

SPRINGBOARD

A Publication of the Spring ISD Board of Trustees

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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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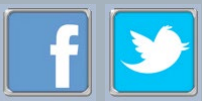
Jana Gonzales

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, March 8 at 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, Feb. 9 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order. Spring High School Navy JROTC Cadet Chief **Elson Torres**, Cadet Senior Chief **Courtney Lundquist**, Cadet Chief **Ricardo Chavez**, Cadet Lt. Cmdr. **Brianna Muschia**, Cadet Petty Officer 3rd Class **Charles Manning**, and Cadet Chief **Corina Rodriguez** presented the colors and pledges of allegiance.

Public Hearing

Report on District Educational Performance; Texas Academic Performance Report

Dr. Lupita Hinojosa, chief academics officer, and **Dr. Jennifer Cobb**, assistant superintendent for research, accountability and testing, reported on the district's educational performance and the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) during a public hearing that is required annually by the state of Texas. The TAPR includes state, district and school-level data that is disaggregated by four areas: ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, English language learner and special education.

Hinojosa presented several highlights that showed district improvement from 2012-13 to 2013-14, which represent the latest records available for these areas. Attendance increased from 94.8 to 95.1 percent, the dropout rate decreased from 2.0 to 1.5 percent and the four-year graduation rate increased from 87.6 to 89.3 percent. Additionally, the number of students taking the SAT test increased substantially from 59.8 to 97.6 percent. There was also an increase in the percentage of students who completed Advanced Course/Dual Enrollment from 23.3 to 25.8 percent.

Cobb reported on notable data based on the 2014-15 school year in the areas of demographics, performance in core subjects, the graduation rate and college readiness, including data on student subgroups.

"We looked at how the 2015 performance on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR), all grades combined, compared to the 2014 performance, using Region IV and the state as comparison groups. The district showed improvement in every subject area except writing," Cobb said.

Cobb also reported on the district's accreditation status and areas of accountability, stating that the district is accredited, it has an accountability rating of Met Standard and received a Superior Achievement rating from the Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas. The district's 2015 Special Education Determination Status is rated Needs Intervention and had already been identified as an area of focus.

Additionally, the TAPR includes a districtwide report on violent or criminal incidents during the 2014-15 school year.

[See TAPR Report](#)

President's Remarks

President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** introduced the district's new internal auditor, **Patricia Rios**, who recently joined the district and reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

"We are very glad to have Patricia working for the Board of Trustees now. This is a very important function," Jensen said. "Patricia helps us do things the way they are supposed to be done and helps us fulfill our responsibility of oversight in a top-quality way."

Jensen went on to express her appreciation for the Spring ISD Education Foundation and the "ongoing, year-to-year support they give our teachers, schools and students" through thousands of dollars in grants awarded annually.

Thank you to the Spring ISD Education Foundation and thanks to the teachers and schools who think up the wonderful ideas and submit grants to the foundation for those funds," Jensen said.



Deborah Jensen, Ph. D.

Action Items

2016-17 Instructional Calendar Will End School Before Memorial Day

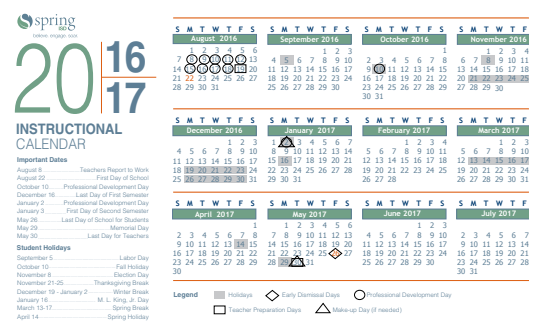
The Spring ISD Board of Trustees approved an instructional calendar for the 2016-17 school year that will have school start on Monday, Aug. 22 and end before Memorial Day on Friday, May 26.

The instructional calendar includes eight student holidays, a week at Thanksgiving, a two-week winter break and another week for spring break. There will be no school on Nov. 8, Election Day, since numerous Spring ISD campuses are used as polling sites.

The Spring ISD Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), which includes both staff and community members, developed two calendar options and surveyed the Spring community for their preference. The option with the largest support - 3,277 respondents, 57.6 percent - was recommended to the trustees and received their approval on Feb. 9.

New state guidelines require school districts to provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction instead of the 180 days previously required. House Bill 2610, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature in 2015, not only offers districts more flexibility in planning their calendar, but also allows them to add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by extreme weather conditions and unexpected disasters. The 2016-17 instructional calendar exceeds the instructional minutes required by the state by 90 minutes.

[See calendar](#)



New Program Will Help District Target Teacher Recruitment for 2016-17 School Year

With the district needing to predict 2016-17 staff vacancies to allow ample time for recruiting highly qualified teachers, the Board approved an Early Notification Resignation Program.

This incentive program offers teachers who are planning to leave the district at the end of the school year – whether by resignation or retirement – the ability to receive an incentive for early notification of their plans. In turn, it allows the district to better plan and develop targeted recruitment strategies for expected teacher vacancies.

The total amount of early notification incentive payouts cannot exceed \$250,000. Following are the incentive payments that will be awarded as long as funds from the \$250,000 allotment are available: prior to March 1 - \$1,500; prior to March 11 - \$1,000; and prior to March 31 - \$500.

To receive their incentive payments, teachers must work through the last day of their current contract and meet other specified requirements. Details are included in a communication that was emailed to eligible staff Feb. 10.

Program of Studies Becomes the New Education Planning Guide

The Board approved changes to the Program of Studies for 2016-17 that include changing the name to Education Planning Guide. While the former document had detailed the courses students would need to follow in their high school graduation plan, the new guide will focus students on planning their future to include not only graduation but postsecondary education as well.

Redesigned to represent the initiatives outlined in the five-year strategic plan – EVERY CHILD 2020 – the guide will focus on the key imperatives of reaching every student, providing opportunities and choice for every family and engaging stakeholders in every community.

The guide will also be aligned with College Board requirements. College Board is an organization that helps students prepare for college through programs that include the SAT and Advance Placement (AP). Beginning next year, only courses leading to an AP exam will be classified as Pre-AP or AP and receive weighted credit for the 2016-17 school year. Additionally, students in years three and four will be able to apply for an Advanced Pathway, which will prepare them for appropriate AP courses and AP exams in their senior year.

New courses that were approved to be part of the guide are: Oil and Gas Production I, Biology I and II for science majors, Biology I and II for non-science majors, Acting I and II - Dual Credit, Statistics, Algebraic Reasoning, Practicum in Hospitality Services II, Personal Financial Literacy and Geology - Dual Credit.

There are also a few course changes. According to the Texas Education Agency, Athletic Trainer II-IV will no longer qualify as a PE substitute, although it may still be taken for local credit. Practicum for Hospitality I has been reduced from three hours to two hours. Independent Study in Mathematics: College Algebra and Instructional Math will no longer be offered.

In other action the Board Approved:

- Interlocal cooperative agreement for child nutrition products and services between the district and Santa Fe ISD;
- Agreement between Spring ISD and AMN Healthcare Incorporated;
- Financial update, actual expenditures;
- 2015-16 second budget review;
- Annual review of investment policy - Board Policy CDA local;
- Second reading of Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) local update 103 proposed revisions affecting 12 local board policies - BF, CAA, CB, CKE, CO, DBD, DH, DIA, FE, FEH, FEC, GKA and GRA; and
- Taxpayer refunds.