

**Northside Independent School District**  
Northside Activity Center • 7001 Culebra Road • San Antonio, Texas 78238

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**(Meeting also Conducted via Videoconference)**  
**October 27, 2020**  
**6:00 p.m.**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Carol Harle, Karen Freeman, Joseph H. Medina, Gerald B. Lopez, M'Lissa M. Chumbley, Robert Blount, Jr., Katie N. Reed

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Woods, Rene Barajas, Ray Galindo, Janis Jordan, Leroy San Miguel, Wesley Scott, Patty Hill, Lori Jones, Eric Tobias, Jacob Villarreal, Barry Perez, Kris Trejo

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Carol Harle.

**II. Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance**

Karen Freeman led the Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance.

**III. Public Hearings**

**A. School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST)**

Rene Barajas, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Finance, reported that Senate Bill 218 of the 77<sup>th</sup> Legislature authorized the implementation of a financial accountability rating system, which is officially referred to as School FIRST. The primary goal of School FIRST is to improve the management of school districts' financial resources. The School FIRST rating is based upon an analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2018-19 school year, and budgetary and financial data for the 2019 fiscal year. Northside received the highest rating of "Superior" for the 18<sup>th</sup> year in a row. No Board action was required.

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

- About 40 percent of NISD students have returned to buildings for in-person instruction and schools continue to invite those students who are struggling to return where there is room. Clubs and organizations are restarting. While the 2020-21 school year is anything but normal, we are trying to inject a sense of normalcy where we can.
- About 100 talented Northside ISD Fine Arts students were showcased at the virtual TASA/TASB Convention earlier this month. Dr. Woods thanked the students, their instructors, the Fine Arts Department, AV and Media Production teams, and trustees for their participation.
- The State has elected to extend the average daily attendance hold harmless through the end of the first semester. District staff are bringing awareness to the opportunity for families to complete a meal application through the Free & Reduced Lunch Program. With uncertainty remaining regarding budget expenditures and revenue, the likelihood is that the budget may need to be updated more frequently.

- In a couple of weeks, the Northside Education Foundation (NEF) will host its annual gala and recognition of the 2020 Pillars of Character in a virtual format. Thanks to NISD Director of Partnerships Cassandra Miranda, her staff, and the Foundation Board for their creativity in planning a virtual gala.
- The District's Legislative Priorities have been drafted and will be presented at the Board's Policy Meeting next week. They are dominated by COVID-related concerns.
- Dr. Woods enjoyed attending a recent event held by Diane Ravitch, an advocate for public education.
- Early Voting continues through Friday, Oct. 30, until 10 p.m. each night. The Northside Activity Center is an Early Voting location.

## **V. Board Members' Report**

Trustee Katie Reed submitted a nomination for an Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) award for NISD's partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. She has represented all area school districts as a member of the AACOG Board since 2008. Reed announced that after serving on the NISD Board of Trustees for 31 years she will not seek re-election at the end of her current term in May 2021.

Trustee Carol Harle recognized Nancy Kreth, Elementary Science Curriculum & Instruction Specialist, and Amalia Sollars, K-8 Science Programs Coordinator, for their role in announcing a new Project ACORN grant application process. The grant application process was made possible through a NEF donation by Kent Page, a past recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST), and his wife Linda Page. Harle enjoyed participating on a Texas Health Literacy Council panel and recognized Rhodes ES counselor Amaris Sanchez for her great presentation. She also recognized NISD Police Chief Charlie Carnes for receiving rave reviews following his presentation at an American Board of Trial Advocates conference. Harle recognized Leon Springs ES GT teacher Lacy Greco for the dialogue and perspective she offered as a panelist at a recent education forum.

Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley praised Katie Reed for being a true role model for young women and for doing amazing work for NISD over her tenure as Trustee. She congratulated Executive Director of Athletics Stan Laing and his staff for their work facilitating the District's athletic events. Chumbley commented how good it was to see students back together at these events. She thanked Dr. Woods for his leadership as both NISD superintendent as well as President of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). Chumbley recognized Trustees Bobby Blount and Karen Freeman for their work with a candidate forum hosted by the Bexar County School Boards Coalition for candidates for the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Alamo Community Colleges District (ACCD).

