

Bustamante finds right tune



Patty Bustamante gives credit to groups like Chicago for helping her learn English when she was growing up in Mexico.

If you're a 40 something in the Arlington ISD and have questions about song lyrics from the magical 1980s, Patty Bustamante is your go-to person in the district.

Bustamante, who became the district's executive director of specialized learning services last year, isn't just a fan of that kind of music, she's pretty much a scholar.

That's because Bustamante used the songs and song lyrics from that music to help teach herself English when she was growing up in Monterrey, Mexico.

It was an unlikely way to learn English but it ended up paying off when Bustamante's parents moved to Texas when she was 15.

"Cyndi Lauper, the

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 3

A message from Dr. Cavazos

In the Arlington ISD we pride ourselves on finding ways to reach all of our students and have them ready for college, career and citizenship by the time they graduate.

Maybe we should consider adding reading music liner notes into the curriculum. It's certainly worked out well for Patty Bustamante, our executive director of specialized learning services. Her story about how she picked up on the English language growing up in Mexico might not have come in a traditional manner, but it does go to show you that there are many different ways children can learn. You can add listening to cassette tapes as a kid to

the list.

Her story is the highlight of the first edition for the school year of *My ArlingtonISD*. Dr. Steven Wurtz also stresses the importance of finding your purpose this school year.

It was also great to get to spend the first day of school visiting so many campuses. There are so many great new experiences offered in the district like Wimbish World Language Academy, Crow Leadership Academy, the Percy STEM Academy and our new Arlington College and Career High School. The first day was just a reminder of all of the opportunities our students have because of the work you do.



Focus on finding purpose

Looking for that passion that sets you apart is key

Recently, I had the opportunity to listen to a keynote address where the audience was filled with men and women from different walks of life, all there to learn and grow. As I sat there looking around the room, I realized how each person uniquely brought their own individual and varied experiences, perspectives, opinions and values - each of which articulated how they lived their daily lives.

This reflection caused me to ask myself, "What drives me to pursue the goals that I personally have? Why do I passionately go after some things and feel less passionately about others? What is my purpose and how does it feed my passion for the work I am privileged to be a part of?"

Scott Perry, founder of Creative on Purpose, recently discussed the roles of passion and purpose and the difference between the two. He said, "We are born with the capacity for reason, a social nature and a creative instinct. We can employ these assets as we search for meaning and seek significance. And we all depend on and associate with others who are on the same journey... [and in doing so ask ourselves], 'How can I pursue my need to find and be me, while allowing for your desire to do the same?' This is the job of purpose. Purpose is the convergence of:

- Who you are (your core values and guiding principles);



Focusing on developing students who come to school each day striving to reach their goals and potential is a purpose for our district.

- What you do (your essential talents and 'soft skills'); and
- People who share your values and need your talents to enhance their lives."

Simply put, purpose is the engine and passion is the fuel.

So what is your personal purpose? How is our role in the Arlington ISD connected to that purpose and the purpose of the organization as a whole?

In the Arlington ISD, we are focused on developing successful people who thrive. They are students

who come to school each day to learn new skills and to develop relationships that will help them reach their goals and potential. They are teachers and staff who strive to refine their craft and build relevant experiences that challenge learners to think and grow. They are each one of us as we strive to get better every day.

As you begin this school year, I invite you to reflect on your purpose. Seek to connect your day-to-day work to your personal purpose - that force that drives your passion and

sets you apart as a unique and contributing person in the world. By doing this, not only will you continue to greatly impact those you serve, but you also will discover your personal gifts that make that impact possible and find joy in so doing.

Have a successful 2019-2020 school year! I am grateful to serve alongside you!

Dr. Steven Wurtz is the chief academic officer in the AISD



Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

More Than a Remarkable Education

SEPTEMBER DATES

Library Card Sign-up Month		Stepfamily Day	Sept. 16
Christa McAuliffe's Birthday	Sept. 2	Citizenship Day/Constitution Day	Sept. 17
Labor Day (Staff Holiday)	Sept. 2	National Cheeseburger Day	Sept. 18
Sam Houston HS Homecoming	Sept. 6	Talk Like A Pirate Day	Sept. 19
Arlington HS Homecoming	Sept. 6	Texian Navy Day	Sept. 21
Operation Graduation	Sept. 7	Peace Day	Sept. 21
Grandparents' Day	Sept. 8	Bowie HS Homecoming	Sept. 27
Cowboys Begin Super Bowl Run	Sept. 8	First Day of Autumn	Sept. 23
National Arts in Education Week	Sept. 8-14	End of First Six Weeks	Sept. 27
Patriot Day	Sept. 11	American Indian Heritage Day	Sept. 28
Texas First Responders Day	Sept. 11	Rosh Hashanah Starts (sundown)	Sept. 29
Hispanic Heritage Month Begins	Sept. 15	Start of Second Six Weeks	Sept. 30

MUSIC FROM PAGE 1

Eagles, Chicago, Air Supply, and then later groups like the Bangles," Bustamante said. "All those little cassettes had liners notes and that's what I did. I wrote all of them out. I had notebooks and notebooks and would play them again and again and say it again and again. There was no way I could do it by ear. I had to read it and say that's what it sounds like. I could hear it and it was like 'Blaj, blah, blah,' but then I could read it and write it."

