



BOARD BRIEFS

GREGORY-PORTLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 • www.g-pisd.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCTOBER

OCT 18 • 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
G-PISD Central Office

OCT 22 • 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Book-A-Palooza for Early Readers
@ T.M. Clark Elementary

OCT 25-31 • All Week
Red Ribbon Week
All Campuses

OCT 31 • 8 a.m.
Book Character Read
East Cliff Elementary School

OCT 31 • 1 p.m.
Book Character Read
Austin Elementary School

NOVEMBER

NOV 15 • 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
G-PISD Central Office

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN SOON @ AKINS STADIUM

G-PISD Trustees have awarded a bid to Weaver & Jacobs Constructors, Inc., who will soon begin construction on several improvement projects at Ray Akins Wildcat Stadium. Bill Wilson II of WKMC Architects designed plans for new, improved restrooms, concession stands, and fencing on the Home and Visitor sides of the facility. Wilson presented the evaluation committee's recommendation to award the bid at the regular board meeting on Sept. 20th, and cited that the nearly \$2.7 Million project budget included several adjustments to bring costs down as much as possible. With careful planning and modifications to the scope of the original design, Wilson said the new total is "about half the cost of the original budget." Trustees voted unanimously (7-0) to award. Construction will begin after the Fall athletic season.



Tennis Courts Resurfaced, Ready for Wildcats & Ladycats

All four (4) tennis courts have been completely resurfaced to better serve our G-P athletes. The former surface, which featured varying shades of green, has now been fully replaced with a high quality, industrial grade material that gives the courts a deep blue tone (as seen above).

BOND SALE PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 2016 TO FUND PROJECTS

Trustees Approve an Order Authorizing Superintendent, CFO to Manage Sale of Bonds
"We are going to hopefully sell \$9.5 Million in the coming months, which will give us some funding for scheduled bond projects in mid-November," said Ronald Wilson, Chief Financial Officer & Safety Coordinator, during a presentation at the Sept. 20th board meeting. "Ultimately, we will be able to fund more projects by taking this approach."



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MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

District, Campuses working together to make gains like never before

"All of our elementary Gap Intervention Specialists (GIS) are using DMAC to identify specific content areas where students are struggling ... and it's really making a difference," said Principal Gloria Dornak at a board meeting this month. Trustees were presented with testing data revealing the "achievement gap" between high-performing and low-performing students; information that is high on the priority list among G-PISD Board Members. "You can see from these reports that we are "closing the gap" in several key areas, though we still have work to do," said Sharon Reckaway, Testing Coordinator. A Longitudinal Gap Analysis showed that gaps had reduced from 2015 to 2016 for 50 percent of the identified student groups. A Cohort Gap Analysis revealed similar results.

Elementary and Intermediate principals shared specific examples of ways that campuses were working to 'close the gap,' in particular through "prescriptive, targeted individual instruction." Dr. Leslie Faught, Special Programs Director, has been working with District and campus leadership to develop plans of action for this Board Goal. "We've created calendars for content-based assessments ... and we are really looking at every possible opportunity to help these students comprehend the material and apply it."

Tina Ybarra, Elementary Curriculum Director, said she attended a meeting where other districts were surprised to hear that G-PISD established GIS to support this need. "They wanted to know more about the positions and what type of work they are doing," said Ybarra. "We are also looking at some schools that are comparable to (ours) and seeing what's working and how we can make it work for us." Board Member Victor Hernandez mentioned that "sometimes there are additional lapses due to underlying issues in (a student's) background," and asked that staff also consider those needs when creating plans to support our students. Board President Randy Eulenfeld offered his appreciation for progress made toward this Board Goal.

LANDSCAPING PROJECTS TO IMPROVE CURB APPEAL

Coming soon, G-PISD will seek bids to implement landscaping plans designed to fulfill a Board Goal of enhancing curb appeal at every district campus and facility. The designs are being completed by Gignac Landscape Architecture, and include improvements at the Administration Building, High School, Junior High, Intermediate School, T.M. Clark and W.C. Andrews Elementary Schools. (East Cliff and Austin Elementary Schools were landscaped when those campuses were built.)

Ronald Wilson, CFO & Safety Coordinator, presented plans at a recent school board meeting. "We are limiting expenses for this project because there are many needs across the district, but at the same time are doing everything we can to get the most for our money and improve conditions at these locations," he said. "We share the interest of the Board in making sure our schools and facilities are inviting and well-kept, which also sends a message to our children that we take care of our property and have respect for our community." A timeline is being developed, and updates will be provided as necessary.



Change is Coming to the G-P Wildcat Band

Assistant Band Director Chris Morrow is leading the G-PHS Wildcat Band following an incident earlier this month when several students experienced heat exhaustion. Procedures are now being followed to ensure the safety of all students, and the band is marching on to great things.

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

- Agreement to review, consider Chapter 313 Applications for Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property from the ExxonMobil Corporation (and other companies related to a potential future project)
- Adoption of a resolution to promote, celebrate School Priority Month in October 2016, per TASB
- Recognition of Nueces County 4-H for extracurricular status and approval of Adjunct Faculty Members
- Approval of Policy Update 105 and appointments to the School Health Advisory Committee, Instructional Materials Committee, and a newly formed District of Innovation Committee

Content above is not all-inclusive. A complete listing of agenda (and action) items can be found at www.g-pisd.org.

G-P VOTES: School Board Adopts Resolution for Culture of Voting

School districts across Texas are being encouraged by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), to adopt resolutions to help promote the responsibility of voting in upcoming elections. G-PISD Trustees adopted such a resolution this month, and soon all district employees and eligible students will be reminded of the importance of voting, and provided information regarding where and how to vote. Campuses will soon receive "G-P Votes" materials and will be invited to help develop a "culture of voting" as a measure of good citizenship. [CLICK HERE](#) to view a copy of the Board resolution.

