

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

Deborah Jensen, Ph.D.
President

Chris Bell
Vice President

Rhonda Newhouse, M.Ed.
Secretary

Justine Durant
Assistant Secretary

Donald Davis

Rhonda L. Faust, J.D.

Jana Gonzales

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. 13 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.



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.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order. Trustee **Donald Davis** led the pledges of allegiance.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** thanked the trustees for their attendance at the district's annual convocation. Held on Monday, Aug. 8, the annual event marked the start of the academic year and gave all district staff – nearly 5,000 employees – an opportunity to recap the triumphs of the 2015-16 school year and hear about plans for the new year. Watson mentioned that the event was made possible thanks to the donations of several sponsors, including Prairie View A&M University, the Spring ISD Education Foundation and Honda of Spring.

He also thanked the trustees for visiting the renovation project on T.C. Jester that will be the new home of Early College Academy. Although construction continues, Watson stated that the facility will be ready for the start of the school year.

Watson concluded his remarks with a reminder that the district is considering the possibility of a bond referendum. "The administration gathered again to make additional recommendations to ensure that what we are recommending meets the needs of our students," he said. See action item below.



Rodney E. Watson

Trustees Remarks

At the regular board meeting, during Opening Remarks each board member is given the opportunity to share information with those present.



President **Deborah Jensen** invited trustees to speak.

Assistant Secretary **Justine Durant** began her remarks with a thank you to the sponsors that supported the district's convocation. She also mentioned that the event was a great way to kick off the school year, and that she was extremely excited to see the data that was shared, the accomplishments and academic growth.

Secretary **Rhonda Newhouse** also commended Chief Communications Officer **Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield** on the convocation.

Related to the board presentation on the meeting agenda, President Jensen said that updates to the district's facilities have been long overdue, based on a 2013 comprehensive facilities assessment, demographic studies and a build-out analysis. "I think that we've needed some of these facilities for a long while, and we have a chance to discuss this and make a vote tonight," Jensen said.

Trustee **Donald Davis** commended the district's New Student Registration and Family Resource Expo that was held on Saturday, Aug. 6. He shared that, at last count, he was told that thousands of people attended the event. He specifically mentioned that making free immunizations accessible was a hit.

Vice President **Chris Bell** thanked the Bond Steering Committee – including school namesakes, volunteers, staff and students – for their time.

Trustee **Jana Gonzales** also thanked the Bond Steering Committee and mentioned that she has served in the role and understands how much time it takes to make such a decision. "We truly appreciate that, and we know that you have the students of Spring ISD and our community in your hearts. We appreciate everything you do and all the work that you have put in," she said.

Action Items

Spring ISD Board of Trustees Calls for November Bond Election

During the Spring ISD Board of Trustees regular scheduled meeting, the Board unanimously accepted the Bond Steering Committee's recommendation to call for a \$330 million bond referendum to address district facility, technology, and safety and security needs. It has been nearly a decade since the district called for a bond. The measure, which will address long-awaited capital needs, will be placed on the November 2016 ballot.

The steering committee, made up of more than 70 community members, met six times over the summer to review the district's outstanding capital needs and discuss various elements to be included in a potential bond referendum. The final proposal, which was originally presented during the Board work session on Thursday, Aug. 4, includes a variety of projects that address items outlined in the district's strategic plan, **EVERY CHILD 2020**.



This image represents the priorities of the Bond Steering Committee's proposal: facilities, safety and security, and technology. The entire package is based on the district's priorities that were outlined in the five-year strategic plan.

An overview of the proposal is listed below:

Facilities

- Construction of two new middle schools
- Development of three ninth grade academies, one at each of the district's comprehensive high schools, including renovations to Roberson Middle School for Westfield High School's ninth graders
- Construction of a districtwide replacement stadium for football, soccer, band and related activities
- Retrofitting district elementary schools to support full-day prekindergarten programs at each campus
- Construction of a new police command center

Technology

- Improvements to core technology, including improved connectivity, enhanced infrastructure and a new telephone system
- Purchase of instructional and classroom technology to expand 21st century learning opportunities



Safety and Security

- Purchase of additional safety and security features, including digital surveillance systems, backup generators, police mobile data terminal, radio systems and security upgrades for facility entries and perimeters
- Replacement of 45 outdated buses
- Expansion of bus services for students who live within a mile of their campus

As a reminder, Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016. Early voting will begin Oct. 24, 2016 and end Nov. 4, 2016. The last day to register to vote in this election is Oct. 11, 2016.

