

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

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. After President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order, Westfield High School Army JROTC Cadets **Tre Pardue, Tommy Rodriguez, Faith Jones, Ta'Kirra Anderson** and **Naisa Johnson** presented the colors and led the pledges of allegiance.

Swearing in Elected Trustees; Election of Officers



Board President Dr. Deborah Jensen, from left, receives a plaque from Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson, while Secretary Justine Durant and Vice President Chris Bell look on.



Re-elected Board Trustees, from left, Justine Durant, Dr. Deborah Jensen and Chris Bell are sworn in.

Trustees Jensen, Bell and Durant are Sworn In and Re-Elected to Leadership Roles

Board Trustees re-elected to their positions on Nov. 8 are Dr. Deborah Jensen, Position 1; Chris Bell, Position 2; and Justine Durant, Position 3. They were administered the oath of office at the beginning of the board meeting.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, the board elected officers. **Dr. Deborah Jensen** will serve as president, **Chris Bell** as vice president, **Rhonda Newhouse** as secretary and **Justine Durant** as assistant secretary.

Recognitions

Since January 1984, the Board has recognized students and staff for major accomplishments beyond the District with Points of Pride awards. ABCD awards are presented to individuals or groups that go Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Awards

Chuck Jett and Honda of Spring Recognized for Their Support of the District

Chuck Jett, Honda of Spring general manager, was presented the Spring ISD Above and Beyond the Call of Duty award for his service to the district and its students.

Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield, chief communications officer, acknowledged Jett for exceeding expectations when it comes to supporting the work of education in the Spring area.

She said that Mr. Jett and his team at Honda of Spring have lent their support to a number of Spring ISD schools over the last few years, including Dekaney High School, Westfield High School and Booker Elementary.

"This past year, they joined the district's efforts to promote literacy-friendly neighborhoods by sponsoring five Little Free Libraries for our elementary campuses. And in a wonderful show of strength to the cause of literacy, they placed a Little Free Library inside their business so that children of patrons could read a book while at their establishment.

Additionally, the dealership was one of the first sponsors to sign on to support the 2016 Employee Convocation.

Jett also served on the district's Bond Steering Committee, dedicating hours of personal time to the development of a strong bond proposal.

"As if that wasn't enough, Honda of Spring and Spring ISD created a unique partnership this year – called Smart Kid Cool Car – that awards one high school senior with a 2017 Honda Civic," Dunne-Oldfield said.

Jett and his team have been traveling with the car across the district, sharing information about the program at high school football games, volleyball games, college nights and open houses. At an award ceremony in May, the car will be presented to a student who has met specific requirements related to academics, attendance, community service and postsecondary planning. See Smart Kid Cool Car [video](#).

In conclusion, Dunne-Oldfield shared an email message that Jett recently sent to his staff that summed up the interconnectedness that exists between school districts and the businesses that reside within the boundaries. He wrote: "What makes Spring ISD successful, makes Honda of Spring successful."



Board President Deborah Jensen presents ABCD award to Chuck Jett.



President Dr. Deborah Jensen and Chuck Jett are joined in the horseshoe by Honda of Spring employees.

Spotlight

Marshall Fifth Grader Takes First Place in Superintendent's Holiday Card Competition



The spotlight was on Addison Kerr as she and Marshall Elementary representatives joined the Board of Trustees and Superintendent for a celebratory photo.



Addison Kerr shows off her award-winning holiday card.

Addison Kerr, a fifth grader at Marshall Elementary School, has been named the first place winner of the Spring ISD Superintendent's 2016 Holiday Art Card Contest. Her design featuring a group of snow people is on the cover of the district's 2016 holiday card.

Second place went to **McKenzie Abbott**, Bailey Middle School eighth grader; and third place to **Ashley Romero**, Roberson Middle School eighth grader.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** reminded the board, "This time last month, we were all in this room celebrating the passage of our bond referendum with over 72 percent passage." He noted that approval of the first sale of bonds totaling \$225 million was on the meeting agenda. "As a reminder, nearly 90 percent of the bond dollars will go directly to schools," Watson said. Additionally, he announced that the bond website is being updated to serve as a resource where community members can go for updated information as the projects move forward.

Next, he spoke about changes in the way schools will be ranked according to new legislation regarding the state accountability ratings for public schools. "As we know the state voted in the last legislature to move forward with A to F ratings," Watson said. "This change will take effect in 2017-18; with the first official rating coming in August 2018. TEA will release preliminary ratings as early as this January. It's important to note that these ratings are only provisional. And once again, official ratings won't be released until August 2018."

