



The Rockwall High School Varsity Cheerleaders recently continued a long tradition of bringing the varsity football players Popsicles to cool down with after their last practice before game time. Of course, the Yellowjacket Orange Popsicles went first!  
Photo Courtesy of Renee Ramirez/Rockwall County News

## Royse City ISD's Creative Convocation Gets Staff Ready for a Great Start

Royse City ISD teachers and staff were entertained and inspired at the district convocation on Tuesday, Aug. 18. Superintendent Randy Hancock welcomed employees back to school and commenced the day with a ventriloquist act entitled "Finance for Dummies." With Hancock as ventriloquist and Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Butler playing the role of the puppet, the two cracked jokes yet also gave staff a brief update on district finances and staff salaries.

District employees were then treated to a commercial break to kick-off the Payroll Deduction Campaign for the Royse City ISD Education Foundation. A parody on the Geico money eyes, Vernon Elementary

School Principal Paula Walker and Butler starred in the production, touting the message, "That's the money you could be giving to the Royse City ISD Education Foundation!" This first year of fundraising for the foundation gives supporters the opportunity to become Founding Donors, an honor that will only be available this first year. Those who pledge \$250 or above will be listed as a Founding Donor, a designation that will become a part of the foundation's history and noted in its publications, on the web site and on a monument to be dedicated in recognition of the donors.

Also included in the day's activity were the funny and moving messages brought to the staff by Angie Homan, District Elementary Teacher of the Year, and Chandra Caffee, District Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Homan entertained with classroom stories demonstrating all the different hats an elementary teacher must wear during a school day. She also treated the assembly to a song. Homan concluded with, "So, at the end of the day we are exhausted. Yet, no matter how many people tell us or how often the state tries to make our job about numbers, you and I know that it is about children who will grow up and one day impact our communities, our country, and our world. And WE get to play a small part in that. And that is why we do what we do. I hope you have a great year - my hat is off to you."

Caffee spoke with passion about how a teacher's actions and words imprint memories upon their students and fellow staff. "Every second that we come into contact with a child-kindergarten up to seniors-we leave an imprint on that student...the bus ride to school, walking into the front door, the front office, the cafeteria, the classroom. Each person with whom a child comes into contact leaves some impression with that child. From your voice, your vibe, the smells, the colors, the posters or pictures, the words on the wall, or a lack of anything in the room... you are imprinting each student.

So I leave you with this question to ponder - What imprint are you leaving?" Superintendent Hancock closed the morning session with a talk, "The Miracle of the Moment." He said, "There are moments in our world, times that come along that are important - that may create memories or just truly make a difference. Maybe they make a difference to others or maybe to us... and sometimes both. But they are times that we should pay attention to and take notice of before they have come and gone."

He described the different types of moments: Ta-Dah Moments; Jerry, Elaine, George & Kramer Moments (The show about nothing); Curveball Moments and Spilled Pea Moments.

"We often get caught up with the destination or the goal and we miss the journey, the Ta-Dah moments; we all know these-a first kiss, the birth of a child. The list is long for certain. Then there's the Nothing Moments that actually turn out to be something memorable to a student. The Curve Ball Moments are the moments or times in life that we just don't understand. And, the Spilled Pea Moments are when we make mistakes, when we should admit the mistake, take responsibility and learn something."

In the end, Hancock proposed, it's not the tangible things that matter - the buildings, the test scores. What matters is the life we build. The relationships we develop, the students we nurture and the memories we make. He concluded, "Moments change lives - they change our destiny and the destiny of others. May we never forget the opportunity we have to work with our students - and may we always remember the responsibility that comes with the job."

"Wavelength - Communication through Comedy," was the line-up for the afternoon. The Wavelength performers filled the afternoon session with laughter, using humor, laughter and improvisation to train, motivate and inspire the teachers.

"This is my thirtieth year to teach and that was by far the best convocation I've ever attended. It was very upbeat and humorous, yet very informative. Mr. Hancock has such a positive attitude about everything and that attitude is very contagious. Everyone seemed to enjoy the entire day. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organized the whole day. This is a great school district," said Caroline Jenkins, a second grade teacher at Scott Elementary School.

Melissa Kethley, a district coach said of the event, "I am a new employee here at good, ole RCISD. I loved the convocation yesterday. It was so engaging and entertaining. I especially loved the ventriloquist act. They were hilarious. The entire day was well organized and kept us amused. I am so excited to be here at RC. Coming to a new school district is always intimidating, but I have felt right at home since the very first day. Thank you!"

Lisa Pogue, a GT Specialist at Scott Elementary added, "Mr. Hancock is the best superintendent! I appreciate his genuine personality so much. He is so creative with his presentations that you never get bored. Royse City ISD is going places under his direction."

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We invite you to come meet each of the members of the Summer Ridge Team, listed below with their years of service at Summer Ridge.

<b>Over 10 Years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rod Jolly, Associate Director</li> <li>Kasaundra Todd, Housekeeping Supervisor</li> <li>Alicia Machado, Medication Aide</li> </ul>	<b>Over 9 Years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marcela L. Wentzel, Ph.D., Director</li> <li>Jennifer Coker, R.N., Wellness Nurse</li> <li>Tracy Zabloskey, Office</li> </ul>	<b>Over 8 Years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barbara Downs, Caregiver</li> </ul>	<b>Over 7 Years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iyabo Ogundeji, Caregiver</li> <li>Hortencia Aguillon, Chef</li> <li>"Bo" Bohannon, Maintenance</li> <li>Maria Faliso, Caregiver</li> <li>Vicki Jones, Caregiver</li> </ul>	<b>Over 6 Years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Veronica Resendiz, Caregiver</li> <li>Norma Albarran, Medication Aide</li> <li>Lupe Rivera, Director of Food and Beverage</li> <li>Carol Kennedy, Business Office Manager</li> <li>Sue Evans, Dietary Aide</li> </ul>
<b>Over 5 Years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virginia Mamvura, Medication Aide</li> <li>Marie Duo, Caregiver</li> <li>Tsige Bekele, Dietary Aide</li> </ul>	<b>Over 4 Years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maria Quinonez, Medication Aide</li> </ul>	<b>Over 3 Years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consuelo Rivera, Chef</li> <li>Gloria Lopez, Medication Aide</li> <li>Shelley Aubrey, Recreation Director</li> </ul>	<b>Over 2 Years</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valsa Varughese, Caregiver</li> <li>Sharon Godbey, Caregiver</li> <li>Cristina Rivera, Chef</li> <li>Nayeli Isunza, Caregiver</li> </ul>	<b>Over 1 Year</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christopher Channell, Dietary Aide</li> <li>Matt Channell, Dietary Aide</li> <li>Jenny Cordova, Medication Aide</li> </ul>
<b>Almost 1 Year</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kristen Young, LVN</li> <li>Minda Campbell, Caregiver</li> <li>Percy McCaslen, Dietary Aide</li> </ul>				

## Summer Ridge

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Royse City ISD CFO Jimmy Butler (left) and Superintendent Randy Hancock created a fun atmosphere to give staff a brief financial update of district finances and staff salaries at the Aug. 18 district convocation.

Photo Courtesy of Jo Nell Melloy/Rockwall County News