



Inside Northside

BOARDTalk

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

November 12, 2024

Superintendent's Report

Dr. John Craft reported to the Board:

- **Happy Veterans Day.** Many events took place at campuses across the District to recognize Veterans Day. Dr. Craft attended a moving ceremony at Leon Springs ES. He thanked all veterans for their service and recognized Trustees **Bobby Blount** and **David Salcido** for their service.
- **Bruce Hendin Fitness Fair at Ross MS.** The Hendin Family was present at Ross MS to help host a community health event featuring various health screenings and vendors.
- **Nellie Reddix Visit.** Dr. Craft thanked Reddix Principal **Robin Fields** and the Reddix staff and students for hosting him. The visit was the highlight of his day.
- **Bands March at Area Competition.** All NISD high school marching bands advanced to the UIL Area Marching Contest this past Saturday, setting an Area H record with five of our 11 bands advancing to the final rounds. The results are 5th place, Brandeis HS (state alternate); 6th place, Taft HS; 8th place, Stevens HS; 9th place, Sotomayor HS; and 10th place, O'Connor HS. Congratulations to all the band students, dancers, drill teams, directors, and band booster parents who worked so hard this marching band season.
- **Athletic Competitions.**
 - **Volleyball Playoffs.** The Lady Hawks from **Harlan HS** will play against Alexander tomorrow at Dilley HS.
 - **NISD Varsity Football teams headed to playoffs.** Six NISD teams have advanced to the next level of playoffs. They are **Harlan, Clark, Taft, Brennan, Sotomayor, and Jay HS.**
 - **Middle School Football District Championships.** Congratulations to the Middle School Football District Champions – **Folks MS** for 7th grade and **Straus MS** for 8th grade.
 - **Boys and Girls Basketball Season is underway.**
- **NEF Gala.** The annual NEF Gala hosted by the Northside Education Foundation will be held tomorrow. Dr. Craft recognized the NEF Board and all staff and volunteers who have worked hard to set up for this event.
- **Student Ambassador Kickoff.** An Orientation and Training session was held for an exciting new initiative aimed at amplifying student voices within our communication efforts. The NISD Student Ambassadors program brings together a select group of students from across the District chosen through a rigorous application process to become the "Face and Voice of the District." These ambassadors will receive training to support key public relations and communications events and help share impactful stories from their campuses and the district.
- **Student Voice.** District leadership facilitated another Student Voice event, which provided high school Seniors with an opportunity to provide valuable input regarding their experience at their respective schools.
- **Bexar Area School Safety and Mental Health Summit.** Dr. Harle served on the panel and did a fantastic job advocating for student and staff mental health and support.
- **NISD Culture Climate survey.** The District is conducting a series of surveys so staff, students, and families can share their experiences with the District. The purpose is to celebrate what we do well and recognize areas where we can grow. The last day to complete the staff newsletter is Friday, Nov. 15.

Board Members' Report

- **Trustee Bobby Blount** thanked Athletics Groundskeeper **Alfonso Castillo** for tending to the district's soccer fields. Blount reminded Trustees that the Board's Future Teacher Scholarship is in process now. Blount enjoyed speaking at the **Tomlinson ES** Veteran's Day ceremony and commended the campus on a well-planned event. He informed

Trustees that the NCAA's Read to the Final Four challenge boasted high participation in the San Antonio area. Blount informed the Trustees that the Southside ISD Board of Trustees had shared a token of appreciation with them.

