

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, Feb. 11 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.**

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda Newhouse** called the meeting to order and **Dekaney High School Navy JROTC cadets** led the United States and Texas pledges of allegiance.

## January is Board Appreciation Month

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.



The Spring ISD Board of Trustees are Kelly P. Hodges, from left, Jana Gonzales, Winford Adams Jr., Rhonda Newhouse, Justine Durant, Deborah Jensen and Donald Davis.

### Board Trustees Honored for their Dedication to Spring ISD Students

Every January, school board members across the state and nation are recognized during National School Board Recognition Month for the contributions they make to their schools and communities. Prior to the meeting, 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.

A highlight of the board meeting was a presentation by Kent Clingerman, representing Harris County Precinct Four Commissioner R. Jack Cagle. During the presentation, Clingerman read a proclamation from Commissioner Cagle proclaiming January as School Board Recognition Month and recognizing them for the distinguished leadership the Board provides and for their hard work on behalf of Spring ISD students. [See story.](#)

## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** opened his remarks by wishing the Board a happy Board Recognition Month.

"For those of you who don't know, many of our Board members spend countless hours volunteering, visiting schools, governing the district, working with members of our community and attending workshops and meetings," said Watson. "Some of you may think that they get paid for this work, but they don't, it is all volunteer. So once again we say thank you for all the tremendous responsibilities that you have for our students and our community."

Watson then thanked everyone who took part in the 2020-21 Instructional Calendar survey. "We asked our community for feedback on two specific calendars," he said. "Tonight our board will vote on the recommended calendar, like we do every year, and we'll share it with our families and staff so they can start planning for the next school year."

Next, Watson announced that registration is now open for the district's third annual Fun Run & Wellness Fair, which will take place at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 28. "If anyone is looking for a reason to improve their fitness this year, or you made a New Year's resolution but have yet to start, you have a great reason to start training," Watson said. "Hundreds of people took part in the event last year. As you know, for those who were able to attend, it was a big success."

Last year the district was able to raise \$13,500 for scholarships and they are hoping for even more participation this year. For more information and to sign up, go to the district website at [www.springisd.org/funrun](http://www.springisd.org/funrun). "It is really a great event, and our community really loves it," Watson said.

In closing, Watson spoke about a district campaign, called Get the Scoop, designed to familiarize fifth-grade students and their families with all the great programs and offerings at the comprehensive middle schools. "It's no secret that this board and our entire leadership team has been focused on improving our middle schools, and more important, our middle-school experience for our students," Watson said.

Every Thursday of this month, all seven comprehensive middle schools - Bailey, Bammel, Claughton, Dueitt, Springwoods Village, Twin Creeks and Wells - will be hosting a special "Get the Scoop" event for fifth-graders and their parents. Students and their families will be able to visit their zoned middle school during the day on Jan. 16 and Jan. 23 and during the evening on Jan. 30.

"The whole goal is to bring our fifth-graders and their parents into the schools so they can see the great instruction, learn about clubs and athletics, and start thinking about their courses for their course selections," Watson said.

For more information, families can go to the district website at [www.springisd.org](http://www.springisd.org).



**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** thanked Superintendent Watson for his service on the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce last year. "Last Thursday, I had the opportunity to go to the luncheon where he was receiving an award for his leadership and his duties as the chair of the chamber," Davis said. "So I just wanted to say to Dr. Watson, 'Thank you very much for representing our business world and our community on the chamber. Job well done.'"

Davis also thanked Superintendent Watson and his leadership team for helping the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members (TCBSBM) host its Southern Regional Conference Workshop last week. "It was a great success. My colleague did an awesome job, and Dr. Watson, you've got other boards talking about wanting to host it next year. So, you set the standards, and we greatly appreciate you doing that, on behalf of the Texas Black Caucus," said Davis, who serves as treasurer for the organization.

**Winford Adams Jr.** echoed Davis's gratitude for the support provided to the TCBSBM by the district, specifically mentioning Dr. Watson, his team, TeachUp Spring staff, and district technician Tam Tran. "I'm really appreciative of the support you all lent us as we hosted that workshop," Adams said. "I also want to thank my featured speakers by name: **Kay Douglas** at TASB, **Dr. Deirdre Williams** at the School Reform Initiative, and **Cinto Ramos** and **Quinton Phillips** from Fort Worth ISD - drove all the way down, braved the storm, to talk about equity and things we can do to improve achievement in our school districts. So thank you again and thank you to those folks."