Bustamante was born in Chicago and was taught Spanish. Her family moved to Mexico when she was 3. She learned a little English when she was in school in Mexico. But it was American music that turned out to be the real key to her getting down the basics of the language.

While she couldn't understand a lot of what she heard in the music, she was able to match the words on the liner notes to the song she was hearing. And then she would write down the words over and over again, with the repetition of doing that helping her learn words just like a student who writes down spelling words.

The American music background ended up paying dividends when

Bustamante's family decided to move to the United States, a move she was against because she wanted to stay in Mexico with her friends and finish school there.

Bustamante started her 10th-grade year at Pharr San Juan Alamo High School. While she wasn't 100-percent comfortable with her English, her background helped her pick up things quickly.

"I had good pronunciation because of Cyndi Lauper and 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun,'" joked Bustamante, whose first concert was when she saw Bon Jovi in Mexico. "I could also diagram sentences. That's how I learned."

She also knew she wanted to be in education because of a principal she had. She ended up getting her bachelor's degree from the University of Dallas at Irving and has master's from both UTA and SMU.

She came to Arlington from Irving last year and her department oversees special education, world languages, 504 and dyslexia, prekindergarten, state and federal programs, and response to intervention.

She's been able to use her

background in her role.

"The psychology degree (from University of Dallas) helps a ton," she said. "There's also some therapy there and you have to be compassionate, especially because there are lots of needs in serving the departments. A lot of education has to do with personality reading. That's where the psychology comes in."

And while Bustamante has a lofty title in the district, she is still learning. She has a word of the day app on her phone because she's still playing catch-up in English.

Even though she has two master's, has been a principal and a classroom teacher, English is still not her first language.

"I'm still an English learner," she said. "A lot of idioms don't make sense. Forget slang. I'm illiterate when it comes to slang. My first year here I had a neighbor who told me to get my 'big, old jacket.' I was upset because the jacket wasn't old. She told me that it was just a phrase. Now I know that. Now I know what bright eyed and bushy tailed means."

Bustamante may have been able to learn that a little sooner if Chicago would have written a song about it.

First day of school tweet-along



AISD Transportation Department



Foster Elementary



Pearcy STEM Academy



West Elementary



Crow Leadership Academy Cafeteria

10 hours, 30 minutes
8 campuses
4 Facebook Lives
1 new school
1 transportation visit
48.8 miles
6,439 steps

First day of school tweet-along



Crow Leadership Academy



Berry Elementary



Arlington College and Career High School



Miller Elementary



Wimbish World Language Academy

Bond election set for November

The AISD Board of Trustees recently called an election for a new bond program on November 5, 2019.

This new bond – the [2019 Bond](#) – would build on our 2014 Bond program and address needs in four major areas:

- 1) facilities,
- 2) fine arts,
- 3) transportation,
- 4) and safety, security and

technology.

The proposed bond program totals \$966 million and would not require an increase in the debt service tax rate.

The projects included in the proposed bond program support our strategic plan and will impact every school. Some project examples include the addition of full-day pre-K, junior high and high school fine arts/dual language academies, new playgrounds and shade structures



for all of our elementary schools, an addition to the Dipert Career + Technical Center so we can meet program demand, and safety and technology upgrades. In addition, this program includes the replacement of aging schools, including Carter Junior High, Webb Elementary, Berry Elementary and Thornton Elementary to serve our students in modern learning spaces.

Visit our Bond 2019 website for more details and plan to come to one of

our informational meetings. We'll have meetings at every school in the coming weeks.

As AISD employees, we have a unique role to play in this bond election. Here is the general rule of thumb:

While on duty as school district employees, we are restricted to educating or informing the public about the bond election and encouraging good citizenship by voting. This does not prohibit individuals from promoting or influencing the public vote in favor of or against the bond election while off duty.

Employees may provide factual information regarding a bond election and how bond funds would be used. However, public funds cannot be spent to produce or distribute any materials or advertisements that support or oppose passage of a bond issue.

