



Navarro ISD

District Update & Board Notes

from Mandy D. Epley, Superintendent

November 2023

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Navarro ISD Superintendent



Mandy Epley

Superintendent Message

Hello Panther Family,

As we head to our Thanksgiving break, I am reflecting on the amazing happenings of Navarro ISD that have taken place since we started this school year. We have celebrated student achievement in academics, athletics, and the arts as well as an increase in community engagement. We have expanding learning opportunities through programs and clubs and have engaged with students, families, community members and staff to explore options for improving our practices in a new strategic plan, started the process of developing a comprehensive compensation recommendation, and are addressing the fast growth in our area through collecting feedback for facilities planning.

As I replay in my mind the first day of school, visits to classrooms, community events, committee meetings, pep rallies, games, half-times, food drives and service projects, stock shows, and parades, I am overwhelmed by a feeling of gratitude. Gratitude is a feeling like no other. Gratitude is an amazing sense of abundance. I am constantly reminded with each encounter with our parents, teachers, staff, and students that we are blessed with abundance. The abundance of love for and investment in our students, abundance in service and sacrifice, and abundance of generosity and a sense of family, tradition, and memories.

As I toured campuses this semester, I spoke to students working collaboratively to problem solve, reach goals, challenge themselves to master new skills, and confidently share ideas. I saw adults learning and working to bring their very best each day to contribute positively to the growth of our district, our students, and our community. This level of engagement does not come without the intentional planning of our teachers, staff, and administrators and the support of our parents and community members. From the bus drivers greeting students as they start and end their day, to the custodians and maintenance staff who clean and make learning environments ready, to the cafeteria staff making sure bodies are nourished and ready to learn, our students are cared for in abundance. When students have the support, expertise, and resources provided by a team of technicians, administrators, and educators that not only know their craft but know each student and are committed to meet their needs, they feel safe and eager to learn and grow.

I am grateful for those who make Navarro ISD a place where we know students by name and need. I am grateful for volunteers who support events, student activities, and offer their thanks and gratitude on campuses. I am grateful for the families that share their ideas, trust and time with us to continue to refine our work to make Navarro ISD the very best place it can be.

Expressing gratitude strengthens our relationships with others. Relationships make Navarro ISD a special place where those who work and serve become family and with our families, we become a community.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Mandy D. Epley
Superintendent of Schools
Navarro ISD

Get Involved

We have multiple committees that are available to Faculty, Staff, Parents, Community Members, and Students who are working hard to evaluate and address many different areas within the district. If you are interested in joining one of the committees, please reach out to the contact listed below and they will be glad to provide meeting information so you can be involved

- District Educational Improvement Committee/Student Health Advisory Committee
 - Wendy McMullen (wendy.mcmullen@nisd.us)
- Compensation Task Force
 - Paul Neuhoff (paul.neuhoff@nisd.us)
- Teacher Incentive Allotment Committee
 - Natasha Williams (natasha.williams@nisd.us)
- Safety & Security Committee
 - Robby Castillo (roby.castillo@nisd.us)
- Long-Range Facilities Master Planning Committee
 - Celeste Nored (celeste.nored@nisd.us)



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Recognitions

Navarro Fall Tennis Team

- They were Undefeated District Champions
- Navarro competed in the First Round of the Playoffs
- We had 14 Academic All District students
- Gigi Coello--District Female MVP, 1st team girls doubles
- Kyleigh Whitlow--1st team girls singles, 1st team girls doubles
- Abby Pylant--1st team girls singles
- Tegan Harborth--2nd team girls doubles, 2nd team girls singles
- Elle Rodriguez--2nd team girls doubles, honorable mention girls singles
- Aidan Hamilton--1st team boys singles, honorable mention boys doubles
- Xavier Cropper--1st team boys singles, honorable mention boys doubles
- Jeremy Hamilton--1st team boys doubles, 2nd team boys singles
- Tyler Riske--1st team boys doubles, 2nd team boys singles
- Bayley Burgess--2nd team boys doubles, 2nd team boys singles
- Patrick Monge--2nd team boys doubles



Navarro Cross Country

- The Varsity girls team finished in 3rd place at the District meet and 7th place at the regional meet.
- Ethan Luu finished in 1st place overall at the District meet, 4th overall at the regional meet, and 10th overall at the State Meet.



