



Spring  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 148, Issue 208, March 24, 2016

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mar 24

Martha Grimm, MD  
Jonathan Hancock  
"Texas Health Presbyterian  
Hospital Plano Con-  
cussion Center"

Mar 31

Duncan Webb  
"Transportation in Collin  
County"

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Marshall Johnson Mar 10

Myrtle Hightower Mar 11

Jamie Schell Mar 18

Louise Davis Mar 31

Bruce Glasscock Mar 31



## CHEERLEADER IN CHIEF

**P** **HOTOGRAPHER** du Jour was **Rick Horne**, since both *Scary Bob* and **Randy Always Wright** were AWOL. Rick took the opportunity for a selfie with **Karla Oliver** which was the best shot he made. Amazing what a bit of motivation can accomplish, and Karla didn't object!



The meeting began with **Carrolyn Moebius** playing basketball with a **PISD** robot. The *Weekly Reader*, in one of its rare fabrications, declared that the students operating the robot were from the **STEM** Academy, but they weren't. **Sarah Watkins** collared **Sainted Editor** to say that they were her students from a **Plano Senior High** robotics class. **Olin Jaye** stands corrected.



**President Paperweight** tolled the **GREAT ROTARY BELL** at 12:18, granting **Blair Ritchey** the Rights of Invocation and **Karen's** father-in-law, **Dale Sheldon**, a Rotarian from **John Knox Village**, Pompono, FL, the opportunity of leading us in the

Pledge. **David McWhorter** served as **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS-DU-JOUR**.

Besides **Dale Sheldon**, **David** welcomed (back) **Jim Adams** (Richardson Central). **Karla Oliver** welcomed Robotics sponsor **Gary Sullivan**, and struggled through the names of the robotics **PSHS** students **Carson Schubert**, **Christian Adriaanse**, **Tarin Thirumavalan**, **Deepanjli Donthula**, **Garrett Hayes**, and **Drew Walker**.



**John Caldwell** welcomed **Greg Mechler** and returning guest, **Gabrielle Shiha**. He also fêted **Raising Cain's** sponsors of the food for 4-Way Test Speech (?), **J.D. cummings** (no relation to e.e.?), **Paul Oltman**, and **Cody Thomas**. **Chris Henry** introduced **Frank Stanesic**, **Carrolyn Moebius** welcomed **Kathryn King**, and **David** bade us greet **Capital One** denizen, **Wendy Wicker**.

As it was **Saint Patrick's Day** (cue **Larry**), **David** asked all those wearing **GREEN** to stand and receive a free raffle ticket for a bottle of **Jameson Whiskey**. (**Maria Mott** won big.)

**Nancy Humphrey**, President of the **PISD** Board of Trustees, had the honor of introducing the day's speaker, Dr. **Brian Binggeli**, the new(ish) Superintendent to "educate" us as all to the Bond Election's purpose, not electioneer, mind you.

continued on page 2


PISD Superintendent Brian Binggeli joined PISD in 2015, and now we find ourselves in 2016 and in the second semester of the school year! And he has been busy...he will be speaking to you today about the PISD bond election scheduled for Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Binggeli holds an unwavering expectation for educational excellence that has allowed him to deliver exceptional results in a large school system previously. He truly understands the scale of PISD. Of his many accomplishments, it has been noted that he is particularly proud of being named by the *Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals* as Outstanding Middle School Principal of Virginia in 2002. This reward is no small feat, especially while wrangling middle school students! There are many distinctions that could be named, but this one is very close to his heart.

Nancy concluded by describing Brian as an “*Energizer Bunny, making connections for our kids.*”

Brian proudly pointed to the robotics students and told us that they would be competing at a meet in Irving soon.

Dr. Binggeli pointed out that this was the Maiden Voyage for his Bond Election presentation, and he would very much appreciate constructive criticism. (He should be careful for what he wishes at a Rotary Club!)

