

# SPRINGBOARD

A Publication of the Spring ISD Board of Trustees

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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
- Jana Gonzales**  
Vice President
- Donald Davis**  
Secretary
- Justine Durant**  
Assistant Secretary
- Winford Adams Jr.**
- Chris Bell**
- Deborah Jensen, Ph.D.**

## 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 12 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.**

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 8 at Bammel Middle School to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda Newhouse** called the meeting to order. Spring High School Navy JROTC Cadets **Emily Brower, Julia Brower, Kyle Shea, John Figueroa** and **Yusif Teesdale** 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



Board Trustees and the Superintendent shake hands with the recipients as they cross the stage.



Emcees, from left, Kaislyn Lyons and Christopher Roquemore announce the award winners.

## Board Trustees Recognize More than 150 Students for Advancing to State- and National-Level Competitions

More than 150 students districtwide were named Point of Pride award recipients by the Spring ISD Board of Trustees for outstanding achievement.

Emcees Kaislyn Lyons and Christopher Roquemore, Spring High School seniors, began the introductions by explaining that students who receive a Point of Pride award have qualified to compete at state and national levels. "This whole event is a reminder that hard work, perseverance and excellence pays off," said Lyons.

High achievers in the areas of academics, robotics, science, history, art, speech, drama, dance, color guard, swimming, JROTC and Skills USA were recognized for their accomplishments.

It is important to note that Point of Pride awards are presented throughout the school year for state and national achievement. The large number of students recognized at the May board meeting is relative to the increased number of high-level competitions as the school year comes to a close.

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

## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson opened his comments by highlighting items on the agenda for approval that would move the district closer to breaking ground on two 2016 Bond projects – construction packages for the new Roberson Middle School and Middle School No. 8.

With the school year nearing conclusion, Watson announced that Spring Early College Academy seniors, who have earned their associate degrees, would be graduating from Lone Star College on Friday, May 11. "You know it is always interesting for Early College students to graduate (from college) before they actually graduate from high school," Watson said.

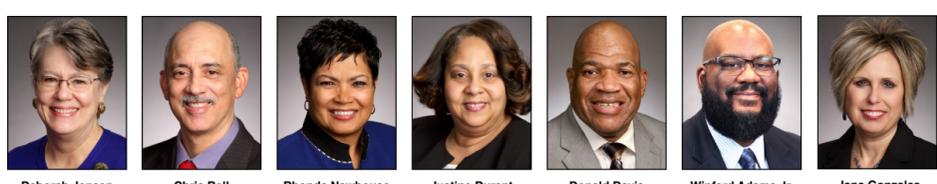
In addition, more than 2,000 seniors, including those from Early College, will be graduating from high school on June 9. "We know that is a very fun-filled, all-day event when we will be celebrating and shaking hands with the thousands of students who have worked hard," Watson said. See [Graduation story](#).



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.



President **Rhonda Newhouse** invited the trustees to make remarks.

**Chris Bell** acknowledged the presence of so many who attended the meeting to watch their students be recognized, recalling that the first board meeting he had attended was "right here" at Bammel Middle School, due to the large number of honorees in May. "It was great to recognize so many of our great student scholars and listen to where they are going in the future and what they are currently doing," Bell said. "I just really want to thank everyone who came out tonight to support the students."

**Winford Adams Jr.** shared his recent experience with the district's new EMERGE program, launched this spring. "I was honored to attend the inaugural EMERGE orientation session two Saturdays ago," Adams said. "It was really exciting to meet the families and children who are going to do great things." The EMERGE program prepares high-performing students from underserved communities to attend and graduate from selective colleges and universities across the nation.

**Dr. Deborah Jensen** shared that she had been researching the term "trustee" and found several definitions, including one who is in a position of trust, and one who is in a position of trust for the benefit of someone else.

Speaking on behalf of herself and her fellow trustees, Jensen said, "I'm sure many of you know we have no monetary pay, but we are repaid in full when we get to see the kinds of products of Spring ISD that we have seen tonight."

Jensen also spoke about the confidentiality required of a trustee and the training they receive that helps them make the "absolute best judgements for the public good."

