

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](http://www.springisd.org) once approved by the Board.

## Trustees

- Rhonda Newhouse, M.Ed.**  
President
- Deborah Jensen, Ph.D.**  
Vice President
- Donald Davis**  
Secretary
- Winford Adams Jr.**  
Assistant Secretary
- Justine Durant**
- Jana Gonzales**
- Kelly P. Hodges**

## 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](http://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. on Tuesday, March 17 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.**

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda Newhouse** called the meeting to order and the Spring Leadership Academy LOTC Honor Guard led the United States and Texas pledges of allegiance.

## 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.

## Point of Pride



Westfield Mustang Football team captains, from left, Malachi Jones, Tim Hardiman, Marcus Moore and Leonard Cummings III are surrounded by Westfield Principal David Mason, from left, Trustee Davis, Trustee Gonzales, Superintendent Watson, Trustee Durant, Trustee Hodges, Trustee Jensen, Trustee Adams, Trustee Newhouse and Westfield Head Coach Matt Meekins in the horseshoe for a celebratory photo.

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson, from left, congratulates Leonard Cummings III as he and his teammates make their way inside the horseshoe, shaking hands with the trustees.

## Board Recognizes Westfield Football Team for Advancing to State Semifinals

The Board presented a Point of Pride award to the Westfield High School Mustang Varsity Football Team and Coach **Matt Meekins** for a tremendous run this year, ending the season with an overall record of 13 wins and just 2 losses. They also went undefeated in District 16 play, with a 7-0 record.

Representing the team, along with Coach Meekins, were **Leonard Cummings III, Timothy Hardiman Jr., Malachai Jones** and **Marcus Moore Jr.**, team captains who have the distinct honor of leading and representing one of four teams in Westfield history to reach State Semifinals.

"As our Board, our Cabinet and our entire community knows, Westfield has a long tradition of representing our community well on the football field," said Chief Communications Officer **Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield**. "This year's accomplishment of going all the way to State Semifinals truly brought excitement and pride to football fans across our area."

Dunne-Oldfield shared highlights and statistics that drive home why Westfield is known nationwide as a powerhouse in Texas football.

As State 16-6A football semi-finalists, Westfield ranks among the best football teams in Texas – making it into the final eight of over 250 teams competing in Conference 6A last fall, an especially impressive achievement in a conference that contains the biggest and most competitive schools in the state.

Over the last several seasons, Westfield has been on a streak of 32 straight district wins and four straight district championships

This season:

- 26 Westfield players were named to the 16-6A Academic All District Team
- 22 players were named to the 16-6A All District Team
- 6 Players were named to the Padilla Poll All State Team
- Coach Matt Meekins was named to the Padilla Poll 6A Division II Coach of the Year
- Coach Matt Meekins was also named a Touchdown Club of Houston Coach of the Year Finalist

"Congratulations to all of the 2019 Mustang team members. They are truly a point of pride, both for Westfield High School and for Spring ISD," said Dunne-Oldfield.

## Spotlight



Middle school students who competed in the District Science and Engineering Fair filled the audience while their accomplishments were being spotlighted.

Best of Show winner Myles Williamson, from left, speaks to Board Trustees about what he learned while working on his project, as Matthew Pariseau looks on.

## Participants in the District's Science and Engineering Fair Recognized

Middle school students who took part in the district's Science and Engineering Fair were recognized for their excellent work during the Spotlight portion of the February meeting.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction **Matthew Pariseau** detailed the Jan. 14 event, highlighting that all middle schools participated with more than 80 entries. Students had the opportunity to compete in nine categories, including physics, chemistry, plant science and Best of Show.

Among all the student entries, 29 district-level winners were awarded trophies, nine received honorable mentions and 10 were accepted to advance to the Houston Regional Fair, which will take place Feb. 14-15 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Pariseau noted that students who do well at the regional level will be able to win scholarships and move on to the state and even the national competition. **Myles Williamson**, Twin Creeks Middle School student, earned a Best in Show for his *Erosion in Motion* project and was invited to the podium to tell the trustees what he learned during his project, which looked at urbanization and its impact on erosion.

"From my project, I learned that humans have a very large impact when it comes to plants and the environment around us" he said. "We should be careful when we start urbanizing to make room for buildings, because that involves a large factor in erosion and flooding."

Pariseau invited all the students in the audience who took part in the fair to stand and be recognized. He also congratulated their parents for giving them support and encouragement, as well as staff who helped organize the event.

Trustees also applauded the work of the students, who were asked to stand individually and give their name, school and project. "I know I see some future scientists, engineers and doctors in this group," said Board President **Rhonda Newhouse**. "So I want to get to know them before they become that famous."

Trustee **Deborah Jensen** said she was very excited that the science fair "is getting to be a thing again." She talked with the students about all the potential opportunities that the sciences can bring them in university and beyond, with a chance to research, travel and land great careers. "You really get to explore cool stuff," she said. Trustee **Winford Adams Jr.** agreed: "The opportunities for you guys are just limitless," he said. "I want to encourage you to keep up the good work."

The following projects were selected to advance.

