



School Notes

For Immediate Release
February 17, 2016

NISD School Notes, February 17 – March 25

NISD School Board Selects Superintendent Search Firm

At a Special Board Meeting on February 15, the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees has approved the hiring of Bob E. Griggs and Associates as the superintendent search firm. At the January 28 School Board Meeting, Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. announced her intent to retire effective July 31, 2016. Since this decision, the NISD Board of Trustees has been actively researching and interviewing superintendent search firms to assist with the hiring process of a new superintendent. Bob E. Griggs and Associates is a local firm based in Texas who has assisted in more than 280 successful superintendent placements. The firm's consultants have a combination of two centuries of educational experience. Bob Griggs was a former superintendent in Birdville Independent School District and a state representative. The week of February 29, the firm will begin meeting with NISD parents, staff members, community members and business leaders to receive input to help develop the NISD superintendent profile. More information will be posted on the district's website: www.nisdtx.org.

Four NISD Students Named National Merit Finalists

Northwest High School senior Andrew Smith and Byron Nelson High School seniors Matthew Giuffrida, Ryan Wheeler and Brendan Woodcock have been selected among the approximately 15,000 students to advance as finalists in the 61st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. They will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$32 million that will be offered in April.

PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDED: (BNHS_NatMeritSemi left to right: Matthew Giuffrida, Ryan Wheeler, Brendan Woodcock) and Smith_NHS

NISD Principal Named Finalist for H-E-B 2016 Excellence in Education Awards

Sandy Conklin, Beck Elementary School principal, has been named a finalist for the 2016 H-E-B Excellence in Education Award, spotlighting some of the best educators in Texas. Conklin learned of his finalist status during a surprise school wide assembly at Beck Elementary on February 17 where H-E-B representatives presented his campus with a \$2,500 check. Conklin will advance in the competition and will travel to San Antonio in May to interview before a panel of judges and attend an awards banquet where the winner will be announced.

PHOTO CAPTION [award]: Samuel Beck Elementary School Principal Sandy Conklin has been named a finalist for the 2016 H-E-B Excellence in Education Award. Conklin was presented a check for \$1,000 during a school-wide, surprise assembly this morning.

Superintendent Receives PTA Lifetime Achievement Award

At the February 16 Northwest ISD Council of PTAs meeting, the council surprised Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. with the National PTA Life Achievement Award. This recognition is the highest honor from the nation's largest child advocacy organization to a person who lives out their commitment to children daily. Last month, Dr. Rue announced her intent to retire at the end of July. The NISD Board of Trustees has already initiated the process to find her replacement. Superintendent Rue joined Northwest ISD in 2005.

While at NISD, Dr. Rue has led the district under the guidance of a detailed strategic plan developed with the vision and input of students, parents, staff, community members, and NISD School Board members. She has been instrumental in leading district-wide initiatives such as Community-Based Accountability, revising the Profile of a Graduate, creating the Profile of an Educator, providing a digital learning environment through student tablets and netbooks, expanding the NISD Academies, and developing the Outdoor Learning Center. Dr. Rue will receive a certificate of recognition, a congratulatory letter from the national PTA president and a gold lapel pin.

PHOTO CAPTION [Receiving Award]: Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., superintendent of schools in Northwest ISD, is pictured after receiving the highest honor from the PTA – the National Life Achievement Award.

BNHS Business Team Prepares for Second National Championship

For the second consecutive year, the Byron Nelson High School business team has qualified to compete at the Virtual Enterprises International (VEI) Youth Business Summit. The team competed in the VEI South Region Trade Show and Business Plan Competition in South Carolina and earned first place in the commercial competition. The team is comprised of 12 student-employees representing Salubre. The team is listed below:

Business Plan presentation team (presented in SC): Hunter Robertson, Taylor Jeffrey, Trevor Therrien, Nathan Sokul, Hayden Rivers, Lillian Johnson

Student salespersons at Trade Show: Jacob Madrid, Noah Logan

Other Business Management / VEI class members: David Ryan, Ethan Langley, Trayce Johnston, Nick Guidry

“I’ve said it from the beginning, we have an extremely gifted group of kids in the classroom, and once we get going there’s nothing that can stop us,” said Hunter Robertson, the chief executive officer of Salubre. “I promised a second national title, and I’m going to do what I can to fulfill that promise.”

The team will travel to New York City to present their business plan on April 17. This competition includes the top 70 teams across the nation.

PHOTO CAPTION [Business Management – VEI]: The Byron Nelson High School Virtual Enterprise Team advances to nationals for the second consecutive year.

BNHS HOSA Qualifies for State

Byron Nelson High School students are making school history with eight students qualifying for the state HOSA competition. The purpose of the HOSA organization is to develop leadership and technical skill competencies through a program of motivation, awareness and recognition. The following students qualified for state:

Monique Cooper - first place Clinical Specialty
Kyla Scott – third place Veterinary Science
Tiffany Saba - third place Healthy Lifestyle
Aliyah Lalani – third place Job Seeking
Claire Perkins - second place Research Persuasive Speaking
Lauren Fish and Alyana Almenar - second place Health Care Display
Emily Wilson - third place Medical Reading (Online Testing)

The Texas HOSA State Leadership Conference will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center in April.

NISD School Board Meeting

An NISD School Board meeting will be held Monday, February 22 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

NISD Students Showcase Technology Trends at Expo

Northwest ISD parents and community members are invited to attend the fourth annual NISD Techno Expo at Northwest High School (2301 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247) on Thursday, February 25 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Selected students will present and demonstrate their use of technology in the classroom during a series of breakout sessions. For event details, answers to frequently asked questions, and more, go to <https://sites.google.com/a/nisdtx.org/techno-expo/>.

NISD School Board Meeting

An NISD School Board meeting will be held Monday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247).

NISD to Host Annual Connection Luncheon

Northwest ISD is encouraging real estate and business professionals to join NISD on March 10 for the annual Connection Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the NISD Administration Building (2001 Texan Drive, Justin, 76247). Information on current demographic projections, plans for new schools and the award-winning programs in NISD will be shared. Space is limited. Call 817-215-0175 to reserve a seat.

NISD Closed for Spring Break

All Northwest ISD campuses and offices will be closed for spring break March 14-18. Classes will resume on Monday, March 21.

Bad Weather Make-Up Day – Student Holiday on March 25

Friday, March 25 is a student holiday and staff development day. This date was scheduled as a bad weather make-up day, and since the district has not had to close for inclement weather, it will be a student holiday.

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