



BOARD BRIEFS

GREGORY-PORTLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 • www.g-pisd.org/boardbriefs

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER

SEPT 5 • 5:30 p.m.
Parent Educational Meeting
T.M. Clark Elementary Cafeteria

SEPT 10 • 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Open House @ G-P High School

SEPT 16 • 6 p.m.
Regular School Board Meeting
Training Center @ 1200 Broadway

OCTOBER

OCT 5 • 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Family Engagement Conference
G-P High School

OCT 19 • 11 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Book-A-Palooza
T.M. Clark Elementary School

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.

ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS = PROGRESS TOWARD BOARD GOALS

Trustees heard reports from Assistant Superintendent Velma Soliz-Garcia, District Administrators, and Principals, regarding 2018 Accountability Ratings released August 15, 2019, during a regular meeting and public hearing on August 19th. Superintendent Priorities and Annual Targets were met or exceeded for the current year, showing significant progress toward achieving Board Goals by 2023. "Our district was 'not rated' under TEA's new accountability system last year due to Hurricane Harvey," said Soliz-Garcia. "However, I can tell you that our overall district rating of 88 this year is an improvement from the composite total in the TEA system last year (85). This shows that what we're doing is working, and it's the result of an incredible effort from our district and campus teams -- especially our Principals and teachers whose talent and dedication makes it all happen. We're making great progress, and will continue to do so."

SELECT TO VIEW: [Board Goal Progress Update](#) | [TEA Accountability Ratings for G-PISD](#)



Just before the first week of school, G-PISD held a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new G-P Middle School. For more information, visit: g-pisd.org/bond

ACADEMIC PROGRESS CONTINUES WITH CAMPUS INSTRUCTIONAL ROUNDS

Principals and several teachers from all G-PISD campuses took part in a two-day training in August to begin the second year of the new Instructional Rounds program. Through this process, groups of teachers work to identify strengths and opportunities for growth by "making the rounds" to observe fellow teachers in the classroom. "It's something that educators don't usually do -- seeing each other in action during the school day," said Camille Kieschnick, Director of Instructional Services (ELAR & SS). "In the first year, every campus found some great techniques being used in their classrooms. Through the thorough evaluation process as part of this program we're able to identify those methods, and create a plan to replicate them so all students can benefit from the expertise of our amazing G-P teachers."



SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES REDUCED COMPRESSED TAX RATE FOR 2019

The G-PISD School Board approved the district's 2019 total tax rate of \$1.26835 on August 19th, which included a Maintenance & Operations (M&O) rate of \$1.06835 and an Interest & Sinking (I&S) Debt Service rate of \$0.20. "The public will be pleased to know their compressed tax rate is decreasing this year," said Superintendent Dr. Paul Clore. "The M&O rate reduction meets House Bill 3 requirements, and we are also saving the taxpayers \$1.5 Million in Bond Interest by moving two pennies from the M&O side of the rate to the I&S side." | [CLICK HERE for more information and G-PISD tax rate history.](#)



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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TEAM TO REVIEW DISTRICT LONG-RANGE PLAN

Several community members are being identified based on interest and school involvement to be part of the G-PISD Community Leadership Team. The primary objective of this committee will be to review the long-range plan for facilities that is managed and updated throughout each school year by Trustees and G-PISD Superintendent Dr. Paul Clore.

"We're constantly focused on the changes taking place in our community and economy, and how those changes will affect our student enrollment, facility, and program needs," said Dr. Clore. "This year, as we do from time to time, we'd like to have a group of community members review our plan and the considerations we're making for our students and staff going forward in time. Their feedback is vital to our school system, including specifically their thoughts regarding bond planning and prioritizing school projects."

Those among the Community Leadership Team are volunteers engaged in the activities of the district and are familiar with student and staff needs. "We want the input of our community so that we can best understand the interests of our community and, together, determine where to go from here," said Dr. Clore.



NEW TEACHING GRANTS & GIVING CAMPAIGN

The G-P Education Foundation (G-PEF) invites G-PISD teachers to apply for grant awards that will fund innovative classroom programs across our school district ... and invites the community to take part in its Annual Giving Campaign to help make a difference in our schools.

Teaching grants will be awarded in amounts up to \$1,000 per individual teacher, and \$2,500 per teaching team. The blind selection process will ensure a fair review process for finding the most creative and engaging programs.

While the grant application is now available and open for submissions, everyone in the community is invited to help reach the foundation's goal of having at least 1,000 donors giving \$5 per month to support the organization.

The G-PEF's mission is to support students and teachers through funding innovative educational programs (including classroom grants), scholarships for G-PISD students, and recognizing teaching excellence. **Give or learn more:** www.g-pisd.org/gpef

NEW TENNIS COURTS NEARLY COMPLETE @ G-P MIDDLE SCHOOL



With construction underway for the new G-P Middle School campus (at the former G-P Intermediate site), old tennis courts had to be demolished at that location. Therefore, Trustees approved \$1.8 Million to construct new courts at Wildcat Drive and Buddy Ganem. This project will be completed by Oct. 4, 2019.

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

- Approval of a Resolution for Eligibility Status of San Patricio County 4-H and Appointment of Adjunct Faculty Members
- Approval to accept applications requesting to amend existing Ch. 313 agreements with Corpus Christi Liquefaction (Cheniere Energy) for Trains 4, 5 (with specific consideration for adjustments in project timelines)
- Approval of Special Education Services for Nursing with Access Quality Therapy Services
- Approval of Public Funds Investment Act (PFIA) Training Providers: Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), Education Service Centers, Texpool, Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO), Texas Association of Assessing Officers (TAAO), Texas TERM, Government Treasurers of Texas (GTOT), Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT), Texas State University, University of North Texas, Virtual Learning Concepts, and Texas Class and Public Trust Advisors.

TRUSTEES APPROVE \$51.7 MILLION BUDGET FOR 2019-20 (GENERAL FUND)

G-PISD Chief Financial Officer Brigitte Clark presented the district's 2019-20 budget at a board meeting on Aug. 19th, including \$51.7 Million for the General Fund (funded by Local M&O, Chapter 313, State and Federal Revenues); \$17 Million for Debt Service (Local I&S and State Program Revenues for projects including Bond 2015, which passed with no increase to taxes); and \$3 Million for Food Service. Clark presented notice to the Board that the District received its Certified Appraisal (Tax) Roll which included an increase of \$438 Million for Maintenance & Operations, and \$3.5 Billion for Interest & Sinking (I&S) since last year. "Please keep in mind that the boost we are seeing in projected revenues is the result of income from local industry and Ch. 313 payments, and that I&S dollars cannot be accessed (spent) without public approval (i.e. school bond election)," said Clark.

