

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.

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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, visit 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 11 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 21 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. After President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order, Westfield High School Army JROTC Cadets **Gaby Rios, Maria Alvarez, Faith Jones** and **Dominique Salas** presented the colors and led the pledges of allegiance.

Recognitions

Since January 1984, the Board has presented ABCD awards to individuals or groups that go Above and Beyond the Call of Duty. Points of Pride awards are presented to students and staff for major accomplishments beyond the District.

Points of Pride Awards



Thomas Woods, center, joins the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson in the horseshoe for a celebratory photo.

Thomas Woods Recognized for Receiving NATA Service Award

The Board presented a Points of Pride award to **Thomas Woods**, Dekaney High School head athletic trainer, in recognition of his receiving the 2017 NATA Athletic Trainer Service Award.

Each year's awardees are nominated directly by their colleagues – fellow NATA members – and represent dedicated service to others along with an ongoing commitment to the field of athletic training.

A past president of both the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association and the Greater Houston Athletic Trainers' Society, Woods has also been an active member of NATA. He currently serves on the board for the NATA Research & Education Foundation, which over the past 25 years has awarded more than \$4 million in research grants, plus another \$3 million has been awarded through the foundation's student scholarship program.

"This isn't the first award he's received for excelling at what he does, but it's a continued testament to his dedication – both to his work and to the students he works with – and a reminder of just how lucky we are to have such incredibly talented people working in our district on behalf of students," said **Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield**, chief communications officer.

Since its founding in 1950, the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) has served as a professional hub and advocacy group for certified athletic trainers worldwide. With more than 43,000 active members, the group represents trainers and works to strengthen both the profession and its practitioners. In addition to setting and maintaining standards related to education, certification, professionalism and athletic training best practices, NATA also recognizes trainers whose contributions deserve a little "extra credit" through its annual honors and awards program.



Spring High School Navy JROTC instructors and cadets join the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson in the horseshoe for a celebratory photo.

Spring High JROTC Honored for Outstanding Achievements

The Board presented a Points of Pride Award to Spring High School's Navy JROTC Program instructors and cadets for its outstanding achievements. Captain **James Boyer**, lead instructor, recently learned that his 2016-17 regiment is the largest in Texas and the fifth largest open-enrollment program nationwide. In addition, graduates of the program have collectively been offered almost \$37 million in college scholarships just since 2005.

"The district is extremely proud of the distinction of having the largest regiment in Texas and the fifth largest open-enrollment program in the nation, but we're even more proud of the outstanding qualities of the unit, and the way that it exists, at heart, to serve our young people," said Dunne-Oldfield. "Congratulations to Captain Boyer and the entire regiment on this Texas-sized distinction."

In addition, the following cadets received Points of Pride awards for receiving the highest-possible scores for Personnel Inspections at the recent "Super State" Navy JROTC Championship Competition at Texas A&M University. They are **Chandler Blenck, Emily Brower, Jasper Enriquez, Jala Jones, Courtney Lundquist, Kyle Shea, Timarah Stroh** and **Elson Torres**.

Spotlight



District Spelling Bee champion Lucille Rixner, center, joins the Board of Trustees, Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson, and district and campus administrators for a celebratory photo. Trustee Justine Durant, from left, congratulates Rixner on her accomplishment. Pictured at right.

District Spelling Bee Champ Meets the Board

The spotlight was on spelling, with special attention paid to the recent winners of the district spelling bee: two-time Champion **Lucille Rixner**, Roberson sixth grader; and Alternate Champion **Bethany Johnson**, Bammel Middle School eighth grader.

"The purpose of our bee is to improve the students' spelling, increase their vocabularies, teach concepts and develop correct usage of the English language," said **Jessica Jackson**, elementary English Language Arts curriculum director.

Every elementary and middle school campus held a spelling bee to determine who would be their representative at the district bee that was held at Dekaney High School. The contestants prepared for the competition using the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Rixner and Johnson will advance to regional competition in April.



National History Day Competition winners join the Board of Trustees, Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson and campus administrators for a congratulatory photo in the horseshoe. Dr. Lupita Hinojosa, chief of school leadership and student support services, hands out medals to History Day competition winners, pictured at left.

National History Day Competition Shows Strong Growth

Now in its third year of competing in the National History Day Competition, Spring ISD has qualified a record number of 33 students for the state-level competition on April 29 at the University of Texas.

