



Inside Northside **BOARD**Talk

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

September 24, 2024

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Catching Up With Craft-Video Era.** Catching Up with Craft was formerly a written message sent to all staff every week. It is now in a video format and can be found at <https://www.nisd.net/district/catching-up-with-craft>.
- **Enrollment Data and Attendance Push/Incentives.** With enrollment currently at 99,699, initiatives will be implemented to continue to grow student enrollment, in particular at the Pre-K level.
- **Football season kicked off with new video boards.** The District's athletic season has had a great start, including the launch of the new video boards at both Gus and Farris stadiums.
- **9/11 Remembrance at Marshall HS.** Marshall HS/LMS held a ceremony early on Sept. 11 to remember the 2,977 people killed in the terror attacks in 2001 as well as to honor those who served on the frontline as first responders.
- **Project ACORN Kick-Off.** A kick-off event for Project ACORN was held at Los Reyes ES recently. Thanks to **Amalia Sollars** and **Issac Esquivel** for organizing it.
- **CBAC Meeting.** The Citizens Bond Advisory Committee (SBAC) met recently. Thanks to the members for serving.
- **NSITE Mentor Luncheon.** Dr. Craft applauded the NSITE mentoring program and appreciated all of the mentors and mentees participating in it.
- **Child Cancer Recognition at Lieck ES.** Pre-K student **Declan DeLeon** and his mother are working with Principal **Jess Garza** to raise awareness of childhood cancer. Four-year-old Declan is a cancer survivor.
- **NEF Pillar Recognition.** The Northside Education Foundation (NEF) hosted a Pillar Reception that brought together the 2024 Pillars of Character and the Pillars from the previous 24 years.
- **NEF Giving Campaign.** The Annual Giving Campaign is well underway and is an opportunity for staff and community members to support the NEF and the innovative initiatives it supports.
- **KENS5 EXCEL Teacher Recognition.** **Melinda Valdez**, a STEM teacher at Beard Elementary School, was named the 2024-25 EXCEL Award winner for NISD.
- **TEPSA Student Leadership Award.** In 2018, the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA) established the TEPSA Student Leadership Award to honor outstanding student leadership teams and their impact on our school communities in the state of Texas. NISD had four campuses qualify: Esparza, Lieck, Ott, and Scobee elementary schools.
- **Purple Star Campus Designation.** **The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has awarded** 105 NISD campuses the Purple Star Campus Designation for the 2024-25 school year. [To view the list of campuses, click here.](#)
- **Hispanic Heritage Month.** This month kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month and we appreciate our campuses celebrating the rich diversity of our district.
- **Video Moment:** The video moment recognized **Olivia De Leon**, a senior at Holmes High School, who was chosen as the 2024-25 KENS5 All-Star Student-Athlete from NISD. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** spoke of txEDCON, an annual conference for school board members, superintendents, and administrators, as an opportunity for educational leaders from across the state to gather and connect.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** thanked all of the District's coaches and band directors and all those working with and guiding students. Saldana said the NEF Pillar Reception was exceptional and especially enjoyed interacting with former Holmes HS students honored at Pillars. She attended the 9/11 Remembrance at Marshall HS and felt it was a

beautiful tribute. Saldana commended the work of the video board teams at Gus and Farris stadiums and said they are doing an amazing job running the new stadium videoboards. She encouraged Trustees to consider assisting with the distribution of the NEF New Teacher Grant awards on Oct. 4.

