



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

October 22, 2024

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **October is National Principals Month.** Thanks to all our district principals for their leadership, dedication, and passion, which make a huge difference in the lives of our students and staff every day.
- **National Custodial Appreciation Day.** Oct. 2 was National Custodial Appreciation Day. Thank you to our incredible custodial staff who work hard to keep our schools clean, safe, and welcoming. Their hard work behind the scenes ensures a healthy environment for learning and growth.
- **TASA/TASB Conference.** NISD had 100% attendance from Trustees at the conference, which was an opportunity for education and advocacy. In addition, visual art student groups from **Stevens HS** and **Rayburn MS** were chosen to represent the Texas Art Education Association at the conference. Students showcased innovative, choice-based artistic processes led by their teachers, **Ambra Hernandez** from Stevens HS and **Larry West** from Rayburn MS.
- **NISD Family Engagement Conference.** A successful event was held at NAC, with approximately 400 in attendance.
- **Ag in Action.** ASTA hosted Ag in Action in early October. This unique three-day event provides elementary students with a hands-on learning experience that connects with their science, math, and geography curriculum, offering them a meaningful, real-world perspective on agriculture. Since its inception in 1998, nearly 43,000 fourth graders and 8,800 high school students have participated.
- **TechEd Conference.** The Texas Education Technology Leaders (TETL) conference was held with the theme, "Lead it Like Lasso."
- **Education Human Resources Day.** Oct. 9 was Texas Education Human Resources Day. A special thanks to all those in our Human Resources Department who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our schools and departments are staffed with the very best employees.
- **National School Lunch Week.** National School Lunch Week was Oct. 14-18. Many thanks to all our dedicated Child Nutrition employees who provide meals to students daily. They are projected to serve an incredible 16.5 million meals this school year.
- **Northside AP Honor Roll Campuses.** NISD boasts seven high schools designated as Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll Campuses. They are Brandeis, Clark, Communications Arts, Harlan, Health Careers, NSITE, and O'Connor high schools.
- Middle School Meet of Champions.
- **Be Well Stay Well.** The Whole Child Department hosted its 5th annual Be Well, Stay Well event this past weekend, providing a variety of educational sessions focused on physical, social, emotional, and financial wellness.
- **UIL Marching Band.** This past Saturday, all NISD high school bands competed at the UIL Region 29 Marching Band Contest, and ALL district bands received Superior Ratings (Division 1) and advanced to the Area Marching Contest round to be held this coming Saturday for Jay High School in the 5A competition. The rest will compete in the 6A competition on Saturday, Nov. 2.
- **Regional Cross Country Results.** 7th & 8th grade Girls Teams, first place, Briscoe MS; second place, Garcia MS; and third place, Jefferson MS. 7th & 8th grade Boys Teams, first place, Garcia MS; second place, Straus MS; and third place, Stevenson MS.
- **Red Ribbon Week.** Red Ribbon Week is Oct. 23-31. Schools will hold a variety of events to celebrate.
- **Early Voting has begun.** Early voting has already started and runs through Nov. 1.

- **Video Moment:** The video moment is about the Student 2 Student (S2S) program at Bernal Middle School. S2S is a peer-to-peer student-led program that brings military and civilian students together to welcome new students, create a positive environment for all, build connections, and ease transitions. [Click here to watch.](#)

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** attended the Science in Action event at **Ott ES** and looks forward to the next campus event on Nov. 19 at **McAndrew ES**. Blount hopes to work with the Bexar County Coalition of School Boards to facilitate a meeting of local school board trustees. He also provided an update on leadership changes for both Go Public and UP Partnerships.
- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** attended the Harlan Heroes Inclusion Pep Rally at **Harlan HS**, an event that has been in place since the school's second year and one that has proved to be amazing. She recognized Harlan staff members **Monica Gonzales** and **Rachel DeLeon** for their part in organizing the event. Saldana visited Braun Station ES and participated in a campus celebration for the school exceeding their NEF Annual Giving campaign goal. Saldana also attended the **Clark HS** Freedom Walk event and the Ag in Action event at **ASTA** at **O'Connor HS** and assisted with a NEF new teacher grant distribution. She congratulated all the NISD bands on their recent success at the UIL marching contest.
- **Trustee David Salcido** thanked **Diana Ely**, Executive Director for Teaching and Learning, for helping accommodate early voters at the Northside Activity Center.
- **Trustee Dr. Homer Guevara** congratulated the NISD bands for their recent success at the UIL Marching Band contest and wished them well as they all advance to the Area Marching Contest. He also acknowledged the NISD athletes advancing to state cross country competition: **Kailyn Brunson, Brennan HS; Zachary Miller, Brennan HS; Ada Mathias, Brandeis HS; Adelyn Miller, Taft HS; and Aiden Adams, Clark HS.**
- **Trustee Dr. Karla Duran** enjoyed hearing from astronaut **Miguel Hernandez** on his migrant family's experience while at the recent TASA/TASB conference. She congratulated and thanked the NISD staff who attended a recent dual credit academy hosted at Region 20 and indicated that the Alamo Colleges will hold an EduTech event on Nov. 15. Duran referenced a recent opportunity to provide training to teachers in Columbia. She reminded voters that early voting has started and encouraged them to exercise their right to vote. She thanked all veterans in advance of Veteran's Day on Nov. 11 and looks forward to honoring her family ancestors on Dia De Los Muertos.
- **Trustee Dr. Carol Harle** thoroughly enjoyed a very moving presentation of the production, *The Diviners*, by students at **Marshall HS**. She reminded Trustees that the District offers a Gold Card for retired employees and NISD residents aged 65 or older, allowing them to attend District events free of charge. Information about Gold Card eligibility can be [found on the NISD website](#). Harle attended a Marshall HS 50-year reunion and appreciated the time spent by Principal **Richard Halle** and other campus staff in hosting the alumni group. She enjoyed the 5th annual Be Well, Stay Well event and commended **Dr. Kim Ridgley**, Assistant Superintendent for Whole Child, and her staff for organizing the event. She informed Trustees of an upcoming Mental Health Summit hosted at Region 20 on Nov. 5. Harle shared Vote210 as a good resource for voters. She acknowledged Trustees Freeman and Duran for participating in the TASA/TASB Delegate Committee.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** thanked her fellow Trustees for attending so many events across the district.

