



Janet Napoli Finalist for Texas Teacher of the Year



Janet Napoli, 2008 Plano ISD and Region 10 Teacher of the Year, has

been selected as one of six finalists for Texas Teacher of the Year. State Education Commissioner Robert Scott made the announcement on September 3. The six finalists were selected by a panel of judges who represent the state's four teacher organizations: Texas AFT; ATPE; TCTA; and TSTA.

The finalists will now be invited to Austin for interviews before a larger judging panel, which will determine the top elementary and secondary teacher. One of the top winners will also be selected to go forward to be considered for National Teacher of the Year honors.

The Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year, the Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year, the remaining four finalists and the other regional Teachers of the Year will be honored at a luncheon to be held on November 22 at the Connally Banquet Hall in the University of Texas' Etter-Harbin Alumni Center. During the luncheon, each of the regional winners will receive a \$500 check and a trophy. The top two teachers will receive a \$5,000 cash prize, a technology package valued at more than \$15,000 and a trophy. Read Ms.

Napoli's philosophy of education and professional biography online at pisd.edu.

Dateline

School Open Houses

Sept 8 - Senior High Schools

Sept 9 - High Schools

Sept 11 - Middle Schools

Elementary school open house dates and times are set by each campus. Check with schools for exact open house times.

College Nights

Sept 15 - PSHS

Sept 16 - Plano East

Elementary Early Release

Sept 24 (No early childhood school a.m. classes)

School Board Adopts 2008-09 District Initiatives

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees at its September 2 meeting adopted proposed district initiatives for the 2008-09 school year, as recommended by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto.

New targets (✓) for Plano ISD's two major district goals are published in this newsletter. Both new targets and momentum initiatives are published on the district Web site at: pisd.edu/about.us/mission.goals/.

Ensure continued improvement in student learning

Capacity Development

- ✓ Continue replacing and upgrading the district's software applications with open source and Web-based solutions where appropriate, including large systems such as the districtwide library circulation system.
- ✓ Implement the parent portal module of myPISD.net.
- ✓ Develop instructional and building plan for the new high school and identify areas of refinement for existing high schools.
- ✓ Implement pilot, through iLEAD Academey, McRel's Power Walkthroughs of the 9 research-based instructional strategies at 14 campuses to increase principals' instructional leadership knowledge and skills while strengthening teacher effectiveness.
- ✓ Initiate a district Professional Development Committee to increase the communication and coordination of staff training across departments and the district.
- ✓ Initiate a diversity training program for district staff to assist them in gaining a better understanding of other people's ethnic, religious and other diverse backgrounds.

Community Connectedness

- ✓ Develop two long-range, public-private district improvement initiatives in conjunction with district leadership with multi-year augmented private support over next four years.
- ✓ Effectively communicate the implementation of the 2008 bond program.

Data-Informed Decision Making

- ✓ Provide growth curve modeling to all principals and teachers through the performance management portal.

Student Learning

- ✓ Examine secondary grading practices in support of better instruction.
- ✓ Develop a student-based online learning-goal setting process measured by the MAP assessments.
- ✓ Continue to develop and implement the grades K-4 mathematics program changes focusing on increased student achievement and support for the grades 5-8 mathematics initiative.

Ensure efficient use of financial resources/ budgeting

Capacity Development

- ✓ Ensure effective transition of Plano ISD Education Foundation staff while maintaining highest level of foundation performance.
- ✓ Study possibility of developing a program to financially support and encourage Plano ISD students to enter the teaching profession and return to teach in Plano ISD.
- ✓ The athletic department will initiate additional avenues for increasing revenue through athletic events, marketing and advertising and use of athletic facilities.

Community Connectedness

- ✓ Initiate the use of survey tools through the use of technology to engage in the exchange of information with the community.
- ✓ Meet established 2008-09 fundraising goal with a minimum 4% increase in revenue.

Data-Informed Decision Making

- ✓ Implement the financial module of TEAMS.
- ✓ Continue development on the performance management portal to include department-specific information.
- ✓ Target across the board budgetary savings for the 2009-10 budget.
- ✓ Pursue legislative relief for inflationary factors that affect the district financially.
- ✓ Transition some payroll functions from CIMS date processing system to TEAMS.
- ✓ Implement GASB 45 dealing with post employment benefits.
- ✓ Implement DATE Grant from both an accountability and operational standpoint.
- ✓ Implement the final phase of an automated process for free and reduced meal applications.
- ✓ Initiate a strategy for the use of bond funds authorized and issued in 2008-09.
- ✓ The district will look at options related to employee health care, including moving to TRS Active Care or maintaining the district's self-funded program.

