



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

September 28, 2021

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brian Woods reported to the Board:

- **Recognitions.** Several talented students and staff were recognized at the Board Meeting for their outstanding achievements.
- **Masks/Case Numbers Update.** When compared to other similarly sized school districts, NISD is faring better when it comes to case numbers. The District continues to track metrics.
- **9-11 Remembrance Ceremony.** Dr. Woods attended a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony hosted by students at **Marshall HS/Marshall Law and Medical Services Magnet School.**
- **CAST Teach.** Next fall, Northside will open a new high school magnet program focused on education as a profession, CAST Teach. The 9th and 10th grade cohorts will be at Stevens HS and the 11th and 12th grade groups will spend a substantial portion of their day on the UTSA campus where they will have dual credit opportunities. The Firstmark Foundation has agreed to furnish two model classrooms and the school's professional learning library.
- **America's Heroes.** Two weeks ago, Northside celebrated America's Heroes with free admission for military and first responders at middle and high school athletic events. Dr. Woods thanked the **Athletics** and **Fine Arts** departments for their collaborative efforts to thank the heroes in our community.

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Gerald Lopez** congratulated the NISD Athletics Department for hosting a seminar that allowed students to hear from coaches and teachers who shared what it means to be an educator. Lopez also recognized Director of Fine Arts **James Miculka**, the Fine Arts staff, and all District band directors who participated in honoring veterans during America's Heroes events.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** congratulated **Holmes HS** Coach **Juan Morales** on being named to the top ten list of influential Hispanics by KSAT during Hispanic Heritage Month.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** thanked Trustees for attending the recent Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards (TASA/TASB) conference. She enjoyed meeting the TASB Executive Director **Dan Troxell**. Freeman provided information on a Raise Your Hand Texas advocacy initiative. She thanked Trustee Lopez for representing Northside at the TASB delegate assembly.
- **Trustee Joseph Medina** attended the TASA/TASB conference and congratulated Trustee Blount for presenting at the conference. He also recognized several District staff members who presented at the conference including **Dr. Janis Jordan**, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, **Dr. Kim Ridgley**, Executive Director of Whole Child, and **Valerie Sisk**, Executive Director of Secondary Administration.
- **Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley** recognized Fine Arts Director **James Miculka** and all District band directors on a successful start to the school year. Chumbley also congratulated Trustee Blount and staff who presented at the TASA/TASB conference and Holmes HS Coach **Juan Morales**. Chumbley shared that she appreciates serving with her fellow Trustees as well as with Superintendent Woods.

Recognitions

- **Destination Imagination Global Finals**
Over the summer, seven students from the **Jay Science and Engineering Academy** competed in the Technical Challenge at the Destination Imagination Global Finals competition and won 4th place in the world. They were able to watch solutions from other high school teams, including students from China, Korea, India, Pakistan, Turkey, and

Brazil, to name a few. Destination Imagination solutions are solved by students only, without interference from adults, and include all elements of STEAM. In addition to their 4th place win, the team also won a DaVinci Award for their outstanding creativity.

- **Outstanding CTE Administrator of the Year**
Deborah Ruel-Schaefer, Director of Career and Technical Education, was selected as the 2021 Outstanding CTE Administrator by the Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers Association of Texas (FCSTAT) Awards Program. The Outstanding Administrator award is given to a CTE administrator who has made consistent and outstanding contributions in support of Family and Consumer Sciences Education.
- **2022 ESC-20 Secondary Teacher of the Year & Secondary State Teacher of the Year Finalist**
Miguel Mendez, the Program Coordinator at **The Holmgreen Center** and the 2021-2022 Region 20 Secondary Teacher of the Year, is one of three outstanding educators who has been chosen as a finalist in the 2022 Texas Teacher of the Year by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). Each finalist will be interviewed in mid-October by a panel of judges who will select two state-level winners, Elementary Teacher of the Year and Secondary Teacher of the Year. One of those two winners will be designated to represent Texas in the National Teacher of the Year program.
- **Region 20 Middle School Principal of the Year**
Lou Medina, principal at **Stinson MS**, was named Region 20 Middle School Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP).
- **Region 20 High School Principal of the Year**
Robert Harris, principal at **Harlan HS**, was named Region 20 High School Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP).
- **Trustees sign Declaration of Respect.** Annually, the District has held a Districtwide Declaration of Respect Day for students K-12 and staff to promote anti-bullying in our schools. Oct. 8 is the Districtwide Signing Day. Counselors have been equipped with training, materials, and lessons for classroom presentations that teach necessary skills to students to promote a safe, respectful, and healthy school climate. Members of the Board of Trustees signed their own Declaration of Respect as a show of support for the program spearheaded by the NISD Guidance & Counseling Department led by Director **Mary Libby**. Dr. Woods signed on behalf of staff.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Karen Avila**, formerly associate principal at Bernal MS, was appointed **Academic Dean** at **Luna MS**.
- **Mateo Macias**, formerly assistant principal at North East ISD, was appointed **Associate Principal** at **Hector Garcia MS**.
- **Hilary Pilaczynski**, formerly administrative intern at Luna and Jordan middle schools, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Stevenson MS**.
- **Tiffany Burrell**, formerly administrative intern at Stevens HS, was appointed **Assistant Principal** at **Stevens HS**.

Trustees approve funding for Communities In Schools

Communities In Schools provides professional services to support at-risk students. These programs include Integrated Student Support, Clinical Support, and Social Emotional Education Development (SEED) and Reengagement Teams. **Dr. Janis Jordan**, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, presented an overview of the programming.

Trustees approve increase in substitute compensation

Substitute teachers have always played an important role in school operations. Their role is even more essential now due to the job market shortage for teachers. In order to recruit, retain, and reward these employees, the District approved an increase in compensation presented by **Patricia Hill**, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

Reading and review of policy

- Review of Legal Policies in TASB Localized Update #117
- First Reading of Local Policies in TASB Policy Update #117

Board approves facilities items:

- Interior Colors for Addition/Renovation at **Zachry Magnet School** as developed by Pfluger Architects, Inc.
- Schematic Design for **Leon Valley ES** as developed by LPA Design Studios
- Schematic Design for new entry at **Esparza ES**
- Construction Manager-at-Risk for the Fine Arts Replacement & Renovation at **Jay HS** – Joeris General Contractors, Ltd.

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids: High Production Print Shop Equipment; Baseball, Softball & Track Equipment; Musical Instruments & Supplies; Art Supplies & Equipment; ROTC Military Science Equipment & Supplies; Digital Assessment Library for the Evaluation of Referred Students; Elementary Math Intervention; and Electrical – IDQ. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: C-6 Disposal System, Inc. for the purchase of sanitation services for schools located within the City of Helotes and Tiger Sanitation for the purchase of sanitation services for schools located within the City of Leon Valley. 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.

For additional information, call 210-397-8770.

Board of Trustees

Karen Freeman, *President, District 7*
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Robert Blount, Jr., *Trustee, District 4*
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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. 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.)*

- 📅 Oct. 26, 2021, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road
- 📅 Nov. 16, 2021, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road
- 📅 Dec. 14, 2021, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road