Public hearing: NISD earns highest financial rating 22 years in a row

Assistant Superintendent for Budget & Finance **Tiffany Contreras** reported that for the 22nd year in a row, Northside ISD has received the highest rating of "Superior Achievement" under the state's financial accountability rating system, called the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). The primary goal of School FIRST is to improve the management of the school district's financial resources. The School FIRST rating is based upon analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2022-2023 school year, and budgetary and financial data for the 2023 fiscal year. As required by state law, Northside ISD announced and held a public meeting to distribute a financial management report that explains the District's performance under each of the 20 indicators and the District's rating.

Recognitions

- **HOSA Week Proclamation.** Nov. 4-10 has been designated National HOSA Week. HOSA-Future Health Professionals is a career and technical student organization for high school, postsecondary, and middle school students who plan to pursue a health career. Board President Bobby Blount signed a Proclamation citing Nov. 4-10 as HOSA Week in NISD.
- **Human Resources Proclamation.** The Board of Trustees approved a proclamation to observe the month of October as Texas Education Human Resources Month throughout the district.

Trustees hear a report on Early College High School program proposal

Dr. Jerry Woods, Assistant Superintendent for High School Administration, presented a plan to develop an Early College High School program to be housed at Jay High School. The ECHS program would allow students to earn an associate's degree along with their high school diploma. The program will start next year and will be open to students from Connally, Jones, Jordan, Neff, Pease, Rayburn, Ross, Rudder, Stevenson, and Vale middle schools.

Trustees hear report on State Funding

Dr. Rene Barajas, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Finance, presented an overview of the state's Tier I and Tier II funding. The Trustees then discussed the possibility of a future bond and voter-approved tax ratification election. The presentation was informational only, and no action was taken.

Trustees approve NISD Legislative Priorities

Trustees approve NISD Legislative Priorities for the upcoming 89th Legislative Session.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Dina Martinez**, formerly an Administrative Intern at Kallison ES, was appointed the **Associate Principal at Hoffmann Elementary School**.
- **Diane Alaniz**, formerly Math Specialist at Carlos Coon ES, was appointed the **Associate Principal at Scobee Elementary School**.
- **Kurt Wunderli**, formerly a teacher at Taft HS, was appointed the **Assistant Principal at Brennan High School**.
- **Theresa Diaz**, formerly Assistant Director of Continuous Improvement, was appointed the **Director of the Northside Education Foundation**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for the District Baseball/Softball Complex – Guido Construction Company
- Contractor for replacement of fuel dispensers – JF Petroleum Group, Inc.
- Consultant appointment for paving/drainage upgrades at **Meadow Village ES** – Bain Medina Bain, Inc.
- Consultant appointment for air handler replacements at **Locke Hill ES** – KCA Engineers, Inc.
- Consultant appointment for synthetic turf and track replacement at **Gus Stadium** – Moy Tarin Ramirez Engineers, LLC.
- Change Orders:
 - **NEF MS** (modifying water/sewer connections) - \$141,550.98 (add)
 - **Farris & Gus Stadiums** (electrical upgrades) - \$60,000 (credit)
 - **O'Connor HS** (chiller & energy controls replacement - return of contingency/allowances) - \$58,746 (credit)
 - **Esparza ES (pier casing due to groundwater)** - **\$289,592 (add)**
 - Various Facilities (surveillance camera upgrades-return of contingency/allowances - \$66,520.55 (credit)
 - **Hobby MS Magnet** (addition/renovation) - \$168,514.90 (add)
 - **Holmes HS** (new classroom building-return of contingency/allowances - \$146,355.42 (credit)

Readings and adoption of policies:

- Second reading of EFB LOCAL Policy (adopted)
- First reading of ELA LOCAL Policy

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: consultants, speakers, related services, and materials districtwide; elementary music equipment and materials; Career and Technical Education supplies, parts, and services; printing services; maps and globes; technology and related equipment recycling; miscellaneous equipment for Child Nutrition; doors, door frames, parts, repairs, and services; and elevator maintenance and services. Trustees approved the following purchase orders: Soliant Health, LLC for in-person therapy sessions, telehealth sessions, ARD meetings, documentation, staff/parent consultations, and English-only assessments; and Agile Sports Technologies, Inc. DBA Hudl for 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

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.)*

- 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)
- Jan. 21, 2024, 6 p.m., NAC, 7001 Culebra Road (Regular Board Meeting)