Plano ISD Education Foundation Seeks Grant Applications

All-Electronic Grant Applications Due to Supervisors Wednesday, September 24



Plano ISD Education Foundation President Ralph Stow accepted the gavel recently from immediate past-president Mary Jo Dean. Mr. Stow promises "continued aggressive growth and development of the foundation to support Plano ISD students, faculty and staff."

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is currently accepting online applications for its Grants to Educators Program in the *Grantworks* all-electronic grant application and approval system.

Applications are due electronically on or before Wednesday, September 24, by submitting to the "principal approver," who will review and submit the grant electronically by noon on September 30.

The online *Grantworks* application and approval system includes a step-by-step process for applicants to follow, plus contact information for technical assistance and questions regarding criteria and judging. If needed, applicant training will be available at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, at the Plano ISD Administration Building, Room 311.

Surprise grant deliveries will be made in mid-November by the Plano ISD Education Foundation Grant Patrol to award-winning educators. More than \$70,000 will be distributed, with funds to be spent by the close of the school year. To read about the 2007 grant winners, visit the Foundation online: pisd.edu/about.us/foundation/grants.shtml. The *Grantworks* system can be accessed directly at: grants.pisd.edu.

Board Briefs...

School trustees took action on the following items at their September 2 business meeting.

Consent Agenda

Board members approved several items on the consent agenda, including personnel recommendations, bids/purchases, *committee appointments, **meeting date changes and other items.

2008-09 Tax Rate

Trustees adopted a resolution to levy a 2008-09 tax rate of:
\$1.0400 - debt service rate
\$.02634 - M&O rate
\$1.3034- total rate

*Advisory Committee Appointments

Several new and returning members were appointed by trustees for district advisory committees representing: career education, library/information services, health, diversity advocacy and special academic services. Committee names are posted online at pisd.edu.

*Trustee Appointments to Committees/Boards

Board President Skip Jenkins submitted the following appointments for trustees:

- Skip Jenkins:
Plano ISD Education Foundation and Audit Committee;
- Missy Bender:
Head Start Advisory, TASB Delegate, Junior League and homeowner associations liaison;
- Brad Shanklin:
Audit Committee, Regional Mall and Downtown TIF Boards, TASB alternate and Realtor groups liaison;
- Mary Beth King:
NSBA Federal Relations Network and PTA liaison;
- John Muns: City of Plano Joint Committee and Plano Chamber of Commerce;
- Melody Timinsky:
City of Richardson League; and
- Duncan Webb:
City of Plano Joint Committee and Audit Committee.

Policy Adoptions

Trustees adopted the following local policies on second reading: FD, EIE and DBD; and on first reading CPAB, EHDE and GE, as well as TASB Update 83.

**Dec/Jan Meeting Changes

Trustees rescheduled board meeting dates in the months of December and January, so that their business meetings will be held on Dec. 9 and Jan. 20.

Additional articles related to the September 2 school board meeting can be found throughout this newsletter and on the district Web site: pisd.edu.

District Digest

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www.pisd.edu/news

eNews listserv:

www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm

Superintendent Announces Administrative Appointments

Dr. Doug Otto, superintendent of schools, announced the following administrative appointments at the school board's September 2 meeting. Congratulations to these employees.

East Cluster - Assistant principals at Plano East Senior High School: **Johnnie Cotton** served as a principal in Mexia ISD for the past three years, after serving as fine arts director at Crandall High School. Johnnie has also directed bands, since 1983, in Center, Jasper, Spring Hill, Overton and Lindale ISDs. **Laura Grundler** joins the Plano East staff after serving as administrative intern at Shepton High school. She has also taught at Williams High School and Clovis Unified School District in California.

Central Cluster - **Karin Ball** joins the Plano Senior High School staff as an assistant principal, after serving as administrative intern at Renner Middle School and as a teacher at Frankford and Haggard middle schools and Sigler Elementary.

West Cluster - Administrative interns include: **Adrienne Hunter**, former adult ESOL teacher at Grand Prairie High School, joined the Renner Middle School team this year. She has also served as a teacher and assistant principal in Grand Prairie. And, for the past two years, she has served as an adjunct development math professor at El Centro Community College. **Joy Lovell**, a former teacher at Razor and Bethany elementary schools, joined the Frankford Middle School staff this year. She has also served as a teacher, band director and assistant choir director in Richardson, Irving and Ector County ISDs. **Latasha Goodwin**, former middle school teacher in Coppell,

is serving at Robinson Middle School. **Kecia Theodore**, former Shepton High School teacher, has joined the administrative team at Shepton. She has also taught at secondary schools in Richardson ISD and Lincoln Parish, Louisiana.

