

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

Rhonda L. Faust, J.D.

Donald Davis

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, April 12 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, March 8 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order. Westfield High School Army JROTC Cadets **Faith Jones, Adriana Guardado and Cristina Barraza** presented the colors and read the 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.



Dekaney girls basketball players and family members join coaches, administrators and trustees for a photo.

Dekaney Girls Varsity Basketball Team

The Board recognized the Dekaney High School Varsity Girls Basketball Team for going all the way to the final round of this year's UIL Division 6A State Championship, where they finished in second place. "Overall, it was a great season for the team," said **Tiffany Davila-Dunne**, chief communications officer. "They went undefeated in their district and finished the season with a 37-2 overall record."

"It was a remarkable season for the Wildcats," said **Willie Amendola**, athletics director. "Not only because of their accomplishments on the floor, but these young ladies are, without a doubt, the epitome of what we want our student athletes to be in Spring ISD. Their character, their sportsmanship – they are wonderful ladies everywhere we go, and I am just so proud of the way they represent our district."



Board President Deborah Jensen, from left, presents Coach Susan Stroman with a Point of Pride award.

Amendola went on to compliment Coach **Susan Stroman** on achieving her 400th career win this season. "In the history of girls basketball in the state of Texas there may be only 20 coaches to have 400 career wins and she now has 418," he said.



Spring High and Dekaney High student musicians, family members, directors and administrators join trustees in the horseshoe for a commemorative photo.

2016 All-State Musicians

The Board also honored 10 students – from Spring and Dekaney high schools – who were selected as members of the all-state choirs, bands and orchestras.

Statewide, approximately 1,600 student musicians were chosen at the end of a challenging, multi-stage process that began with more than 64,000 students all vying for a spot in one of the 15 prestigious All-State ensembles.

During the annual convention of the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) in February, the students participated in three days of intensive rehearsals directed by nationally recognized conductors. Their performances – given before thousands of convention attendees – are the final highlight of the event.

The TMEA 2016 All-State participants are:

Spring High School Band participants, directed by **Gabe Musella**, are **Melvin Vega**, sophomore clarinetist, Concert Band; **Kendrick Cortez**, junior euphonium player, Symphonic Band; **Christian Gonzalez**, junior clarinetist, Symphonic Band – second-time participant ; **Isaac Pulido**, 1st Chair drum set, Jazz Ensemble; and **Joel White**, 1st Chair guitar, Jazz Ensemble - second-time participant.

Spring High School Choir participants, directed by **David Landgrebe**, are **Odet Torres**, senior Soprano 2, Mixed Choir; and **Breanna Lindsey**, junior Alto 2, Mixed Choir.

Dekaney High School Band participants, directed by **Trent Cooper**, are **Carlos Villatoro**, senior clarinetist, Concert Band; **Juan Guardiola**, junior contra bassoonist, Philharmonic Orchestra; and **Jose Fuentes**, senior trombonist, Concert Band.

Spotlight

Spring Tri-Club Students Share Plans for the Spring Livestock Show and Fair in April

The Spring Livestock Show and Fair will be celebrating its 65th year April 7-9 at the Nagy Pavilion, 24037 Hardy Rd. A long-standing tradition in Spring ISD, the event showcases projects of students involved in FFA and Family Career and Community Leaders of America at Dekaney, Spring, Westfield and Carl Wunsch Sr. high schools, as well as students in Spring 4-H.

During the board meeting, students representing FFA and 4-H presented personal invitations to the show to each trustee and spoke passionately about their projects and the benefits of participating. The concept of Tri-Club being family was a consistent theme throughout the presentations.



Bailey Cresswell, from left, and Kelsey Averill, Spring High School FFA students speak about their experiences at the Spring Livestock Show and Sale.

"I would like to thank you all for keeping this proud school, district, community, and in my case, family tradition going for the kids who came before me and the kids who will come after. I hope to see you all at our show," said Victoria Gurgos, Twin Creeks Middle School student.

This year's show will consist of hundreds of entries by more than 150 students. Entries will include livestock, arts and crafts, food, horticulture and photography. Livestock shows will be scheduled throughout the three days, while special events, including Torch Cutting, Teach the Teacher, Pee Wee, Old Timers and Alumni showmanship contests, will be featured on Friday, April 8.

The public will have several opportunities Saturday, April 9 to show their support for the students involved in the program, including a silent auction at 9 a.m. and a live auction at 12:30 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** reported on important work happening across the district, including the recent School Quality Survey administered by K12 Insight. Watson said there was high participation in the survey with over 13,000 responses, which included 3,500 from parents and 2,500 from staff.

"The feedback we received gives us a clear road map for those areas we will focus on for next year," Watson said.

Additionally, Watson expressed the importance of Memorandums of Understanding on the agenda that will help with staff development. "We have been working hard on how to grow and develop our employees, as well as train them, so the partnerships we are entering into with Prairie View A&M and Texas A&M will definitely help serve the vision we have with EVERY CHILD 2020."

A highlight of his report was a video of K-9 Detective Emmy's recent retirement celebration. Emmy retired after 10 years of service to Spring ISD. [See video.](#)

Watson concluded his report with a reminder that the district is closed March 14-18 while students and staff enjoy Spring Break.



Rodney E. Watson, Ph.D.

Trustees Remarks

President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** invited fellow trustees to speak about new projects they will be leading that will enhance student safety within the district and build stakeholder awareness.

Trustee **Justine Durant** announced that she and Trustee **Donald Davis** will be working with Dr. Watson on a communitywide safety project that will involve parents and the community in making sure that "our kids are not only safe on our campuses but they are safe all the way to their front door."

Trustee **Jana Gonzales** is working with the superintendent to offer districtwide bus tours to stakeholders. "Many of our stakeholders haven't been in our schools in 30 years, or maybe they are new to our district and they don't understand exactly how the district works," said Gonzales. She added that the project's goal is to take stakeholders "into our schools and let them see from transportation to child nutrition to safety" what the district has to offer.

Trustee **Rhonda Newhouse** will be working with elected officials to improve infrastructure, including crosswalks, crossing guards and much-needed sidewalks. She was pleased to announce that she had already met and gained support from the Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner "All of this is for the safety of our students," she said.

Action Items

District Partners with Prairie View A&M to Benefit Students

The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Spring ISD and Prairie View A&M University that would allow Prairie View to provide early admission and related services to the top 25 percent of ranked Spring ISD students at the end of their junior year.

Partnership with Texas A&M will Create Student Teacher Residency Program

The Board also approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the district and Texas A&M University that will create the Urban Student Teachers' Advanced Residency (U-STAR) program – a yearlong clinical teaching residency in Spring ISD schools. It will be supported by the university's College of Education and Human Development urban education specialists and a robust research plan intended to improve student instruction and track impact on teacher philosophy, pedagogy and practice.

In other action the Board Approved:

- Audit plan prepared by the district's internal auditor;
- Independent auditor's engagement letter;
- Revision to the Early Notification Incentive program;
- Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the Spring ISD Education Foundation;
- First reading of proposed revisions to local Board policies CH, DH and EIC;
- Request for proposals for library resources;
- Requests for Proposals for local and long distance phone service, SIP trunking service, Enterprise wireless system and Wide Area Network (WAN) routing system through the E-Rate Program;
- Acceptance of grant funds supporting districtwide and school-specific programs; and
- Taxpayer refunds.