



Inside Northside

# BOARD Talk

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

January 21, 2025

## Superintendent's Report

### **Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:**

- **Inclement weather.** NISD joined others in the Central Texas area in navigating the recent weather conditions. Classes are set to resume Wednesday, Jan. 22 with cold temperatures expected.
- **Staff Planning Day.** The Superintendent reported positive feedback from many staff members who appreciated the planning day built into this year's school calendar following the Winter Break.
- **Leadership Northside.** The next cohort of Leadership Northside participants began at the perfect time, coinciding with the start of the legislative session. Principal Coach Nicole Franco and Executive Director of Teaching & Learning Diana Ely organized and facilitated the cohort.
- **NISD Museum Association.** Dr. Craft expressed his appreciation to the Museum Association members for their active engagement and support of the District.
- **NISD Council of PTAs.** **Despite having to be rescheduled, the NISD Council of PTAs hosted a well-attended council meeting that Dr. Craft enjoyed attending.**
- **Rawlinson MS Staff Member.** Dr. Craft was proud to recognize and honor Rawlinson MS social studies teacher **Hyla Finlayson** as she celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in the same year the District celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Finlayson, Northside's most tenured classroom teacher, began her career at Holmes HS before moving to Stinson and then Rawlinson middle schools.
- **Texas Legislative Session.** State legislators kicked off the 89<sup>th</sup> legislative session on Jan. 14 and elected Dustin Burrows as Speaker of the House.
- **Video Moment:** The video moment was in honor of Board Appreciation Month and is student-produced by the campus Broadcast Club at **Northwest Crossing ES.**

## Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** recognized and thanked staff at **Rawlinson MS** and **Taft HS** and enjoyed visiting both campuses prior to the holidays. Blount reminded Trustees that the selection for recipients of the Board's future teacher scholarship program will take place soon.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** attended a career day event at **Mead ES** and various district basketball games. She was excited to welcome the newest participants in Leadership Northside. She acknowledged the Fine Arts Department at **Brandeis HS** on their recent performance of Matilda and reported that **Clark HS** will perform the musical production of Cinderella. Saldana is appreciative of the kind messages she and other Trustees have received during Board Appreciation Month.
- **Trustee David Salcido** has been actively participating in the NCAA Read to the Final Four Literacy Challenge by reading to several elementary classrooms.
- **Trustee Homer Guevara** thanked **Holmes HS** Coach **Pete Padilla** for inviting him to the Husky Christmas breakfast in December. He attended an enrichment day at **Westwood Terrace ES**, highlighting health and physical health. Guevara enjoyed attending a **Timberwilde ES** STEM Night that featured many interactive activities and thanked Principal **Valerie Arce**.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** thanked several individuals who had attended a previous Board meeting and addressed the Board: Marshall HS alum **Marcela Hernandez**, former president of the United Farm Workers **Arturo Rodriguez**, and **Ernest Martinez** with the Cesar E. Chavez Legacy and Educational Foundation (CECLEF). Duran announced that CECLEF offers a scholarship fund for graduating high school seniors in Bexar County. The application is now live on

[the City of San Antonio website](#). Duran recognized the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday celebrated on Jan. 20 and referenced a telegram message from King to Cesar Chavez that she found inspiring.

- **Trustee Carol Harle** will be attending the Mayor's Smart Challenge event which will feature over 500 students from the San Antonio area and good representation from NISD. Harle will be visiting several school districts around the state as part of her participation in the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program. She sees the visits as an opportunity to gain new and innovative ideas. Harle reminded Trustees that the annual LibraryPalooza event will take place on Feb. 22 at Brandeis HS and will host some phenomenal authors.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** reminded Trustees that the Gerlach Livestock Show Auction is set to take place this Saturday, Jan. 25. She thanked the Northside Council of PTAs for inviting Trustees to participate in the upcoming Rally Day in Austin. Freeman also thanked the Northside Education Foundation (NEF) and the Northside Museum Association for their support of the District.

## Recognitions

- **Council of PTAs, Northside Education Foundation, and Northside Museum Association honor NISD Trustees**  
The Northside Council of PTAs, represented by PTA Council President **Crystal Rivas**; the Northside School Museum Association, led by Dr. **Caroline Wernli**; and the Northside Education Foundation, led by President **Lilia Gibson**, honored NISD's seven Board members. Every year, the Texas governor proclaims January as School Board Recognition Month. NISD is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge the invaluable contributions that members of the Boards of Trustees make to our various districts and communities. School trustees serve as key advocates for students and work together to provide a better future for every student.