Administration - Serving as Plano ISD Education Foundation Executive Director/Director of Development is **Monica Shortino**. She brings experience serving as director for development with The Real Estate Council Foundation, as a weekend shelter advocate at the New Beginnings Center and as director for non-profit projects at The Bradley Group.

The assessment and accountability team has welcomed two new administrators: **Dharshana Weeransinghe**, assistant director, and **Paul Dabbs**, management coordinator. They each hail from Dallas ISD, where Mr. Weeransinghe served as director of data analysis, reporting and research, and Mr. Dabbs served as measurement coordinator of evaluation and accountability. He has also served as a strategic marketing manager at Ericsson, Inc. During his nearly 20-year career, Mr. Weeransinghe has consulted for Rapp-Collins Marketing Services Network and served as DISD's institutional research director and evaluation specialist as well as the statistical data analyst for school planning and demographic studies. He began his career working as a research and teaching assistant at Texas Tech University.

Making Math Count: Curriculum Implementation Report



McCall Elementary School teachers who attended math training this summer included Lauren Athey, Ashley Ulmschneider, Fabiola León, Danielle Crawford, Leslie Hart, Irma Cuebas and Ximena Fennell.

The Plano ISD School Board heard a report on September 2 highlighting Plano ISD's new elementary mathematics initiative. Julia Haun, elementary mathematics coordinator, presented "Making Math Count," an update on the curriculum developed by Plano ISD teachers and curriculum staff.

"Our goal, as we developed the curriculum and evaluated instructional resources, was to focus on providing a strong math program for our elementary students and supporting the grade 5-8 math initiative," Ms. Haun told trustees. "We were looking for a program that provided a strong foundation, so that the transition from elementary to middle school would be smooth."

According to Ms. Haun, the research-based curriculum focuses on problem solving skills. "When students have a reason to use the math, they are learning to solve a problem that is real to them. Whatever the context, having an application for the mathematics improves achievement."

Highlighted in the report were such topics as competency in basic skills, multiple solution strategies, communicating mathematically, types of assessments and technology integration. Teacher Joan Bartell, Mendenhall Elementary School, shared with trustees how the math adoption has aided her students. "They became more articulate in explaining their thinking and sharing their problem solving strategies to their peers," she said. Ms. Haun thanked departments for their contributions to the math initiative's success. These included library media services, which compiled a database of more than 400 math trade books and organized the distribution of supplemental math materials. Instructional technology helped organize 11,000 files, created technology lessons using "Destination Success," and updated links and video-streaming that are part of the curriculum planner. Distribution services and M&A Technology ensured that all resources were delivered to campuses and available on the online curriculum planner.

Notable Notes...

Congratulations to these proud parents and grandparents:

Frankford Middle School's **Josh Hahn**, ISS teacher, and his wife **Michelle** welcomed son **Austin** on May 28; **Mark Reddoch**, band director, and his wife **Amy** welcomed daughter **Sasha Gabrielle** on June 14; **Jenny and Jeff McDonnell**, Haggard Middle School teacher and Frankford coach, respectively, welcomed son **Jack Edgar** on July 30; and **Gina Weaver**, Frankford language arts teacher, and her husband **Torrey** welcomed daughter **Bryn Addison** on August 23.

Tammy and Zack Pruett, Hightower Elementary School kindergarten teacher, and Razor Elementary School principal, respectively, welcomed baby girl **Kate Bailey** (8 lbs 4ozs) on June 1.

July 4th babies included **Zoie Nicole Garza** (7 lbs 6 ozs), granddaughter of **Imelda Garza**, Sigler Elementary School FANS manager, and **Aidan Gilbert** (6 lbs 8 ozs), the first grandchild of **Blanca Wilmer**, Meadows Elementary School FANS manager.

Schimelpfenig Middle School instructors **Marty Ball**, band director, and her husband **Randy** welcomed son **Michael Randall Weldon** on July 16, and **Christopher Bridgham**, social studies teacher, and his wife **Jen** welcomed son **Reece Trainor** on July 21. **Kathy Minton**, Plano East FANS manager, welcomed granddaughter **Makenna** (6 lbs 6 ozs), born on July 31 to proud parents **Tina and Eric Paige** of Lewisville.

Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

Trish Gulino, Schimelpfenig Middle School secretary, whose mother **Rose Pesce** of Dallas died on June 7; **Nancy Suttle**, Bethany Elementary School second grade teacher, whose sister **Barbara Rike** died on July 3; and **Derenda Saleh**, Hedgcoxe Elementary School counselor, whose husband died recently.

Thought for the Week:

"The larger the island of knowledge, the longer the shoreline of wonder."

~Ralph W. Sockman

