



2008 Bond Task Force Studies District Needs

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees recently appointed the 2008 Facilities and Technology Study Task Force to research the school district's needs in preparation for a May 10, 2008, bond election. Chaired by community leader Phil Dyer, the task force will meet during the next several months to study district needs, tour school facilities, receive public input and present recommendations to the board of trustees.

Task Force

Phil Dyer - Chairman
Ann Boswell - Alt. Chair
Brian Anhalt
Nathan Barbera
John Bock
Sara Bonser
Renee Bueche
Kyle Carlson
Bob Garrey
Tammy McSwain
Bart Ridley
Barbara Roselli
Karen Schultz
Karen Shepherd
Berk Smith
Len Stevens
Kyle Walters

District Staff

Dr. Doug Otto
Jeff Bailey
Jim Hirsch
Richard Matkin
Karla Oliver
Denise Gillespie

Bond Web Site

School Trustees and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto encourage Plano ISD staff and community members to visit the district's Web site for bond program information updates and a history of prior bond initiatives. Patrons will find the following information at this Internet address:

www.pisd.edu/2008bond

- ✓Task Force Study Scope and Time Line
- ✓Meeting Agendas/Minutes
 - ✓Bond Presentations
 - ✓Prior Bond Programs
- ✓Contacts / Speaker Requests

Trustees Adopt 2007-08 Initiatives to Meet District Goals

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees at its October 2 meeting adopted several new initiatives for the 2007-08 school year to support the district's two overriding goals. Following is a partial listing of these initiatives. Details can be found on this district Web site: www.pisd.edu/about.us/mission.goals.

Goal: Ensure Continued Improvement in Student Learning

This major district goal emphasizes closing the achievement gap and ensuring learning for all students through high standards, integrated technology and the district-wide coherent curriculum.

Trustees adopted 21 new initiatives, nine continuing initiatives, and eight goals from the District Based Improvement Council. Highlights of some new initiatives follow.

- ✓Update the school district's five-year strategic plan.
- ✓Work through a district committee to initiate a Family Services component to be woven into all aspects of the district's existing Student Services programs.
- ✓Analyze Diversity Survey results and develop strategies to address concerns.
- ✓Analyze trends from New Teacher Survey and develop resulting action plans.
- ✓Begin tracking, in more detail, reasons for employee resignations.
- ✓Monitor and refine K-12 college readiness programs to ensure vertical articulation of information and skills through the University Readiness project.
- ✓Pilot the professional learning period in all middle schools and Jasper and Vines high schools, supported by MyLearningPlan electronic journal.
- ✓Develop a special education services organizational framework that facilitates effective communication and quality services. Design, develop and implement a secondary instructional program that parallels curriculum in core subjects based on researched best practices.
- ✓Create a Linear Growth Curves model to measure students' academic development across the years.
- ✓Expand Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing into grades 6-12 to measure student achievement growth. Publish online documentation and train staff on use of MAP and CogAT ability test scores.
- ✓Implement version 2 of myPISD.net at all campuses, providing students and teachers at home remote access.
- ✓Implement and administer the Random Steroid Testing Program as directed by UIL guidelines.

Goal: Ensure Efficient Use of Financial Resources / Budgeting

This goal focuses on aligning expenditures with available revenues for the 2007-08 school year budget. The impact of financial resources/budgeting must constantly be assessed as the district reviews programs, practices and delivery systems. In addition, the goal will focus on the processes and support services necessary to allow a greater focus of resources to work effectively with the instructional arm of the organization.

To support this goal, trustees adopted 11 new initiatives and four continued initiatives for the 2007-08 school year. Highlights of some new initiatives follow.

- ✓Develop a plan to be in compliance with new 403(b) regulations and move toward contracting with a third-party administrator to assist the district with the plan.
- ✓Work closely with area assistant superintendents and principals to develop a financial model to assist campuses in proper accounting practices for funds under campus control.
- ✓Develop an audit schedule that transitions the financial audit conducted by new external auditors, while maximizing the resources of the district's internal auditor.
- ✓Develop a 2008 Bond Facility and Technology capital initiative program for approval by school board.
- ✓Transition to maintenance contracted services company to reduce costs and provide effective management.
- ✓Establish a goal to reduce the district's electric consumption by five percent, as required by legislation.
- ✓Study the feasibility of establishing a district employee health care clinic.
- ✓Study design elements of an Effective Performance Compensation System.
- ✓Implement an integrated Web-based document management solution to respond to business needs.

