

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)
December 15, 2020
6:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Dr. 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, Jacob Villarreal, Barry Perez, Diana Ely

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

Joseph Medina led the Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance.

III. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings for this meeting.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Woods reported on the following:

- The District will not bring back additional in-person learners when school resumes on Jan. 4. This will allow time to study health metrics.
- Thank you to Athletics and Fine Arts staff for their efforts to ensure safe events for students, staff, and families.
- Dr. Woods, Trustees, and District staff have participated in virtual events with Raise Your Hand Texas and the Bexar County Education Coalition to discuss the upcoming legislative session. Dr. Woods shared his appreciation to Naomi Miller, Director of Governmental Relations, for helping coordinate these events.
- There has been no movement on extending the state's ADA hold harmless provision for districts past the first 18 weeks of the school year. Through the efforts of campus staff, the District's Free & Reduced Lunch program percentages are almost back to where they were a year ago. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has announced that accountability ratings are on hold for this year. While STAAR assessments will be administered, Dr. Woods cautioned that their value will be limited to providing individual student data and should not be used to assess districts, schools, or teachers.

- The 2020-2021 budget adopted by Trustees in August allows for Trustees to consider some addition to compensation. Dr. Woods hopes to bring a recommendation for Board consideration in January following the release of the state comptroller's revenue estimates.
- Tonight the Board will discuss a resolution advocating that school staff should be recognized as a priority group to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Northside was recently recognized by the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) for our partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. Thank you to Don Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent for Adult and Community Services, for his continued leadership in coordinating this ongoing effort.
- Dr. Woods appreciates the support of community partners like the San Antonio Food Bank and San Antonio Police Department Blue Santa program to ensure families have additional support this holiday season.
- Dr. Woods wished everyone a Happy Holidays and is thankful to close out 2020.

The Northside Video Moment highlighted excerpts of student holiday performances. Northside Fine Arts students will be featured in the annual KABB holiday concert TV special.

V. Board Members' Report

Trustee Katie Reed shared her appreciation for the recent recognition by AACOG of Northside's partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. Reed recognized the work of the University United Methodist Church along with students from Brandeis and Clark high schools in the construction of 70 picnic tables with benches for use at various schools in the District. She also recognized the positive relationship the church has with Rawlinson MS. Reed also recognized the Salvation Army, an organization with whom she volunteers, for their work in providing clothes and toys for 700 families as well as addressing the needs of senior citizens. Reed encouraged Trustees to participate in the scheduled virtual meeting with the legislative delegation

Trustee Carol Harle expressed that this is the time of year where we celebrate our blessings, express gratitude, and share good tidings. Teachers and staff work hard to provide the best learning experience for students along with gifting students with positive relationships, caring social and emotional support, and other forms of support like love and care. The Team of Eight continues to recognize how vital and special the District family is and she wished peace, love, joy, and good tidings to all.

Trustee M'Lissa Chumbley shared a personal experience of her quarantining after a family member tested positive for COVID. She expressed that while the experience was stressful, she practiced all the measures encouraged for District staff. Chumbley commended the Harlan HS community, specifically Principal Robert Harris, Head Coach Eddie Salas, the varsity football team and their parents, for the graceful manner in which they responded to the recent forfeiture of the state football playoff game. Chumbley recalled the District's two commitments early on at the start of the pandemic – to maintain high academic standards and to avoid any reduction in force among employees. She shared appreciation to Dr. Woods and Dr. Rene Barajas, Deputy Superintendent for

Business & Finance, for working to retain all staff. Chumbley commended the student performers featured in the Video Moment and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Trustee Karen Freeman also commended the student performers in the featured video. She congratulated Jim Crow on his retirement as the Executive Director of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) after 25 years. Freeman spoke of how deeply hurt she was after reading a recent newspaper article containing comments from an organization depicting Northside negatively for not yet having discussed stipends or bonuses for employees. Freeman mentioned it was always the plan of the Board to have this discussion once it could be assured the District was financially sound. Freeman stated that Trustees continue to be appreciative of employees and the work they do. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Trustee Joseph Medina encouraged all teachers and staff to take time this holiday to spend with their loved ones. He congratulated the football teams from Stevens, Taft, and Brennan high schools as they continue in state playoff competition. Medina wished all a Merry Christmas.

Trustee Bobby Blount informed Trustees that the Public Education in San Antonio book highlighting area school districts will be ready for print soon. He thanked all staff for all they are doing through the ongoing challenges and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Trustee Gerald Lopez thanked the NISD Fine Arts Department and all fine arts teachers who assisted with the Video Moment. Lopez wished all District staff, students, and families a safe holiday season this year.

VI. Recognitions

A. Mateo Alcorta, Student at Elrod ES, Recipient of Student Hero Award from State Board of Education

Mateo Alcorta was presented a Student Hero Award by SBOE member Marisa Perez for making and distributing more than 1,000 masks throughout the community.

VII. Reports

There were no reports for this meeting.

VIII. Citizens to be Heard

Patrons expressed disappointment that employees were not being compensated for extra hours worked.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes from the Meetings of November 17, 2020
- B. Disbursements for the Month of November 2020

C. Awarding of Bids

Bid #2020-180 – Copier Paper

Bid #2020-181 – Apparel & Awards

Bid #2020-184 – Graduation Supplies & Related Services

Bid #2020-185 – Aggregate Landscape Materials

Bid #2020-186 – Vehicle – Model 2021

Requisition #21012264 to Great South Texas Corporation dba Computer Solutions in the amount of \$69,927.02 for the annual renewal of Cisco SMARTnet Software and support

Requisition #21012764 to Gulf Coast Paper Company in the amount of \$68,392.00 for the purchase of translucent lids for square containers.

