

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 once approved by the Board.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12 via video conferencing, due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 coronavirus, to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda Newhouse** called the meeting to order.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** reported that the board would receive an update later during the meeting on Class of 2020 graduation plans, which are based on the recent announcement by Governor Abbott. He reminded trustees of the graduation survey results, reported last month, showing students wanted an outdoor graduation in addition to the virtual one.

Next he reported that plans are underway for the summer. "As you know we are continuing to plan for the summer," Watson said, "and hopefully in our next board meeting, we will be able to provide you all with detailed information on our summer school program, our summer learning opportunities for our students as well as we will be talking with you about our additional plans for the fall."



Rodney E. Watson

Trustees

Rhonda Newhouse, M.Ed.
President

Deborah Jensen, Ph.D.
Vice President

Donald Davis
Secretary

Winford Adams Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Justine Durant

Jana Gonzales

Kelly P. Hodges

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
Position 1



Kelly P. Hodges
Position 2



Justine Durant
Position 3



Winford Adams Jr.
Position 4



Rhonda Newhouse
Position 5



Donald Davis
Position 6



Jana Gonzales
Position 7

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

Dr. Deborah Jensen reported that the board's legislative priorities would need to be adjusted and updated to address changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Each year we select our legislative priorities as a board, and we did not see the pandemic at the time we set up those priorities," she said. Jensen said the overarching priorities – such as school safety, school finance, assessment and accountability – still serve the district, however some adjustments need to be made to ensure that staff and students are safe, and that the district remains viable as a school system and is continuing its mission under very different circumstances. "So I will be sharing some of this in the coming month and wanting feedback from trustees," she said.

Rhonda Newhouse recognized counselors for doing an outstanding job working with students under the current circumstances. "I praised our teachers last week and thanked, actually all our employees, for what they have done for us during this pandemic time, but I have to say the counselors are still working very hard with our students," Newhouse said. She reported that the Spring ISD Education Foundation received over 200 applications for scholarships as a result of the district's counselors continuing to work with students despite the current challenges. She also mentioned other scholarship awards that were recently announced, including two from KPRC Channel 2. "Hats off to our counselors, because they are really keeping our students engaged."

Kelly P. Hodges applauded the efforts of the Communications team for getting information to the trustees in a timely manner and keeping them abreast of what is going on in the district. "For me being new, it's interesting because when I'm out at Walmart or Aldi, people from the community do stop me because they recognize me as a board member," she said. "Because of the information I receive, when questions are asked, I'm able to provide an honest and informative response. So thank you. Good job."

Jana Gonzales echoed the other trustees' remarks. "I think the district is doing a phenomenal job on keeping communications, and it feels like we have not missed a beat with anything," she said. "We have just continued instruction; communications are going; we're feeding our students; so hats off to everyone in the district. You are doing a fantastic job." In closing she recognized that employees were doing all this while still taking care of their own families. "As Dr. Watson always says, 'we win as a team.'"

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 is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.

Presentation

Board Hears Update on Class of 2020 Graduation Plans

Mark Miranda, Chief of Operations, presented an update on the Class of 2020 graduation plans that focused primarily on the virtual graduation ceremonies scheduled throughout the day on June 6 and the outdoor, in-person graduations scheduled over June 12-14 at the district's Planet Ford Stadium.

The decision to change the schedule for the outdoor ceremonies was made following the announcement of Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines that allow school districts to have in-person ceremonies on or after June 1.

"We realize not everyone is going to want to join the in-person graduation for various reasons," Miranda said, "and so we were already working on the virtual graduation before the TEA gave us guidance on an in-person graduation. The decision was made to keep them both, but they are unique."

The virtual graduation will include more speeches and a roll call featuring graduate photos, while the in-person graduation will be shorter than usual due to the need to follow social-distancing guidelines for safety purposes.

Safety precautions will include social distancing of six-feet in all instances, including the stage, graduate seating on the football field and guest seating in the stands. Screening stations for COVID-19 and sanitizers will be located at all entrances. Face coverings over nose and mouth will be required by everyone and the district will manage attendance by requiring a ticket to enter.

Miranda said the stadium will be sanitized throughout and thoroughly cleaned following each graduation ceremony. "We'll have an army of custodians coming in," he said.

The in-person graduation will be streamed online for those people who will not be able to attend. "We are excited about the possibility of doing our graduation in-person," Miranda said.

Virtual Graduation Schedule for Saturday, June 6:

- 9 a.m. - **Dekaney High School**
- 11:30 a.m. - **Spring Early College Academy**
- 2 p.m. - **Westfield High School**
- 4:30 p.m. - **Spring High School**
- 7 p.m. - **Carl Wunsche Sr. High School**

In-person Graduation Schedule at Planet Ford Stadium:

- Friday, June 12 at 7 p.m. - **Spring High School**
- Saturday, June 13 at 8 a.m. - **Carl Wunsche Sr. High School**
- Saturday, June 13 at 7 p.m. - **Dekaney High School**
- Sunday, June 14 at 8 a.m. - **Spring Early College Academy**
- Sunday, June 14 at 7 p.m. - **Westfield High School**



Action Items

The Board approved:

- Five out of six vendors recommended by the administration for after-school child care and enrichment services;
- Contract renewal with Harris County for Community Youth Services (CYS) workers;
- Memorandum of Understanding with Harris County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP);
- Three-year contract with Edgenuity;
- Memorandum of Understanding with AVANCE-Houston, Inc. for Head Start services at Bammel, Eickenroht and Lewis elementary schools;
- Acceptance of additional grant funds from Texas Education Agency (TEA) in the amount of \$191,061;
- Agreement with the University of Texas at Austin (Cockrell School of Engineering) for Carl Wunsche Sr. High School engineering students;
- Contract renewal with AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination);
- Safety and Security Bid Package G, 7th Guaranteed Maximum Price in the amount of \$1,444, 740;
- Summer 2020 projects, First Guaranteed Maximum Price in the amount of \$6,067,360;
- Amendment 7 of the Facilities use Interlocal Agreement with Lone Star College System for LSCS Transportation Institute;
- Order authorizing the issuance of one or more series of the Spring Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020;
- List of investment brokers/dealers;
- Interlocal agreement with Region 5 Education Service Center;
- Request for Proposal regarding custodial services;
- Request for Proposal regarding Special Education Contracted 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, disabling condition, age, color, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.