



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

April 22, 2025

Superintendent's Report (Click [HERE](#) to view video of the Superintendent's full comments.)

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Planning Day.** Staff engaged in a full day of planning on April 21.
- **NEF Golf Tournament.** The Northside Education Foundation hosted a successful golf tournament on April 21.
- **Child Nutrition Awards.** Child Nutrition Director **Thomas Wherry** and department staff hosted an annual awards luncheon to recognize and show appreciation to child nutrition staff from across the district.
- **SE Instructional Assistants.** Special education instructional assistants had an opportunity to meet and dialogue with the superintendent.
- **Month of the Military Child.** April is the month of the military child, and campuses across the district engage in activities to support military children and their families.
- **Exciting Events.** Two successful district events were held, including the Annual Retiree Luncheon and the Partner of the Year Recognition ceremony.
- **Administrative Professional's Day.** April 23 is Administrative Professionals Day, an opportunity for support staff members to be recognized for their work and support. Dr. Craft publicly recognized and thanked Monica Guerra, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.
- **Upcoming Events.** Notable upcoming events include the district's annual Solar Car Event, the Together We Sing middle school choir collaboration, an eSports competition, and the bi-district softball playoffs, which will include four NISD teams.
- **Legislative Update.** Dr. Craft provided a legislative update that included a discussion of House Bill (HB) 2 and Senate Bill (SB) 2. Dr. Craft also reiterated messaging regarding the budget planning process and a commitment to protecting employee jobs and protecting the integrity of programs.
- **Video Moment:** The video moment highlighted Vale Middle School's 3rd annual FestiVale., a student-organized awareness Fiesta Parade. [Click here to watch how the Vale Stingrays](#) are "rays-ing" awareness about the importance of inclusion.

Board Members' Report (Click [HERE](#) to view video of the Trustees' full comments.)

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** congratulated **Scarborough ES** on their successful Lip Sync event, he reminded attendees of the upcoming solar car event on April 26, and shared how excited he was following **Burke ES's** success with the NCAA Final Four Reading literacy challenge. Blount announced that trustees will be taking on the task of facilitating this event next year.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** attended multiple events across the district, including the Student Voice dialogue, the NEF Grant Patrol, the Educator of the Year recognitions, and several middle and high school golf events. Saldana enjoyed the Final Four challenge, the Fine Arts Festival, the Retiree Luncheon, and the Child Nutrition luncheon. Saldana praised **Kuentz ES** for hosting a public school open house event where students gave campus tours and even featured a bus tour. Saldana acknowledged the Partners of the Year awards event. Saldana thanked all staff for their commitment and hard work, which she says Trustees see and appreciate.
- **Trustee David Salcido** reminded those in attendance that Early Voting began April 22 and will be open through April 29, with Saturday, May 3, as election day.
- **Trustee Homer Guevara** recognized bus drivers and assistants in honor of National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day (April 22). He enjoyed attending the Partner of the Year awards event as well as the annual Retiree Luncheon.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** expressed her appreciation to individuals who have advocated for and reached out to the Trustees. Duran enjoyed attending the NEF Golf Tournament and Grant Patrol. In honor of National Stress

Awareness Month, Duran encouraged individuals to take care of themselves and save energy in recognition of Earth Day.

- **Trustee Carol Harle** attended the NEF golf tournament and cited the high number of participants. Harle acknowledged the three district employees recognized as finalists for the H-E-B Excellence in Education awards: **Margaret Bray**, Marshall LMS; **Kassandra Smith**, Boone ES; and **Brandy Gonzalez-Key**, Clark HS. Gonzalez-Key is also participating in an artist-in-residence partnership with UTSA professor Albert Gonzalez on a mural project. Harle described the Student Voice event as phenomenal, attended the Educators of the Year event, announced that the next eSports competition will be held April 26, participated in the NEF Grant Patrol, and acknowledged **Blattman ES** for participating in the Birds of Prey competition with the City of Shavano Park. Harle acknowledged the Shavano Park police and fire departments, who were both recognized at the recent Partners of the Year awards event. She attended the annual Retiree Luncheon, visited **Stinson MS** for Purple Up day, and recognized **Clark HS** for being awarded the Best Medium Delegation at a recent Model United Nations competition in New York City.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** learned so much from the students who participated in the Student Voice dialogue, enjoyed honoring all of the campus educators of the year, announced a Lego Robotics event at Bernal MS, and attended the Child Nutrition awards luncheon. She also recognized Roland Rios for presenting to students for Purple Up Day and enjoyed attending the open house event at **Kuentz ES**, where she appreciated the presentation on the school's history.

