

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

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda Newhouse** called the meeting to order, and Dekaney High School Navy JROTC Cadets **Janae Chevis, Kurt Koulavongsa, Gerbert Guadamuz, Erik Lopez and Marco Cuenca** 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



Allison Brown, center, joins the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson in the horseshoe for a congratulatory photo.



Allison Brown, from left, accepts her Point of Pride award from Board President Rhonda Newhouse.

## Spring ISD Educator Named 2018 ESL Teacher of the Year by the TABE

The Board presented **Allison Brown**, an English and ESL teacher at Westfield High School, with a Point of Pride award for being named the Texas Association for Bilingual Education 2018 ESL Teacher of the Year. The statewide award goes to just one secondary teacher in the state of Texas annually.

Brown discovered her calling to be a teacher early in life, realizing that she had a talent for bridging language barriers and working with people from diverse backgrounds.

"That talent – combined with a passion for helping others learn and succeed – has helped fuel her success as a teacher," said **Dr. Lupita Hinojosa**, chief of School Leadership and Student Support Services.

"Ms. Brown, thank you for your everyday commitment to students. Thank you for leading by example and building a positive classroom environment where all students can feel welcomed and invited to learn and grow," said Hinojosa. [See story](#)

## Spotlight



Spring ISD staff members stand to be recognized by the Board of Trustees for their recent selection as LeadSpring fellows.

## Board Recognizes 2018-19 LeadSpring Leadership Academy Participants

The spotlight was on the new cohort of Spring ISD employees selected to participate in the 2018-19 LeadSpring Leadership Academy, designed to provide employees with the opportunity to engage in career and leadership development through a selective two-year fellowship program. The goal is to strengthen current and emerging leaders with strategies and skills.

**Dr. Tameka Williams-Bruce**, Human Capital and Accountability Officer, announced the names of each participant and invited them to stand and be recognized.

They are: **Toscia Arvie**, Workforce literacy coach; **Gaylon Davenport**, Workforce math coach; **Candace Gilliam**, Roberson Middle School campus testing coordinator; **Taneka Greenwood-Cramond**, Marshall Elementary School media specialist; **Katrina Horace**, Roberson Middle School student support specialist; **Vermeille Jones**, Human Resources ER manager; **Diana Kimberly**, Spring Early College Academy principal; **Sandra King**, Clark Intermediate teacher; **Jared Lee**, Link Elementary School teacher; **Carlos Lewis Jr.**, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School student support specialist; **Kiara Meade**, Reynolds Elementary School ESL interventionist; **Paula Mickle**, Dueitt Middle School teacher; **Geralyn Mosely**, Procurement director; **Shontel Newsome**, Workforce development specialist; **Susan Pelezo**, Curriculum and Instruction director; **Shaneka Richardson-Thomas**, Reynolds Elementary School teacher; **Jy'Syria Selmon**, Bailey Middle School professional registrar; **Kendrick Thomas**, Transportation route manager; and **Angela Veals-Johnson**, Twin Creeks Middle School ELL specialist.

[LeadSpring website](#)

## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** opened his report with a report on some of the items that were discussed at length during the Board Work Session on Thursday, Nov. 8, starting with the middle school re-envisioning plan, which is based on feedback gathered from the superintendent's recent middle school listening tour.



Rodney E. Watson

"We are pleased that, with the support of our Board, we're moving forward with an ambitious impactful plan to strengthen our middle school offerings," Watson said. "We are currently planning to expand our portfolio of specialty programs and strengthen our comprehensive neighborhood schools as well."

Watson said the district is planning to pilot an International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Middle School #8, which is located across from Northgate Crossing Elementary School. The highly regarded program will give students access to more rigorous academic programs with a proven track record of preparing students to compete in the global economy.

In addition, Middle School #9, which will open at the campus on T.C. Jester where Spring Early College Academy is now located, will be an option for blended learning with an emphasis on leadership and community service. "We will be recruiting students who might benefit from smaller learning environments and are looking for opportunities to grow as leaders," Watson said. This will be made possible when the Academy relocates to the Lone Star College-North Harris campus next school year. [See story](#)

Next, Watson announced the opening of the district's fourth-annual Employee Engagement Survey on Nov. 28. "We want to encourage all of our staff members to take advantage of this survey either through the email link that will be sent out on Nov. 28 or on paper. Just like last year, we're offering the survey in both Spanish and Vietnamese because we don't want any barriers to keep people from participating," Watson said.

