

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, March 10 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda Faust** called the meeting to order; and Spring High School Navy JROTC Cadets Cmdr. **Joseph Helton**, Capt. **Ashley Murphy**, Lt. **Bill Davis**, Petty Officer 2nd Class **Courtney Lundquist**, Petty Officer 2nd Class **Luis Andrade** and Petty Officer 1st Class **Elson Torres** 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.

Darryl Simon Honored for Service to the Community and District

The Board of Trustees and Spring ISD's administration honored Spring ISD Director of Safety and Risk Management **Darryl Simon**, who was recently awarded a Certificate of Congressional Recognition by U.S. Congresswoman **Sheila Jackson Lee**. Simon was recognized in part for his volunteer service as secretary to the Northwest Harris County Municipal Utility District (MUD) No. 24 board, and for his support of educational outreach efforts in the community.

Simon has spent his career working as a safety professional. He came to Spring ISD with an insurance background, and – upon joining the district – learned that one of his responsibilities would be to help manage the district's own wastewater treatment plant, which supports the Carl Wunsche Sr. High School campus.

Spring ISD also works with about a dozen different MUDs districtwide that serve the schools and nearby communities. As he learned more about wastewater treatment plant operations, Simon found himself getting involved in the local MUDs, which eventually led to his current role with MUD 24. In addition to serving as a liaison between Spring ISD and local wastewater treatment plants, he has also helped organize educational activities to help students learn more about the wastewater treatment process and become better-informed citizens while also exposing them to a career field they may never have thought about before.



Spring ISD Safety and Risk Management Director Darryl Simon, from left, accepts a Points of Pride award from Trustee Rhonda Newhouse.

Spotlight

Winners of the District's Rodeo Art Contest Recognized

Michael Dogget, Spring High School theater director, introduced the student winners of the Spring ISD Rodeo Art Contest. "Tonight we are very fortunate to have some of Spring ISD's best and brightest young artists with us," Dogget said. The students and their artwork will represent the district at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Contest in March at the NRG arena.

The district winners are: Best of Show - **Camille Agurto**, Smith Elementary School, **Zianna Boman**, Wells Middle School and **Alan Lujano**, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School; Gold Medal - **Nicole Garcia**, Marshall Elementary School, **Ariel Royster**, Wells Middle School, **Malik Lott**, Dekaney High School and **Ideya Houston**, Dekaney High School; and Special Merit - **Toreon Jones Jr.**, Westfield High School and **Sofia Sanhueza**, Dekaney High School.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** said the district's three comprehensive schools are going through a massive undertaking to make sure all seniors are college and career ready following the announcement that the district had uncovered irregularities during a recent internal investigation of course scheduling, testing and transcript practices. Some seniors were recently informed that course changes, credit by exam, credit recovery and alternative scheduling were needed to meet state graduation requirements. "We have been calling parents and talking with them about the situation. In addition, we will be meeting with ninth, 10th and 11th grade students to make sure any irregularities affecting them will be corrected also," Watson said.

Additionally, Watson shared a video of his first meeting with the Superintendent's Student Advisory Group. "The dress code continues to be a major topic of discussion in the district, and we are working with our students to include their input into a report that will be brought to the Board in March," Watson said. See [video](#)



Dr. Rodney E. Watson

President's Announcements

Board President **Rhonda Faust** said, "I want to take a moment to reiterate the Boards' full support to the administration's efforts to work cohesively, transparently and to the fullest extent with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in the process of bringing transcripts and schedules into alignment.

"I also wanted to take a moment to encourage everyone to go out to the website and look at all the tributes that are happening right now, including our recognition of Black History Month, which include a number of events and programs that our school children are putting on."

Faust closed by thanking the Winship Elementary School kindergartners for singing to the board before the meeting. "It was very uplifting ahead of our meeting to hear them singing in front of the building," Faust said.



Rhonda L. Faust

Presentation

Safe Routes to Schools

Chief of Staff Julie Hill and Director of Construction and Planning Jeff Windsor presented the results of a study by the district's Safe Routes to Schools committee. The presentation identified challenges related to the district's current practice of transporting students who live two miles or more from their school. In June 2011, facing deep budget cuts due to the state's reduction in school funding, the district reduced bus transportation from ¼ mile to the two-mile state limit.

The following challenges were identified:

- Students who walk to school must walk in the road, on grass, in mud or on the edge of a ditch as these are the only pathways on their routes to school.
- Students who walk to school must cross four-lane roads with speeds up to 40 miles per hour without crossing guards.
- Parents who drive their children to and from school to avoid the walking routes wait in line for long periods of time to pick up their children, causing traffic congestion and unsafe conditions for students who walk to school.

Board members discussed the need for infrastructure, including sidewalks, culverts and crosswalks in the neighborhoods, and whether that should be the responsibility of the district or local and state government.

The report included the initial, one-time costs of providing safe routes to school as well as the ongoing costs of sustainment. One-time costs include constructing sidewalks, culverts and crosswalks districtwide while the cost of crossing guards would be ongoing. The committee estimates the cost for maintaining the current two-mile transportation radius would be \$9.16 million initially and \$1.1 million annually compared to the cost for maintaining a ¼-mile transportation radius estimated at \$1.72 million initially and \$624,000 annually. These estimations do not include the cost of additional buses and transportation staff that would be needed if the district converted from the current two-mile radius to transporting students who live 1/4 mile or more from their school.

Action Items

District Participation in the New Texas Teacher/Administrator Appraisal System Being Piloted by the Texas Education Agency

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has been developing a new teacher evaluation tool, called the Texas Teacher/Administrator Appraisal System, which is currently being piloted and will be further refined during the 2015-16 school year. The board approved the district's participation during the refinement process next school year. Participation is expected to prepare the district in advance of the new system's official launch. Additionally, the tool will allow Spring ISD to streamline and target support for teachers and administrators. Eventually school districts statewide will be required to use the appraisal system.

The Board approved:

- second reading of Board Policy Audit Proposed Revisions to B Policies, affecting board member elections, selection and duties of chief tax officials, board policies and planning and decision-making processes at campus and district levels;
- first review of Local District Update 101 affecting board meetings, employee complaints and grievances, student and parent complaints and grievances, and public complaints;
- targeted improvement plan and sustainability plan for Former Improvement Required (FIR) campuses;
- first review of proposed revisions to board policy CDA local;
- first review of proposed revisions to board policy CH local re: purchasing and acquisition;
- revisions to the 2015-16 Spring ISD Program of Studies;
- second budget review; and
- ratification of taxpayer refunds.



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