

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.**  
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- Chris Bell**  
Vice President
- Rhonda Newhouse, M.Ed.**  
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- 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, Oct. 11 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd.**

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. After President **Dr. Deborah Jensen** called the meeting to order, Westfield High School Army JROTC Cadets **Cristina Barraza, Dominique Salas** and **Naisa Johnson** presented the colors and led the pledges of allegiance.

## Superintendent's Report

After welcoming Board Trustees and staff to the first board meeting of the new school year, Superintendent **Dr. Rodney E. Watson** began by recognizing the first cohort of a new program called LEAD Spring. "Our strategic plan outlines a plan to develop a culture of excellence through the establishment of a rich talent pool. The participants that we will be introducing to you tonight will receive coaching and training from current district leaders and follow a robust curriculum that incorporates a collegiate-style learning format, hands-on experiences, action research projects and portfolio-building opportunities," Watson said.

He said the leaders were selected from a very competitive pool of more than 84 employees from across the district who then went through a lengthy, selection process. "We've worked really hard to identify this group of individuals," Watson said.



Rodney E. Watson



LEAD Spring members Melanie Garnett, from left, Ciani Williams, Shimona Eason, Tyroda Mott and Elisa Cole join Superintendent Rodney E. Watson for a congratulatory photo.

He then introduced and congratulated the LEAD Spring participants on their selection. They are **Elisa Cole**, Lewis Elementary assistant principal; **Shimona Eason**, Burchett Elementary assistant principal; **Melanie Garnett**, Claughton Middle School assistant principal; **Tyroda Mott**, Meyer Elementary fourth- and fifth-grade English language arts and social studies teacher; and **Ciani Williams**, Link Elementary student support specialist.

Next, Watson reported on the recent Grad Walk that involved hundreds of staff and community volunteers. "Last Saturday we had over 380 volunteers, 902 attempted visits, 1,079 contacts, and left 1,185 door hangers," Watson said.

He said the purpose of the event is to remind parents and students about the importance of attending school and graduating. There are several examples of students who have been reached during the Grad Walk and decided to return to school. "We are constantly monitoring how many of those students actually come back," Watson said. Watson then shared a video that highlights how a few campuses spent the first day of school.

In closing, he reported on the 2016 Bond referendum that the Board approved to be on the November ballot. "It's been nearly a decade since the district last asked our community to consider a bond, so we approached the process very seriously," Watson said. He then introduced a video that shows the capital needs on which the bond is focused.

See [Bond 2016 Video](#). The video and details of the plan are located on the district website: [www.springisd.org/bond2016](http://www.springisd.org/bond2016).

## 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.

### Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Awards

#### Education Foundation Recognized for Over Two Decades of Support

The Spring ISD Education Foundation was recognized for over two decades of working to make the district stronger. Chief Communications Officer **Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield** said, "The Spring ISD Education Foundation has been a valued district partner ever since its inception in 1993. It's board is made up of experienced educators as well as business and community leaders, many of whom have given decades of service both to Spring ISD schools and to the Spring community."

Over the years, the Foundation has awarded approximately \$1.2 million in innovative, project-oriented teacher grants and another \$349,000 in student scholarships.



Spring ISD Education Foundation Board of Directors join Board Trustees and Superintendent Rodney E. Watson in the horseshoe for a photo.

#### Reynolds Elementary School Recognized for Outstanding Accomplishments

Reynolds Elementary School Principal **Rodney Louis** and his staff were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments last school year. In particular, they saw their state accountability ratings rise across several categories, including Index 4 – Postsecondary Readiness – a metric specifically related to how well schools are preparing their students for success in high school and beyond.

**Dr. Lupita Hinojosa**, chief academic officer, congratulated Principal Louis and the entire Reynolds staff for setting expectations that stretch their students and also for engaging parents and volunteers in the process. "It isn't a one-man show. It isn't just the school. It is the entire community," Hinojosa said.



Reynolds Elementary School Principal Rodney Louis and staff join board trustees and Superintendent Rodney E. Watson in the horseshoe for a photo.

Trustee Jana Gonzales, from left, and Assistant Secretary Justine Durant congratulate Reynolds staff members.



## 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 speak.

**Jana Gonzales** thanked Dr. Watson and his administrative team for the smooth opening of school. "It was nice to see that everything ran well and the communication we received from everyone was great," Gonzales said.