He concluded with a report on the Professional Development/Parent and Teacher Conference Day held on Nov. 9. The day included keynote speaker Antony Colaninno presenting on building cultures where learning is the focal point and a variety of training sessions for all staff.

"As you know, PD is one of your strategic priorities for us as a district," Watson told the Board, "and we would like to show a video to highlight some of the work that happened on Friday." [See video.](#)

## 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 Trustees to share remarks.

**Justine Durant** reported that the Governance Committee had met to discuss the naming of district locations, including the two new middle schools, several streets, and the three ninth-grade centers. In addition, the committee is recommending they consider issuing Requests for Proposals for sponsorships for the new stadium and field house located on Cypresswood Drive. The board decided to meet to discuss further the naming of the locations before bringing their recommendations back at the December board meeting.

**Winford Adams Jr.** complimented the Westfield Theater Department for their recent performance of the "Little Shop of Horrors." "The production was phenomenal," Adams said. "We have a really talented group of students at Westfield. I have nothing but praise for those students. They did a fantastic job." [See story](#)

Adams also announced that he would be serving on the board of trustees from area school districts at an event, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., where they would be discussing school safety and security in this region.

He also reported on a tour of the new Fortis Academy that he and Jensen attended recently. Opened by the Harris County Department of Education, the academy is designed to serve students who are in recovery from substance abuse. [See website](#)

**Chris Bell** announced that he had attended an event that day called the Renewal Summit, sponsored by Allstate. He noted that **Neil Bush**, Founder and Co-Chair of the **Barbara Bush** Houston Literacy Foundation, led an initiative on literacy. "I was real happy to tell folks about the things we are doing here in our district regarding our literacy efforts and the priority that we are giving to literacy," Bell said.

**Donald Davis** gave a shout out to the district's football teams that advanced to the playoffs. "It's exciting that we have two teams – Spring and Westfield, (going to the playoffs)" Davis said. "I wish them the best of luck as they start the playoffs Friday night."

**Rhonda Newhouse** concluded the trustee comments, by addressing traffic concerns that have resulted in accidents in the district and how the board is reaching out to Harris County Precincts 4 and 1 for help with safety and traffic surveys around the district's schools. She said the board will be looking at those surveys and bringing back any recommendations for ensuring the safety of students and staff.

In addition, Newhouse also reminded the community that the district added a Mental Health Director this year and implored parents and community members to take advantage of that resource. "If you know of any student that may be having any problem – home, school, community – you need to share with their school, their counselor or our director of mental health. Please, please reach out to our district. Reach out to our schools. Reach out to us. We are very concerned about the safety of our students," Newhouse said.

## Action Items

### Board Approves Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer **Ann Westbrooks** presented the district's 2017-18 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to the Board for review and approval. The 136-page document is the district's report of financial operations for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2018.

The CAFR is prepared not only for the Board of Trustees, but also taxpayers, grantor agencies, employees, the Texas Education Agency, and anyone else who would like to see details regarding the district's financial management, including the external auditor's report.

At the work session on Nov. 8, Westbrooks had given trustees a walk-through of the document, explaining the different sections and offering a rundown of revenue, expenditures, and the district's fund balance, as well as debt service obligations. She also reviewed some historical data associated with the top 10 taxpayers, property tax values, and average teacher salaries over the past 10 years.

The trustees commended Westbrooks and her team for their long hours of hard work on preparing the lengthy, in-depth publication. They voted unanimously to accept both the CAFR and the internal auditor's report, which was presented at the meeting. [See CAFR](#)

In Other Action the Board Approved:

- Interlocal agreement with My Texas Direct for workers' compensation benefits;
- Safety and security bid package #1, first Guaranteed Maximum Price in the amount of \$762,833;
- Contract with Chimera License Agreement in the amount of \$2,500;
- Contract renewal with AVID;
- Facility use agreement with Lone Star College-Greenspoint Campus;
- Memorandum of Understanding with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service;
- 2018-19 first budget review;
- Request for Proposal for purchasing and installing glass; 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, ethnicity, religion, national origin, military status, or any other legally protected status in making decisions regarding staff members or students.