

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.

A Special Called Board Meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 21 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 7 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** reported that the district has just finished a very successful school year culminating in a large number of students graduating on May 28. "We are extremely proud of the hard work of our staff and our students and what they have been able to demonstrate throughout the year. Thank you for your commitment and continued support for our students."

Watson noted that several items had been highlighted at the board work session on June 3, including full-day prekindergarten at five elementary schools, expanded Career and Technical Education programs, a capital needs assessment and community survey results.

"We understand that there is still a lot of work to be continued to fully implement Every Child 2020, but this year represents our completion of the "Turn" year, which is about the development of systems, processes and structures. As we head into the "Progress" year, we have to keep the momentum, capitalize on our success and adjust to address areas of opportunity.

"Early childhood is a priority for the district and this fall we will be able to provide access to full-day Pre-K to even more students through the High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program. (See story below.)

"In addition, we know that opportunities and choice is still a major area that our parents want us to focus on so we are excited to learn more about the expansion of our CTE programs. Through partnerships with local colleges and universities — we've talked about Texas A&M and Prairie View — we are going to give students at all of our high schools the opportunity to graduate from high school in four years with an Associate of Applied Science degree. This directly supports our commitment to opportunities and choice that is found in our strategic plan.

"Another important area of focus is ensuring we are able to address our capital needs," Watson said. The board heard three presentations at the work session, including a capital needs assessment, a financial capacity presentation and results of a voter survey. "It was good to see that our community responded to the survey, and the things they responded to really support the work they recommended in our stakeholder groups when we were developing our strategic plan."

Watson concluded with an update on the partnership with Texas A&M University that will groom future teachers and provide them with opportunities to both learn and teach in urban school settings. He announced that students from Texas A&M will be placed at Thompson Elementary School led by Dr. Robert Long, principal. "His campus will welcome four students this fall who will work directly beside classroom teachers to plan and deliver academic content," Watson said.

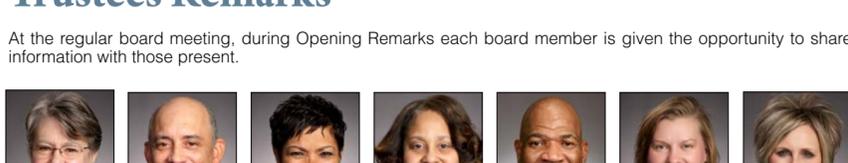
See [SISD/TAMU Partnership Video and Story](#).



Rodney E. Watson

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 **Deborah Jensen** invited trustees to speak.

Assistant Secretary **Justine Durant** began by speaking about the lengthy discussion, at the work session on June 3, of the district's capital needs. "We had a very robust and long work session on Thursday evening, and a tremendous amount of data and survey results were shared with us around our needs in the district. Because of that we had some conversations around the possibility of moving forward with a bond. I would like to ask, without any objections from any of my colleagues, that perhaps we could formulate a steering committee and reach out to the community to get their feedback and comments on their needs as we move forward," Durant said.

Trustee **Donald Davis** spoke about the important role the community plays in the success of our students. "I believe it takes a whole community to raise our children, and I want to acknowledge that we have many organizations involved with the lives of our children," Davis said. He went on to note that three recent graduates — two from Dekaney High School and one from Carl Wunsche Sr. High School — recently were awarded scholarships from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Secretary **Rhonda Newhouse** provided an update on improvements being made by Harris County Precinct 1. "They are wrapping up the work on sidewalks, street signs and street lights and are going to have us ready for the beginning of fall 2016. So I thank them for that," she said. Newhouse added that meetings are scheduled this summer with Harris County Precinct 4 to discuss safety needs surrounding schools that are located within that precinct. President Jensen expressed her appreciation for the recent actions being taken to improve safety for pedestrians in the community.

Vice President **Chris Bell** reminded those present that many of our families and staff have experienced traumatic weather conditions and asked that we keep our community in mind as we enter hurricane season.

Public Hearing

Bammel Elementary School Turnaround Plan

Dr. Lupita Hinojosa, chief academic officer, reported on the turnaround plan that is being implemented at Bammel Elementary School. Based on student achievement levels that have been below what the district and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) consider acceptable for two consecutive years, the district and campus have developed and are implementing a turnaround plan that will be effective for the next two years.

