

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, Jan. 12 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order. Dekaney High School Navy JROTC Cadet Cmdr. **Armando Lopez**, Cadet Lt. j.g. **Zakobe Blueford**, Cadet Chief Petty Officer **Israel Alvarez**, Cadet Petty Officer 3rd Class **Miguel Reyes**, Cadet Chief Petty Officer **Carl Koulavongsa** presented the colors and pledges of allegiance.

January is Board Recognition Month



Westfield High School percussionists, from left, **Alex Medina**, **Jalin Kirklin**, **Alex Tu** and **Thomas Bui** entertain the Board of Trustees in honor of Board Recognition Month.

District and Community Honors Board Trustees for Their Dedicated Service

With January designated as Board Appreciation Month, the district and community both took the opportunity to recognize the Spring ISD Board of Trustees for their voluntary service and commitment to both the success of students and support for the Spring community.

The evening began with the presentation of proclamations from the Greenspoint Redevelopment Authority and Greenspoint District, Texas State Senator **Sylvia Garcia** and Harris Count Precinct 4 Commissioner **Jack Cagle**, that each acknowledged the board's numerous contributions.

A highlight of the evening was the Westfield High School Percussion Ensemble's performance of "Danza Furioso" composed by Jonathan Ovalle, a Spring High School alumnus who is now assistant professor of music at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance, where he serves also as director of the university's famed percussion ensemble. [See video.](#)

Recognitions

Since January 1984, the Board has recognized students and staff for major accomplishments beyond the District with Points of Pride awards.



Members of the Dekaney High School Wind Ensemble and the Westfield High School Percussion Ensemble join music directors, district administrators and board trustees in the horseshoe for a congratulatory photo.

Dekaney and Westfield Music Ensembles Perform at International Conference

The Board awarded Points of Pride awards to the Dekaney High School Wind Ensemble and the Westfield High School Percussion Ensemble for being selected to perform at the 69th Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago.

"While attendance is open to all, only a select number of groups are invited to perform at the clinic each year," said **Tiffany Dávila-Dunne**, Spring ISD chief communications officer. "The application process is involved and takes a good deal of time and effort, so when an invitation to perform does come, it's a thrilling moment for the students and their teachers who have worked so hard to make it happen." The Dekaney ensemble is directed by **Trent Cooper** and the Westfield ensemble is directed by **Greg Rinehart** and **Mark Calima**.

The conference is a four-day event that attracts more than 17,000 attendees from all 50 states and more than 30 countries around the world.



Cooper Elementary fifth grader **Guadalupe Gonzalez**, center, is pictured with her family, Cooper Coach **Detrick Jones**, Principal **Leticia Gonzalez**, Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** and Board Trustees after accepting her Points of Pride award.

Cooper Students Get Moving and Score Big in Play 60 Challenge

Cooper Elementary School fourth and fifth graders, and one student in particular, recently earned state and national recognition for their school in the Play 60 Challenge, sponsored by the Houston Texans, the National Football League and the American Heart Association.

The school placed third in the state and seventh in the nation based on the number of active minutes recorded by the students over the course of the challenge.

"All the kids who took part in the challenge did a great job, but one young lady went – quite literally – the extra mile to show us all just how it's done – fifth grader **Guadalupe Gonzalez**," said **Tiffany Dávila-Dunne**.

During the four-week challenge, Gonzalez logged more than any other student at Cooper – 6,395 minutes of physical activity, which adds up to more than 106 hours. She was invited onto the field at the Houston Texans vs. the New Orleans Saints game where she was recognized along with nine other students in the state for being the top ten winners in the Play 60 Challenge.

The board also recognized Coach **Detrick Jones** and Cooper's administration – including Principal **Leticia Gonzalez** and Assistant Principal **Michelle Lee** – for supporting Guadalupe Gonzalez and all of the students who participated in the challenge.



Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** reported that the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference was a phenomenal experience. "We hear so much about Spring ISD and it was absolutely wonderful to go to an international conference and see the pride that is displayed when people refer to Spring. But more important, to see our students, who did a phenomenal job, is definitely something we should be proud of."

In addition, he said the district is going to continue focusing on the priorities of the five-year plan - EVERY CHILD 2020. "As we start the new year, 2016, it is important for us to really continue focusing on those areas of special education, ELL (English Language Learners) and CTE (Career and Technical Education)." He said the district will share more information with the board and the community as the year progresses.

Watson concluded by thanking the trustees for their tireless work on behalf of the district and the community.



Rodney E. Watson, Ph.D.

President's Remarks

President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** reported that there are new education leaders in Texas of which the community should be aware. The Texas Education Agency Commissioner is **Mike Morath**, a member of the Dallas Independent School District's Board of Trustees. Morath was appointed commissioner by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in December and officially began serving in his new position on Jan. 4.

Jensen said it will be interesting to see whether the new commissioner is going to make differences in areas such as instructional standards and testing schedules. "He has a very powerful position, and we wish him well," she said.

She also reported that she had attended a forum at Eickenroht Elementary School that featured the new chair of the State Board of Education, **Donna Bahorich**, who is working hard to have input from stakeholders. "She is putting a questionnaire on the [State Board of Education website](#), and I really encourage everybody to go there and participate," Jensen said.

In closing, she thanked Eickenroht Elementary for hosting the forum.



Deborah Jensen, Ph.D.

Action Items

The Board Approved:

- First reading of policy CB and CO local;
- First reading of TASB local update 103 proposed revision affecting 10 local board policies - BF, CAA, CKE, DBD, DH, DIA, FEA, FEC, GKA, GRA; and
- 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, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.