

“Our students deserve our very best, every single day.” — Dr. Marla Sheppard

THE Longview Voice

Vol. IV, Autumn 2024

Sharing the important news from Longview Independent School District

Trustees select firms for 2024 bond projects

The Longview ISD Board of Trustees approved two architectural companies, as well as two construction companies to work on completing part of the 2024 Bond.

ARCHITECTURE

The architectural **DLR Group** was approved to design the new Career-Technical Education campus, the multipurpose extracurricular facility, and the natatorium. The **GFF Design Group** will design the early childhood center and transportation facility.

Dr. Wayne Guidry, Assistant Superintendent of Finance stated the selection committee, comprising four members with over 100 years of combined experience in school business and maintenance, evaluated the firms **Bond**|Continued to page 7

TAX RATES LOWERED

Teacher pay increased throughout district

The district is projecting a balanced General Operating budget of \$99,082,160, a Debt Service of \$38,930,800, and a Food Service Budget of \$7,046,429, according to **Dr. Wayne Guidry**, LISD Assistant Superintendent of Finance. This total brings the official budget to **\$145,059,38**.

“The budget includes 4 percent staff raises, including for contracted custodial staff, and increases starting pay to \$53,820 for teachers, nurses, and librarians,” he stated.

Dr. Guidry noted that the Debt Service fund shows a planned use of \$5,585,000 from its fund balance.

“This is not a reactive measure, but a deliberate strategy to ensure the district’s long-term financial health,” he explained. “By proactively paying down debt, we’re reducing future interest obligations,

“The budget includes 4 percent staff raises, including for contracted custodial staff, and increases starting pay to \$53,820 for teachers, nurses, and librarians.”
Dr. Wayne Guidry



ultimately saving taxpayer dollars over the long term.” Longview ISD’s 2024-25 budget includes payments on 2024 Bonds, as well as existing debt. While many districts are forced to use their fund balances to cover unexpected shortfalls, Dr. Guidry clarified that Longview ISD is not in this position.

“We are strategically deploying the

Budget|Continued to page 6

New facility for Early Childhood to be built near Estes

The location for the new Early Childhood Learning Center has been selected.

It is located off of Melba Street in south Longview, the former Jodie McClure Elementary School was built in 1956 and demolished in 2010 after school officials found that renovations would be too costly. Those students were then dispersed among the Bailey (formerly South Ward), Ned E.

Center|Continued to page 6



The 2024 school year started strong, the future is exciting.

SEE OPINION ON PAGE 2



Dr. Marla Sheppard is the new Longview ISD Superintendent of Schools.

SEE SHEPPARD ON PAGE 3



The district continues its partnership with local nonprofit, Thrive Longview.

SEE PARTNER ON PAGE 4



The Big Green Marching Machine is raising funds to perform at Pearl Harbor.

SEE PERFORM ON PAGE 5

OPINION

Bright beginning, exciting future for LISD

**By Dr. Marla Sheppard
Superintendent of Schools**

As I reflect on these first weeks of the school year, I'm overwhelmed with pride and gratitude. Our journey together at Longview ISD has just begun, and what an incredible start it has been! The energy in our classrooms, our teachers' passion, and our students' eager faces are all reminders of why we do what we do—why public education is not just a job, but a calling.

It's hard to believe we're already over a month into the school year, and I'm delighted to report that we've experienced a smooth and successful start. This is a testament to the collective dedication and hard work of our entire district family.

Our nutrition department introduced two new food buses at the high school, helping to ease congestion and making sure our students receive the nourishment they need to fuel their learning. Our transportation team has efficiently added new routes, ensuring every child arrives at school safely and on time. Everywhere I look, I see committed staff members doing their absolute best for our students, and it's a beautiful thing to witness.

As a fellow parent, I understand the joy that comes with

seeing our schools filled with bright, curious minds. Our enrollment is up, and more children are in seats, ready to learn. It's a sign that Longview ISD is doing something right and that fills my heart with hope for the future.

But we're just getting started!

Last month, I hosted my "Listening and Learning Workshops," and I am so grateful for the feedback and ideas that parents have shared. I believe that to be a truly great district, we must listen, learn, and grow together. If you were unable to attend these workshops, I still am interested in your perspective. Just send an email to ask@LISD.org to share your thoughts on how we can continue to improve. Your voice matters, and together, we can create a district that serves every child with excellence.