- **Trustee Corinne Saldana** congratulated all of the NISD athletic teams for advancing to playoffs. She attended a Veteran's Day event at **Holmes HS**, which featured the school's orchestra. Saldana also attended an event hosted by the Northside Museum Association at the Northside Learning Center, featuring the **Holmes HS** JROTC and the group's instructor, who spoke at the ceremony. She shared his appreciation to Veterans Salcido and Blount for their service. Saldana congratulated the communities and principals of **Pease MS** and **Boone ES** on the celebration of their school's 50th anniversary. Saldana shared that the opportunity to engage students in the Student Voice process has been so encouraging. She also shared how amazing it was to attend the community health event at **Ross MS**.
- **Trustee David Salcido** enjoyed attending and participating in the **Ross MS** Hendin Fitness Fair.
- **Trustee Dr. Homer Guevara** thanked **Warren HS** Principal **Melissa Hurst** for inviting him to attend the campus Pink Out Pep Rally. He attended a Respect Rally at **Folks MS** and thanked Principal **Shawn McKenzie** for the invitation. He acknowledged the Warren HS orchestra for performing at the Inaugural Speaker's Series hosted by Northwest Vista College. He thanked all veterans for their service and wished families a Happy Thanksgiving.
- **Trustee Dr. Karla Duran** thanked all Veterans for their service and enjoyed attending a Veteran's Day ceremony at **Leon Valley ES** along with the Mayor of Leon Valley. Duran also thanked former NISD Trustee **Lynn Britton** for his ongoing support of the NISD Bowling League, which had a successful kickoff event. She recognized November as Native American Heritage Month, and she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- **Trustee Dr. Carol Harle** appreciates how all NISD schools honor veterans and their families in various events and ceremonies. She attended a Veteran's ceremony in Helotes, which featured many NISD alums. Harle appreciates receiving a Fine Arts calendar of events and encourages individuals to attend one of these events during this holiday season. Harle attended a composting event at **Carnahan ES** and thanked Enrichment Programs Coordinator **Amalia Sollars**, the school's staff, and Project Acorn for making these types of experiences possible. Harle, too, enjoyed the Student Voice experience.
- **Trustee Karen Freeman** is proud of how NISD schools honored veterans in their various ceremonies on Veteran's Day. She thanked all veterans as well as their children. Freeman congratulated **Colonies North ES** on hosting their annual Parade of Nations, which was a parade through the school's neighborhood due to ongoing construction at the school. Freeman attended the **Pease MS** 50th anniversary celebration.

Recognitions

- **The Northside Citizenship Award.** During a recent band practice, a student started choking on a piece of power bar. Thanks to awareness and training, a fellow band member came to her aid and performed the Heimlich Maneuver. The Board presented **Miguel Gonzalez** from **Brandeis High School** with the Northside Citizenship Award, the highest award given by the Board. [Click here to watch the story about this heroic student.](#)

Trustees approve adjustments to boundary zones

Trustees heard the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC) report regarding the proposal to move students from Bernal Middle School to Briscoe and Luna middle schools. Bernal is currently the largest middle school in the district with more than 1,600 students. The SBAC conducted a public hearing on Oct. 15 at Briscoe and Oct. 21 at Luna, and after listening to the public comments and reviewing all relevant data, made a formal recommendation to the Board regarding the attendance zones. Trustees voted to approve a variation of the formal recommendation to provide needed enrollment relief to Bernal MS.

Trustees approve administrative appointments:

- **Jessica Barrera**, formerly a Department Coordinator at Pease MS, was appointed the **Assistant Principal at Pease Middle School**.
- **Susan Schottler**, formerly an Associate Principal at Lieck ES, was appointed the **Academic Dean at Bernal Middle School**.

Board approves facilities items:

- Contractor for exterior door alarm hardware upgrades (phase 2 districtwide) – Alterman, Inc.
- Interior graphics for M'Lissa M. Chumbley Elementary School
- Interior graphics for Westwood Terrace Elementary School

Readings and adoption of policies:

- Review of Legal Policies in TASB Update 123
- First reading of Local Policies in TASB Update 123

Bids for goods approved

Trustees approved the following bids, awards, and recognition items: heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC)—indefinite quantity contract; and electronic equipment, parts, repairs, rentals, and services. Trustees also approved the following purchase orders: to NJ Malin and Associates for the purchase of one forklift truck for use in the Purchasing Warehouse. 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*
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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.)

- Dec. 10, 2024, 6 p.m., Board Room, 5900 Evers Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- Jan. 21, 2025, 6 p.m., NAC, 7001 Culebra Road (Regular Board Meeting)
- 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)