Watson extended congratulations to the Westfield football team for advancing to region finals. "The team fought hard and represented us very well all throughout the way, and we would like to congratulate them for a great job and for a great year," Watson said.

He reminded the board and audience that the Winter Wonderland literacy event would begin at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15 at Dekaney High School for elementary students and their families.

"Last but not least, I would really like to wish everyone in the audience and all of you trustees a happy holiday season and a blessed New Year," he concluded.



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.

Trustees Remarks

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



Deborah Jensen, Chris Bell, Rhonda Newhouse, Justine Durant, Donald Davis, Rhonda L. Faust, Jana Gonzales

President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** invited trustees to make remarks.

Donald Davis commented on his visits that day to Dekaney, Spring and Westfield high schools. "I am amazed at what is going on at our campuses. Our teachers and administrators are doing the things they need to be doing, especially this time of year when it is hard to stay focused. At all three of the campuses the students were ... doing what they need to be doing to be successful," Davis said.

Rhonda Newhouse talked about the ongoing cooperative effort between the district and Harris County Precinct 1 to improve safety in the neighborhoods around schools. She also read a statement of the following excerpt: "I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the Spring ISD Board of Trustees and Superintendent for our collective efforts to have Harris County and the school district work together on projects of mutual benefit. My firm belief is that all local government agencies need to find ways to work in cooperation with each other to maximize public dollars and public benefits." Also in the letter, Commissioner Locke assured the district that sidewalk construction and other safety projects would begin in January 2017. Newhouse thanked everyone for their collaboration and support of the partnership with the county, with special recognition for **Mark Miranda**, Spring ISD operations chief.

Jensen thanked Trustee Newhouse for spearheading the effort. "It was just amazing, and I really appreciate it," Jensen said.

Chris Bell reiterated the importance of continuing the district's "great relationship" with Harris County Precincts 1 and 4 and spoke about the important role that local politics play in a community. "... all politics are local and you don't get any more local than what we do here and on the city and certain county level, which has jurisdiction because we are unincorporated." He encouraged everyone to also watch what is happening in the coming year at the state and national levels. "We are going to hear a whole lot going into the new year with the state legislature and with our new direction that the new federal administration will be taking regarding school issues, specifically choice issues and voucher issues. So I just really want to encourage everyone here tonight to really get behind and support public education," Bell said.

Justine Durant shared that Trustee Bell is a member of the Texas Association of School Boards Legislative Advisory Council as well as the district's board delegate. "He represents Spring on that legislative committee and we are committed to ensuring that we do all that we can," Durant said. She went on to appeal to the community for their support as well. "We can only do so much. Letters that you write are always helpful. And if there are some concerns that you have that you would like to elevate through the district, I'm sure that Trustee Bell and I would be more than willing to hear those," Durant concluded.

Bell reminded the group that Trustee Davis is active politically on behalf of the district and is going to Washington D.C. for an advocacy event early next year. "We are trying to be as engaged as we can to push forward the good results and positive results of public ed," Bell said.

Action Items

Board Approves \$225 Million Bond Sale

The Board approved an order authorizing the sale of \$225 million in school bonds. This will be the first portion issued of the \$330 million bond referendum approved by voters at the Nov. 8 election and will be used to fund the first set of projects.

Frontline Technologies System will Assist HR

The Board approved a cooperative interlocal agreement with Region 19 Allied States Cooperatives to purchase a recruitment and hiring solution for the Human Resources Division from Frontline Technologies. The new, user-friendly recruitment tool will help HR document employment history from the time a person shows an interest in the district through the life of their employment.

In other action the Board approved:

- First reading of proposed addition to Board Policy CCA local, regarding debt management;
- First reading of proposed revisions to contracted services supplied by Houston A+ Challenge;
- December 2016 Financial Update — Actual Expenditures Report;
- Requests for proposals for plumbing fixtures, lighting parts, electrical parts and supplies;
- Interlocal agreement between Spring ISD and Harris County Department of Education for the 21st Century Grant program;
- Interlocal agreement between Spring ISD and the Harris County Department of Education for participation in the alternative education program at Highpoint School North;
- Resolution regarding extracurricular status of 4-H organization; and
- Taxpayer refunds.