October holds special significance for us as we celebrate



SHEPPARD

"Global Staff Appreciation Month." Our teachers and staff pour their hearts into their work, often giving far more than anyone could ever ask. October is a challenging time of the year, and it's easy to feel worn out. But I want every member of our

Longview ISD family to know that you are valued, appreciated, and loved. We have some wonderful surprises planned to uplift your spirits and remind you just how essential you

are to our success.

We're also making exciting strides with our bond projects. With project managers in place, we're moving forward with renovations to the high school and the construction of five new buildings. I'm thrilled about the future possibilities for our students, and I can't wait to share more updates at our October board meeting. We're taking careful steps to ensure that every building reflects the excel-

lence and beauty we believe our students deserve.

Our dedication to providing rigorous, challenging instruction is unwavering. This year, we're focused on ensuring that every task, every lesson, and every moment in the classroom pushes our students to reach their full potential. And when students need a bit more support, we've introduced our "Super Saturday Academy," offering additional help to those who need it most. We're committed to ensuring every child reaches the high bar we've set, no matter how much time or support it takes.

In closing, I just want to say **thank you**.

Thank you to our parents, our staff, our students, and our community for believing in the power of public education.

I believe with all my heart that Longview ISD is on the path to greatness, and together, there's no limit to what we can achieve.

Here's to a year filled with learning, laughter, and love!

With warmest regards,

— Dr. Marla Sheppard was chosen to lead Longview ISD in 2024, bringing extensive experience as a teacher, principal, and administrator in large metro school systems, with a proven record of high-achieving learning environments. She aims to expand academic and extracurricular programs, solidifying Longview ISD as the destination for excellence in education.

Communication, Community Relations: Help us help you!

**By Matthew Prosser
Director of Communications**

The school year is going full-speed ahead and I want to take a quick moment to remind or introduce myself and my team. We are at your disposal for any concerns you might have about the days, weeks, and months to come.

The mission of Longview ISD Communications & Community Relations is to facilitate open lines of communication for our students, staff, and entire Lobo community. Our team consists of **Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, Mrs. Kacy Swaim, Mr. Dustin Taylor**, and myself: Matthew Prosser.

Elizabeth (or "Miss Liz") is the lady you see dashing from one event to the next, camera

and laptop in hand, capturing videos and photos of various events. Kacy often works behind the scenes, coordinating and planning events, but if you call our office, she's probably the first person you talk to. Dustin is the tall red-headed fellow responsible for creating this beautiful newspaper you hold in your hands.

Altogether, we are committed to doing everything we can to help inform, promote, and celebrate the amazing things about Longview ISD.

But communication is a two-way street. We cannot answer questions that are never asked. We cannot address concerns that are not shared with us directly.



PROSSER

We're always eager to hear from folks. Our department's role is to provide information and maintain open lines of communication.

It's wonderful when people share their thoughts openly, and we truly value every perspective. We're always eager to listen, help, and

answer any questions, as our entire purpose is to serve, support, and uplift our community with positivity and care!

You can shoot us an email at ask@LISD.org and let us know what we can do for you.

If there's a particular social media post or photo you want shared, tag us **@Longview-ISD** and we'll be glad to pass it along.

If you have a question or concern just go to our website **LISD.org/contact** and send your message.

Or just come on by our office and talk to us! We're located in the LISD administration building at 1301 E. Young Street, and we'd love to talk with you about anything!

Community Relations exists to be a means of clear and straightforward communication for the people of our district, but every conversation requires both sides to participate. Otherwise, it's just a bunch of noise.

We ask for your help in telling our community's story. Help us, help you!

Have a great school year, Lobo Nation!

— An award-winning journalist and photographer, Matthew Prosser is the Communications Director for Longview Independent School District.

New chief brings experience, expertise

With decades of experience at different levels of the education system, **Dr. Marla Sheppard** brings a lot to Longview ISD as the new Superintendent of Schools.

“I am honored to be chosen to serve the Longview community,” said Dr. Sheppard. “I am grateful to the board for their trust in me, and I look forward to creating long-lasting relationships with the students, staff, and greater community.”

During her 29 years of experience, she has served as a math and science teacher, assistant principal, middle and high school principal within Houston ISD, in addition to multiple years as assistant superintendent of school leadership in Fort Bend ISD, where she was responsible for 16 campuses.

