

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.

Trustees

- Deborah Jensen, Ph.D.**
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- Justine Durant**
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- 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 and click on the Public Participation at Board Meetings link under General Info.

The next regular Board Meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. After President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order, Spring High School Navy JROTC Cadets **Sierra Trones**, **Courtney Lundquist**, **Jayla Thomas**, **Jason Borders**, **Joseph Aguilar** and **Roland Aguilar** presented the colors and led the pledges of allegiance.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** reported on agenda items of note, including the targeted improvement plan for Eickenroht Elementary School. "In 2013 we had six schools that did not meet standard and this year we only had one, which means that 37 out of 38 schools met standard according to TEA. Tonight we have Eickenroht Elementary here to share information as to what they are doing to improve the academic performance of their campus.

"As you know, this is a very important time from an election standpoint. Tonight we are going to highlight a variety of ways that campuses have been working, from a voting standpoint, at educating kids. Some of you participated recently in an activity at Westfield where one of our community groups came in and did a voter registration drive, as well as talked with kids about the importance of voting. Tonight we would like to share with you a short video highlighting Wunsche high school and the work they are doing around voting," Watson said. [See Vote Video](#)

In conclusion, Watson said, "We have been going out practically every day and on weekends to talk to the community about our bond election. We've had really good responses, and parents have had the opportunity to ask questions." He invited parents in the audience to attend one of the upcoming bond community information meetings. [See Bond Info Meetings](#)



Rodney E. Watson

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.



Eros Shaw, center, and his family join the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson for a congratulatory photo.

Mystras Barber Academy Owner Eros Shaw Presented ABCD Award

Eros Shaw, owner of Mystras Barber Academy, was presented an Above and Beyond the Call of Duty (ABCD) award for supporting Spring ISD and its students for many years. Shaw has provided support through financial contributions as well as through participation in the district's initiatives.

"Most recently, this ABCD recipient played an important role in the success of the district's new student registration and family resource expo, helping make sure that more than 400 Spring ISD students were sporting new haircuts and feeling really sharp on the first day of school," said **Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield**, chief communications officer.

Shaw willingly gave up a Saturday – one of the busiest days for barber shops – so that he and his staff could participate in the expo.

Shaw also participates in the Books in the Barbershop literacy initiative, by giving the district space in his shops for shelves of books that enable students to keep reading throughout the summer and during the holidays.

Additionally, Shaw is a member of the district's ministerial alliance, social and cultural support committee, five-year strategic action plan committee and the mentor program at Westfield High School. He routinely provides scholarships to Spring ISD students who attend his barber college and ongoing financial support for Family and Community Engagement initiatives.

"It means so much to have a community partner who steps up to the plate when help is needed," said Dunne-Oldfield.

Spotlight

Hispanic Heritage Month Art and Essay Contest Winners Announced

This month's spotlight was on 26 students who took top honors in the district's Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Art and Essay Contests that were held recently in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The multilingual department hosted the contests to allow secondary students to express in words and pictures what it means to honor their Hispanic culture, live and work in the Hispanic community and build a future. The students were presented with medals and certificates before accepting congratulations from board trustees and district administrators.

"We had students enrolled in the Spanish programs in our district, both native speakers and non-native speakers from all our middle schools and high schools, participate in this great event. Choosing the winners was truly quite a task for the multilingual department," said **Lettie Houck**, LOTE manager.

Numerous art contest entries lined the hallway outside the boardroom. "This year, we had so much art, as you can see, that we had to choose seven honorable mentions in addition to the first-, second- and third-place winners," Houck said. "We were in awe of the talent our children have."



First-place essay winners – **Cassidi Speed**, Spanish I first place, Roberson Middle School; **Allison Garcia-Fernandez**, Spanish III first place, Spring High; and **Alessandra Rivera**, Spanish V AP first place, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School – presented brief excerpts and summaries of their essays to the board.

Speed wrote about what growing up with an Hispanic culture in her community means to her. "My best experience with the Hispanic culture is with my Spanish teacher Ms (Liliana) Buscio. She has helped me learn and know of the Hispanic culture and language the Hispanic way," Speed said. [Full Essay](#)

Garcia-Fernandez shared that she will be the first bilingual member of her family to study criminal justice and work within the judicial system of the United States. "The present and future of this country is greatly influenced by the diversity of the Hispanic culture and therefore in achieving my purpose to be a great pride for my whole community," she said. [Full Essay](#)

Rivera said her essay started out as a summary of her life story. "It talks about how my parents lost my sister at five months old, and later they received the opportunity to become bilingual teachers in Houston. It describes the struggles they had to take and the decisions they had to make in order to leave every thing behind. Honoring this culture represents everything that my family had to leave behind and it means taking every opportunity that comes my way to be able to accomplish what would have been virtually impossible in my native country. [Full Essay](#)



Languages Other Than English students are honored for their winning art and essay entries.



Spanish I – **Cassidi Speed**, Roberson, first; **Serina Dickerson**, Dueitt, second; and **Viviana Alatorre**, Dueitt, third.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers I – **Kathy Guerra**, Wunsche, first; **Diego Ochoa**, Roberson, second; **Selvin Sarmiento**, Dekaney, third.