Trustee Karen Freeman commended Trustee Katie Reed for her years of service to NISD. She acknowledged the student performers who represented NISD in the virtual TASA/TASB Annual Convention.

Trustee Joseph Medina also thanked Trustees Blount and Freeman for their work with the SBOE and ACCD candidate forum. He commended campus administrators, counselors, and teachers for their hard work in providing ongoing support of students. Medina echoed praise for Katie Reed and described her as a cornerstone and shining light for the Board and the whole District.

Trustee Bobby Blount shared his appreciation to Trustee Freeman for her assistance with the SBOE and ACCD candidate forum. He announced the annual Science Bowl will be held virtually and gave an update of the Bexar County School Boards Coalition's project to publish a book with descriptions and information of the county's local school districts.

Trustee Gerald Lopez has attended several District athletic events and commended Stan Laing and the Athletic Department staff for the safety protocols and procedures in place. He also commended James Miculka, Director of Fine Arts, the Fine Arts Department staff, and the District's Media Productions and AV teams for their work in preparing for the TASA/TASB student performance. Lopez congratulated and thanked Dr. Woods and Katie Reed for their leadership in NISD.

**VI. Recognitions**

- A. Risk Professional of the Year. Debby Glass, Director of Risk Management, has been selected as the Texas PRIMA 2020 Risk Professional of the Year. The award, sponsored by Texas Chapter of the Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA), is designed to recognize an individual who exemplifies excellence, innovation, and commitment to the Risk and Insurance Management field.
- B. Tiffany Burrell, formerly dance teacher and now administrative intern at Stevens HS, was awarded the 2020-21 KENS-5/Credit Human EXCEL Award for NISD. She was recognized last month and received a silver apple and \$1,000 check.
- C. Stevens HS senior Isa Link was recognized as a KENS-5 All-Star Student for 2020-2021. The purpose of this new award presented by KENS-5 is to highlight one exceptional student from each school district in the station's viewing area.

**XV. Administration**

- A. Review of Legal Policies, TASB Localized Update #115

Legal policies from TASB Update #115 were presented for review and discussion.

- B. First Reading of Local Policies in TASB Policy Update #115

Local policies from TASB Update #115 were presented for first reading and discussion. Trustees were asked to call before the next regular meeting with any questions or concerns. No Board action was taken.

**VII. Reports**

- A. Safety Audit Report

Senate Bill 11 and the Texas Education Code require ISDs to conduct a safety audit of all district facilities at least once every three years. The district's audit, conducted by Shane Allard, NISD Safety and Security Officer, was presented by Ray Galindo, Deputy Superintendent for Administration. The Safety Audit Report will be submitted to the Texas Safety Center.

**VIII. Citizens to Be Heard**

Patrons and teachers addressed the Board on COVID-related concerns across the district related to instruction, safety, and employee health.

**IX. Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes from the Meetings of September 22 and October 6, 2020
- B. Disbursements for the Month of September 2020
- C. Awarding of Bid Items
  - Bid #2020-159.– Maps & Globes
  - Bid #2020-161 – Uniform Cleaning for Middle & High Schools

Bid #2020-163 – Elementary Music Equipment & Materials

Bid #2020-169 – Printing Supplies, Equipment & Service

Bid #2020-175 – Diploma Covers & Sheets

RFP #2020-170 – Technology and Related Equipment Recycling

Requisition #21000426 to Ripple Effects, Inc. in the amount of \$66,000 for the purchase of Ripple Effects' digital suite.

Requisition #21002595 to Severin Intermediate Holdings LLC in the amount of \$83,534 for the annual renewal of SmartFind Express software.

Requisition #21002921 to Education Service Center Region 20 in the amount of \$167,116 for the 2020-2021 commitment for Living Science Services with Region 20.

Requisition #21003724 to ProQuest LLC in the amount of \$71,794 for the annual renewal of ProQuest software.

Requisition #21006460 Education Advanced Inc. in the amount of \$118,598 for the annual renewal of TestHound software.

Requisition #21006810 to Goodheart-Wilcox Publisher in the amount of \$342,663.49 for the purchase of digital CTE materials required for distance learning.

Requisition #21006981 to Education Service Center Region 20 in the amount of \$119,884 for the purchase of Discovery Education digital streaming services for the 2020-2021 school year.

