

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

- 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](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. Tuesday, June 14 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.**

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 10 at Bammel Middle School to address items on the agenda. President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order. Spring High School Navy JROTC Cadets **Stephen Torres, Courtney Lundquist, Noe Abeja, Corina Rodriguez** and **Briana Garcia** presented the colors and led 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. ABCD awards are presented to individuals or groups that go Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.

### Points of Pride Awards

Early College Academy graduates who will receive an associate degree or received a Dell scholarship display their awards.



Ponderosa Elementary students, from left, Isaac Khan, Matin Khan and Colin King display the Mousetrap Car that earned them second-place at the National SECME Competition. Pictured with them are Principal Shanna Swearingen and Assistant Principal Dr. Brendel Reece.

### Board Trustees Recognize 100-plus Students for Outstanding Achievement

More than 100 students districtwide were awarded Points of Pride by the Spring ISD Board of Trustees for outstanding achievement.

"There's so much good going on, and, although we could never adequately recognize every deserving accomplishment, tonight's presentations should give you a small taste of all that we as a district have to celebrate," said **Tiffany Dávila-Dunne**, chief communications officer.

That number included 48 Early College Academy students who each have the distinction of graduating from Lone Star College – North Harris with an associate degree while simultaneously completing high school. The college courses are offered free of charge through a partnership between Spring ISD and Lone Star College – North Harris.

See a [Photo Gallery](#) of student honorees and an alphabetical list of [Award Recipients](#).

## Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Awards

### Quick-Thinking Staff Members Save the Day for Science Olympiad Contestants

Members of the Roberson Middle School Science Olympiad Team were on their way recently to the state-level competition in College Station when the bus they were traveling in was involved in an accident.

"We can't always control other factors out on the road, and on this particular trip, an accident on the road could have cost our students the competition or worse, were it not for the level-headed response of district staff," said **Dávila-Dunne**. "They stayed calm and collected, seeing first to the safety and well-being of the students on the bus. After confirming that everyone was all right, they got the team to the competition and, despite an extremely late arrival, they arranged for all the students to participate in their scheduled events."



The award recipients are Neelam Singh, from left, secondary science director; Jancie Horton, Roberson teacher; Elisa Gamez, bus driver; and Claudia Zimmer, Roberson teacher. Kelly Spahr, a Roberson teacher, was also a recipient.

### Schools Reach Out to the Spring Community after Recent Flooding

Administrators and staff members at Spring High School, Smith Elementary School and Bammel Elementary School received an ABCD award for the work they did for the community following the recent heavy rains and flooding that hit the Houston area several weeks ago. Both Spring Creek and Cypress Creek brought high waters, flood damage, danger, and uncertainty to the community, including areas that had never been affected by flooding before.

"At times like this, we often learn what we're made of personally – finding inner resources that we never knew we had in order to protect those we hold dear – and it's also a time when we are reminded how deep the roots of our community can go, and how wide they can spread," said **Dávila-Dunne**.



Debbie Townsend, from left, a Spring High School volunteer, gets a big thank you from Trustee Justine Durant.

"We can't possibly know or name everyone from our Spring ISD community and the contributions they made, but it is our honor tonight to recognize the work of several of our principals and schools that truly went "above and beyond" in reaching out to help others during a time of need – providing both physical necessities and much-needed comfort."

Accepting awards on behalf of their campuses were **Dr. Berky Hernandez-Owolabi**, Bammel Elementary School principal, **Kimberly Culley**, Smith Elementary School principal, and **Tia Simmons**, Spring High School principal. Principal Simmons also acknowledged the involvement of *Spring Happenings*, a local online publication that helped connect those in need with the campus.

### Board President Jensen Receives ABCD Award for Tutoring at Spring High School

Board President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** was surprised to learn that she would also be receiving an ABCD Award for her dedicated service as a tutor to students at Spring High School. **Sione Feletoa**, a tenth grader, spoke about Jensen's weekly commitment to helping students who were preparing to take the biology End of Course (EOC) exam. Feletoa credits her with helping him do well on the exam.

"Our time with Dr. Jensen was beneficial because she helped us build 3-D models and brought snacks to wake us up. She really took care of us. She really cared. It really mattered to me and my friends because she took the time with us," Feletoa said.



Sione Feletoa, from left, Dr. Deborah Jensen and Dr. Altricia McCowan take time for a celebratory photograph.

## Presentation

### Education Foundation Presents \$55,000 Check for Innovative Projects



Board Trustees officially accept a "big check" worth \$55,000 from representatives of the Spring ISD Education Foundation board of directors. The donation supports grants awarded to teachers and principals for innovative projects. Learn more about the grants at [Grant Express](#).



Teachers who received awards were introduced by the Foundation and recognized by Board Trustees for their innovative grants.



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.

## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** commented on the achievements being reached by so many of the district's students.

"As you all can see we had a wonderful time celebrating the successes of our students. For those of you who weren't able to attend the GRAMMY presentation at Spring High School earlier this evening, I want to assure you that you were well-represented and we are extremely excited about that award as well.

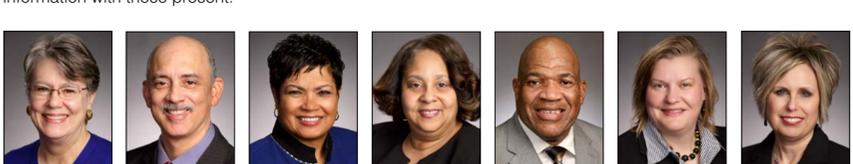
See [GRAMMY](#) story.



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.



Deborah Jensen, Chris Bell, Rhonda Newhouse, Justine Durant, Donald Davis, Rhonda L. Faust, Jana Gonzales

President **Deborah Jensen** congratulated Secretary **Rhonda Newhouse** on the work she has been doing with Harris County Precinct 1 to improve safety in the district and invited her to speak on the topic. Ms. Newhouse reported that Precinct 1 has kindly stepped up to assist the district with sidewalks, crosswalks and stoplights around elementary schools. Additionally, she thanked Spring ISD Police Chief **Victor Mitchell** and Operations Chief **Mark Miranda** for representing the district at the Harris County Precinct Council meeting last month where they recognized the work being done in the district by Harris County Precinct 1.

Vice President **Chris Bell** thanked community members for coming together and supporting each other following the recent flood. "We recognized three schools that came to the community's assistance, but the district also helped employees who were impacted. So hats off to everybody who rolled up their sleeves and are still rolling up their sleeves in the recovery phase of this natural disaster," Bell said.

Assistant Secretary **Justine Durant** invited the community to attend the upcoming Claughton Middle School Community Safety Awareness meeting. "We are kicking off with a safety fair, and I would encourage everyone who is able to participate to attend." The event is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Monday, May 23.

## Action Items

### Board Accepts Grant Money for Early College to be a Demonstration Site

The Texas Education Agency has awarded an Early College High School Demonstration Site Grant to Spring ISD's Early College Academy, and the Board officially accepted the grant on their behalf. The grant was one of only 13 schools in the state to receive the grant, which provides financial and technical support to high-performing ECHS campuses that are implementing best practices.

The academy will serve as a demonstration site during the grant period – April 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017 – providing technical assistance, mentoring, webinars and open house opportunities to new and prospective ECHS school leaders while sharing best-practices content through the ECHS website and at regional and statewide conferences.

To be eligible, campuses were required to have been a designated ECHS with the Texas Education Agency for at least four years, have had a class of students graduate, and be exemplary in at least three areas of the ECHS Blueprint.

### Contract for Universal PSAT/SAT testing of Grades 8-12 Approved

The Board approved a contract with College Board to provide universal PSAT/SAT testing of all students in grades 8-12. The assessments provide several benefits to students. The SAT is a college readiness indicator test that is used as a criterion for entrance into many colleges and universities. Additionally, the PSAT is given to students in grades 8-10 to predict future SAT performance. Finally, the PSAT/NMSQT exam, which is given to 11th graders, is a qualifier for the National Merit Scholar program and also is used to help teachers determine placement in AP courses.

### Application for Optional Flexible School Day Approved

The Board approved the proposed 2016-17 Optional Flexible School Day Program, which is called Achieving Success Alternative Program (ASAP) in Spring ISD. Initiated three years ago, ASAP serves students who are at risk of dropping out, have dropped out or are behind in core subject courses. The program is located in portable buildings behind Dekaney High School, operating between 7 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. to allow students a time frame for flexible scheduling. Last year, 101 students participated and 34 graduated. Although students for this school year are preliminary, the district has served 169 students so far and more than 25 have graduated.

### In other action the Board approved:

- First reading of proposed revisions to board policy FMH local regarding student activities on commencement, effective immediately;
- Resolution to excuse absences and pay employees for the district closure on April 18-22;
- Application for a waiver from the state to cover three of the five days missed due to flooding – April 20-22;
- Districtwide waivers for 2016-17, including remote instruction for homebound students;
- Spring ISD Education Foundation donations totalling \$55,000 for teacher grants;
- Annual review and approval of a list of investment brokers;
- Interlocal agreement with Tomball ISD for library resources;
- Interlocal agreement with Education Service Center Region 10;
- Resolution adopting a Records Management Plan;
- First reading of proposed revisions to Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Local Update 104 proposed revisions affecting local policies EEH, FB, FC, FEB, FFC, and FFH;
- Requests for Proposals for band instrument repair and special education services; and
- Taxpayer refunds.