Later recruited to Kansas City Public Schools as deputy superintendent, Dr. Sheppard led the team responsible for KCPS earning “Full Accredita-



tion” for the first time in more than 20 years.

Before taking over as the Longview ISD Superintendent, Dr. Sheppard was serving as deputy chief of academic achievement for KIPP Texas Public Schools where she was responsible for executing the academic vision and programming for the 33 schools in the Houston region, a position she held since 2021.

Dr. Sheppard received her Bachelor of Science in biomedical science from Texas A&M

University-College Station, and her Master of Education and Doctorate, both from the University of Houston. She has numerous awards and recognitions for her work in educational leadership.

Longview ISD Board President **Mr. Michael Tubb** expressed his excitement about Dr. Sheppard joining the district and voiced appreciation for the community’s involvement throughout the candidate process.

“We are confident that Dr.

Sheppard will exceed our expectations as we begin a new chapter for a brighter future in Longview ISD,” he said. “Her extensive experience and proven leadership abilities make her an excellent fit for our district!”

Dr. Samir Germanwala, Board Vice President, agreed, adding that, with her passion for fostering inclusive, high-achieving learning environments, “Dr. Sheppard brings

Sheppard | Continued to page 7

High expectations for First 100-Days

The first 100-days of new leadership can be crucial and Longview ISD’s new Superintendent of Schools has a plan.

Dr. Marla Sheppard has unveiled her First 100-Day Plan, outlining her immediate goals in developing a long-term strategic vision for the district.

The plan emphasizes building transparent relationships with the board, fostering community engagement, and enhancing academic excellence, as well as cultivating trust and buy-in



within the greater Longview community.

“We will foster an inclusive and innovative learning environment where every student can thrive. Together, we will build a culture of excellence, empowering students, staff, and the entire district,” Dr. Sheppard said.

Community members are encouraged to review the plan on the district website **LISD.org/leadership**.

On the district website, the public can see each goal in more detail. Each goal has multiple phases, as well as lists the current status of each phase. They are listed as either **Complete**, **In Progress**, or **Not Started**.

“During my tenure, Longview ISD will be committed to: excellence in every aspect, proactive transparency from top to bottom, and intentional community engagement,” Dr. Sheppard said.

5 goals of the 100-Day Plan

1. Develop collaborative, trusting, transparent relationship with the board
2. Build relationships with SB 1882 charter partners
3. Build relationships with internal stakeholders, create feedback loop
4. Cultivate trust/confidence with external Longview community
5. Create system and structures to manage 2024 bond projects



LISD EARLY RELEASE:
 SEPTEMBER 20, NOVEMBER 1, DECEMBER 20,
 FEBRUARY 21, APRIL 11, MAY 23

ETMPA - 11:30 AM	FOREST PARK - 12:40 PM
BAILEY - NOON	FOSTER - 12:40 PM
BRAMLETTE - NOON	JUDSON - 12:40 PM
HUDSON PEP - 11:55 AM	LHS - 12:45 PM
JLE - NOON	LEHHS - 12:30 PM
JMQ - NOON	
NED E WILLIAMS - NOON	
WARE ETMA - 11:45 AM	

Coming Events

- End of 2nd 6 weeks**
November 1
- Thanksgiving Break**
Nov. 25-29 (District closed)
- End of 3rd 6 weeks**
December 20
- Christmas Break**
Dec. 23 to Jan. 3 (District closed)
- Dr. Martin Luther King Day**
January 20 (District closed)
- End of 4th 6 weeks**
February 21
- Spring Break**
March 10-14 (District closed)
- End of 5th 6 weeks**
April 11
- Good Friday**
April 18 (District closed)
- End of 6th 6 weeks**
May 23
- Last day of school**
May 23
- Memorial Day**
May 26 (District closed)
- Bad weather makeup days**
May 27-28

Juneteenth Holiday
June 19 (District closed)

FOR MORE INFO
For a full list of sports events, campus events and more go to **LISD.org**

Distinguished Alumni named for 2024

Every year, Longview ISD honors Longview ISD graduates who have excelled after high school, as well as have made an impact within the community.

This year's Distinguished Alumni are **Anthony McLemore** (Class of 1990), **Melinda Buie** (Class of 1995), and **Alicia Stoker Johnson** (Class of 2004).