Hinojosa said the school has been challenged by high mobility among the student population and a high teacher turnover rate for several years. The percentage of new teachers each year has ranged from 27 percent in 2010-11 to 46 percent in 2015-16, while the percentage of students who have moved in and out of the school has ranged from 45 percent in 2009-10 to 37 percent in 2013-14.

"The campus along with central administration really looked at the data we had before us and analyzed what the root causes were that are negatively impacting our campus," said Hinojosa. "We believe that the root causes are a lack of continuity among the leadership team and teachers, a lack of effective use of data and a lack of leadership effectiveness. All this, put together, has resulted in low student performance and diminished school culture."

In February, the campus launched an effort to gather feedback, including stakeholder meetings and a survey. The information was used to create the plan that includes guiding principles, improved processes and procedures, and transparent, two-way communication.

The school's guiding principles include: communication of high expectations, active teaching methods, the practitioner as facilitator, inclusion of culturally and linguistically diverse students, cultural sensitivity, reshaping the curriculum or delivery of services, student-controlled discourse and small-group instruction.

"Our expected outcomes are very clear," Hinojosa said. "We want to bring the best teachers to Bammel Elementary. By doing this we also expect to improve the retention and effectiveness of our staff, increase student performance and enhance our school culture."

Although the state allows the school two years to meet standards, Hinojosa said the school's goal is to meet standards in one year. In fact, all but two teachers will be returning to Bammel for the 2016-17 school year, which Hinojosa said is a testament to the work that is being done.

"We are very committed to seeing this through and making sure our children are successful," she said.

Presentations

Board Discusses 2016-17 Budget Options

After months of work on prioritizing district needs, including input from campus and district administrators, Chief Financial Officer Ann Westbrooks brought three 2016-17 budget options back to the Board of Trustees for their consideration. Of the three, only one would have a zero balance while the other two would require withdrawing funds from the district fund balance.

After closely studying the options, the Board asked Westbrooks to prepare the zero-deficit option as a recommendation for their approval. The proposed budget is posted on the district website and will be presented to the board for approval following a public hearing that is set for 7 p.m. June 21 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center. See [Proposed Budget](#).

The proposed preliminary budget includes a one-percent salary increase across the board, additional foreign language teachers to help students meet the high school graduation requirement, and expanded Career and Technical Education electives at middle schools. See [Proposed Preliminary 2016-17 Budget](#).

Career Pathways Expanded at Comprehensive High Schools and Career Academy

Dr. Lupita Hinojosa presented an update on the Charter Plan for Strategic Career Pathways that is being implemented at the district's three comprehensive high schools and the career academy this year.

"We are very excited about the choices and options that we are going to be able to offer our students this coming school year," said Hinojosa. "This project is completely aligned with our strategic plan - not only reaching every student academically but engaging our stakeholders, our partners in industry, and most important, getting to what this organization is about - providing choices and opportunities for the students."

The impetus for this change came from research the district conducted last year into the job market and what was available for students after graduation.

"We did a lot of research and identified high-growth, high-skill jobs that await our students in the areas of energy, petrochemical, power, oil and gas; educational services; specialty construction; health services; and professional and technical services," said Hinojosa.

With that research in hand, the district began in January 2015 discussing the redesign of Carl Wunsche Sr. High School and the need to ensure that all Spring ISD students had equity and access to career pathways and advanced academic opportunities.

"Some of the work started last year when we increased and provided new pathways at our comprehensive high schools and the career academy. This year we are increasing the dual credit opportunities at all of our comprehensive high schools and the number of certifications and licenses that our students can earn upon graduation," said Hinojosa.

The district will begin marketing the expansion of the program to students and their parents next year while a full-fledged launch is being planned for August 2017.

The program is focused on three things: providing choices and opportunities for students to follow their career pathway in high school, increasing participation in advanced CTE and dual credit courses, and providing students with an opportunity to earn an associate degree upon graduation from high school.