From there, he launched into **Death by 1000 Slides**. They came fast and heavy until he tried to exercise his tech talents without the requisite grandchild supervision. The presentation held little  symbols, which, when clicked *square on*, linked to explanatory pages on each item. But, in his haste, he missed, and the presentation did unexpected things, prompting a display of runaway competence. For the most part, things went swimmingly, save for trying to shoehorn an hour talk into a Rotary timeslot.

Brian contrasted the \$500M M&O budget with the remainder called *Debt Service Fund*, indicative of monies in a capital budget. We were treated to a fleeting reference to “*Interest & Sinking funds,*” which, no doubt, thrilled the many CPAs in attendance, but the slide that held that reference disappeared mercifully abruptly due to a double click that Brian attributed to “*too much coffee!*”

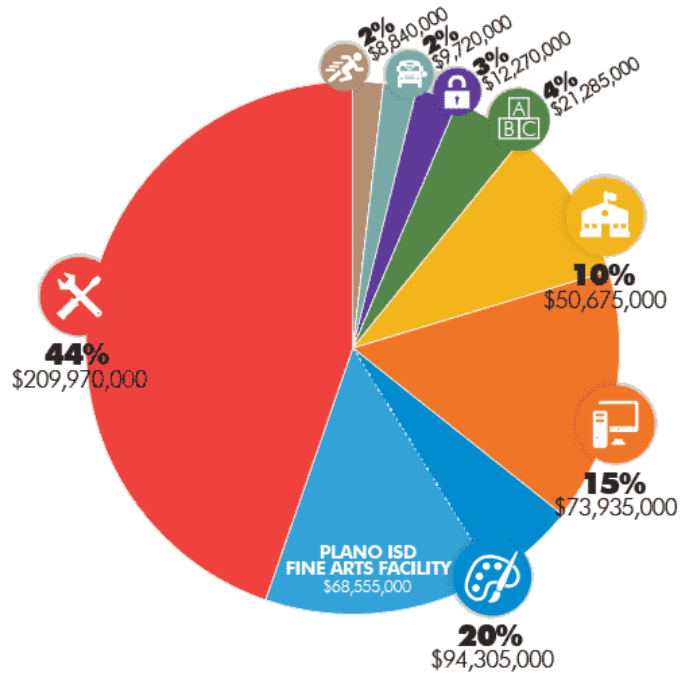
When it came to brags, Dr. Binggeli was in his element. PISD maintains an enviable teacher-to-student ratio of 19.5 and enjoys a year-to-year turnover rate of only 12% which contrasts nicely to the statewide average of over 16%. Not only are student ACT scores high, but that is maintained over high student participation. PISD Science Fair participants hog the awards, capturing over half of them statewide and 88% regionally.

Energizer Bunny was in evidence as he boasted to **Bruce Glasscock** how PISD was “*an economic development engine!*” **TOYOTA** has admitted that a higher than expected fraction of their administrative workforce has elected to move to Plano “*because of its schools.*”

Turning to salesmanship, he noted that it’s been “*eight years since a bond*” was passed. And PISD is good for it as it maintains an **Aaa** rating from *Moody’s*. This is a direct consequence of the fiscal responsibility of “*your Board,*” at least three of which were present, lapping up the praise. (**Yoram Solomon** was probably too busy filling Facebook up



with photos of the event to properly appreciate the strokes.) So the 29-member task force charged with proposing the bond issue, had a lean budget starting point. The task force was drawn from all the stakeholders in the community, and it came up with a **\$481M wish list** which Brian broke down for us.



The lion’s share is **\$210M** for infrastructure renewal, a large fraction of which (\$40M) provides a 20-year renovation at *Shepton High* (on Plano Parkway east of the Tollway). Brian described PISD as a “*Fine Arts juggernaut,*” serving 18K secondary students and the subject of a **\$93M** slice of bond pie; the majority (\$64M) of that is slated for a **Performing Arts Center** which brings PISD to parity with the likes of *Bastrop ISD* whose center serves only 10K fine arts performers. At present, Brian said, PISD runs performances “*in gymnasiums.*”

The 2008 bond issue was only to hold PISD for four years, but, through responsible management, it has hung on for eight. Nevertheless, the **technology** rotation cycle is only five years, so **\$74M** is intended to cover that. It will improve the bandwidth by 10% to handle the 50K daily logins from the district’s schools.

