

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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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, April 14 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda Faust** called the meeting to order; and Westfield High School Army JROTC Cadets Staff Sgt. **Tre Pardue**, 2nd Lt. **Miguel Cisneros**, 2nd Lt. **Luis Moreno**, 2nd Lt. **Moises Valdez**, and Capt. **Jordan Fisher** 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.

Music Students Achieve High Placements in All-State Music Groups at Annual TMEA Convention

Thirteen students from the district's three comprehensive high schools qualified to perform with the all-state choirs, bands and orchestras at the Texas Music Educators Association convention in February.

Approximately 60,000 students compete for the opportunity to perform at this prestigious conference, and students who qualify are among the top one percent of high school music students in Texas.

While at the conference, the students received high placements after auditioning for seats in their music groups. Spring High School band students and their placements are: **Austin Houghton**, saxophone, 4th chair – All-State Symphonic Band; **Victor Villalobos**, flute, 4th chair – All-State Symphony Orchestra; **Christian Gonzales**, clarinet, 6th chair – All-State Concert Band; and **Joel White**, jazz guitar, 2nd chair – All-State Jazz Ensemble II. Dekaney High School music students and their placements are **Chris Flores**, French horn, 7th chair – All-State Philharmonic Orchestra; and **Chris Green**, tuba, 5th chair, All-State Concert Band. Westfield High School band member, **Danny Nguyen**, earned 3rd chair in the Symphony Orchestra. This is the fourth year that Villalobos has qualified for state, the third year for Nguyen and the second year for Houghton.

Spring High School vocal music students and their placements are: **Jonathan Sosa**, tenor 2, 7th chair, **Chase Holub**, tenor 2, 6th chair, **Jalen Jones**, bass 2, 6th chair – All-State Men's Choir; **Alexia Stewart**, alto 2, 5th chair - All-State Women's Choir; and **Kiaya Scott**, alto 1, 4th chair, and **Tori Trahan**, alto 2, 1st chair - All-State Mixed Choir.



Music students are surrounded by well-wishers including board trustees and the superintendent.

Dekaney Lady Wildcats Finish Season as 6A Regional Finalist

The Dekaney High School Lady Wildcats varsity basketball team led by Coach Stacey Stroman is District 15-6A Champions and 6A Regional Finalist. The team ended the season with an overall record of 34-3. The team was undefeated in district play with a record of 14-0. Additionally, Coach Stroman was named the District 15-6A Coach of the Year, and several team members have received special recognition.

Dekaney Wildcat team members are **Casey Belt**, **Kene Hamilton**, **Keishawna Scott**, **Kalea Brooks**, **Jaelyn Richard-Harris**, **Jasmine Smith**, **Lauren Grigsby**, **Rolonda Lewis**, **Kailah Thomas**, **Makeedah Collins**, **Erika Slade**, **Ashley Watson**, **Kayla Taylor**, **Tonee Springer**; student managers are **Kory Alexander** and **Kassandra Lechuga**; head coach is **Stacey Stroman**; and assistant coaches are **Tatiana Lee**, **Josh Brinkman** and **Larissa Thomas**.



Dekaney High School Lady Wildcats varsity basketball team members are pictured with board trustees and the superintendent.

Spotlight

Annual Spring Livestock Show and Fair

Cynthia Williams, Career and Technical Education director, **Marsha Cook**, Spring Tri-Club vice president, and several students reported on preparations underway for the 64th annual Spring Livestock Show & Fair scheduled for April 16-18 at the Nagy Pavilion, 24307 Hardy Road. More than 100 students are expected to participate in this year's event.

Students thanked trustees for supporting the Tri-Club organization and the three-day event that provides students in FFA, FFCLA and 4-H with the opportunity to showcase their skills and compete for funds that are most often used to finance future projects and continued education.

Last year's event raised \$129,000 through live and silent auctions, private sales and add-ons. The organization is hoping to raise even more money this year.



Above: Pei-Tience Lockett, from left, Dekaney High School FFA student, presents Rhonda Newhouse with a token of appreciation. Below: Deborah Jensen admires her gift from the FFA students. Each board trustee and Superintendent Rodney Watson received flowers thanking them for their support of the Spring Livestock Show and Sale.



