

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.

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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, Sept. 8 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda L. Faust** called the meeting to order and led the pledges of allegiance.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** welcomed everyone back to the new school year. He reported on numerous activities occurring across the district in preparation for the start of school on Aug. 24.

"All across the district there are new teacher camps, band camps, and color guard camps. It is a busy time as our buildings get ready for our students to return."

He invited the board and community members to check their calendars and be sure to attend some of the meet and greets, community walks and other events scheduled at campuses leading up to the beginning of school.

Dr. Watson also spoke about how many of the items on the agenda were about partnerships and how the district can "work together with the community to bring more support for our students."

He concluded with a report on the New Student Registration and Family Resource Expo that was held Aug. 1 at Dekaney High School. He said feedback from the community was very positive. [See Expo Photo Gallery.](#)



Rodney E. Watson, Ph.D.

President's Remarks

Board President **Rhonda Faust** spoke on behalf of the board about the excitement related to the new school year. "I am excited about the promise of the new school year and I am confident that this will be a productive year."



Rhonda L. Faust, J.D.

Action Items

Partnership with AVANCE to Provide Full-Day Prekindergarten at Lewis

Spring ISD is partnering with AVANCE Houston, Inc. to offer full-day prekindergarten classes to eligible four year olds at Lewis Elementary School this year.

"Studies show that students enrolled in high-quality prekindergarten programs do better academically than their counterparts across the nation. With that in mind, expanding our prekindergarten programs districtwide has been identified as a priority in our **EVERY CHILD 2020** plan. This partnership with AVANCE is an excellent first step toward that goal," said **Dr. Rodney E. Watson**, Spring ISD superintendent.

About 80 students will be served in four classes at the AVANCE/Spring ISD Head Start Center that will be located on the Lewis campus in time for the start of school Aug. 24. The program is available to four year olds who reside within the Lewis Elementary attendance zone, have registered at the school and meet eligibility requirements.

Spring ISD requires the students to be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the current school year and qualify because they meet one or more of the following criteria: economically disadvantaged, homeless, children of military personnel and or speak a language other than English. To enroll in Head Start, families must be income eligible by meeting the requirements of the federal poverty guidelines and live within the zip codes where they provide service.

Services supplied by AVANCE will include four teachers, two teacher assistants, a center administrator, custodian and a family development worker. Classroom furnishings and outdoor playground equipment are also provided.



"The immense amount of resources and support services that AVANCE will provide are very beneficial for our students and their families; this is a "win-win" for our district and the community," said **Dr. Lupita Hinojosa**, Spring ISD chief academic officer.

With the belief that parent engagement is the single most important component in student success, the program also reaches out to parents with a variety of opportunities for improvement and support. Social services, workforce training and classes on parenting, adult literacy and healthy relationships is available for parents of eligible students.

Additionally, AVANCE will provide dental, nutritional and both physical and mental health care services to the students and their families.

Head Start is a federally-funded program designed to meet the needs of children from low socio-economic situations by providing a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate program. Founded in the 1970s, AVANCE is a national organization headquartered in San Antonio, that provides services to several Houston area school districts.

Web-Based Naviance Platform Connects Academics to College and Career Goals

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees approved a contract with Hobsons, Inc. to use Naviance, a web-based college and career platform, to give students and parents easy 24-hour, online access to information that will help them make college and career plans.

Naviance provides an efficient one-stop-shop approach to college readiness that begins in middle school. Students can use the system to discover their personal skills and interests, explore career and college options that would be a good match for them, and identify and develop an action plan for meeting their academic goals. Additionally, the tool provides course planning to be aligned with the graduation requirements.

The platform will centralize the college application process, allowing transcripts to be requested and college documents to be sent electronically. Students and parents are also able to access financial aid information and search for scholarships online.

"This will level the playing field and bring equity to all schools and families. All Spring ISD students will have access to this important scholarship information," said **Dr. Lupita Hinojosa**, Spring ISD chief academic officer.

Additionally, the platform will allow school counselors more time to work one-on-one with students, monitor student progress more efficiently, and identify students who need additional support.

The district will work with Naviance during the fall semester to assess district needs, develop a plan and prepare for a smooth implementation. Students and parents should have access to the platform in the spring semester.

Board Approves Contract to Help Establish a Literacy Leaders Development Project

Last spring the District launched a strategic plan – **EVERY CHILD 2020** – that identified literacy as the foundation for learning. The Board of Trustees took a big step in support of the district's commitment to literacy when they approved a contract with Neuhaus Education Center to help implement a Literacy Leaders Development Project.

"I believe in our staff and I believe in our campus leadership. As a board we have said that we will do what we can to provide training and resources for our staff to meet the objectives of the strategic plan," said **Rhonda Faust**, Board president.

The project will be rolled out over a three-year period. The first year will focus on preparing principals, school-based literacy coaches and selected development specialists - about 58 school leaders - to earn an International Dyslexia Association Tier I certification. In year two, these same school leaders will learn how to train classroom teachers to become highly knowledgeable and skilled in literacy instruction, target each child's instructional needs and provide support. The project will be fully implemented in year three. The ultimate goal is to ensure every child learns to read well.

The Neuhaus team will be using its expertise to train district literacy leaders while working within the district's own literacy plan. Training these leaders will lay a foundation on which the district can continue to build a strong literacy program that will impact students for years.

In Other Action the Board Approved:

- Endorsing the candidacy of Benny May, of Barbers Hill ISD for the TASB Board of Directors position for Region 4C;
- First reading of board policy DEC local regarding compensation benefits leaves and absences;
- First reading of revisions to board policy DIA local regarding freedom from discrimination, harassment and retaliation;
- The order for and notice of a Trustee Election on Nov. 3;
- Second reading of proposed revisions to board policy CPC local;
- Second reading of proposed revisions to board policy DNA local;
- First reading of proposed revisions to board policy FB local;
- First reading of proposed revisions to board policy FFH local;
- Continuing the association with the Community Youth Services program;
- Contract with college board to provide PSAT/SAT universal testing for grades 8-12 free of charge to the students;
- Spring ISD Student/Parent Handbook and Student Code of Conduct;
- Interlocal agreement with Lone Star College System/Lone Star College - North Harris;
- Northwest Harris County Cooperative for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;
- College preparatory mathematics and English language arts courses Memorandum of Understanding with Lone Star College System;
- Frontline Technologies agreement;
- Taxpayer refunds; and
- Request for Proposal for a time and attendance system.



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