

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA**

<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Special
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(A) Report Only Recognition

Presenter(s): MR. GILBERTO GONZALEZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

<p>RECOGNITION OF THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE'S PHI THETA KAPPA (PTK) EAGLE PASS HONOR SOCEITY CHAPTER FOR COMPLETION OF THE REMODELING PROJECT OF THE LIBRARY AT GLASS ELEMENTARY.</p>

(B) Action Item

**Presenter(s):
Briefly describe the action required.**

(C) **Funding source: Identify the source of funds if any are required.**

(D) **Clarification: Explain any question or issues that might be raised regarding this item.**



Hilda Mauricio <hmauricio@eaglepassisd.net>

Presentation to School Board

Acuna Ruiz, Valerie <vmacunarui@swtjc.edu>

Thu, Jun 29, 2017 at 4:44 PM

To: "hmauricio@eaglepassisd.net" <hmauricio@eaglepassisd.net>, Gloria Capetillo <gcapetillo@eaglepassisd.net>

Hello,

Over the course of June, SWTJC and PTK students worked on renovating the library at Glass Elementary. We have completed our project and would like to share it with the school board at the July 11th meeting. Can we please be added to the agenda. It has been very moving to see college students, faculty, and the community come together for such a great cause. The library was gifted more than 200 books, a working TV, ten Kindle Fire tablets, four laptops, three new tables, active stools, and seat dots for the reading area. Reading books has the ability to greatly impact students. I am attaching a couple before and after pictures.

Before:





After:





Superintendent,

This letter is being written on behalf of Southwest Texas Junior College's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Eagle Pass Honor Society. PTK is a two year college honor society with chapters around the world. Part of our chapter's mission is to complete an annual service project. Each year our chapter tackles a new project based on our community's needs and research we have completed. Previous projects have included Type II Juvenile Diabetes Seminars, and a Pet Exposition where we donated free rabies shots to animals in Eagle Pass. Along with our large service projects, we also give back to our community by cleaning a two mile stretch of highway, hosting a toy drive for Toys for Tots, volunteering at the annual Feast of Sharing, and donating books to children in need. This year we are planning to tackle our biggest project ever.

We at PTK believe that it is every child's right to be read to, and it is the responsibility of all adults in the Eagle Pass community to give children access to books, make reading exciting, and to encourage parent participation in literacy activities. According to the National Research Council, Hispanic children are fifty percent less likely to be read to than Caucasian children. Also, Hispanic households are also less likely than white households to participate in other prekindergarten literacy activities, such as telling their child a story or visiting a library. Many students within our small community have no books at home. A few elementary school libraries, in Eagle Pass, are more than half a century old and are in need of an update.

To help change the culture toward reading in our community PTK wants to make a significant change to a school library. We believe by remodeling an older elementary school library, in Eagle Pass, we can entice students to read. We held a contest between a few of the oldest elementary schools (Seco Mines, Glass, and Graves Elementary) and awarded Glass Elementary with a library remodel. This remodel will include murals, new books, furniture, technology, and fresh paint. We would also like to place neighborhood libraries, which will be accessible to all individuals in the neighborhood, outside of elementary schools with economically challenged students. Along with the library remodel our chapter's members will be required to complete twenty hours of volunteer reading at the winning elementary school. PTK also plans to host multiple literacy activities on the winning school's campus. We are also asking that the winning school's student council members volunteer their time reading to the community elderly.

Children who read are more likely to do well in school, be more empathetic, have better communication skills, and be better logical thinkers. Our plan is ambitious, but we think by encouraging reading in children we will be setting up hundreds of children on a better path toward academic success. Specifically we will be painting the library (including bookshelves), cleaning everything thoroughly, patching up walls, replacing trim. We will also be donating over 300 books, e-readers, laptops, furniture (lounge seating, tables), and curtains. PTK will be overseeing the project and all volunteers will sign SWTJC liability waivers. A few members of the Glass staff have also agreed to volunteer their time. The project manager, Dennie Johnson, as an extensive knowledge of construction and engineering and previously worked for the Core of Engineers.

When we all work together we can achieve great things!

Please contact Valerie A. Ruiz at vmacunaruiz@swtjc.edu, or Claudia Valdez at claudiav@swtjc.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Ruiz

PTK Advisor – SWTJC Eagle Pass Campus
vmacunaruiz@swtjc.edu

Approved:
X Annala 05/30/17
Thank you for choosing Glass
Elementary Library for your service
project. Mt. Pedro Felan, EPISD Maintenance
Director will oversee the project.

