

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

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

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

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. The meeting had originally been scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 16 but had to be canceled due to hazardous winter weather conditions. President **Rhonda Newhouse** called the meeting to order. Spring High School Navy JROTC Cadets **Chandler Bienek, Nicholas Layne, Solomon Foster-Smith, and Kyle Shea** presented the colors and led the pledges of allegiance.

January is Board Appreciation Month



The Spring ISD Team of Eight: front row, from left are Justine Durant, Jana Gonzales, Rhonda Newhouse and Deborah Jensen; back row, from left, are Chris Bell, Superintendent Rodney Watson, Donald Davis and Winford Adams Jr.



Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson presents a certificate of appreciation to Trustee Jana Gonzales.



School principals, from left, C'ne Dawkins, Meyer Elementary, George Flores, Bailey Middle School, Diaka Carter, Spring High School, and Kimberly Culley, Smith Elementary School, present a gift basket to Winford Adams Jr.

Board Trustees Recognized for Commitment to Students and Employees

Annually in January, Board Trustees are recognized during National School Board Recognition Month for their commitment to the students and employees of the district. Prior to the meeting Thursday evening, Trustees were honored at a dinner where they were presented certificates of appreciation from Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson**, gift baskets from campus administrators and many thanks for their tireless, voluntary service to the school district and the community.

A highlight of the board meeting was the presentation of proclamations from Harris County Precinct Four Commissioner **R. Jack Cagle** and Harris County Precinct One Commissioner **Rodney Ellis** acknowledging the board's hard work, significant impact on the lives of children and notable contributions on behalf of the community in which they serve.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** opened his remarks by publicly thanking the trustees for their service. "It is a blessing and a pleasure to work with such a board that cares about kids. Once again I want to thank you for all the volunteer hours that you do and for all the coaching and support you provide the district."

Next he announced the launch of the annual School Quality Survey, including an email to parents and campus-based staff and a personal phone call from him inviting individuals to participate. "We have asked all of our parents as well as our community members to complete the survey, which gives us vital information about how they feel our schools are doing. We use this feedback to make changes in the district as we move forward," Watson said. [Take Survey.](#)

Watson then reported on the EVERYday Counts attendance incentive. "We feel like we have missed a lot of school time due to weather, so attendance is something that is really critical for us," Watson said. He shared with the board that Spring Early College Academy was leading the district year-to-date with a nearly 98 percent attendance rate while Winship and Thompson elementary schools and Twin Creeks Middle School follow close behind. "We will continue to recognize and celebrate those schools that are making gains in their attendance. I also want to encourage our schools to keep up the hard work as we have about five months left in this calendar year, and we want to make sure that we are doing all that we can."

The focus on attendance is not limited to students but includes employees as well. Following a recommendation by the board, the district implemented an attendance incentive for teachers this school year. Watson reported that teachers who have missed two or fewer days during the first semester will be eligible to enter a drawing for \$1,500. The district will hold the first-semester drawing for teachers on Feb. 5. "Right now we are finalizing the list of eligible teachers and preparing to hold a drawing," Watson said. "This is going to be an exciting event as we get ready to announce the winners, so be sure to look on the website for a story indicating the drawing as well as who the winners are across the district. We also want to remind our teachers that if you did not meet the requirements for the first semester, you get to start over for the second semester, so there is still opportunity to take part in this."

Watson went on to say that although attendance is a priority for the district, "We also want people to take care of themselves and get a flu shot if they haven't already done so. We do know that they are still offering those in the community."

Last, Watson spoke about the opportunity that members of the board and district administrators had to hear a presentation at the Board Work Session about the district's new dual language program that will launch next school year. "This is an extremely exciting milestone for us, seeing that it is part of our strategic plan, EVERY CHILD 2020. He reminded those present that during the development of the strategic plan, community members shared that they wanted more opportunities and choice. "And so we are excited about the possibility of getting ready to open our first Spanish dual language program in three elementary schools. We will continue to open opportunities and choices for our families and reach those goals with your support," Watson said.



