustees approve Summer Programs**

Trustees approved 2021 Summer Programs which include regular high school summer programs for remediation and acceleration, programs for middle and elementary school, and state-mandated programs. Also included are enrichment and remediation programs at all levels and programs sponsored by the Adult and Community Education, Bilingual, Career & Technical Education, Fine Arts, and Special Education departments. Information about summer learning opportunities will be posted on the NISD website soon.

#### **Trustees approve the adoption of instructional materials**

Trustees approved the adoption of instructional materials for the 2021-2022 school year in the following content area: Pre-Kindergarten Systems.

#### **Board approves Budget Amendment #2**

The Board approved Budget Amendment #2 which reflects a \$9.8 million net increase in budgeted expenditures in the General Fund. The majority of the increase is the result of two items – the recognition of the mid-year pay adjustment and the startup costs associated with next year's elementary STEM lab expansion and the expansion of pre-kindergarten programs. The amendment to the Child Nutrition Fund recognizes an equipment assistance grant in the amount of \$51,522 which will be used to purchase kitchen equipment. This amendment does not include amendments to the Debt Service Fund.

#### **Resolutions**

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

- **Employee Pay Resolution approved**  
Trustees approved a resolution on pay for employees during the emergency school closings.

### Trustees approve waiver requests

- Trustees gave approval for the District to submit a Missed School Day Waiver to the Texas Education Agency for District campuses for February 16-19, 2021 due to a severe winter storm. Waivers will also be submitted for **Harlan HS** for February 22-23, due to water and electrical issues brought about because of the severe weather, and **Mora ES** for February 22 due to water damage issues brought about by the severe winter storm which SAWS was unable to repair. The District will also submit a Missed School Day Waiver for **Glenoaks ES** on Monday, March 1. The school was without power due to an issue caused by an outage with City Public Service.

### Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for ADA Work, ALE & Window Upgrades, and Mechanical Upgrades – **Esparza ES** – W.R. Griggs Construction Co.
- Contractor for Addition/Renovation – **Zachry Magnet School** – Marksmen General Contractors, Inc.
- Contractor for ALE Upgrades – **Glass ES** – Baron-Long Construction, LTD.
- Contractor for 2019 Hail Damage Roof Restoration and Replacement – **Los Reyes ES** – L. D. Tebben Company, Inc.
- Change Orders
  - **Sotomayor HS** – Buyout savings for site work, piers and associated work (Amendment #2) – (\$1,095,974) (credit)
  - **Health Careers HS** – Building Package Expansion – Removal and replacement of acid waste tank and system – \$70,733 (add)

### Trustees review policy

- Review of legal policies in TASB Localized Update #116
- First reading of local policies in TASB Policy Update #116

### Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids: Dust & Wet Mop Rental and HVAC Chiller Service. Trustees approved the following purchase order: Intech Southwest Services, LLC for HP desktops and monitors for the Cable, Cole, Fields, Krueger and Tomlinson elementary schools, Straus MS, and Health Careers HS technology deployments; Great South Texas Corporation dba Computer Solutions for the annual renewal of VMWare Vsphere 6 software; Intech Southwest Services, LLC for HP minitower and monitors for the Health Careers HS technology deployment; Intech Southwest Services, LLC for HP laptops for the Straus MS technology deployment; Severin Intermediate Holdings, LLC for the annual renewal of PowerSchool Unified Insight for K-12; Intech Southwest Services, LLC for HP Chromebooks for the Straus MS and Tomlinson ES technology deployments; and Intech Southwest Services, LLC for Apple iPad tablets for the Tomlinson ES technology deployment. For more information, contact the Purchasing Department 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, Trustee, District 2**  
**M'Lissa M. Chumbley, Trustee, 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.)*

- 📅 April 13, 2021, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center
- 📅 April 27, 2021, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center
- 📅 May 11, 2021, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center
- 📅 May 25, 2021, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center