Behavioral and Social Sciences category:

- *The Generation of Social Media* by **Julissa Zelaya, Darwin Candelario, Benjamin Leon**, Roberson Middle School;
- *Classical vs. Heavy Metal* by **Brooklyn Mena**, Bailey Middle School; and
- *Body Language* by **Nneka Ahaife and Marie-Blanche Boti Lou**, Roberson Middle School.

Chemistry category:

- *Baiting Them Flies* by **Emily Moynihan and Madison Mendoza**, Twin Creeks Middle School.

Earth and Space Science category:

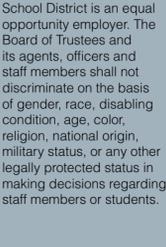
- *Erosion in Motion* by **Myles Williamson**, Twin Creeks Middle School.

Engineering, Electrical, Mechanical and Civil category:

- *Will It Hold?* by **Kylie Khalil**, Twin Creeks Middle School;
- *Using Solar Cells* by **Jade Rosa**, Roberson Middle School;
- *Torsion Powered Catapult* by **Elijah Agimudie**, Twin Creeks Middle School; and
- *Exploring Bridges* by **Amonti Howard and D'Marcus Lewis**, Twin Creeks Middle School.

Medicine and Health category:

- *Do Different Containers Affect the Mold Growth on Foods?* by **Cassidy Layne**, Twin Creeks Middle School.



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## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** opened his remarks by recognizing February is Black History Month. "We've been celebrating this month across the district with a focus on key figures during the Jazz Age and the Harlem Renaissance," he said. He invited those in the audience to attend the Black History Art Expo on Feb. 13 at Roberson Middle School to see artwork and student oratory skills showcase. "You'll see some of the amazing student talent in our district," he said.



Rodney E. Watson

**Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators**  
Next, Watson congratulated the 21 Spring ISD teachers recognized on Feb. 7 by the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (HAABSE). He specifically recognized **Candace Jackson**, a Twin Creeks Middle School teacher, for being selected as the HAABSE Secondary Teacher of the Year and receiving a \$1,000 monetary prize. "Congratulations to Ms. Jackson and all the Spring ISD teachers honored by HAABSE," Watson said.

**Empowered Learning Model Classroom Visits**  
Watson went on to talk about the recent classroom visits hosted by the Curriculum and Instruction Department. Forty-eight educators, including representatives from two other school districts, Spearman and Victoria ISDs, got to see the district's new Empowered Learning Model in action at Benke, Ponderosa and Reynolds elementary schools and Roberson Middle School.

The district and these four schools have been working all year with engage2learn on implementing the model, which includes a blended learning approach that combines face-to-face instruction with digital learning.

"Many of our principals were able to go to classroom tours and learn from the examples that the students and teachers demonstrated. We really plan to roll out this model as we are looking at more blended learning opportunities throughout the district," Watson said. [See story.](#)

**Spring ISD Fun Run & Wellness Fair**  
The Third Annual Fun Run & Wellness Fair will begin at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, March 28 at Carl Wunsche Sr. High School, and Watson reminded those present to register to support students. He said hundreds of people took part in the event last year, raising thousands of dollars for student scholarships.

"We're hoping to get even more participation this year to raise more money, so please take a few moments to sign up," he said.

He gave a shout out to Cooper Elementary School, which has about 50 students and staff signed up, and encouraged parents and students in the audience to invite their peers and classmates to register to participate.

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.springisd.org/funrun>.

**State of the District**  
Watson thanked everyone who turned out for the Third Annual State of the District event on Feb. 5 at the new Randall Reed Center. "We had great participation from our Spring ISD partners and community members, and I just want to say that it was a privilege to be able to share out some of the great things happening in our district."

**Introduction of Clare Resilla**  
Next, Watson introduced **Dr. Clare Resilla**, the new principal of Hirsch Elementary. Resilla began her education career in the Philippines before coming to the United States where she got her first teaching job in 2006 in neighboring Aldine ISD. She joined Spring ISD in 2014 as a Multilingual Programs coordinator for secondary schools before returning to Aldine to become an assistant principal.

"Well, we were able to lure her back in 2018, and we are very pleased that she is now leading our Hirsch Hawks," Watson said.

Resilla has a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and Elementary Education, a Master's degree in Educational Administration and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

**2020 National Blue Ribbon School**  
In closing, Watson announced that Roberson Middle School is one of 26 schools in the state of Texas to be nominated as a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). "For the first time in the history of Spring ISD, we have one school that was nominated. So we would like to celebrate Roberson Middle School for their nomination as a Blue Ribbon School," Watson said. [See story.](#)

## Trustees Remarks

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



President **Rhonda Newhouse** invited the trustees to make remarks.

**Donald Davis** shared that the Texas Caucus of Black School Boards, an organization that gives scholarships annually to deserving students, has once again been accepting scholarship applications. "This year, I am very excited because ... Student stepped up. I want to applaud Spring for applying for those scholarships."

**Justine Durant** applauded the State of the District, describing it as an amazing event. "One of the things that I liked most was our emcees were our own students," Durant said. "They were funny and articulate; made us laugh. It was just a wonderful event, and it was a wonderful opportunity to be able to be there and witness it," she said.