Board Renames Early College Academy

With the district's early college preparing to open at its new location, 14450 T.C. Jester Blvd, the Spring ISD Board of Trustees voted to change the school's name to Spring Early College Academy. The school was originally named Early College Academy at Southridge due to its location on Southridge Rd. between Westfield High School and Bammel Middle School.

Last year, the decision was made to transform the three-story One Park Centre building on T.C. Jester into the academy's new campus. The \$4.9 million renovation began in the spring and is on target to open for students when school starts Aug. 22. PBK Architects has worked with the district on the renovation design and Balfour Beatty was hired to manage the construction for the project. Spring ISD Operations Chief **Mark Miranda** said the decision to purchase and renovate an existing building has saved the district at least \$6 million when compared to the cost of new construction.



The academy opened in 2011 through a partnership between Spring ISD and Lone Star College-North Harris. Offering students – grades 9-12 – a rigorous and supportive academic program of study that blends high school and college work, the school's primary goal is for students to graduate with a Distinguished High School Diploma and an associate degree or 60 college credit hours toward a bachelor's degree. It is an opportunity for students, who may not otherwise consider attending college, to earn 12 to 60 college hours free of charge.

Partnership with UT Tyler Allows Eligible Students to Take College Course Online

The Board approved a memorandum of understanding between the district and the University of Texas at Tyler to allow eligible Spring ISD high school students to enroll in online, dual-credit, college-level courses as part of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) high school engineering pathway.

Offered through UT Tyler's Partners in Academic Concurrent Enrollment (PACE) Program, the partnership will allow Dekaney and Spring High School students who are following the PLTW engineering pathway to enroll in select UT Tyler courses, which will be co-taught by university faculty and Spring ISD teachers. Students successfully completing the courses will receive academic credit and transcripts from both the university and their high school, providing them with transferable college credit and helping to prepare them for the rigors of postsecondary study while simultaneously fulfilling requirements toward their high school diploma.

Resolution to Accept Applications for District Sponsored Charter Adopted

The Board approved and adopted a resolution to accept applications for a district sponsored charter school to support Spring ISD's vision of providing increased choices and educational opportunities for families.

"The passing of this resolution will allow us to officially request proposals from educational organizations that can help us to provide our students with innovative academic programs and learning methods," said **Dr. Lupita Hinojosa**, chief academic officer. "We are interested in seeing what partnerships are available to help us reach every single student in Spring ISD."

Interested organizations are encouraged to submit a competitive proposal through Spring ISD's online bidding system by no later than 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9, 2016. To receive access to the RFP and proposal submission instructions, please contact Paul Young, director of purchasing and contracts, 281-891-6471 or contracts@springisd.org.

Board Appoints Newhouse, Bell and Durant as Representatives

During the meeting, approval was made for three trustees to represent the Board in key positions.

The Board appointed **Rhonda Newhouse** to serve as a liaison between the Spring ISD Education Foundation and the Spring ISD Board of Trustees. Founded in 1993, the Foundation generates and distributes resources to the district to enhance the quality of education. Currently, Newhouse and Trustee **Donald Davis** are both Foundation volunteers.

The Board also designated **Chris Bell** as the 2016 Spring ISD Texas Association of School Board Delegate and **Justine Durant** as the alternate. As TASB delegates, they will help develop the vision for the state association that serves and represents local Texas school districts.

In other action the Board approved:

- First reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy CAA (Local);
- Order of Notice of Trustee Election for Positions 1, 2, and 3;
- A reciprocal use agreement with Fallbrook Church;
- A Memorandum of Understanding between AVANCE-Houston and Spring ISD to operate a Head Start program at Lewis Elementary;
- Requests for Proposals for special education non-public school placement services; and
- Taxpayer refunds.