The **\$51M** for **Expanding Classroom Capacity** breaks down as \$26M for new elementary schools, \$5M for expansions, \$4M for land acquisitions, \$4M for Special Ed, and other expenses.

**Early Childhood Education** uses **\$21M** to create a fourth school. PISD engages the community to find pre-K students to make ready for a stringent learning environ.

**Buses** are normally renewed on a 12-year cycle. Through proper maintenance, PISD has stretched that to 15 years, but now asks **\$10M** to expand the fleet.

Brian felt he didn’t need to justify **\$9M** for **athletics** here in Texas, but he did make a passing reference to the need to improve **Safety and Security** with the remaining **\$12M**. Then, proving that he’ll stoop to nothing, he directed us to a cute student video touting PISD needs.



His most telling argument was “**ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE.**” *PISD* already enjoys the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest tax rate (after Farmersville) in the Metroplex. And he promises a **lower debt** at the end of the bond issue than at the start! (He should run for public office.)

He referred us to the bond web site:

[www.pisd.edu/bond2016](http://www.pisd.edu/bond2016)

and offered himself up for weddings and bar mitzvahs as an inspirational speaker. With a shameless plug for Teacher of the Year, **Lilli Wisler**, he opened the floor for questions.



The first was about seatbelts on school buses, which Brian dismissed as providing weaponry for “*students to whack one another.*”

John Caldwell learned that the site for the Fine Arts Center has not yet been chosen. **Rick Maucieri** learned that *Robin Hood* is alive, well, and has extracted \$999M from Plano over its lifetime. Yoram added that the district has saved \$77M by refinancing its loans. **Ric Kasmiskie** asked about relations with the City of Plano, and, with Bruce in attendance, Brian confirmed that it’s all sweetness and light. Their planners share insights. Kelly Palmer asked about unused capacity in the Early Childhood Centers and was told that the Principal of *Thomas Elementary* is about to obviate that.

Brian also mentioned the Family Literacy Project at *Sigler Elementary* where he wit-

nessed parents on their first day devouring books in the school library.

Kelly thanked the Superintendent and the Robotics team. Sarah Watkins said that they are off to *Baylor, Cal Poly, A&M*, and pre-Med programs.

Kelly presented Brian with something he hoped would compete successfully with our recent \$20K check, viz., our lethal paperweight. Then, clearly losing his mind, he offered the floor to Larry on St. Patrick’s Day!

Larry told the tale of a businessman late for an appointment unable to find a parking spot. He makes a sobriety pact with God and a spot miraculously appears. The man’s response? “*Never mind, I’ve found one.*”

Since we were only four minutes over time, Larry added a joke about the female snake who divorced her husband over “*a reptile dysfunction.*”

Kelly led us in the Four-Way Test and dismissed us at 1:05.



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Tarun Thirumavalavan  
Deepanjli Donthula  
Garrett Hayes  
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Gabrielle Shiha  
Greg Mechler  
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Frank Stanesic

**Guest of**

Karla Oliver  
Karla Oliver  
Karla Oliver  
Karla Oliver  
Karla Oliver  
Karla Oliver  
Karla Oliver  
John Caldwell  
John Caldwell  
David McWhorter  
Chris Henry

Kathryn Leisz  
JD Cummings  
Paul Oltman  
Cody Thomas

Carrolyn Moebius  
John Caldwell  
John Caldwell  
John Caldwell

**Visiting Rotarian Home Club**

Dale Sheldon John Knox Village  
Pompano, FL  
Jim Adams Richardson

**Proposed Member:** Rick Grady

**Proposer:** Kelly Palmer

**Classification:** Banking & Technology

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**10:30 a.m.**  
**Wednesday, April 6, 2016**  
**Founders' Day**

Spring Creek Campus  
Living Legends Conference Center Lawn

Reception to follow in the Living Legends Conference Center.

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