

The **Springboard** e-newsletter is provided as a community service to inform the public of actions during the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees. The official minutes from the meeting will be posted online at www.springisd.org once approved by the Board.

Trustees

- Rhonda L. Faust**
President
- Justine Durant**
Vice President
- Ron Crier**
Secretary
- Jana Gonzales**
Assistant Secretary
- Chris Bell**
- Deborah Jensen**
- Rhonda Newhouse**

Public Participation is Welcomed

Citizens who want to speak at a Board meeting are asked to register at least 15 minutes prior to the time when the meeting is scheduled to begin.

For more information, go online at www.springisd.org and click on the Public Participation at Board Meetings link under General Info.

The next regular Board meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at Bammel Middle School, 16711 Ella Blvd.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 14 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda Faust** called the meeting to order; and Dekaney Navy JROTC Cadets Lt. Bill Edward Davis, Jr., Chief Petty Officer Armando Lopez, Chief Petty Officer Israel Alvarez, Petty Officer 2nd Class Nahuel Zapata and Petty Officer 2nd Class ZaKobe Blueford presented the colors and led the pledges of allegiance.

Recognitions

Points of Pride

Featured here are recipients of Spring ISD Points of Pride awards presented by the Board of Trustees to honorees for receiving state or national recognition.

Susan Langlois is a 2015 H-E-B Excellence in Education Award Finalist

In March, **Susan Langlois**, an intervention specialist and literacy coach at Heritage Elementary School, was named a finalist in the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards competition.

The awards are given annually to public school professionals across Texas for leadership and dedication that inspires a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Langlois, who has 29 years in education, including 14 in Spring ISD, was selected for the Lifetime Achievement Elementary category.

Her story is inspirational. As she told the H-E-B judges, growing up, she struggled in school, not understanding why she sometimes had a hard time with assignments or why her teachers would get frustrated with her. It took until the 10th grade for her teachers and family to realize that she had a hearing impairment. Although it was a tough obstacle to overcome, it forced her to develop her other senses – teaching her to look more closely, and to perceive communication clues that weren't always apparent to others. It also helped develop her sense of compassion and a profound respect for the unique learning needs of each person. In short, her own struggles helped prepare her to become the teacher she is today.

Langlois is heading to Austin in May for the statewide finals.



Susan Langlois, from left, accepts congratulations from Board President Rhonda Faust and Superintendent Rodney Watson.



Music directors from across the district join board trustees in a celebratory photo.

District Makes National List of Best Communities for Music Education

Spring ISD was recently named – for the second consecutive year – to the list of Best Communities for Music Education by the Foundation of the National Association of Music Merchants. The Best Communities for Music Education list, currently in its 16th year, singles out districts for outstanding effort by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders that make music education part of the core curriculum. Each year, the NAMM Foundation considers a range of criteria to select districts across the country. It compares areas such as funding, staffing of highly qualified teachers, commitment to standards and access to music instruction. Researchers affiliated with the University of Kansas review the data and help crunch the numbers. This year's list includes 388 districts in 46 states. The honor is extended to less than three percent of all U.S. school districts.

Presentation

Superintendent's Student Advisory Group Tackles Student Dress Code



Members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Group, pictured above with the Board of Trustees, reported on the work they have completed this year on the student dress code.

Student representatives in ninth through 12th grades from every high school campus served on the committee that chose, for its first project, to take a close-up look at the current student dress code.

After meeting several times during the year and careful consideration, the group changed the existing dress code to allow for an appeals process and the dress customs of different cultures.

Members of the student advisory group are **Jacoby Morrison, Andrew Jackson, Karen Lara, Vanessa Rodriguez, Daniel Smith, Diana Zuniga, Jamencia Leblanc, Alan Nguyen, Andrea Poklar, James Rodgers, Jamal Stewart, Jonathan Evans, Jada Davis, Naser Din and Willie Kinch III.**



Jacoby Morrison, Dekaney 11th-grade student advisory group member, from left, joins Superintendent Rodney Watson at the top of the horseshoe.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** reported on several areas of work that impact student academic success across the district.

Harris County Region 4 Education Center has submitted an update to the counseling review they provided in response to the transcript and course management investigation. "We are moving forward with developing our handbook and will be making sure that all our counselors are using the counseling framework," Watson said.

Work continues on the district's strategic plan development. Watson shared that groups assigned to specific goals had concluded their portion of the project. "We are now taking all the information from our community and placing that into a product that we will be able to present to you in May."

Additionally, work continues to move forward with iSphere, a firm hired to help the district improve its management and use of data to drive student achievement. While a significant portion of iSphere's work will focus on eSchool, the district's student information system, their work is broader and includes an evaluation of how data flows across the district, how eSchool interfaces with other applications and functions, and what checks and balances are needed to ensure data integrity.

He concluded his report with a video about the Reynolds Elementary School garden project and how parent volunteers have played a key role in promoting and supporting the effort. [See video.](#)



Dr. Rodney E. Watson

Action Items

Board Approves Multipurpose Center Option for Former YMCA

Trustees discussed at length numerous ideas and possibilities for using the former North Harris County Family YMCA facility located on Ella Blvd. The district recently purchased the 2,340-square-foot building that sits on about five acres and includes a pool and tennis courts.

"It is important that we look at making sure the facility is used for educational purposes," said Rhonda Faust, president.

Following a presentation that included results of a recent community survey and a look at several options developed by PBK architects, the board approved the district moving ahead with Option 2A which would turn the existing facility into a multipurpose center complete with meeting rooms and workspace. The decision was made to wait until a subsequent board meeting to determine the final purpose for the property.



Multipurpose center conceptual floor plan produced by PBK.

Board Approves Expanding Bus Transportation to 1.5 Miles

When the 2015-16 school year starts in August, about 2,000 more Spring Independent School District students will have the option of riding a bus to school thanks to a decision by the Spring ISD Board of Trustees to expand bus transportation to 1.5 miles. The change from the current two-mile state limit will provide bus service to over 900 elementary students, 800 middle school students and 250 high school students in addition to the 13,800 students currently being served. Information regarding bus service eligibility changes will be communicated to parents by the end of the current school year. [See article.](#)

District Begins Transformation of Dekaney to a Campus of Academies

The board approved a proposal by the Institute for Student Achievement for the transformation of Dekaney High School into a campus of four to five ninth- through 12th-grade academies designed to prepare all students for post-secondary education through the implementation of the ISA model.

"Over the next few months, we will begin working with area businesses, parents and students to help us determine which academies and programs will be established at Dekaney. Principal Farinas has already begun to talk to her parents and shared-decision-making team about the next steps," said Dr. Rodney Watson, superintendent.

In Other Action the Board Approved:

- Ratification of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Risk Management Fund interlocal participation agreement;
- TASB general liability and auto/fleet policy renewal;
- Second review of proposed revisions to Board Policy DIA local re: employee welfare – freedom from discrimination, harassment and retaliation;
- First review and discussion of proposed revisions to Board Policy FNF local re: student rights and responsibilities during interrogations and searches;
- 2015-16 Instructional Materials Allotment and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills certification;
- 2015-16 Instructional Materials Adoption for 9-12 mathematics and K-12 social studies;
- District participation in the Urban Schools Human Capital Academy;
- Interlocal agreement between Spring ISD and Tomball ISD for library resources;
- Request for Proposal #14-030 for website design, web content management system and web hosting services;
- Request for Qualifications #14-031 for financial advisory services;
- Engagement of independent auditor Whitley Penn to perform the annual audit of the district's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2015; and
- Ratification of taxpayer refunds.



Spring Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer. The Board of Trustees and its agents, officers and staff members shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.