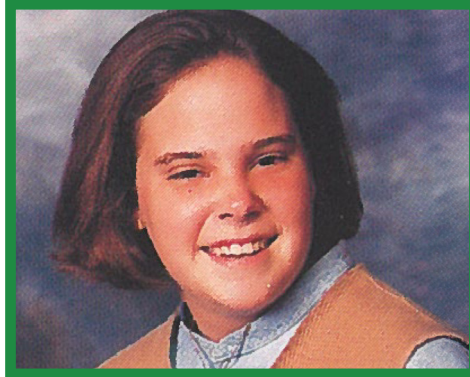
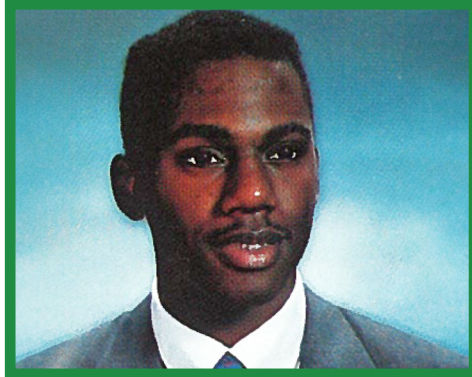
The three Longview High School graduates were recognized during several events on Friday, October 18. They were presented with commemorative bricks from the Longview ISD Foundation at the Lobo Foundation Plaza (near the home entrance to Lobo Stadium). They enjoyed a wonderful lunch that was prepared by LHS culinary students, and then enjoyed the Lobo football home game.

Honorees are nominated at large and chosen by a committee of previous honorees, volunteer Distinguished Alumni Committee members, and the district's Community Relations office.

ANTHONY MCLEMORE

Anthony McLemore, a 1990 graduate of Longview High School, continued his education at Stephen F. Austin State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Radio and Television in 1995. While at SFA, he began developing the skills that would propel him to a successful career in television.

McLemore started as a news reporter and fill-in anchor, covering major events like the Oklahoma City bombing. He later transitioned to entertainment, creating the Emmy-nominated show *Celebrity Homes*



and producing acclaimed documentaries, including *The New York Times Presents: Malfunction: The Dressing Down of Janet Jackson*, which won him an Emmy in 2022, and *One Child Left Behind*, which won Best Documentary Film at the African American Film Festival.

The son of James and Ida McLemore, Anthony was nominated by Laura Coggin Rectenwald. He lives in Valencia, CA, with his wife Sandra, and their son, Houston.

MELINDA BUIE

Melinda Buie, a 1995 graduate of Longview High School, went on to earn both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin in 1999. During her studies, she participated in a study-abroad program in Italy, which greatly

influenced her artistic career.

Buie became an accomplished artist whose works have been displayed in galleries in New York, Texas, London, Berlin, and Italy. Her large-scale oil paintings, inspired by her East Texas roots, focus on whimsical depictions of cattle and the architectural landscapes of Manhattan. She is also the owner of the Melinda Buie STUDIO in Port Chester, NY, and has served on the Village of Mamaroneck Arts Council.

The daughter of Jim and Linda Buie, Melinda was nominated by Ellyn Cook.

ALICIA STOKER JOHNSON

Alicia Stoker Johnson, a 2004 graduate of Longview High School, continued her education at Stephen F. Austin State University, where she earned a Bachelor's in Commu-

nication Media Studies and a Master's in Social Work. She has dedicated her career to serving students and families, currently working as the Social Emotional Support Counselor at Foster Middle School.

Alicia co-founded the Queens Academy, a nonprofit organization aimed at helping preteens and teens in East Texas with personal development and leadership. Her work through the Queens United and her role in the community, particularly with Partners in Prevention and Junior League of Longview, has had a profound impact on the lives of many young people.

The daughter of Gary and Rita Stoker, Alicia was nominated by Jasmine Stoker. She is married to Michael Johnson Jr., and they have three sons: Michael III, Garrison, and Eyan.

District continues partnership with Thrive

Longview ISD will continue the thriving partnership that aids students after school hours.

Trustees unanimously approved continuing a partnership with local nonprofit **Thrive Longview**, investing up to \$61,000 in the organization for an after-school enrichment program during the 2024-25 academic year.

Mr. Clent Holmes, Director of Thrive Longview, said the mentoring and character development program "strives to create safe environments for teens to fail and learn from those failures."