Kimberly Russell, secondary social studies curriculum director, said how the competition at Spring had grown from a slow rollout to the robust program it is today. By involving middle school students during the first year, they were able to gain the experience they needed to become state qualifiers now that they are in high school.

"Three years ago, when we began this journey, we had seven students on to the state level," Russell said.

2017 Spring Livestock Show and Fair Set for April 6-8

The Spring Livestock Show and Fair will be celebrating its 66th year April 6-8 at the Nagy Pavilion, 24037 Hardy Rd. 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.

"The Spring Livestock Show and Fair has provided students the opportunity to showcase skills and projects through competition for 66 years," said **Marsha Cook**, Spring Tri-Club president.

Cook also highlighted the scholarships awarded annually thanks to the money raised at the event. "In the last five years, \$35,000 in scholarships have been awarded to deserving seniors," Cook said.

During the board meeting, FFA students from Roberson Middle School and Westfield High School, as well as an FFA alumna spoke about the benefits of raising animals and participating in show and fair. Additionally, they extended a personal invitation to board members to attend the event.

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. In addition, the Spring ISD Stamped buyers group is accepting donations that will be used to purchase student projects on Saturday as well.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** began his report by introducing new Spring High School Head Football Coach and Athletic Coordinator **Trent Miller** and Planning and Construction Executive Director **Gary Hutton**.



Trent Miller has served at Spring High School for nearly five years. While serving with the Lion football program as the team's offensive coordinator and quarterback coach, the program has racked up a host of accomplishments that include securing the most successful three-year record in school history (30-9).

"Mr. Miller's goal is to build an athletic program that the community and our students are proud of and are excited to be a part of. It is his mission to get the community more involved in school programs, to continue to change the culture of the programs in a positive way and to build a safe and successful program that everyone in this area is talking about and wants to be a part of," Watson said.



Gary Hutton, a native of South Africa, studied architecture at Technikon (now known as Durban University of Technology). After graduating, he worked in the construction industry in South Africa for several years before relocating to the United States. Since beginning his career stateside, he has worked on more than 25 new facilities and a host of renovation projects.

In 2000, he joined SHW Group Architects, as a project manager where he was responsible for the management for various educational projects and facilities. He used that to catapult into a role with several Houston-area school districts. Since 2005, he has held roles in Humble ISD and Tomball ISD. As director of construction in Tomball, Hutton was responsible for overseeing the district's 2007 Bond \$198 million Program and the 2013 Bond \$160 million Program.

Watson acknowledged that the attendance boundary review process had been discussed in great detail over the last several months before announcing that they were now going to hear results. "We have one of our partners here, K12 Insight, that will share with you some of our survey results. Ms. **Dunne-Oldfield** will also share some results from our community. We have our attendance boundary review committee here as well to answer any questions that you might have."

Next, Watson reported on the status of the District of Innovation project. "If you have had the opportunity to visit our website, we have posted information on there describing the DOI plan. We are currently in the 30-day period of getting information and input from our community through *elevate*. At our April meeting, we will be coming back and sharing with you those comments," Watson said.

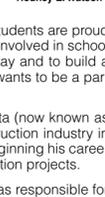
He reminded the board the this time of year is one of the most important for teacher recruitment. "As you know, this is one of busiest times of the year for our HR department to go out and recruit the best teachers that we can find for our students. We are having a job fair on April 11 if anyone would like to stop by," Watson said. [See story.](#)

In addition, as the Spring Livestock Show and Fair quickly approaches, you will begin to hear more information about the Spring ISD Stamped. We always look forward to your support – being in attendance as well as financial support because we know that really helps our students with scholarships. As a staff we thank you for your attendance and we will be working with all of our campuses and our district administrators to make sure the Spring ISD Stamped money that they need moving forward."

He gave a shout out to Westfield High School for being featured in the Houston Chronicle. "With March being Women's History Month, the timing was perfect for Westfield High School's Pretty Girls Rock Summit – a girls-only crash course on dating violence, social media and self esteem. I hope you all had an opportunity to read that story last week," Watson said.

Watson went on to mention several issues that are being discussed during the legislative session. "For those of you who are monitoring federal legislation as well as state legislation, there are some key imperatives that we are really thinking about and looking at: school choice and vouchers, federal funding of title programs as well as ESSA," he said. "As we get more information, we will continue to provide updates."