AISD employees dos and don'ts for bond

Do:

- Do learn more about the district's financial situation and the bond package.
- Do give the public relevant and accurate facts and distribute materials relating to how the district proposes to use the bond proceeds and how tax rates will be affected by the passage of a bond. Information about growth rates, student capacity of a school facility, performance data, relationship between the district's strategic plan and the bond package, age/condition of facilities, and costs of projects are all examples of verifiable, objective information that can be given.
- If you choose to voice your personal opinion, do so only as a citizen and not in your official capacity as a school employee or official.
- Do register eligible voters in your building (including students) to vote. Encourage people to vote. You may use marquees, bulletin boards, etc. to remind people of the election date and to encourage them to vote.
- Do distribute objectively factual materials that do not encourage a particular way to vote in the bond election.
- Do send home objectively factual information to parents and families

regarding the bond election.

- Do allow outside groups or school-related groups – such as PTAs and booster clubs – to hold meetings or discussion sessions on the bond issue in accordance with the facilities use policy. All organizations must be given the opportunity to participate and/or access the district's facilities for similar purposes, regardless of viewpoint.

Do not encourage or discourage parent organizations or other volunteer community members to campaign out in the community. Neither can campaign while on school property.

Don't:

- Don't tell students, parents or staff how to vote in the election. Even phrases such as "best solution," "not needed," "state-of-the-art," "need," "not my choice of solution," and "we must do something" are considered advocating a position and should not be used.
- Don't campaign for or against the bond election during the workday or school events, including publishing or distributing materials.
- Don't use school equipment, school supplies or school time to reproduce, type or fold any promotional material. Brief telephone calls, brief emails, sending or receiving a fax,

printing a single page off a work printer or making a single copy are all prohibited.

- Don't post promotional or advertising material anywhere on school property or send it home with students.
- Don't display or wear any campaign signs that advocate a position while at school.
- Don't use school email to promote the bond package.
- Don't allow parent organizations or other volunteer community members to use school equipment or school supplies to campaign for the bond election. Volunteers must not advocate for or against the bond proposal during the time they are performing their volunteer assignments.
- Don't allow advocacy literature produced by proponents or opponents to be displayed or distributed at your school, even if equal access is allowed to both sides. Only information packets approved by Central Administration may be distributed.

Anyone who spends or authorizes the spending of district funds for political advertising could be subject to criminal prosecution. The offense would be a Class A misdemeanor. Conviction could result in a fine of up to \$5,000, jail time for up to one year, or both.

Company step challenges • Personal wellness challenges • Healthy living tips

LACE UP

Virgin Pulse is coming soon!

Coming to Arlington ISD on Sept. 4

Build healthy habits, have fun with coworkers,
and experience the lifelong rewards of better wellbeing.

To sign up, look for an email from **Virgin Pulse**.



Arlington
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
More Than a Remarkable Education



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Accident

What to do next?

Contact supervisor.
If an emergency
response professional
is needed call 911.

Contact the risk
management office
at 682-867-7649.

[Complete workers'
comp packet.](#)

Completed packet
should be sent to the
risk management office
in the administration
building.

**Happiness is a
direction, not a place.**

Sydney J. Harris

RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Welcome Back Reminders

If you are injured at work please take the following steps even if you do not require medical care:

- Contact your supervisor/manager immediately
- Complete a workers' compensation packet including the required FMLA forms
- If medical care is needed, select a clinic at www.pswca.org.
- After your doctor's visit, please return your medical documents to your supervisor/manager
- Contact risk management at 682-867-7649 for further instruction

Will you be seeking medical attention?

If yes, please make sure the doctor you select is in the Political Subdivision Workers' Compensation Alliance. You can locate a doctor at www.pswca.org or by calling the risk management office at 682-867-7649. Do not pay any money out of your pocket or file a claim on your personal medical insurance. You may be responsible for charges if you go to a physician who is not a member of the alliance.



Please note

We ask that you do not seek emergency room care if you do not have a true emergency. There are clinics available in the alliance that are open late hours and weekends. If you go to the emergency room, you will have to follow up with an alliance physician on the next business day as our provider does not recognize any restrictions, time off work or referrals that are made by the emergency room.



Let's prevent sprains and strains to start the year

- Use extreme caution if you are lifting something particularly heavy. When in doubt, ask for help moving the object
- Reduce repetitive movements if possible. Chronic strains are usually the result of overusing the same muscles
- Use proper form when completing tasks, as over gripping can increase the risk of hand and forearm strains
- Consider your posture when sitting for long periods of time, and maintain an overall relaxed position
- Maintain a healthy fitness level outside of work to keep your body strong and flexible.
- Avoid slippery surfaces
- Wear proper footwear, gloves and other protective equipment to avoid sprains and strains
- Stretch before you begin working, and take short breaks throughout the day to stretch and rebalance your body



Remember: practice safety. Don't learn it by accident.