Navarro Marching Band

This amazing group of students competed in multiple competitions this season and brought home so many well earned recognitions including:

- 1st division Falls City contest
- 3rd place in class and best guard in class US Bands Victoria
- 2nd Place Comal Classic marching contest
- 3rd place prelims overall and first overall Guard rattler marching contest prelims, 3rd place finish in finals
- Straight 1s UIL Region marching contest
- UIL Area Marching contest finalist



To view the full list of names and accomplishments recognized, please visit <https://qrcodedynamic.com/Nov23Recognitions/>

Demographics Report

This week, the district received an updated Demographics Study conducted by Zonda Education that was presented at the Board Meeting. Some of the key takeaways from the study results are:

- Navarro ISD continues to have record home starts (600+) and closings over the past 2 years.
- There are 18 active subdivisions and 12 more in planning stages with over 1,200 vacant developed lots ready to build on.
- 600-700 new homes anticipated annually over the next 5 to 10 years which projects to student growth of over 10% over the next 5 years and around 9% after that.
- By 2028/29 school year we could have almost 4,000 students and by 2033/34 it could reach over 6,000

To view the full report on the Navarro ISD website, please visit <https://5il.co/28y54>.



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Dirt is moving! The City has issued partial permits to begin site work. Foundation and under slab utility permits were issued Friday November 3. Bartlett Cocke mobilized equipment and began stripping the site last week, and digging for select fill which is shown to be available per the geotechnical reports. Raba Kistner engineering services were secured as our third party testing service and will test the materials. City of Seguin water has agreed to help to facilitate water to allow for the fire flow test, which is required to obtain the letter of acceptance to finalize the Plat and Public Infrastructure. Bartlett Cocke and utility subcontractors have been in contact with the City to submit the final documents to close out the Public Infrastructure permit. ClayComb architects, pending a meeting with City Engineers, is ready to resubmit in the 3rd round of comments for the Site Plan. Building plan (2nd) response was submitted to the City on November 10. The City Planner confirmed the address for the new high school as 5698 Hwy 123. A few more meetings have been scheduled with City Building and Engineering with the intention to finalize the remaining Site and Building permits.

Visit <https://www.agcm.com/navarro/> to stay up-to-date on Bond progress!

Transportation Update

Brittany Johnson, new NISD Director of Transportation, presented the current state of our Yellow Fleet (yellow buses only), current ridership, routes, and staffing. Fifty-seven percent of our families request transportation services. With the ridership we currently are experiencing she believes we need to look at 2 more General Education Routes and 1 more SPED Route in the future.

We currently have 18 General Education Bus Routes and 2 SPED Bus Routes in the Yellow Fleet, but our fleet is aged and a replacement plan should be implemented. Currently in the Yellow Fleet, we have 4 SPED buses - 2 used daily for routes, and 2 as spares, but only 1 of these spares has a working wheel chair lift. We also have 24 General Education Buses - 18 are used daily for routes, 2 are spares, and 4 are out of service and will be auctioned off. Of the current fleet, we have 6 buses that remain without A/C - 4 are assigned to routes, and the other 2 are spares.

We do have 4 buses that were ordered with 2021 bond money, but turnaround time is lengthy. We expect two of those buses to arrive next week, 1 will arrive in February, and a new SPED bus will arrive hopefully in May. The turnaround time for buses is currently 12-18 months from when they are ordered. Mrs. Johnson proposed to the Board a Replace and Growth plan that would help the district and requested we order five new buses at this time (4 General Education & 1 SPED). The Board unanimously approved the purchase of the five additional buses. There will be a continual evaluation of the transportation department and overall condition of the fleet is ongoing. Mrs. Johnson will present about the current state of the White Fleet (Vans, Activity buses, trucks, etc) at a future meeting.

Other Action Items

To view the agenda or attachments for the information presented at this board meeting, please visit:
<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1383?meeting=586574>

To watch the recording of the meeting please visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/@NavarroPantherEvents/streams>

Next Regular Board Meeting:

Mon, December 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Intermediate Cafeteria



Navarro Independent School District
6450 N State HWY 113
Seguin, TX 78155
830-372-1930

For a list of upcoming events and activities throughout the district, please visit <https://www.nisd.us/events>