



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

August 27, 2024

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Convocations.** The District's Convocation events were a great success and featured over 400 student performers.
- **School year start.** The start of the new school year has been a great one. Dr. Craft had the opportunity to visit NISD's newest elementary campus, **Chumbley ES**, along with **Cole ES** and **Brennan HS**.
- **Transportation.** NISD runs almost 1,000 buses daily, transporting students to and from school. Routes are being learned, and delays are minimized.
- **Gratitude to staff.** NISD custodial and maintenance staff were acknowledged for their work in ensuring facilities were ready for the start of the new school year.
- **Fall sports.** This week sees the beginning of the Fall sports seasons to include cross country, volleyball, football, and tennis.
- **LMS Scholarship.** Dr. Craft thanked and acknowledged **Marshall LMS** EMT instructor **Billy Soliz** for initiating a scholarship for EMT students in honor of his mother.
- **Legislative Update.** Dr. Craft discussed his hope that the pending 89th legislative session will bring meaningful school finance legislation.
- **Appraisal Board.** Dr. Craft briefed trustees on possible action by appraisal boards to change appraisal periods from annually to every 2-3 years. The decision, as the Superintendent explained, warrants careful analysis of the long-term impact on a school district's debt service.
- **Video Moment:** The video moment highlights first-day visits to our newest school, **Chumbley Elementary School**, as well as at **Mireles Elementary School**, **Pease Middle School**, and **Warren High School**. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** thanked Trustees for their role in planning for the recent Convocation events.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** thanked SA Express-News reporter Scott Huddleston for attending and writing about his experience at a District Convocation. She had the opportunity to see the new athletic videoboards in action recently and was very excited. She mentioned the start of the football season and the ongoing volleyball and cross-country events and wished all student-athletes well.
- **Trustee David Salcido** expressed condolences to the family of **Stevens HS** student Mike Gallegos, Jr. who recently lost his battle with cancer. Salcido acknowledged the school for hosting several blood drives in Gallegos' honor.
- **Trustee Homer Guevara** thanked the staff at **Timberwilde ES** for inviting him to be on campus on their first day of school. He enjoyed his visit.
- **Trustee Karla Duran** thanked the Crossroads Baptist Church for donating 200 backpacks to **Mead ES**. She acknowledged Trustee Blount for his work with the San Antonio Area African American Community Fund's Renaissance with the Stars event. And, she acknowledged Communities in Schools (CIS) for their continued support of students in NISD. She wished everyone a restful and enjoyable Labor Day weekend.
- **Trustee Carol Harle** enjoyed her grandparent drop off at **Ellison ES** and had the chance to visit **Chumbley ES** on the first day of school. She referenced how blessed Northside is to have an amazing team of staff who work hard to ensure our schools are ready for the first day with no, or minimal, HVAC issues. Harle referenced the Freedom Walk event scheduled later in Sept. at **Clark HS** as part of the 2024 Jaffarian Award presented to campus librarian **Lucy Podmore** by the American Library Association (ALA). Harle also shared a discussion with **Amalia Sollars**,

Enrichment Program Coordinator in Northside's elementary and secondary science department, about the value and positive impact of the outdoors on student learning and wellness.

- **Trustee Karen Freeman** enjoyed the annual Convocation events and thanked all those involved in their planning and execution including the Fine Arts and Communications departments and the student performers. As mentioned at Convocation, she acknowledged Trustee **Dr. Homer Guevarra** as the District's 75th trustee in this 75th anniversary year. Freeman visited Chumbley ES on its first day and was so happy to see all of the families – students and parents – who brought life to the campus. She expressed how happy she was for the school namesake, M'Lissa Chumbley.

Recognitions

- **Recognition of Martha O'Campo.** Martha O'Campo, a Transportation Department employee for the past 31 years, is the state winner of the Sure-Lok Above and Beyond Award.
- **Recognition of Michael Moore.** Michael Moore, a bus technician at the Culebra Station, was named the Texas School Bus Technician of the Year by the Texas Association for School Bus Technicians (TASBT).
- **Recognition of NISD Fine Arts Department.** For the fifth year in a row, the NISD Fine Arts/Visual Arts program received the District of Distinction Award from the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA). They are one of 94 winners across the state. In addition, for the third time, the NISD Fine Arts Department has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.
- **Recognition of Bobby Blount.** Bobby Blount, a longtime Northside ISD school board member and president of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members, has been named the 2024 recipient of TASB's James B. Crow Innovation in Governance Award. Representatives from TASB were present to recognize him on this achievement.

