



BOARD BRIEFS

GREGORY-PORTLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DECEMBER 5, 2018 • www.g-pisd.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER

DEC 8 • 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Meet & Greet the School Board
w/ Portland City Council
@ Christmas in Portland
[CLICK HERE for more info!](#)

DEC 17 • 6 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting
G-PISD Training Center

DEC 21, 2018 - JAN 7, 2019

Student Holiday Break
All Campuses

JANUARY

JAN 21 • 6 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting
G-PISD Training Center

DID YOU KNOW ...

You can access events happening across the school district any time on our website. Just visit g-pisd.org under "Calendar" -> "Happening Now (Event Calendar)" to find campus and district schedules.

G-PISD SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As state representatives and senators plan to gather in January for the 86th Texas Legislative Session, our Board of Trustees joined other public school boards across the state in formally adopting a set of legislative priorities that define their collective stance with regard to educational needs and current issues. Board members say these priorities were developed with consideration for G-PISD students, staff, and community, as well as all Texas public students. Priorities include the board's position related to state accountability and standardized testing, the rising cost of healthcare for school employees, a state-mandated school finance system and the impacts of the Robin Hood law (Chapter 41), as well as other issues facing Texas public school districts. | [CLICK HERE to review the board's legislative priorities.](#)



Teachers, staff from W.C. Andrews Elementary begin their first tour of the new facility interior on Nov. 14, 2018. Move-in will begin in Dec. 2018.

NEW W.C. ANDREWS ELEMENTARY TO OPEN FOR SCHOOL IN JAN. 2019

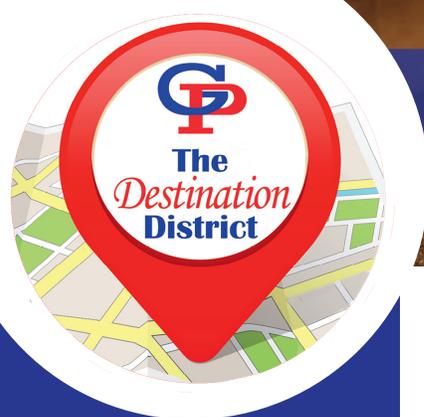
Students enrolled at W.C. Andrews Elementary School are expected to begin the new 2019 calendar year attending classes at the new campus on Moore Avenue, where construction is nearly completed and move-in is set to take place beginning in December 2018. G-PISD Superintendent Dr. Paul Clore said construction is being completed along schedule and under budget. "As long as we do not experience any unforeseen delays, for example due to excessive rain or inclement weather, we should be able to open for school at the new campus on January 8th." | [CLICK HERE to view the latest construction and transportation planning update for W.C. Andrews Elementary.](#)

G-PISD RECEIVES SUPERIOR "FIRST" RATING, PERFECT FINANCIAL SCORE

Texas school districts are reviewed annually for financial accountability and proper management of resources through Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). G-PISD has maintained the highest rating possible since the inception of the FIRST rating system. This year, the district was rated "Superior" with a perfect score of 100. The FIRST rating system uses 15 financial indicators to assess the quality of fiscal management and the financial condition of the district. A public hearing will be conducted at the board meeting on Dec. 17, 2018, to review the district's FIRST ratings report.



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DISTRICT, CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS APPROVED BY BOARD

Following the G-PISD Trustees' adoption of a new Vision and Mission for the district, as well as the development of Board Goals and Superintendent Priorities, district leaders developed strategies to fulfill them and compiled this year's District Improvement Plan (DIP). Campus Principals also finalized Campus Improvement Plans (CIP) containing strategies for each school community to achieve.

"We have carefully reviewed these plans and strategies with district and campus teams, and also with our District and Campus Site-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Committees," said Dr. Leslie Faight, Asst. Superintendent for School Leadership and Student Services. "The SBDM committees include not only administrators and teachers, but also parents and community members who were able to review our plans and provide input as we developed ways to enhance our efforts and meet Board Goals (and priorities)."

[CLICK HERE to view District and Campus Improvement Plans.](#)



The Student Advisory Council meets with School Board members and district leadership to provide valuable feedback regarding various programs and initiatives.

DISTRICT TO REVIEW ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM & TESTING

Velma Soliz-Garcia, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, presented Advanced Placement (AP) testing results to Trustees at a regular meeting on Nov. 12th. "We had a discussion this month with representatives serving on our Student Advisory Council, and there are several areas we'd like to review with regard to Advanced Placement programming and test participation," said Soliz-Garcia. Student Advisory Council members shared with district leaders that the rigor of AP testing can cause some strain on students' workload at the end of the school year. "The students have other options when choosing whether to take an AP course, like dual-credit college courses and other offerings. We want to remove barriers as much as possible and help them take advantage of opportunities available to them. So, we will revisit areas of need and report back to you at a later date."

BOARD HONORS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM AFTER STATE COMPETITION



G-PISD Trustees congratulated the G-PHS Cross Country team for their hard work that resulted in competition at the State Meet in Round Rock, Texas, this year.

Other Approvals, Action taken by Trustees in the last month include:

- Tenure Incentive Pay for all G-PISD employees, based on years of service to the district
- Budget Amendment related to Hurricane Harvey repairs (G-PISD insurance deductible)
- Policy Update for Special Programs including Gifted and Talented Students
- Financial Advisory Agreement, and Continuing Disclosure Services, with Hilltop Securities, Inc. (formerly known as First Southwest Company, LLC, or Southwest Securities, Inc.)
- Encumbrances and Committed Funds by Fund and Function (2017-18) carried forward and reappropriated in Fiscal Year 2018-19

BOARD APPROVES CHENIERE AMENDMENT TO CH. 313 AGREEMENT

In February 2014, G-PISD Trustees approved a Limitation on Appraised Value of Property Agreement, otherwise known as a "Chapter 313" agreement, with Corpus Christi Liquefaction (Cheniere). Representatives from Cheniere approached the School Board this year requesting to amend that agreement by changing the qualifying time period of the agreement to two years sooner than originally planned, to begin Dec. 1st, 2018. G-PISD Legal Counsel Kevin O'Hanlon, a state-renown expert working with Ch. 313 agreements, assured Trustees that it would be beneficial for the school district to approve the amendment of the existing agreement. After reviewing all information and hearing from legal representatives during several monthly board meetings, Trustees responded with a 7-0 unanimous vote of approval.