Durant also gave kudos to the high school drill teams – Spring Starlettes, Westfield Lariettes and Dekaney Diamonds – that recently did "an amazing job" at their Showdown, which Durant attended with President Newhouse. "They've won a lot of awards this year in competition," Durant said. "I was really excited about the young ladies and what a great job they did."

**Deborah Jensen** shared that she attended the Spring ISD Elementary Honor Choir and Orff Ensemble concert recently at Spring High School and how impressed she was by the talent displayed by elementary students from across the district. "One thing I really enjoyed was that the children did dance moves, finger clicks and all kinds of things along with the performance. It was just a wonderful performance," Jensen said. She was also impressed by the packed auditorium and parental support. "I really want to thank all those elementary families that supported their students. It was so much fun seeing three generations in that auditorium celebrating the talent of their students," she said.

**Jana Gonzales** talked about how much she appreciated the State of the District, especially the videos that highlighted Spring ISD parents. "I think what I enjoyed the most were the videos of our parents. The parents that have chosen to place their students in our district – it really, it brought tears to my eyes – about how passionate they were about what Spring ISD is doing for their children and their families, so I think that was a great touch."

**Winford Adams Jr.** reported that he recently attended the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) grassroots meeting of the Gulf Coast Association of School Boards, which was held to determine legislative priorities for the next Legislative Session. He thanked Trustee Davis and Trustee Jensen for representing the region on the Legislative Action Committee, which advocates for public schools, students and teachers. "Chris Bell used to always talk about the importance of voting and discourse," Adams said. "So I will be the champion on this board for active engagement and participation in our legislative process."

**Rhonda Newhouse** reported that she attended the National Signing Day events at Spring and Westfield high schools on Feb. 5 when students annually sign letters of intent to participate in college sports. She was impressed by the number of female athletes participating at Spring High School, and that three Westfield football players signed to play for the Naval Academy. "We made some history that day," Newhouse said. "So we want to make sure that we recognize them and thank them for their service and hard work, both the coaches and athletes this year at all of our high schools, thank you."

## Public Hearing

### District Reports on 2018-19 Texas Academic Performance Report

**Dr. Jennifer Cobb**, Assistant Superintendent of Research, Accountability and Data, presented the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), which includes state, district, and school level data for the 2018-19 school year.

The report includes a comparison of the district with Region Four and the State of Texas in the areas of ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, English language learner and special education. In addition, the report contains data on student performance on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) and End of Course (EOC) examinations that measure how well the district's students are performing academically from year to year in core subjects of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. Also featured in the report are SAT, ACT and AP/IB results as well as graduation and dropout rates.

During his remarks earlier in the meeting, Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** spoke about the TAPR.

"This report gave us an opportunity to look in the rear view mirror but it's also important that we are looking at how we are measuring our performance in terms of student achievement," Watson said. "Of course, anytime you do a deep dive into the data, there are going to be areas that we know that we need to pay more attention to."

He mentioned the following areas where he believes the district needs to work harder:

- Getting students to achieve at least a 3 or better on the AP exams;
- Improving how students are doing in science; and
- Improving equity in student achievement, so all students are making progress.

Trustee **Winford Adams Jr.** thanked Cobb for her presentation and asked additional questions about the district's performance in the area of special education. Overall, he commended the superintendent for his work in closing achievement gaps. "I appreciate that we're being intentional and we're making systemic, transformational change," he said.

Trustee **Deborah Jensen** said the Board should not be surprised at some of the challenges that the data shows. "I would also like to commend Dr. Watson and his team for the systemic change that you have initiated," she said. "We have an entire strategic plan that addresses the very problems we see here." She added that she is excited that the district's data, as it relates to advanced course, dual credit completion, is starting to converge with state and regional data. "That is very exciting to me," she said, noting other bright spots in the data, as well.

## Action Items

### In Other Action the Board Approved:

- Full-day prekindergarten Request for Partnership Proposals and Exemption Waiver for 2019-20;
- Second Budget Review of 2019-20;
- Ratifying actual expenditures as of December 2019;
- Request for Proposal to use recommended provider for Internet services;
- Annual Report on Purchasing Cooperative Fees for 2018-19 Fiscal Year;
- Second reading of TASB Local Update affecting local Board policies: BDAF - Selection and Duties of Chief Tax Officials, CKC - Emergency Plans, CKE - Security Personnel, CQ - Technology Resources, CQB - Cybersecurity, DFFA - Financial Exigency, DH - Employee Standards of Conduct, EHBB - Gifted and Talented Students, FDE - School Safety Transfers, FFAA - Physical Examinations, FFB - Crisis Intervention, FFBA - Trauma-Informed Care, GBAA - Requests for Information and GKA - Conduct on School Premises;
- Second reading of TASB proposed revisions to Board Policy CDA local regarding investments and a review of investment policy;
- First reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy GKG local regarding Volunteer Program;
- First reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy BE local regarding Board Meetings; and
- Taxpayer refunds.