"Thrive Longview hopes that our students and their families

will prosper, grow, and develop vigorously through intentional programming because we believe in the African proverb, 'It takes a village,'" he said. "The after-school sessions will focus on enrichment opportunities, skill-building, and drug prevention education."

Mrs. Loretta Thompson-Martin, Director of Grant Writing, presented the

Thrive | Continued to page 7



HOLMES



Lobo band fundraising for Hawaii trip

The Big Green Marching Machine has been invited to perform at the Pearl Harbor Memorial in 2026. This once-in-a-lifetime experience will allow the students to experience history firsthand and explore Hawaii's rich culture and natural beauty.

Along with performing at the Pearl Harbor Memorial the students will enjoy the Diamond Head Crater Hike, a full tour of the island, get some beach time in, and a lot more. To help the students make the

trip, the Lobo band is looking to have fundraisers in the future and is accepting donations. The funds will be used to pay for round-trip airfare, 4 nights at a hotel, 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 pizza dinners, and transportation on the island. In total, the band will be there for 5 days and 4 nights.

If you would like to make a donation or help with a future fundraiser, email Mrs. Rhonda Daniel at rldaniel@LISD.org or the club booster at lobo-bandboosters@gmail.com.



Photos courtesy of Longview Gameday

New district app offers real-time communication, info

Longview ISD has unveiled a new mobile app aimed at enhancing communication with families and streamlining access to vital information.

The free app, available on both the Play Store and App Store, introduces several features to keep parents informed about their children's education.

REAL-TIME UPDATES

Parents can now receive live feed updates with the latest district and school news, including urgent announcements. The app also provides easy access to upcoming school and district events.

PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Critical updates and urgent communications will be sent directly to users' devices, ensuring timely delivery of important information.

'ROOMS' FEATURE

A key addition to the app is the "Rooms" feature, which offers:

- Two-way messaging between parents and teachers, staff, and coaches
- Classroom announce-

ments about coursework, materials, and important updates

- Automatic translation of messages into the user's preferred language

FAMILY ACCESS

Parents will receive invitations to access Rooms via email or text. After creating a login, users can access Rooms from the bottom right corner of the app screen. Families with multiple children in the

district will be able to view information for all their students within the Rooms feature.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more details about Rooms, parents can visit the FAQ page at shorturl.at/y5Ltm. The district encourages families with questions or those needing assistance to contact their student's campus directly.



Say "hello" to Parent-Teacher Chat

Chat

Events

Documents

Stream

Classes

Notifications

Download the **Longview ISD, TX** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.

ELECTION DAY

Register to vote

The last day to register to vote is October 7. Not sure if you are registered? Go to VoteTexas.gov to find out. If you are not registered, the website lists several methods that you may take to register.

Early Voting — October 21

The first day of early voting is October 21st and the last day is November 1st. There are no special requirements to vote early. As long as you are allowed to vote, you are allowed to vote early.

Voter ID

In order to vote in Texas, you must present 1 of 7 valid forms of photo ID, which you can find listed at VoteTexas.gov. If you do not possess one, there is an exception which you can find out about at the website.

Voting Day — November 5

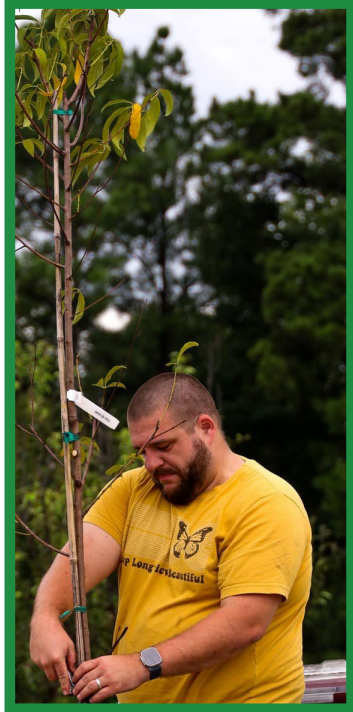
Voting day is November 5th, which works like early voting. There are a lot of possible questions about voting, so be sure to go to VoteTexas.gov to find the answers that you seek.

VOTETEXAS.GOV

District garden ‘just peachy’

Keep Longview Beautiful donated 50 peach trees to the Longview ISD garden. Keep America Beautiful and Everde Growers partnered up to give the trees to KLB who then graciously gave them to the district.