Beginning in August 2017, the district plans to launch the STEPS Institute — Spring Toward Excellence with Purpose and Success at Dekaney, Spring and Westfield high schools and Carl Wunsche Sr. High School. Through district partnerships with Lone Star College System and Prairie View A&M, the STEPS Institutes will offer students opportunities to earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in automotive technology at Dekaney; in firefighter science at Spring High; in logistics management at Westfield; and in a variety of pathways at Wunsche. Each of these pathways will also offer students opportunities to earn more than 50 dual credit hours and numerous industry certifications.

Action Items

Board Accepts Grant Money for High Quality Prekindergarten Education Programs

The Board accepted grant funds from the Texas Education Agency for expanding the prekindergarten program to offer free full-day Pre-K classes at Clark Primary, Heritage, Link, Lewis and Thompson Elementary Schools. Nearly 500 students will benefit from the increase.

Students who are four years old, reside within the school attendance zones, have registered at the school and meet eligibility requirements will be eligible to start classes when the 2016-17 school year begins on Aug. 22.

The district also plans to develop focused family and community engagement activities for students enrolled in the program. Parents will receive training to enhance and extend classroom learning, bridge communication gaps, and increase participation in their child's education plan.

Spring ISD requires that prekindergarten students are four years old on or before Sept. 1, 2016 and qualify because they meet one or more of the following criteria: economically disadvantaged, homeless, children of military personnel and or speak a language other than English.

Parents interested in applying for the program should contact the campus where the student is zoned or the Spring ISD Schools Office at 281-891-6397.

The full-day Pre-K program is available at these Spring ISD campuses: **Clark Primary School**, 12625 River Laurel Dr., Houston, TX 77014; **Heritage Elementary School**, 12255 T.C. Jester Blvd., Houston, TX 77067; **Link Elementary School**, 2815 Ridgeway Hollow Dr., Houston, TX 77067; **Lewis Elementary School**, 3230 Spears Rd., Houston, TX 77067; and **Thompson Elementary School**, 12470 Watters Rd., Houston, TX 77014.



Debbie Shahdaiah joins the board in honoring her son Sarid Shahdaiah along with Quincy Williams, Dekaney High School student whose lives were cut short too soon. Pictured, from left, are Board Trustees Donald Davis, Justine Durant and Jana Anders, Dekaney Principal Pamela Farinas, Board President Dr. Deborah Jensen, Debbie Shahdaiah, Board Trustees Chris Bell and Rhonda Newhouse, and Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson.

Board to Award Honorary Diplomas to Quincy Williams and Sarid Shahdaiah

The board approved resolutions to award honorary high school diplomas to **Quincy Williams** and **Sarid Shahdaiah** to commemorate the memory of these two Dekaney students and Wildcat football players who tragically lost their lives in a car accident.

"These students live on in their classmates, said President **Dr. Deborah Jensen**. "It amazed me at the graduation how other students remembered these young men and remembered their lives. They made an impression early and really affected the other students' lives in a positive way."

In other action the Board approved:

- Second reading of proposed revisions to Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Local Update 104 proposed revisions affecting local policies EEH, FB, FD, FEB, FFC, and FFH;
- Interlocal agreement between Lone Star College System and Spring ISD for the operation of the Early College Academy;
- Interlocal agreement with Harris County for the Community Youth Services program;
- Interlocal contract between Harris County Department of Education and Spring ISD for extended school year services at Academic and Behavior School - East;
- Memorandum of Understanding between Harris County Juvenile Board and Spring ISD for the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program;
- Interlocal agreement between Harris County Department of Education and Spring ISD for education therapy services;
- Interagency affiliation agreement between Angelo State University and Spring ISD;
- Application for a state waiver for prekindergarten programs that provide an instructional day of less than 420 minutes;
- Application for low-attendance waivers for Dueitt and Bammel Middle Schools for the 2015-16 school year;
- Application for missed school day waiver for March 22, 2016 for Marshall Elementary;
- The Spring ISD Student Code of Conduct;
- Certification of audited collection rate for Spring ISD;
- Participation in the Central Texas Purchasing Alliance;
- Resolution amending authorized representatives for the Texas Local Government Investment Pool and BBVA Compensating Bank to include Suzie Morales;
- Requests for Proposals for school health and related services, cafeteria products, and basketball equipment and supplies; 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.