Spanish II – **Gustavo Lara**, Wunsche, first; and **Vanessa Ocampo**, Wunsche, third.

Spanish III – **Allison Garcia-Fernandez**, Spring, first; **Brandon Peralta**, Wunsche, second; and **Evelin Diaz**, Spring, third.

Spanish IV AP – **Cesar Velez**, Westfield, first; and **Cinthya Perez**, Westfield, second.

Spanish V AP 1 – **Alessandra Rivera**, Wunsche, first; and **Natalia Perales**, Wunsche, second.

Art Winners and their awards are:

Evelyn Tellez, Roberson, first; **Cinthya Saravia**, Wunsche, second; and **Edwin Lara**, Dekaney, third. Honorable mention certificates were awarded to **Ashley Armendariz**, Wunsche; **Dawn Ford**, Wunsche; **Sofia Palomino**, Spring; **Karen Hernandez**, Roberson; **Charles Cañas**, Wunsche; and **Lacel Barreda**, Wunsche.

Trustees Remarks

At the 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** invited trustees to make remarks.

Rhonda Newhouse encouraged parents and community members in the audience to attend one of the upcoming bond informational meetings or visit the bond page on the Spring ISD website to learn about the referendum that will be on the November ballot. [See 2016 Bond](#)

She went on to thank Westfield High School for inviting the board to fan night – an event that introduced both academics and athletics – with special acknowledgement of the theater department's performance of "The Wiz."

If you haven't had a chance to see that drama group perform "The Wiz," you are missing a treat. I hope that you ... will take time to visit Westfield's drama department to see it. Bring the little ones. They'll be excited and enjoy a front-row seat. We invite all of you to come out," Newhouse said. [See "The Wiz"](#)

"Also, I had an opportunity to visit Westfield High School on voter registration day," Newhouse said. "It was lovely to see all of the seniors there looking at video of **John Lewis** and his journey. If you haven't seen the video or heard about the journey of John Lewis and the right to vote, you can Google it and see it on YouTube. The students were truly inspired by it, and we are thankful for the organization – Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority – for bringing this information to our students and also actually coming and registering them that day. [See Westfield Voter Registration](#)

Chris Bell shared that some voter precincts may have changed and recommended visiting harrisvotes.com to confirm whether your precinct is one of them. He also invited parents and students to attend the district's annual College Night event at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13 at Spring High School. "Generally we have a number of colleges from all over the country that come to the event. Even if you are not a graduating senior, try to come out, bring a friend or family member, and visit with some of the colleges. There will be other resources there as well," he said.

Public Hearing

Board Approves Targeted Improvement Plan for Eickenroht Elementary

Dr. Lupita Hinojosa, chief academic officer, opened the public hearing on Eickenroht Elementary School's targeted improvement plan for the 2016-17 school year, stating that in 2013, the district had six schools that were designated as Improvement Required while last year there were only two schools designated and this year only one - Eickenroht Elementary School.

"Tonight we will be reviewing the targeted improvement plan for Eickenroht after which you will have a better understanding of the plans that we have laid in place to ensure that we are able to meet standards at Eickenroht Elementary this coming school year," Hinojosa said. "All our work is grounded in support of our strategic plan - Every Child 2020 - and very specifically looking at our imperatives that will guide our work. In doing this, we focused on systems and processes as well as making sure that we have a well-prepared teaching staff and leadership team.

Eickenroht was designated as improvement required based on four indexes, of which two rated the school above the state requirement while one was within one point and another was within five points of meeting the state requirement.

Hinojosa introduced Principal **Robbie Green** who took trustees and the public through a five-step continuous improvement plan process that includes collecting and charting data, analyzing strengths and barriers, setting goals, selecting strategies for meeting those goals and finally implementing and monitoring the progress.

Action Items

2016 Tax Rate Remains the Same as Last Year

The Board of Trustees approved a 2016 total tax rate of \$1.46996. Annually, the district projects a tax rate when the next year's general operating and debt service budgets are approved in the spring, but the tax rate is not approved until fall, after the Harris County Appraisal District provides the certified property appraisal rolls.

The 2016-17 general operating budget will be supported by a Maintenance and Operations tax rate of \$1.04 per \$100 assessed value, which represents no change from the previous year's M&O tax rate. The debt service budget will be supported by an Interest and Sinking Fund tax rate of \$0.42996.

In other action the Board approved:

- Second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy DEAB local;
- Reading of Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Local Update 106 affecting Board Policy EHBAF local;
- First reading of proposed revisions to TASB Local Update 105 affecting 11 local policies, including BJCF, BQ, CLB, CLE, CPC, DBA, DFBB, DFFB, EHBAD, EHBAD and FDC.
- First reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy DH local;
- First reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy DIA local;
- Contract with Frontline Technologies for the Aesop substitute employee system;
- 2016 Appraisal Roll Certification;
- Interlocal agreement with Klein ISD for armored truck 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.