## Board approves audit of District's financial report

The Board approved the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) audit for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024. The report consists of management's representations concerning the financial condition and operations of the District and the results of an audit performed by the certified public accounting firm of Whitley Penn. The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The auditors have expressed an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level of assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement, according to Tiffany Contreras, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance.

## Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Megan Bradley**, currently the Deputy Superintendent for Operations at Killeen ISD, was appointed **Deputy Superintendent of Business and Finance**.
- **Jessica Marcha**, formerly Academic Dean at Jordan MS, was appointed **Director at Jordan Magnet School**.
- **Ryan Boyle**, formerly Associate Principal at Evers ES, was appointed **Principal at Boldt Elementary School**.
- **Dora Timbers**, formerly Associate Principal at Fisher ES, was appointed **Principal at Driggers Elementary School**.
- **Samantha Weissler**, formerly Associate Principal at Wanke ES, was appointed **Principal at Wanke Elementary School**.
- **Celina Quintanilla**, formerly Math Assistive Technology Specialist, was appointed **Associate Principal at Cody Elementary School**.
- **Leticia Zabava**, formerly Inclusion Specialist at Pre-K 4 SA, was appointed **Associate Principal at Raba Elementary School**.
- **Lori Gallegos**, formerly Director of Leadership Development, was appointed **Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum and Instruction**.
- **Alfred Vitela**, formerly Program Manager with Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc., was appointed **Director of Engineering Services**.

## Board approves facilities items:

- Construction Manager-at-Risk for administration and classroom replacement at Marshall HS – Joeris General Contractors, LLC
- Contractor for boiler replacement at Evers ES and Galm ES – Flo Aire Service
- Contractor for boiler replacement at Jay HS and Adams Hill ES – R.E.C. Industries, Inc.
- Contractor for roof replacement at Cody ES – Topside Contracting, LLC

- Contractor for roof replacement at Warren HS – American Roofing & Metal Co., Inc.
- Consultant for electrical improvements for 2025 construction portables – KCI Technologies, Inc.
- Consultant for electrical improvements for 2025 summer portables – KCI Technologies, Inc.
- Change Orders:
  - Fine Arts replacement and renovation at Jay HS (\$495,144 credit)
  - Mechanical upgrades at May ES (\$567,828.88 credit)
  - Mechanical upgrades at Myers ES (\$436,625 credit)

**Readings and adoption of policies:**

- First reading of EHBC (LOCAL) Policy

**Bids for goods approved**

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: translation services; miscellaneous uniforms, and accessories for Fine Arts; library supplies, equipment, and services; language lab workstation furniture; and miscellaneous items for Child Nutrition. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: to San Antonio Education Fund for the purchase of support services; and to Exemplars, Inc. for the purchase of online K-5 supplemental resources. For more information, contact the Purchasing Department at 210-397-8700.

<p>You may mail correspondence to:</p> <p><b>Trustees</b>  <i>c/o NISD</i>  <b>5900 Evers Road</b>  <b>San Antonio, TX 78238</b></p> <p>You may email them at <a href="mailto:info@nisd.net">info@nisd.net</a>.</p> <p>For additional information, call 210-397-8770.</p>	<p><b><u>Board of Trustees</u></b>  <b>Bobby Blount, <i>President, District 4</i></b>  <b>Corinne Saldaña, <i>Vice President, District 5</i></b>  <b>David Salcido, <i>Secretary, District 1</i></b>  <b>Homer Guevara, Ed.D., <i>Trustee, District 2</i></b>  <b>Karla Duran, Ph.D., <i>Trustee, District 3</i></b>  <b>Carol Harle, Ph.D., <i>Trustee, District 6</i></b>  <b>Karen Freeman <i>Trustee, District 7</i></b></p> <p><b><u>Administration</u></b>  <b>Superintendent John Craft, Ed.D.</b>  <b>Deputy Superintendent for Administration Ray Galindo</b>  <b>Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum &amp; Instruction Janis Jordan, Ed.D.</b>  <b>Assistant Superintendent of Communications Barry Perez</b></p>
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**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](http://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.)*

- Feb. 11, 2025, 6 p.m., **NAC, 7001 Culebra Road** (Called Board Meeting)
- Feb. 25, 2025, 6 p.m., **NAC, 7001 Culebra Road** (Regular Board Meeting)
- March 25, 2025, 6 p.m., **NAC, 7001 Culebra Road** (Regular Board Meeting)