Rodney E. Watson

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 congratulated cadets in the Spring High School Navy JROTC who have received nominations to attend military academies. They are: **Chandler Bienek**, nominated for the U.S. Naval Academy; **Nicolas Layne**, nominated for the U.S. Naval Academy; and **Max Hill**, nominated for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Winford Adams Jr. said he recently had the opportunity to watch a screening of the film "Paper Tigers" and recommended it to his fellow trustees. The documentary addresses how adverse childhood experiences impact children and the difference a change in discipline made in the lives of high school students featured in the film. "Public school is one of the places where we have the opportunity to do an intervention in the adverse outcomes that come from childhood experiences," Adams said.

Deborah Jensen took Board Appreciation Month as an opportunity to show her own appreciation for her fellow trustees. "I want to, one more time, tell the board that I appreciate you all," Jensen said. She especially thanked the Board for their commitment, regardless of hours-long meetings and conflicting schedules. "I know trustees who have come in not feeling well, or have put off other important engagements to participate in our activities, as we all feel that this is so important. Thank you all,"

Rhonda Newhouse concluded by emphasizing the board's thanks to district and campus administrators who recognized the board earlier in the evening. "It is our pleasure to serve. So we are very appreciative of your support and kindness in recognizing us," Newhouse said.

Public Hearing

District Reports on Educational Performance and TAPR

Chief of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments **Dr. Lauren Topek**, presented the Annual Report of the District's Educational Performance and the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), which includes state, district, and school level data for the 2016-17 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 students, English language learners 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 and ACT results as well as graduation and dropout rates.

Topek noted that one highlight of the report was the comparison of the graduating classes of 2015 and 2016, which showed that the district's economically disadvantaged students, African American, Asian and Special Education students exceeded both Region 4 and the state in terms of graduation rates.

[See TAPR](#)

Presentation

Board Receives Updates to Secondary Educational Planning Guides

The board approved the 2018-19 Educational Planning Guide for middle schools and high schools as presented by **Dr. Lauren Topek**, chief of curriculum, instruction and assessment, but no changes at the middle school level at the high school level, which will take effect next school year, but no changes at the middle school level.

Among the new courses that have been added to the high school planning guide, are two Career and Technical Education dual credit courses – Engineering Science and Engineering Design – that will be made available through a new partnership with the University of Texas at Tyler.

Action Items

Board Accepts Grants Totalling \$348,900

The Board approved the acceptance of the hurricane relief fund \$348,900 from various organizations to assist students and staff who have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

A \$336,900 grant from the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund (HHRF) will be used to provide basic needs as well as clothing and mental and emotional care to students in grade 6-12 and to Spring ISD staff whose lives were disrupted by Hurricane Harvey. The grant allows for a case manager to be hired to oversee distribution of the resources supplied by the grant. In addition, qualified families will be eligible to apply for financial assistance in the amount of \$100 to apply to their rent, utilities and lodging bills. The HHRF was established by Mayor Sylvester Turner and Judge Emmett and is managed by the Greater Houston Community Foundation. As a result of the HHRF grant, The Simmons Foundation facilitated an additional \$10,000 grant to be used for emergency financial assistance to families of secondary students and staff members who apply for financial assistance in the amount of \$100 for rent, utilities and lodging.

In addition, the board approved a third grant valued at \$2,000 that is earmarked to meet immediate health, social service and academic needs of students. Provided by the AASA School Superintendent's Association and National Joint Powers Alliance Mini Grants for Kids and recovery, the grant funds will be used to purchase Care Bags filled with items that will promote emotional health and recovery for students impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

In other action the Board approved:

- A resolution to pay Trustees for work days missed due to hazardous winter weather;
- Changes to the 2017-18 Compensation Manual;
- First reading of proposed revisions to Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Local Update 109 Board policies BBE, CDA, CKC, CNA, CO, DF, DH, EHBAF, EJ, FEA, FFAA, FFF, FFO. GBAA, GKA, and GKC;
- Requests for Proposal for furniture and for Asset Management System and Related Services;
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Department of State Health Services for preventative dental services; and
- Taxpayer refunds.



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.