Continuing that subject, **Justine Durant** opened her remarks by thanking Trustee **Winford Adams Jr.**, who serves as the regional vice president for the TCBSBM. She said the event was "well-worth being there" on a Saturday morning. "The speakers were excellent. I actually left on fire. I've got some things that I would like for us as a board to talk about and implement in our team-building session," Adams said. "So that was really a great event, Trustee Adams. You did us proud, and also I want to thank the district for allowing us to use that TeachUp facility, because other boards that were there were a little jealous."

**Winford Adams Jr.** added to his remarks by recognizing the following event sponsors: Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson**, **Stephen Ferrar** and his Texas Association of School Boards.

**Deborah Jensen** remarked on the Spring ISD custodial staff luncheon that was hosted on the district's first work day back from winter break. "It was a huge enthusiastic crowd," she said.

**Jana Gonzales** said she is looking forward to the Fun Run, which she described as an exciting event. "You do not have to be a runner to go. You can walk, and I did - walked with a group of folks," she said. "There's so much to do for families out there. We were there before daylight, and stayed well into the day, but it's a fun-filled event for anybody to come."

**Deborah Jensen** seconded what Trustee Gonzales said about the Fun Run. "People dress up in costumes, and some of them bring their dogs, and some of them are wearing tutus, and it is just a kick," Jensen said. "And my husband and I are definitely in the walking crowd. And there are lots of giveaways and interesting booths, and there's just so much information as well as goodies. So, a good activity for a Saturday."

**Rhonda Newhouse** expressed her thanks following the board appreciation dinner held prior to the meeting in honor of Board Appreciation Month. "On behalf of the board, I just want to publicly thank Dr. Watson, his cabinet and our leadership team of principals and their cohorts, teachers, for their support for the board. But I also want to publicly announce - this is the best board in the state! I want my board members to know how much I appreciate them, their support, their work, and everything that they do for Spring ISD, so it is easy for us to serve. But, on behalf of the board, to Dr. Watson and others, we thank you for this evening and for the recognition of Board Appreciation Month. We appreciate you. Thank you," Newhouse said.

## Action Items

### Board Approves 2020-21 Instructional Calendar

The Board approved the 2020-21 Instructional Calendar on Monday, Aug. 17 and ending the school year on Friday, May 28 ahead of the Memorial Day holiday.

The approved calendar, known as Option 1, was one of two innovative options presented to staff and the community for input in a survey that drew feedback from nearly 3,000 people. Both calendars included calendar breaks throughout the year for students and staff, as well as designated professional development days for teachers.

Chief of Staff **Dr. Julie Hill** presented the calendar options to the board, noting that they were prepared in consultation with the district's Advisory Committee on Education, which provided guidance. "We work with them to format them and get them to a place where we can submit them to our community for a vote," she said.

The calendar approved by the trustees was the one that received the most votes from the community and staff by a margin of three to one. It includes two Parent Involvement Days, one on Nov. 3 and the other on Feb. 15. Students and staff will have a full week off for Thanksgiving, Nov. 23 - 27, and Winter Break will start on Dec. 21 with students returning to class on Tuesday, Jan. 5.

Spring Break will be the third week in March for students, from March 12 through March 19. The approved calendar meets all state requirements.

To view the 2020-21 Instructional Calendar, please visit [www.springisd.org/calendars](http://www.springisd.org/calendars). Spring ISD employees should note that their duty calendars for the upcoming school year will be released later this year.

### In other action the Board approved:

- Recommended 2020-21 Instructional Materials textbook recommendations;
- Requests for proposal for tutorial service;
- First reading of TASB Local Update affecting local Board policies: BDAF, BE, CDA, CKC, CKE, CQ, CQB, DFFA, DH, EHBB, FDE, FFAA, FFB, FFBA, GBAA and GKA; and
- Taxpayer refunds.

District of Innovation INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR			
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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, disability condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.