The district garden grows fruits and vegetables throughout the year, allowing our students to enjoy fresh, locally grown food. Thanks to the support of our community and partners, the garden keeps on growing and improving.



BUDGET | Continued from page 1

fund balance to maximize our resources for educational outcomes rather than having them siphoned off by debt service in the future,” he added.

The new total tax rate of **\$1.1399** per \$100 valuation represents a decrease of \$0.0023 from the 2023-24 rate of \$1.1422. This continues a trend of tax rate reductions since 2019, when the rate was \$1.4430. The maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate is set at \$0.6569, while the interest and sinking (I&S) tax rate is \$0.4830.

Dr. Guidry reminded trustees that while the district has consistently reduced the property tax rate in recent years, the amount of property taxes collected may increase due to rising property values, which are determined by the county appraisal district.

“Regardless of the lower tax rate, the district projects increased property tax revenue due to a 3.8 percent rise in taxable property values,” he said. “The average taxable homestead value increased 16.8 percent to \$136,955 from \$117,213 last year.

Dr. Guidry said the district has been cutting the tax rate in recent years, after keeping the same rate stable for nearly a decade.

“The board maintained the same tax rate of \$1.5130 from 2010 until 2019 — when the district reduced the rate



to \$1.4430 — and we’ve continued to reduce it each year since,” he said.

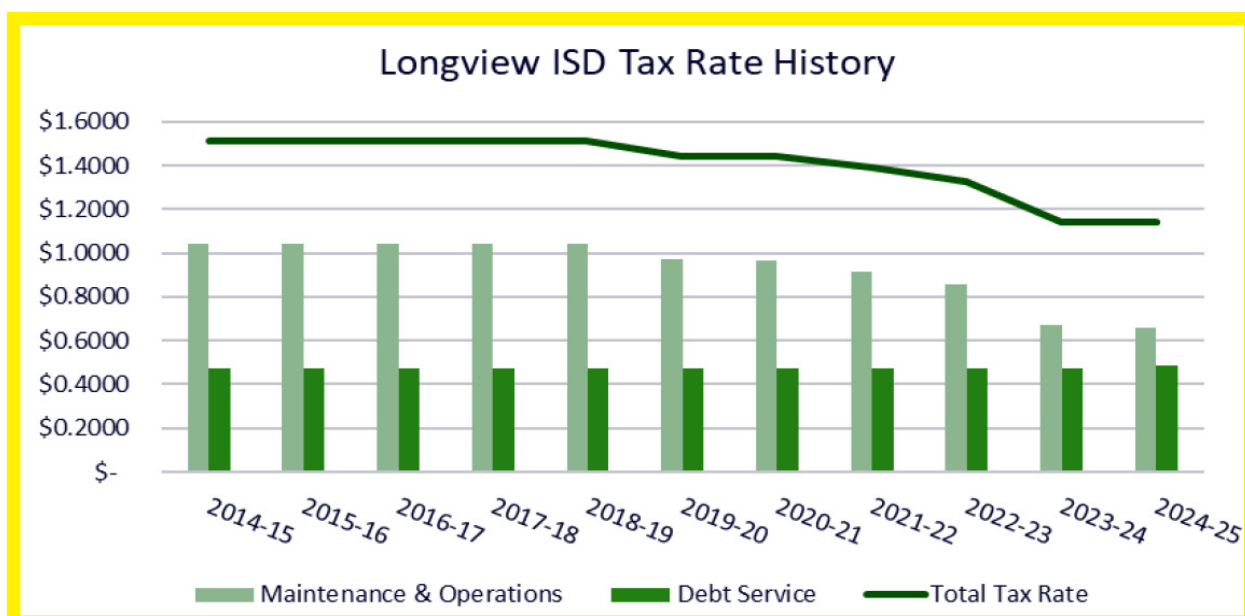
Mr. Doug Whitt, Managing Director for Plano-based SAMCO Capital Markets, praised the district’s efforts to give Longview ISD “the most bang for their property tax buck.”

“The strategic use of the I&S fund balance is consistent with long-term, high-level debt management practices,” he said. “Because of this approach, Longview ISD enjoys high credit quality ratings and strong demand for its bonds in the market.”

Mr. Whitt explained that by taking a long-term approach to managing bonds for the past few decades, Longview ISD has reduced interest-carrying costs by paying off bonds early, paying off bonds sooner than the useful life of the projects financed with those bonds, and refinancing bonds during periods of low interest rates.