D. Investment Portfolio Report

E. Construction Delivery Methods – 2020-2021 Various Projects

F. Consultant Appointments

G. Change Orders

H. Schematic Design – Playground Shade Structures – Various Elementary Schools – RFCSP #2021-010

I. 2020--2021 Bilingual/ESL Education Exception and Waiver Application to TEA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved on a motion by Gerald Lopez and a second by Karen Freeman. Board action included the following consultant appointments for roof repairs/restorations/replacements/waterproofing – 2019 hail damage roof repairs:

- Aue, Ellison, Los Reyes ESs – Consultant: Hollon+Cannon Group, LLC
- Leon Springs ES – Consultant: Austech Roof Consultants, Inc.
- May ES – Consultant: Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc.

## **X. Curriculum and Instruction**

There were no items for this meeting.

## **XI. Facilities and Operations**

A. Schematic Design – Athletic Upgrades – Coke R. Stevenson MS

On a motion by Katie Reed and a second by Karen Freeman, the schematic design for athletic upgrades at Coke R. Stevenson MS was unanimously approved as presented by Nextgen Architects.

B. Schematic Design – Cafeteria/Gym Upgrades & Door Hardware – Lawrence Powell ES

On a motion by Katie Reed and a second by Bobby Blount, the schematic design for cafeteria/gym upgrades & door hardware at Lawrence Powell ES was unanimously approved as presented by Pfluger Associates Architects.

C. Schematic Design – Science Renovation – William P. Hobby MS

On a motion by Katie Reed and a second by Karen Freeman, the schematic design for the science renovation at William P. Hobby MS was unanimously approved as presented by Alamo Architects.

D. Exterior Colors – Library Addition/Renovation – William H. Taft HS

On a motion by Katie Reed and a second by Bobby Blount, the exterior colors for the library addition/renovation at William H. Taft HS were unanimously approved as presented by Kaarlsen Noonan Rittimann Garcia Architecture..

**XII. Business and Financial Services**

A. Budget Amendment #1 for School Year 2020-21

Budget Amendment #1 for 2020-21 was unanimously approved on a motion by Gerald Lopez and a second by Bobby Blount. The Budget Amendment decreased fund balance by \$12.3 million in the General Fund. Adjustments included the addition to appropriations resulting from approved carry forward of funds including those from 2019-20 purchase order commitments and campus formula account balances. Increases to appropriations also included costs for additional staff for Health Services. An additional amount was included for 2016 hail damage. The total decrease in fund balance was funded from unassigned fund balance by \$11.7 million and dedicated fund balances of \$0.6 million.

B. First Reading of Policies CCA (LOCAL) and CH (LOCAL)

Revisions to Policy CCA (LOCAL) were presented to include advance taxable refundings as an available means for the district to manage its debt. Revisions to Policy CH (LOCAL) were presented to exclude purchases from interlocal cooperative agreements as a categorical exemption, to increase the purchasing threshold for Board approval from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and to add clarifying language regarding purchases made with sole source contracts. Policies were for first reading and no Board action was taken.

C. Consideration and approval of an Order authorizing the issuance by the Northside Independent School District of its Fixed Rate Unlimited Tax School Building and/or Refunding Bonds in one or more series (as designated by purpose and series); levying a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax for the payment of one or more series of bonds; delegating the authority to certain members of the Board of Trustees and District staff to approve and execute certain documents relating to the sale of each series of bonds; and providing an effective date

On a motion by Gerald Lopez and a second by Katie Reed, the Board unanimously approved the above-referenced Order which authorized the issuance of Northside ISD Fixed Rate Unlimited Tax School Building and Refunding Bonds in a combined principal amount of all series not to exceed \$845,655,000, being the combined

principal amount not to exceed \$250,000,000 in new money school building bonds and refunding bonds in the combined principal amount not to exceed \$595,655,000.

- D. Consideration and approval of an Order authorizing the issuance by the Northside Independent School District of its Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building and/or Refunding Bonds in one or more series (as designated by purpose and series); levying a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax for the payment of one or more series of bonds; delegating the authority to certain members of the Board of Trustees and District staff to approve and execute certain documents relating to the sale of each series of bonds; and providing an effective date

On a motion by Gerald Lopez and a second by Karen Freeman, the Board unanimously approved the above-referenced Order which authorized the issuance of Northside ISD Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building and Refunding Bonds in a combined principal amount of all series not to exceed \$845,655,000, being the combined principal amount not to exceed \$250,000,000 in new money school building bonds and the principal amount not to exceed \$595,655,000 in refunding bonds.