Public Hearing on Budget and Proposed Tax Rate

A public hearing was held to discuss the budget and proposed tax rate for 2024-2025.

Defeasance Resolution

Trustees approved a defeasance resolution, which allows the district to pay off bonded debt faster than originally planned, thus saving interest costs.

Fund Balance Commitment

Trustees approved a resolution committing a portion of the district's fund balance to the General Fund

Budget Amendment

Trustees approved the final amended budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Board Adopts 2024-2025 Budget

Trustees approved the 2024-2025 budgets for the General Fund, Child Nutrition Fund, and Debt Service Fund.

Board Approves Tax Rates for 2024-2025

The Board approved an ordinance fixing and levying the ad valorem taxes for the 2024-2025 school year. The total adopted tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation is \$1.0049 (\$0.6694 for Maintenance and Operations and \$0.3355 for Interest and Sinking.)

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Enrique Jimenez**, formerly Director of Engineering Services, was appointed the **Executive Director of Construction and Engineering.**
- **Raymond Medina**, formerly Director of Technology at South San ISD, was appointed the **Director of IT Infrastructure Services.**
- **Tanya Harris**, formerly Interim Director of Infrastructure Services, was appointed the **Director of IT Support Services.**

Trustees approved the following appointments at the Aug. 13 Called Board Meeting:

- **Erika Pruneda**, formerly Principal at Cornerstone Christian School, was appointed the **Associate Principal** at **Colonies North ES**.
- **Abrielle McLaughlin**, formerly a teacher at Mireles ES, was appointed the **Associate Principal** at **Los Reyes ES**.
- **Marissa L. Martinez**, formerly a special education teacher at Evers ES, was appointed the **Associate Principal** at **Powell ES**.
- **Venez Gonzalez**, formerly the Academic Program Coordinator at Jay HS, was appointed the **Assistant Principal** at **Clark HS**.
- **Tiffany Watkins**, formerly an Administrative Intern at Ross MS, was appointed the **Assistant Principal** at **Jefferson MS**.
- **Nicole McEvoy**, formerly an Administrative Intern at Neff MS, was appointed the **Assistant Principal** at **Jones MS**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for freezer upgrades at the **Child Nutrition Warehouse** – CGC General Contractors, Inc.
- Consultant for boiler and air handler replacement at **Holmgreen Center and Reddix Center** – Wallis Engineering Group
- Consultant for chiller replacement at **Cody ES** – DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc.
- Consultant for drainage upgrades at **Vale MS** – Bain Medina Bain, Inc.
- Consultant for energy controls upgrades at **Rawlinson MS** – Skye MEP Engineering and Commissioning
- Consultant for paving upgrades at **Warren HS** – Pape Dawson Engineers, Inc., and Arias & Associates, Inc.
- Consultant for tennis court upgrades at **Clark, O'Connor, and Jay** high schools – Bain Medina Bain, Inc., and UES Professional Solutions
- Consultant for roof replacement and waterproofing at **Rawlinson MS** – Raba-Kistner Consultants, LLC
- Consultant for roof replacement and waterproofing at **Teicher Student Services** – Austech Roof Consultants, Inc.
- Change Orders:
 - **Warren HS** chiller replacement - \$105,833.40 (credit)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: audiology-hearing assistive technology, supplies, and services; guard, dance, spirit uniforms, and accessories; asbestos abatement and mold remediation activities; window coverings, shade products, parts, repairs, and services; and vehicles - model 2025. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: The City of San Antonio for Alamodome event services for the 2024 NISD graduation ceremonies. 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.)*

- Sept. 24, 2024, 6 p.m., Northside Activity Center, 7001 Culebra Road (Called Board Meeting)
- Oct. 22, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Nov. 12, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Dec. 10, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)