Verizon Grants \$10,000 to Support Plano ISD Family Literacy

The Verizon Foundation recently presented a nearly \$10,000 grant to the Plano ISD Education Foundation to support the Plano ISD Family Literacy Program's "Parent and Child Together" program. Approximately 50 families will benefit from the program which develops literacy and life skills for parents and children. The grant will fund the purchase of literacy materials that will be used for family learning both together and in individual classrooms, utilizing research-based curriculum.

Participating in the recent check presentation were Dr. Cathy Galloway, Student Services Department executive director; Jane Lilliston, Plano ISD Family Literacy Program coordinator; Linda Pannell, Verizon Foundation; Cesar Moncada, Verizon; Mary Jo Dean, Plano ISD Education Foundation president; and Dr. Doug Otto, superintendent.



Pictured (l-r) Dr. Cathy Galloway, Jane Lilliston, Linda Pannell, Cesar Moncada, Mary Jo Dean and Dr. Doug Otto.

PLANO ISD DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINDFUL OF EDUCATION

Plano ISD has adopted for several years two major overriding goals:

- 1. Ensure continued improvement in student learning**
- 2. Ensure efficient use of financial resources/budgeting**

View details of district goals, attainment and results for the past several school years, online at:
www.pisd.edu/about.us/mission.goals

Board Briefs...

Trustees took the following action on October 2, in addition to approving several Consent Agenda items.

'Superior' Financial Rating

The board held a public hearing on Plano ISD's "Schools FIRST" (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) results. Linda Madon, executive director of financial services, explained that the district complied with all 21 indicators, giving Plano ISD a "Superior" rating.

Purchasing Power

Trustees recognized members of the Plano ISD Purchasing Department for capturing the "Excellence in Procurement Award" from the National Purchasing Institute.

Progress Reports

2007-08 District Goals

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto provided an overview of 2007-08 district goals (see article, page one).

Differentiation Team Project

Academic Services staff members Jim Hirsch, associate superintendent, and Jayne Cantwell and Dr. Jim Wussow, executive directors, provided an overview and scope of the Differentiation Resource Team Project, a four-year development and implementation process.

Career Education Update

David Hitt, career education assistant director, provided a review of the district's career education program.

Policy Adoptions

Trustees approved the following policies on second reading: FC (Local) School Attendance Areas, and GKD (Local) Community Relations: Nonschool Use of School Facilities.

Log On & Tune In

School Board meeting agendas and minutes may be viewed on the district's Web site at: www.pisd.edu/about.us/board.of.trustees. Edited videotapes of the meetings may be viewed on Cable Channel A-31, Digital Channel 99 and Verizon FIOS 33 at 8:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and at noon on Saturdays.

Trustees will meet again to conduct a work session at 6:00 p.m. on October 16 at the Sockwell Center.

District Digest

E-mail: digest@pisd.edu

Phone: (469) 752-8030

Website:

www.pisd.edu/news

eNews listserv:

www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm

Literacy Specialist Wins National 'Unsung Hero' Award

Jennifer Ruth, Christie Elementary School literacy specialist, is among 100 winners of the 2007 ING Unsung Heroes awards, a national endeavor which helps fund innovative ideas and bring them to life in the classroom. She will now compete with other winners for one of three top prizes - an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$25,000.

Her teaching idea, "Take Home Teacher," helps fill the skill gap for parents who want to supplement their child's learning by providing them with parent-friendly learning materials for home use. Available in English and Spanish, the kits are provided on a variety of subject areas, outlining targeted activities to address students' academic needs.

Ms. Ruth, a former Christie Elementary School student and Plano Senior High School graduate, was honored during a recent presentation at Christie by Lisa Emmons with ING Financial Advisors. To learn more about the awards program, visit this Web site: www.ing.com/us/unsungheroes.



