



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

May 28, 2024

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Leadership Northside.** Dr. Craft attended the final session of Leadership Northside that covered information regarding various programs in the district including JROTC, Fine Arts, Athletics, etc.
- **Student Voice Session.** The final session of the Student Voice group was held to recognize those NISD seniors who participated in several meetings with the Superintendent to provide feedback on their experiences at their campuses.
- **ASTA Banquet.** The **Agricultural and Science Technology Academy (ASTA)** held its annual banquet that provides multiple scholarships for students.
- **Second Chance Academy.** Dr. Craft thanked **Judge Sid Harle** for his visit to the District's Second Chance Academy and for speaking to students. His presentation had a strong impact on students.
- **Storyfest a Success.** Over 400 families participated in the district's Storyfest held at the Northside Activity Center and hosted by the NISD Library Services staff.
- **TEPSA Recognition.** Four NISD schools were recipients of the 2023-2024 Student Leadership Award by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA). The campuses recognized were **Lieck, Esparza, Ott,** and **Scobee** elementary schools.
- **O'Connor HS Baseball.** The **O'Connor HS** baseball team is advancing to the Region IV-6A championship series after a win over Reagan HS. The Panthers will face Johnson HS in the series.
- **State Finalist.** South Transportation Station employee **Martha O'Campo** has been nominated as a state finalist for the Sure-Lok Above & Beyond Award by the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT).
- **Video Moment:** This month's Video Moment is very timely as it is about one of our 7,025 seniors who are about to graduate – but this one has a special story. Thanks to the teachers and staff at **Harlan High School** who surrounded this student with support and embraced him as a family, Christopher Martinez was able to overcome a lot and has a very promising future ahead of him. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** enjoyed a recent visit to the Kelly Smith Technology Center and spoke about the annual Solar Cars event marking its 27th year.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** wished all the District's seniors the best of luck. She thanked all district employees as well as parents and staff who dedicated countless hours to support students. She concluded by thanking NISD parents for their continued support and efforts.
- **Trustee David Salcido** attended a recent dinner theatre hosted at **Pease MS** with his family and enjoyed the event. He congratulated **Jay Science & Engineering Academy (JSEA)** seniors **Devan Guller, Jackson Gutierrez,** and **Caleb Garza** on being selected to attend the Naval Academy after graduation.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** congratulated the District's soon-to-be graduates and their families. She referenced the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month and reminded individuals to take care of themselves. She also encouraged individuals to research candidates and exercise their right to vote. Duran also publicly recognized Mrs. Margo Jimenez and shared condolences on the passing of her husband, NISD employee **Fred Jimenez**.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** encouraged campuses to keep sending their invitations for events to Trustees. The month of May can be very busy but Trustees appreciate the opportunity to visit schools. She thanked high school students at **Marshall HS, Brandeis HS, Clark HS, JSEA,** and **CCA** who were part of Mayor Ron Nirenberg's Youth

Engagement Council for Climate Initiatives whose purpose is to activate San Antonio's next generation of climate champions and to engage in community issues around climate change, environmental policy, and environmental justice. They participated in local policy conversations and contributed their project ideas to the city. Harle thanked the **NISD Library Services** staff for their work in hosting several Big Book giveaway events. She also commented that the recent Storyfest event was phenomenal. Harle, who attended the recent H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards event, spoke of the pride she felt that two NISD employees were named state-level winners: **Julie Minnis**, Head Counselor at **Garcia MS**, and **Michelle Fine**, Principal at **Glenn ES**. Harle acknowledged a new middle school cricket club and enjoyed attending the first match with students from **Rawlinson**, **Hobby**, and **Rudder** middle schools participating. She wished the **O'Connor HS** baseball team well as they advanced to Region competition.

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** spoke about the Board members' hearts being committed to doing what is best for children. She spoke about the many Project ACORN activities that promote student awareness and engagement in the environment. She enjoyed attending the **ASTA** banquet and the **Construction Careers Academy (CCA)** Tiny Homes Showcase. Freeman also visited **Helotes ES** and witnessed their GT projects.