He concluded by highlighting the award-winning nationally recognized Twin Creeks Middle School Step Teams. The three teams – a boys team, a girls team and a coed team – have traveled the country representing their school and Spring ISD. "Last year the boys were city champs, state champs and ended up ranking fifth in the nation, while the girls team secured the city and state runner up spots," Watson said. He finished by introducing and thanking the team's facility sponsors – **Eboni Jenerette, LeBrandan Jenkins, Kia Rolland** and **Quinetta Dugas** – for their service. [See video.](#)



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.



President Dr. Deborah Jensen invited trustees to make remarks.

Donald Davis reported that, during the past month, he had gone to Austin with the One Voice for Texas Public Education Coalition to talk with legislators about issues facing public education. "On tonight's agenda, we are going to be approving a resolution to become a part of this group, and I want to thank my colleagues for their support. Every time there is an opportunity to be a support for public education, I want to be a part of that," Davis said.

Rhonda Newhouse congratulated the Dekaney, Spring and Westfield basketball teams on their recent season. "We have come very far the last few years in that regional final. All the way making it to state, and I know next year we are going to make it to state for one of those teams," Newhouse said.

Chris Bell reminded the audience that state legislators are meeting now and the importance of staying aware and engaged during the biennial legislative process. "The Senate met today regarding issues around school choice, and we are having discussions about school finance," Bell said. "Keep your antennas up, and we just encourage you to support public education."

Deborah Jensen and **Justine Durant** shared their experiences at the Clark Primary School Career Fair. Durant managed a science and engineering station where she taught the students how to build paper tresses. Jensen, who works in healthcare industry, created a game to help the students who came to her station learn how to make healthy food choices. "They were really delightful and I had a great time," Durant said.

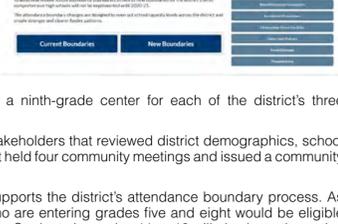
Action Items

New Attendance Boundaries Approved for Rollout in Two Phases Beginning Next Year

The Board unanimously approved new attendance boundaries that will be rolled out over the next several years; with the first set of changes to some elementary and middle school boundaries going into effect next school year. Changes to additional middle school attendance boundaries as well as new boundaries for the district's three comprehensive high schools will not be implemented until 2020-21.

According to Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** the attendance boundary changes are designed to even out school capacity levels across the district and create stronger and clearer feeder patterns.

"The proposed middle and high school boundary changes provide us a unique opportunity to establish true feeder patterns from a middle to high schools across the district – offering our schools the opportunity for increased collaboration, stronger academics and innovative pathways," said Watson.



Currently, the district has only one middle school with a clear feeder pattern to a single high school – Duell Middle School to Spring High School. Once the new attendance boundary changes are fully implemented, five middle schools will have clear feeder patterns to a single high school.

A review of the district's current attendance boundaries began in December, immediately following voter approval of a \$330 million bond program that includes the addition of a new middle school in the north and a ninth-grade center for each of the district's three comprehensive high schools.

The process also included a cross-functional group of stakeholders that reviewed district demographics, school capacity and academic programs. Additionally, the district held four community meetings and issued a community survey to gather feedback.

The Board also approved a new policy, FC local, that supports the district's attendance boundary process. As a result, students affected by any boundary changes who are entering grades five and eight would be eligible to remain at their current school if the school has capacity. Students in grades 11 or 12 will also have the option to remain at their current campus. Students who choose this option will not be eligible for district-provided transportation.

Families affected by the boundary changes will receive notification via email and regular U.S. Mail. For more information about the attendance boundary process, please visit www.springisd.org/attendanceboundaries.

In other action the Board approved:

- The High School Education Planning Guide;
- A resolution acknowledging support of the One Voice for Texas Public Education Coalition;
- Second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy CDA Local;
- First reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy FFA Local;
- A resolution to adopt the investment policy and strategies as stated in Board Policy CDA Local;
- Amendment number three to the Facilities Use Interlocal Agreement between Spring ISD and Lone Star College System;
- Revisions and additions to the compensation manual;
- The independent auditor's engagement letter;
- A request for qualifications #17-011 - investment advisory 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, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.