Requisition #21013040 to Imagine Learning, Inc. in the amount of \$334,890.00 for the purchase of Imagine Language & Literacy and Imagine Espanol annual software licenses.

Requisition #21015141 to Howard Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$487,500.00 for the purchase of Maxell Laser Projectors.

Requisition #21015726 to Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the service agreement for the monthly Medicaid processing fee for the use of site-based Medicaid administration, reimbursement, and tracking software.

D. Resolution Approving Medina County Appraisal District Purchase of Real Property

E. Contractor for Fire Sprinkler System Replacement – Timberwilde ES – RFCSP # 2020-166

F. Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – W.Z. “Doc” Burke & Mary Burns Michael ESs – RFCSP #2020-144

G. Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – Monroe May ES – RFCSP #2020-148

H. Contractor for Tennis Court Resurfacing – John B. Connally MS – RFCSP #2020-141

I. Interior Colors – Building Replacement – Westwood Terrace ES – RFCSP #2020-005

J. Change Orders

K. School District Teaching Permits

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved on a motion by Katie Reed and a second by M'Lissa Chumbley. Board action included the following contractor appointments:

- Contractor for Fire Sprinkler System Replacement – Timberwilde ES – Ranger Builders, LLC
- Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – Burke and Michael ESs – R.E.C. Industries, Inc.
- Contractor for Mechanical Upgrades – May ES – R.E.C. Industries, Inc.
- Contractor for Tennis Court Resurfacing – Connally MS – Premier Courts
- Interior Colors for Building Replacement at Westwood Terrace ES as developed by Marmon Mok Architecture

Board action also included the following change order:

- Tomlinson ES – Additional items required as result of Building Permitting Review by Bexar County – \$87,534.19 (add)

X. Curriculum and Instruction

There were no items for this meeting.

XI. Facilities and Operations

A. Library Graphics – Dr. Caroline Wernli ES

Graphics for the library at Wernli ES were presented by Sign Resource Management and on a motion by Katie Reed and a second by Karen Freeman, Trustees unanimously approved the interior wall graphics and a feature element as presented.

XII. Business and Financial Services

There were no items for this meeting.

XIII. Human Resources

There were no items for this meeting.

XIV. Technology Services

There were no items for this meeting.

XV. Administration

A. Straus MS Attendance Zone

A preliminary report for Straus Middle School attendance zone was presented to the Board on October 29, 2020. The report was also presented to the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC) which held a public hearing at Harlan High School on November 10, 2020.

The SBAC recommendation was presented by SBAC Chair Morgan Phelps. A motion was made by Katie Reed and seconded by Joseph Medina to approve the Straus MS attendance zone as presented. Motion carried unanimously. The approved attendance zone proposal would move approximately 713 students from Folks MS and 107 students from Briscoe MS to Straus MS.

B. Request for Maximum Class Size Waivers

During this challenging time of COVID, TEA no longer requires approval of class size waivers but the District will continue to include this as an information piece. We have no classrooms with more than 22 students in-person. However, on paper because of the virtual and in-person mode being used, we show 28__ classes. No Board action was required.

XVI. Superintendent

A. Resolution to Include Public School District Personnel in EVAP Definition of Frontline Workers

On a motion by M'Lissa Chumbley and a second by Katie Reed, Trustees unanimously approved a resolution requesting that the Governor and Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel designate all Public School District personnel as Frontline Workers and as essential Frontline Workers be given appropriate priority in the Statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available.

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, Section 551.074, the Board would convene in closed session at 7:34 p.m. to discuss the following:

- A. Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Administration
- B. Appointment of Principal at Bernal MS
- C. Appointment of Principal at Straus MS
- D. Appointment of Academic Dean at Clark HS
- E. Appointment of Vice Principal at Anson Jones MS
- F. Appointment of Vice Principal at Villarreal ES
- G. Appointment of Director of Special Revenue and Compliance
- H. Superintendent Mid-Year Review
- I. Superintendent Contract
- J. Sites

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

The Board reconvened into open session at 8:34 p.m. and took the following action:

- A. Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Administration
- B. Appointment of Principal at Bernal MS
- C. Appointment of Principal at Straus MS
- D. Appointment of Academic Dean at Clark HS
- E. Appointment of Vice Principal at Anson Jones MS
- F. Appointment of Vice Principal at Villarreal ES
- G. Appointment of Director of Special Revenue and Compliance

- H. Superintendent Mid-Year Review
- I. Superintendent Contract
- J. Sites

Items A-G

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

- Jessica Palomares, Executive Director of Elementary Administration, was named Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Administration
- Jose Mendez, Academic Dean at Bernal MS, was named Principal at Bernal MS.
- Dana Gilbert-Perry, Principal at Vale MS, was named Principal at Straus MS.
- Melinda Clark, Academic Coordinator at Jay HS, was named Academic Dean at Clark HS.
- Javier Lazo, Vice Principal at Rayburn MS, was named Vice Principal at Jones MS.
- Stephanie Mendoza, Assistant Director of Special Revenue and Compliance, was named Director of Special Revenue and Compliance.

Items H-I

Trustees expressed their appreciation for the wonderful job that Dr. Woods has done and for his excellent leadership in the District. On that note, a motion was made by Karen Freeman and seconded by M'Lissa Chumbley to approve changes to the Superintendent's contract as discussed in closed session. Motion carried unanimously

Item J

There was no action taken on this item.

XIX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Approved 1/19/21