**Jana Gonzales** reminded everyone about the Spring ISD Fun Run and Wellness Fair this Saturday in Old Town Spring, which is being held to raise money for student scholarships "There is a run or a walk, so you can come out and do either, and we also have the Wellness Fair, so stop by this weekend and celebrate," Gonzales said. See [Fun Run/Wellness Fair story](#).

**Justine Durant** expanded upon Jensen's comment about trustees. "We have three main responsibilities, the budget, the hiring of the superintendent and enacting policy. Next month, we will be finalizing the budget for the new year, so if you are interested in knowing what we are going to be doing in regards to finances and your tax dollars, you can find out in our board meeting next month," Durant said.

**Rhonda Newhouse** spoke of recent events where students were honored and celebrated for their accomplishments, including the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce scholarship luncheon, the Career and Technology Education Advisory Board scholarship luncheon and the Spring Livestock Show and Fair. See [Spring Livestock Show and Fair story](#).

Newhouse acknowledged the support of community partners, including Honda of Spring, which is donating a new car again this year to a qualifying senior; Planet Ford, which donated a car to the elementary teacher of the year and a trip to the secondary teacher of the year; contributors to the Spring ISD Stampede buyers group, which purchased student projects at the livestock show; and contributors who are making scholarships available to students through their donations. See [Smart Kid Cool Car story](#). See [Teacher of the Year story](#).

"We have had a wonderful couple of weeks celebrating the accomplishments of our students in many, many ways. We are very proud of all of our students in Spring ISD," Newhouse said.

## Action Items

### Alternative Graduation Requirements Will Benefit Students Who Qualify

The Board approved a resolution to consider alternative graduation requirements that would benefit students or former students who entered ninth grade before the 2011-12 school year but have not passed their exit-level test – either the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills or the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills – necessary to graduate. Approved during the 85th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 463, offers this opportunity now through Sept. 1, 2019 to those who qualify.

According to **Dr. Lupita Hinojosa**, chief of school leadership and student support services, about 46 Spring ISD current or former students could be eligible. They would need to meet the alternative requirements outlined in the state's new administrative code that was approved as a resolution by the Board of Trustees.

Oversight will be provided by the Spring ISD committee that will develop an individualized plan for each student.

### 2018-19 Student Code of Conduct Includes Clear-Cut Restorative Practices

The Board approved the 2018-19 Student Code of Conduct, which includes adding penal code references throughout the entire code of conduct to enhance transparency for both parents and staff. In addition, a total of five levels of discipline offenses and available consequences have been identified, including a new level that emphasizes restorative practices. The goal is to allow students the opportunity to be restored to the classroom through a wide range of best practices. Finally, the new code includes additions related to David's Law, which addresses cyber-bullying, as well as the prevention of suspensions for students enrolled in grades Pre-K through second grade. Those changes reflect legislative requirements.

### In other action the Board approved:

- Nomination of Trustee Justine Durant for the Region 4, Position A seat on the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board of Directors;
- Partnership between the Spring ISD Police Department and Texas State University on a research project to improve officer/citizen encounters;
- Contract with Harris County Department of Education Academic and Behavior School;
- Construction costs for the new Roberson Middle School Guaranteed Maximum Price Bid Package No. 2 of \$25,789,723 for the building;
- Construction costs for the new Middle School No 8 Guaranteed Maximum Price Bid Package No. 1 of \$3,142,065 for site clearing and grading;
- 2018-19 Work Calendar;
- Second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy DFBB (Local);
- Second reading of TASB Local Update 110 proposed revisions affecting local policies BBB, BBBA, BBBB;
- Second reading of TASB proposed revisions to Board Policy BBA Local;
- Memorandum of Understanding with Harris County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program for the 2018-19 academic year;
- Renewal of Harris County Community Youth Services (CYS) workers contracts;
- Interlocal agreement with Lone Star College System;
- Renewal of the Project Lead the Way Dual Credit Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Texas - Tyler for Dekaney, Spring and Westfield high schools;
- Investment brokers/dealers on a list provided to the Board;
- Requests for Proposal for team and club shirts, paperback classroom books, educational products, and middle school physical education uniforms; 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.