“The current planned and strategic use of I&S fund balance as part of the implementation of the latest bond program continues the benefits of this long-term approach, including paying down on bonds sooner and reducing interest cost and saving taxpayers money over the long haul,” he added.

To find out more about this board approval and more, go to **LISD.org**.



CENTER | Continued from page 1

Williams, and Ware elementary campuses.

Superintendent **Dr. Marla Sheppard** told trustees that the land itself will first need to be surveyed to assess any potential environmental concerns, as well as to determine the best layout of facilities on the property. According to board documents, **Dr. Wayne Guidry**, LISD Assistant Superintendent of Finance, stated that the administration began discussions with the board in May 2022 about the possibility of placing the Early Childhood Learning Center at the Jodie McClure property.

“This property has sufficient space for the Early Childhood Learning Center, and the administration recommends that site,” he said. “Of course, we will work with the architects to determine the precise layout and location of the facilities, but our preliminary plan is for the campus entry to face the intersection of Estes Parkway and Mobberly Avenue.”

The new center would alleviate waiting lists for the Early Head Start and Head Start programs, which benefit low-income families with tuition paid for by a federal grant. The programs provide access to child care, early learning programs, and other services for eligible families.

A key part of Proposition B in the 2024 Bond Election, the new larger Playing For Keeps/ Early Childhood Center will include 30 classrooms, a library, a kitchen, and a gymnasium to replace the current overcrowded facility and clear a waiting list of around 75 students.

Once the new facility opens, renovations to the existing PFK Early Childhood Center building would create office space for the district’s technology and special education departments after those programs relocate.

The current PFK facility is located on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard inside a structure built in 1952 for what was then G.K. Foster Middle School.

To learn more about this board approval and more, go to **LISD.org**.



Welcome to the official podcast of Longview ISD.

Hear from Superintendent Dr. Marla Sheppard as well as other employees and district partners about what’s going on at LISD. Just scan the QR code with your phone to find us on Spotify, Amazon Music, iHeartRadio, and more!

Scan here to listen to LoboCast

District beehives a sweet success

**By James Beasley
Farm to Table Coordinator**

As everyone knows, the months of July and August have been exceptionally hot and dry this year. The excessive heat (over 95 degrees) has played a major role in the reduced production of our watermelons and cantaloupes. Although we exceeded a thousand pounds, we still fell short of last year's totals. With cooler weather on the horizon, the garden team has been in high gear getting things ready for fall planting.

To date, the garden team has planted five rows of sweet corn, over five hundred tomato plants, two rows of cucumbers and five rows of green beans. Waiting in the wings to plant are lettuce, spinach, and turnip greens. Additionally, we are very pleased to announce that LISD middle schools will be actively involved in helping us establish our spinach seedlings this year.

As part of their AG science curriculum, students will learn about the necessary components needed to germinate seeds successfully. Once the seedlings reach a certain stage of growth they will be trans-



planted into the district garden. This is a double win for the district because we are getting freshly grown seedlings, and the students are learning about photosynthesis and plant development.

In other news, the spring garden was very successful this year with over ten thousand pounds of produce being grown. Noteworthy crops include blackberries (650.8 lbs), onions (2027.8 lbs), strawberries (1038 lbs), and honey (302 lbs).

The fan favorite, by far this year, has been honey. Everywhere I go, I hear stories about how wonderful the honey has been this year. At the high school for instance, the cafeteria staff have been making honey biscuits and honey glazed chicken nuggets. The students have really enjoyed these and the demand for more is very high. We are hoping to double our honey production next year with the addition of more hives.

BOND |Continued from page 1

and recommended The DLR Group and GFF Design Group.

CONSTRUCTION

Procedo has been selected to construct the five new buildings, while **E4 Contracting** will make renovations to the high school, athletics facility, and renovating the current early childhood learning center to be used for future office space.

Following a thorough evaluation pro-

cess involving a committee of experienced members, Procedo was chosen based on criteria such as experience, project availability, and cost savings.

Trustees also approved Gilmer-based E4 Contracting as the construction program management company for high school and athletics facility renovations. A locally-owned firm, E4 Contracting was selected after a similar evaluation process.

Trustees also approved the project delivery method for the 2024 bond program.