- **Trustee David Salcido** mentioned that of the 541 schools in Texas awarded the Purple Star designation by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), 105 are Northside ISD schools.
- **Trustee Dr. Homer Guevara** thanked **Nicole Franco**, Principal Coach, and **Diana Ely**, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, for their work in facilitating Leadership Northside.
- **Trustee Dr. Karla Duran** thanked Dr. Craft for recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month. She acknowledged Northside's recognition of America's Heroes Week, honoring first responders and military personnel. Duran announced that Alamo Colleges will host a Dual Credit Conference on Oct. 5 at ESC-Region 20. Duran touted a program developed by Lisa Coleman, Soy Latina, aimed at developing leadership skills in females ages 15-18.
- **Trustee Dr. Carol Harle** expressed how pleased she was that 105 NISD schools earned the Purple Star campus designation for the 2024-2025 school year from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). This year's total number of recipients is up from only ten last school year. Harle reminded Trustees that the deadline for submitting nominations for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award is Oct. 7. She spoke on the importance of voting and referenced the work of the Youth Do Vote organization and the great opportunities it offers for students. Harle also announced that Raise Your Hand Texas will host a candidate forum on Oct. 17 and 19. She spoke of the passing of Marshall HS classmate Robin Boldt, whose father, Herbert Boldt, is the namesake of Boldt ES. Harle acknowledged **Dr. Kimberly Ridgley**, Assistant Superintendent of Whole Child, and her work with a Mental Health Summit planned for Nov. 4.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** acknowledged Beard ES STEM teacher **Melinda Valdez** on her KENS5 EXCEL recognition. She enjoyed being on hand when the award was presented. Freeman thanked Linebarger Law Firm for sponsoring the NEF Pillar Reception. She congratulated all Esports competitors and encouraged others to attend an esports competition.

Recognitions

- **Recognition of outgoing members of Northside Leadership Academy.** The Board recognized the outgoing members of the 2023-2024 Northside Leadership Academy (NLA).
- **Recognition of outgoing members of Leadership Northside.** Leadership Northside seeks to empower stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively advocate for continuous improvement of the education experience for Northside students. Participants were recognized for completing the 2023 2024 cohort.
- **Signing of Decision of Respect.** On Oct. 4, all NISD students and staff will be invited to sign a Decision of Respect as part of the District's anti-bullying initiatives. Counselors have been equipped with training, materials, and lessons for classroom presentations that teach necessary skills to students to promote a safe, respectful, and healthy school climate. Members of the Board of Trustees signed their own Decision of Respect as a show of support for the program spearheaded by the NISD Counseling Department led by **Elizabeth Flores**. Dr. Craft signed on behalf of NISD staff.

Trustees hear an update on Self-Funded Insurance

Trustees heard an update from McGriff Insurance on the status of the District's self-funded model.

Trustees hear a report on proposals for upcoming elementary and middle school boundary changes

Trustees heard school boundary proposals that would balance enrollment at some elementary and middle schools by utilizing capacity at other campuses. Public hearings will be held in October and November, and Trustees will decide on the proposed boundary changes at upcoming Board meetings.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Amanda Fraser**, formerly Associate Principal at Hoffmann Elementary School, was appointed the **Principal at Thornton Elementary School**.
- **Carrie Gray**, formerly Associate Principal at Scobee Elementary School, was appointed the **Associate Principal at Glass Elementary School**.
- **Dr. Aaron M. Logan**, formerly Assistant Principal at Brennan High School, was appointed the **Academic Dean at Jones Middle School**.
- **Michael Nunnery**, formerly a teacher at Humble ISD, was appointed the **Assistant Principal at Taft High School**.

- **Norma Rabago**, formerly a Communication Specialist with UT Health Science Center, was appointed the **Director of Partnerships**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for athletics, lighting, and energy control upgrades at Ross MS – F.A. Nunnelly Company.
- Contractor for golf practice facilities at Farris and Hardin complexes – R. L. Rohde General Contracting, Inc.
- Construction Manager-at-Risk for building upgrades at Jay HS/JSEA – Joeris General Contractors, Ltd.
- Schematic Design for Stinson MS Sports Medicine Magnet School – Pfluger Architects
- Change Orders:
 - **ASTA** new magnet school (TCEQ plan modifications) - \$171,904.78 (add)
 - **Rudder MS** boiler replacement (return of contingency/allowances) - \$63,400 (credit)

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: registration and payment software for Adult & Community Education; pool chemicals, supplies, and services; intervention software, materials, and related training; moving services; PE equipment, supplies, and repair services; firearms, tactical holsters, accessories, and services; printing supplies, equipment, and services; pest and weed control services; fire alarm test, inspect, and maintenance; and fire alarm monitoring. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: to Deaf Interpreter Service, Inc. for purchase of interpreting services for DHH students; to The City of San Antonio for NXT Level Youth Opportunity services; to Tiger Sanitation for sanitation services for schools located within the City of Leon Valley; to The City of Helotes for the purchase of sanitation services for schools located within the City of Helotes; and to Agile Sports Technologies, Inc. DBA Hudl for a video analysis and coaching platform for District sports teams. 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

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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.)

- 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)