- E. Consideration and approval of an Order by the Board of Trustees of the Northside Independent School District authorizing the remarketing of "Northside Independent School District Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2016"; amending certain terms of the order authorizing the issuance of the bonds; delegating the authority to certain members of the Board of Trustees and District staff to approve and execute certain documents relating to the remarketing of the bonds; and providing an effective date

On a motion by Gerald Lopez and a second by Karen Freeman, the Board unanimously approved the above-referenced Order which authorized the remarketing of Northside ISD Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$73,545,000.

### **XIII. Human Resources**

- A. RFP #2019-190 – Property and Boiler/Machinery Insurance

Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Gerald Lopez and seconded by Katie Reed to remain with the current vendor, Westchester, with a \$400MM loss limit and a \$5MM deductible per occurrence (same as expiring coverage). Motion carried unanimously.

### **XIV. Technology Services**

There were no items for this meeting.

### **XV. Administration**

- C. Administrative Boundary Proposal for Straus MS

The administrative boundary proposal for Straus MS was presented prior to the meeting on October 29, 2020 of the School Boundary Advisory Committee to discuss the proposal.

**XVI. Superintendent**

A. COVID-Related Expenditures

An overview of the District's COVID-related expenditures was presented by Dr. Woods.

B. Future Agenda Items

Superintendent Woods and the Board discussed possible agenda items for future Board meetings. No action was required.

**XVII. Executive Session**

If, during the course of any duly posted meeting, the Board of Trustees determines that a closed or executive session is required regarding an item posted on the Agenda, that session will be held on any or all subjects and purposes permitted by Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, 551.084 of the Government Code (the Open Meetings Law). If a final vote is required on any matter considered in the closed or executive session, it shall be taken either upon the reconvening of the public session covered by this notice or at a subsequent, duly posted, public meeting as the Board shall determine.

President Harle announced that, in accordance with Texas Government Code, Sections 551.072 and 551.074, the Board would convene in closed session at 9:11 p.m. to discuss the following:

- A. Pursuant to Sections 551.071 and 551.072 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Deliberation and Consultation with District's Legal Counsel regarding Texas Public Utility Docket No. 51023 pertaining to a proposed transmission line connecting to the new Scenic Loop Substation in the vicinity of McAndrew ES
- B. Appointment of Vice Principal at Boldt ES
- C. Appointment of Vice Principal at Glenoaks ES
- D. Appointment of Assistant Principal at O'Connor HS

**XVIII. Any required action by the Board concerning matters considered in closed meeting will be taken in open session.**

- A. Consideration and Possible Adoption of a Resolution approving the District's participation in Texas Public Utility Commission Docket No. 51023 pertaining to a proposed transmission line connecting to the new Scenic Loop Substation in the vicinity of McAndrew ES, and authorizing the Superintendent and/or his designee to assert in such proceeding positions which the Superintendent deems to be in the best interests of the District
- B. Appointment of Vice Principal at Boldt ES
- C. Appointment of Vice Principal at Glenoaks ES
- D. Appointment of Assistant Principal at O'Connor HS

The Board reconvened into open session at 9:39 p.m. and took the following action:

Item A

Bobby Blount moved that the following resolution be adopted by the Board:  
"Resolved, that the actions of the Superintendent in submitting a Request to

intervene in Texas Public Utility Commission Docket No. 51023 are hereby ratified and approved; and that the Superintendent and/or his designee is hereby authorized to assert in such proceeding positions which the Superintendent deems to be in the best Interests of this School District, and to prosecute appeals of any and all adverse decisions rendered in this matter.” Motion was seconded by Katie Reed and was unanimous approved.

#### Items B-D

On a motion by Joseph Medina and a second by Katie Reed, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent’s recommendations for the following administrative appointments:

- Christina D. Escarcega, teacher at Ott ES, was named Vice Principal at Boldt ES.
- Cynthia Castillo, administrative intern at Carnahan ES, was named Vice Principal at Glenoaks ES.
- Darrell Pankratz, assistant principal at Williamsburg-James City School District in Virginia, was named Assistant Principal at O’Connor HS.

#### **XIX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Approved 11/17/20