Recognitions

- **LMS Mock Trial Team**
The Marshall LMS Mock Trial Team competed at the State Youth and Government Conference and made history. This is the first time LMS has had District Court teams place—and they had two! They are now among the top 10 teams out of hundreds statewide.
- **Academic Decathlon State Qualifiers**
Two Northside ISD Academic Decathlon teams have achieved historic victories at the state level, securing their spots in the upcoming national competition. In addition, Health Careers High School teacher Diana Johnston was named the Small School State Coach of the Year.
- **2025 Scholastic Art Award Recipients**
NISD art students took home gold and silver keys at the 2025 Scholastic Art Awards for the Greater San Antonio region. Among these accolades are three works garnering the exemplary Gold Key Awards. These pieces will now advance to the national competition in New York.
- **Burke ES Read to the Final Four Champions**
The third-grade students at Burke Elementary School are the NCAA Read to the Final Four champions. Schools, teachers, and students who participated in this tournament-style literacy challenge got a shot at scoring fun prizes, free books, and a library makeover as they went head-to-head for the title of Reading Champion. The competition corresponded with the NCAA Men's Final Four, which was held in San Antonio.
- **Karen Freeman, Board of Trustees Read to the Final Four Champion**
In solidarity with our third graders, members of the NISD Board of Trustees developed a bracket among other district trustees to read to as many students at as many campuses as possible. NISD Trustee Karen Freeman rose to the top of the bracket, winning the title for Trustees. Thirty-two Trustees across San Antonio and the surrounding areas signed up to compete in the reading challenge. The competition among Trustees was based on the total minutes read to a class of any size.
- **2024-25 Board of Trustees Future Teacher Scholarship Recipients**
The NISD Board of Trustees established the Northside Trustee Future Teacher Scholarship. The Board presents scholarships annually to students planning to enter the teaching profession.

Trustees hear budget update

Trustees heard an overview of the most recent legislative actions and were presented with a timeline for developing the next fiscal year's budget.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Kara Beavers**, formerly a teacher at Scarborough Elementary School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Scarborough Elementary School**.

-Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for electrical improvements for construction portables at various campuses – Consolidated Electric Service, Inc.
- Contractor for paving and drainage upgrades at Meadow Village ES – Jerdon Enterprise, LP
- Contractor for portable relocations at various campuses – Dodson Housing Moving
- Contractor for tennis court upgrades at Jay HS – Hellas Construction
- Exterior colors for District Baseball/Softball Complex – Alamo Architects
- Exterior/Interior Colors for athletics and CTE upgrades at Neff MS – Garza Architects
- Schematic design for Fine Arts replacement at Clark HS – Alamo Architects
- Master Plan for Clark HS – Alamo Architects
- Change Orders:
 - Additions/renovations at Hobby MS Magnet School (\$77,666.79 add)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: office supplies and library magazines. 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

Bobby Blount, *President, District 4*
Corinne Saldaña, *Vice President, District 5*
David Salcido, *Secretary, District 1*
Homer Guevara, Ed.D., *Trustee, District 2*
Karla Duran, Ph.D., *Trustee, District 3*
Carol Harle, Ph.D., *Trustee, District 6*
Karen Freeman *Trustee, District 7*

Administration

Superintendent John Craft, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Administration Ray Galindo
Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Janis Jordan, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Business & Finance Megan Bradley
Assistant Superintendent 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 6 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 before the start of the meeting.

Upcoming School Board Meeting(s): *(See posted agendas on the website as dates, locations, and/or times may change.)*

- May 13, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- May 27, 2025, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center (NAC), 7001 Culebra Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- June 10, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- June 24, 2025, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)