Dr. Guidry said Longview ISD will use various procurement methods as outlined in Texas Government Code Chapter 2269.

"These methods include construction manager-at-risk, job order contracting, competitive sealed proposals, and design-build," he said. "This multi-method approach was chosen to ensure the best value and efficiency for the district, given the complexity of the projects involved."

To learn more about these board approvals and more, go to **LISD.org**.

THRIVE |Continued from page 4

proposed renewal to board members, adding that the program serves as an extension of the work being done by schools, churches, and families.

"Thrive builds on those efforts by bringing in community experts and forming mentorships," she said.

"Our students becoming whole, healthy, and valuable members of the community and

transforming their lives so that they can be the best version of themselves is our mission," Mr. Holmes added.

The after-school programming is expected to start in late fall and run through spring.

Mrs. Thompson-Martin explained that funding for the program will come from grants and local revenue during the 2024-25 school year.

SHEPPARD |Continued from page 3

a wealth of experience and innovative vision to Longview ISD.

"Her commitment to excellence, collaborative spirit, and strategic approach will enhance our academic programs and inspire our students, teachers, and community to reach new heights," he said. "We eagerly anticipate the positive impact Dr. Sheppard will undoubtedly

have on our schools and the bright future ahead."

Dr. Sheppard has been married for more than 25 years to education administrator **Dr. Daniel Sheppard**, and they have three children: Ashley, Jonathan, and Jeremiah. She looks forward to building long-lasting relationships with the students, staff, and community of Longview!

FIND THIS AND PAST ISSUES ONLINE

THE LOBO ISSUE: Next Attraction: FIGKIN REVUE

THE Longview Voice: "To educate a person in the mind but not in morals is to educate a menace to society." — Theodore Roosevelt

THE Longview Voice: "That one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." — Neil Armstrong

THE Longview Voice: "There is no set form of the present, it exists only in the present, and that is gone." — Klaus Mollenberg

Mary Elizabeth Hill Lobo Queen

Second Honors Go to Ann McDonald in Close Election

‘We made it!’

BLAST OFF: Nest students travel to NASA

LHS teacher takes part in NASA program

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LHS One-Act Play earns Area honors

issuu.com/TheLongviewVoice

Meet The Team



Matthew Prosser Communications Director

Matthew came to Longview ISD in 2015 after an award-winning career as a journalist, most recently serving as an editor for the Longview News-Journal. Prior to that he was a nationally-recognized coordinator for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, working as Regional Director for Clubs in the Baltimore and D.C. area. He attended the University of Oklahoma and St. John's College, where he studied Philosophy and Religion. A native of the East Texas area, Matthew is married and has five children. He also serves on numerous local boards and committees in the greater Longview area.



Elizabeth Ross Multimedia Director

Elizabeth Ross is a two-time graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University. She graduated with a double major; Bachelor's of Arts in Journalism with an emphasis of Public Relations and Speech Communication (2002). Ross continued her education and earned a Master's of Arts in Mass Communication (2004). She has worked in advertising, art licensing, higher education, but her true love is public relations, event logistics, social media marketing, and volunteering for the non-profit sector. In her spare time, Ross is an avid photographer. She holds a strong interest in the cultural life and well-being of youth in Longview.



Kacy Swaim Outreach Coordinator

Kacy has worked for the district in many facets, but assumed her position within Community Relations in 2019. Prior to that she was a stay-at-home mom and Pre-K teacher at Forest Home Baptist Church Mother's Day Out program. She has a passion for kids and education. She attended Texas A&M University, where she studied Agriculture Leadership and Communications. A native of Kilgore, she is married and has three children who attend Longview ISD. Go Lobos!



Dustin Taylor Print Media Specialist

A 2007 graduate from Longview High School, Dustin returned to LISD in 2019 as the Managing Editor for the district newspaper The Longview Voice. Before graduating high school he served two years as a reporter for the school newspaper, then went on to become an award-winning editor at Kilgore College with The Flare. He is a lifelong East Texan who has worked on several local newspapers and has helped The Voice become a national award-winning newspaper.



LISD Social Media linktr.ee/longviewisd

The Longview ISD Communications & Community Relations team runs numerous social media and other websites for the district. From Facebook to YouTube to podcasts, there are a lot of ways to stay in touch with the latest district news. Scan the QR code, or go to linktr.ee/longviewisd.