Recognitions

- **Student-Athlete State Qualifiers.** A number of student-athletes in golf and track and field competed at the state level, many of whom broke district, regional, and state records.
- **One-Act Play State Qualifiers.** For the first time in school history, members of the UIL One-Act Play Company at **O'Connor High School** competed at the State level at the Austin ISD Performing Arts Center. Performing "Amadeus," the students placed first in five contests before advancing to the State level.
- **Marshall and O'Connor HS Student Councils.** The Student Councils at both **Marshall** and **O'Connor** high schools received the esteemed 2024 National Gold Council of Excellence Award from the National Association of Student Councils (NASC). This is the highest award that NASC gives to Student Councils. Recipients consistently demonstrate the highest standards of quality, leadership, innovation, and community engagement in their operations, projects, and activities.
- **Hobby MS State Stock Market Champions.** **Hobby Middle School** students were the top winners in the State Stock Market Game. The team took both first and second place against schools across the state of Texas.
- **Destination Imagination Teams Compete in Global Competition.** Three NISD Destination Imagination Teams competed at the Global Competition held in Kansas City, MO this past weekend. The "DI of the Tiger" team from **Briscoe MS** placed FIRST in the World. The "Fairytologists" from Briscoe placed 7th at the Global Competition. Over 500 teams from around the state of Texas competed at the "Lone Star Finals." Advancing to Globals were the "DI of the Tiger" representing Briscoe Middle School, who placed 1st in the Project Outreach Challenge, 1st in the Texas Extreme Challenge, and 1st in the Instant Challenge. The "Fairytologists" also from Briscoe Middle School, who came in 2nd in the Scientific Challenge, and the "Extra, Extra, Dragon Winners" from **Forester Elementary**, who placed 4th in the Improv Challenge.

Newly-Appointed Trustee Sworn-In

Dr. Homer Guevara, Jr., was appointed as the trustee for Single-Member District 2 to replace outgoing Trustee Gerald Lopez. He will serve the unexpired term until May 2025 when he will be able to run for election. He was sworn in by Judge Sid Harle. Dr. Guevara is currently a professor of Economics and Government at Northwest Vista College. He has over 30 years in education having taught at Northwest Vista College since August 2001, as well as at Edgewood ISD, South San ISD, and Concordia University.

Trustees approve retention payment

Trustees approved a one-time retention payment for employees who are active employees as of June 7, 2024, or who submit their notice to resign or retire by that date. The payment will be made in June as a separate direct deposit payment from the employee's regular payroll and will be \$1,100 for a full-time employee and adjusted amounts for part-time employees, substitutes, and temporary/seasonal staff. The payment will be made using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds which expire in September 2024.

Trustees approve 2024-2025 Compensation Package

Trustees approved a proposal by District administration for a 2% midpoint general compensation increase for the 2024-2025 school year. Classroom teachers would see a \$1,400 increase as well as other employee groups on the 2024-25 hiring schedules.

Trustees re-elect Bobby Blount as Board President

Trustees re-elected Bobby Blount as the president of the Board, with Corinne Saldana elected Vice President and David Salcido as Secretary.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Miranda Snider**, formerly Assistant Director in Technology Training and Development, was appointed **Director of Technology Training and Development**.
- **Elizabeth Flores**, formerly Head Counselor at Brandeis High School, was appointed **Director of Counseling**.
- **Tiffany Burrell**, formerly Assistant Principal at Stevens High School, was appointed **Academic Dean at Stevens High School**.
- **Laura Galindo**, formerly Associate Principal at Cable Elementary School, was appointed **Principal at Glenoaks Elementary School**
- **Cheryl Parra**, formerly Assistant Principal at Harlan High School, was appointed **Associate Principal at Holmgreen Center**.
- **Tequila Dupree**, formerly Assistant Principal in North East ISD, was appointed **Assistant Principal at the Northside Alternative High School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Schematic design for golf practice facility at **Farris and Hardin Complexes** – Marmon Mok Architecture
- Interior colors for the new **ASTA** building – Kaarsen Noonan Rittimann Garcia Architecture
- Contractor for portable relocations at **Hobby MS & Leon Valley ES** due to bond construction upgrades – Dodson House Moving, LLC
- Contractor for portable relocations due to enrollment growth at **Straus MS & Tomlinson ES** – Dodson House Moving, LLC
- Contractor for sidewalk addition and grading at **Scarborough ES** – SBM General Contractor, LLC

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: high school photographs; food and grocery items for Child Nutrition; administrative, library, and miscellaneous furniture; standard campus furniture; large equipment for Child Nutrition; fresh produce for Child Nutrition; S-S.T.E.A.M. Student Enrichment Program; welding equipment and supplies; kilns, parts, and repair services; STEM supplies and materials; and custodial equipment; 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 Rene Barajas, Ph.D.
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.)*

- June 25, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- July 23, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Aug. 13, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Called Board Meeting)
- Aug. 27, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)