SECME Program Offers Opportunities to Explore STEM Fields

Deborah Graham, Spring ISD grant administrator, along with several students reported on the district's involvement with the SECME program and how community partners have been engaging students in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. SECME is a pre-college STEM education program that partners K-12 schools with universities and industry partners to offer professional development for teachers and expose students to the STEM fields.

Spring ISD's partners are Exxon Mobil Corporation, the University of Houston engineering department and Houston Independent School District. In December 2013, the district received \$10,000 from Exxon Mobil to purchase program supplies. Another \$10,000 grant awarded by Exxon Mobil in November 2014 has enabled the district to continue the program during the 2014-15 school year for several schools: Northgate Crossing, Ponderosa, Booker and Hirsch elementary schools, Bammel, Roberson and Wells middle schools; and Dekaney, Spring and Westfield high schools. Students talked about their experiences with SECME competitions that included building marshmallow towers and mousetrap cars.

"SECME helped me want to accomplish more in my career as a mechanical engineer. It also helped me be more focused, less playful and a better example to others. Most of all I enjoy being with my friends, making the projects and having fun along the way," said Mario Zelaya, Northgate Crossing Elementary student.

Graham assured trustees that involvement with SECME not only provides students with hands-on STEM learning experiences, but also supports 21st century learning skills, increases parent and community involvement and encourages students to pursue STEM-related careers. Additionally, both Northgate Crossing and Ponderosa elementary schools, the two elementary schools already actively involved in the program, have seen improvement in scores on the science district formative assessment.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** reported on the district's fourth community meeting - this one with freshmen and their parents - about the recently discovered transcript issues. "Parents want assurance that we care and that we now have the right systems in place to ensure the best for their kids. I personally met with and continue to meet with parents and students, walking them through transcripts and outlining our new procedures," Watson said. "As we move forward I will continue to keep this community updated on this topic."

At the board work session, March 5, district administration announced the purchase of the North Harris County Family YMCA facility located on Ella Blvd. "On Thursday night, you were presented with several options for the district's most recently acquired facility. Please know whatever direction is taken, we will ensure that this facility becomes an extension of our schools and a great resource for the Spring ISD community," Watson said. [See YMCA article.](#)

The district has maintained its focus on the important work being done on the strategic five-year plan and is still on track to present the new plan in May.

"Almost every night of the week for the last four weeks, cross-functional teams – including staff from across the district, board members, community members, and foundation directors – have met and discussed the district's goals and plans for the next five years," Watson said.

Each group is charged with a key area of focus including student achievement, 21st century learners, community engagement, and human capital, among others.

"The conversations have been very thoughtful and interesting. I appreciate all of those taking part and can't wait to see the final notes," he said.

In the meantime, the district continues to share with stakeholders the district's new vision, mission, guiding principles and core values. "These phrases must be woven into our everyday conversations, guide our teaching, and drive our budgeting priorities. In essence - everything we do," Watson said. [See video: New vision, mission, beliefs and Spring budget core values](#)



Dr. Rodney E. Watson



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.

President's Announcements

Board President **Rhonda Faust** reiterated that Superintendent Watson has the full support of the board in meeting the needs of students. "Clearly our students and academics come first," Faust said.

President Faust also discussed the recent acquisition of the former YMCA facility on Ella Blvd. "I think this is a unique opportunity. I know the board looks forward to looking at the results of a needs assessment to understand what the best use of the facility might be for our district. It has been used by families and children in this community for decades. I think the board is excited that it will remain in the use of children and families in some capacity. We are equally proud that the district will be good stewards of that property," Faust said.

Additionally, she said the board is excited about continuing work on the strategic plan. "This is a very important effort that will enable us to build on the work that we have done already on the vision, mission, guiding principles and core values."



Rhonda L. Faust

Action Items

The Board approved:

- memorandum of understanding between the Spring ISD Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's Office;
- second review of Local District Update 101 affecting board meetings, employee complaints and grievances, student and parent complaints and grievances, and public complaints;
- second review of proposed revisions to board policy CDA local;
- second review of proposed revisions to board policy CH local re: purchasing and acquisition; First review of proposed revisions to DIA local re: employee welfare – freedom from discrimination, harassment and retaliation;
- renewal of Istation reading screener and intervention software contract;
- consulting services proposal for iSphere;
- request for proposal re: Internet access and local phone service;
- request for proposal #14-026 for annual financial audit services; and
- ratification of taxpayer refunds.