Jennifer Ruth (left) and Lisa Emmons

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 10 ~ PSHS 'Jazzed for Victory' Homecoming Parade ~ Plano Senior High School's Ninth Annual Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally will be held on Wednesday, October 10. Step off will be held at 6:30 p.m. in front of Davis Elementary School, 2701 Parkhaven Drive. The parade will proceed south on West Side Drive and will end in the Wildcat Gym. The Wildcats Football Team will challenge Berkner High School at the homecoming game on Friday, October 12, at John Clark Stadium.



Tuesday, October 16 ~ Master's Degree Program Information Meeting

~ Teachers who have completed, or will have completed, two years of employment in the district may elect to apply for the Plano ISD Master's Degree Program beginning summer of 2008. An information meeting will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, at the Plano ISD Administration Building, 2700 W. 15th Street. Discussion will include an overview of options, procedures for taking the GRE and time lines for applying to a university. Attendance at one of the meetings is required for participation in the program.

Friday, October 19 ~ Plano ISD Holiday Greeting Card Art Contest (Entry Deadline) ~ Plano ISD and Webb & Webb Attorneys and Counselors at Law invite all students to enter this year's Holiday Greeting Card Art Contest. Four finalists will be recognized at a school board meeting where they will receive \$50 U.S. Savings Bonds. The winner will receive an additional \$100 bond and will have his/her artwork printed on the cover of the holiday greeting card for both Plano ISD and Webb & Webb.

Saturday, October 20 ~ Plano International Festival ~ The third annual Plano International Festival will showcase the rich tapestry of cultures found in Plano through ethnic music and dance performances, children's activities, cultural booths, an international food court and a naturalization ceremony. The event kicks off with a Parade of Nations at 11:00 a.m. in Downtown Plano's Haggard Park. For more information, visit this Web site: www.planointernationalfestival.org.

October 29-30 ~ PPE National Parenting Conference "Finding Family Balance in a Wacky World" is the theme for Practical Parent Education's annual National Conference on Parent Education to be held October 29 and 30 at the Dallas/Addison Marriott Quorum Hotel. Recognized as the most comprehensive conference nationwide focused on parent education, strengthening families and promoting healthy development of children, the event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Sylvia Rimm, author of "Growing Up Too Fast," pre-conference workshops, numerous interactive workshops offering CEU and PDH credits, and networking opportunities. For details and registration forms, visit this Web site: www.practicalparent.org.

Thursday, November 8 ~ Schell Elementary School Dedication The Plano ISD Board of Trustees invites Plano ISD employees and the greater community to attend a celebration dedicating A.R. Schell, Jr., Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 8, at Schell, 5301 East Renner Road in Richardson.

Notable Notes...

Congratulations, Parents & Grandparents:

☐Kevin Eubanks, Dooley teacher, and his wife Christine on the July 18 birth of son **Elias Beckett**; Nancy Schiff, Gulledege teacher, on the July 30 birth of her first grandchild **Connor**, born to proud parents **Jamie and John Leonard**; and Sherri Walker, Beaty special education teacher, and her husband Jeff who welcomed son **Jordan Lee** on July 14.

☐Pam Rand, Dooley CTA, and her husband Sonny, became the proud grandparents of **Collin Max**, born August 22 to **Jennifer and Justin Rand**; and **Barbara Monroe**, communications department, welcomed her first grandchild, **Timothy Randal**, on August 31. Proud parents are **Sarah and Mark Clifford** of Rockwall.

☐Melody McKee, Bethany art specialist, welcomed granddaughter **Allie Grace** on September 2. Proud parents are **Brooke and Brian Benefield**; **Wendy Ramirez**, Thomas special education teacher, and her husband **Marcus** became the proud parents of daughter **Hadley Jane** on September 5; and **Paige Edwards**, Barksdale librarian, and her husband **Michael** welcomed daughter **Emma Katherine** on September 8.



FISH Tales – Memorial Elementary School is applying the FISH philosophy this school year. As part of the program, staff members write "Fish Tales," a note telling a tale (bragging) about a fellow staff member, thus "making their day." Staff members post their notes on a large ocean mural located in the staff lounge. Pictured are (l-r) Teachers Beverlea Gilbert, Carol Truscott, Donna Hougen and Christy Pine with Maricela Helm, assistant principal.

Thought for the Week:

"Prepare the child for the path, not the path for the child."

~Anonymous