**Justine Durant** shared that 2016 marks her 10th year on the board and expressed her excitement about the implementation of the full-day prekindergarten program at five schools. "If we can strengthen our foundation – because that is where it starts – we can push the success of our kids through the roof," Durant said. She also expressed her appreciation for the way the district managed previous bond funds to allow the opening of Richey Academy and the relocation of the Early College Academy to a permanent facility. She concluded by sharing her experience at the recent Grad Walk. "I had a blast on Saturday going around and having an opportunity to encourage our kids to come back to school," Durant said. She described her visit with one person in particular whose response was heartwarming. "Although we don't get paid, that type of thing is the reward that I see, and it is something that you can't buy."

**Rhonda Newhouse** also commended the principals, staff and teachers for a safe and enjoyable beginning of school. "We heard a lot of positive comments being made by parents in the community and by the teachers in the community about the changes that were made in registration this year, beginning with our Saturday new student registration event at Dekaney," she said. She added that she had also received positive feedback about additional safety measures. "So Dr. Watson, faculty, staff and principals, we commend you for an outstanding opening of the school year."

**Chris Bell** encouraged everyone to go out and vote in the upcoming November election, with a reminder that elections include not only national and state contests but important local contests as well. "There are some important ballot considerations – not only at the national and the state levels – but mostly at the local level is where it really counts," Bell said. "Your vote does count."

**Donald Davis** commended the financial department for its hard work, thanking the financial team for working everyday to make sure the district stays on budget and spends district money wisely.

**Deborah Jensen** reported on the campus improvement plans that had been presented to the board at the recent work session. "Every school in Spring ISD has a plan to get better," Jensen said. "They have put in so much thought and work to have a plan that isn't put up on the shelf. It is connected to our strategic plan, Every Child 2020, and is their guidebook for the year. I am very, very proud of the schools for what they have done. Even though we have made some strides and had some amazing accomplishments since last year, that doesn't mean we are done. We have a lot of work to do in Spring ISD ... we all know it and we are doing it. So my compliments to everybody who is in on this exciting effort."

## Action Items

### Board Renames Former YMCA the Spring ISD Learning Center

The Board approved Spring ISD Learning Center as the new name for the former North Harris County Family YMCA. Located at 17125 Ella Blvd., the facility houses the Workforce Development Department and the Family and Community Engagement Department and is used for numerous meetings, workshops for staff as well as classes for parents.

The Board received a number of submissions in response to its request for name nominations – including the one which they selected – and trustees expressed appreciation for the community's participation.



The Spring ISD Learning Center, 17125 Ella Blvd.

### Board Accepts Grant Funds Valued at Over \$1.9 Million

**Dr. Lupita Hinojosa**, chief academic officer, presented three grants – valued at over \$1.9 million – to the Board for acceptance. They include a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Texas Education Agency valued at \$1.8 million and a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from Harris County Department of Education valued at \$156,800.

A third grant – awarded by Region 4 – is a 2016-17 School Support Grant worth \$41,261,04. It will be used to improve student performance, enable schools to perform more efficiently and economically, and implement initiatives assigned by the state.

Both 21st Century Community Learning Center grants are Cycle 9 Year 1 Site grants that will be used to supplement student learning at 11 schools: Dekaney and Westfield high schools, Bailey, Bammel and Wells middle schools, Bammel, Eickenroht, Hoyland, Major, Ponderosa and Salyers elementary schools.

The program will include a family engagement component and academic enrichment programs along with the assistance. Additionally, it will focus on college and career readiness through SAT preparation along with college visits and parent sessions for high school students. Academic performance that includes a strong literacy foundation, attendance and discipline will be priorities for all levels.

#### In other action the Board approved:

- Campus Improvement Plans;
- Second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy CAA local;
- First reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy DEAB local;
- First reading of Texas Association of School Boards Local Update 106 affecting Board Policy EHBAF local;
- Reciprocal use agreement with Spring Baptist Church;
- Interlocal agreements between New Caney ISD and Spring ISD, and between Splendora ISD and Spring ISD for motor fuels;
- Memorandums of Understanding between Lone Star College System and Spring ISD for college preparatory mathematics and English language arts courses and dual credit courses;
- Interlocal agreement between Spring ISD and Harris County Department of Education for Academic and Behavior Schools East;
- Proposed contract with Certica Solutions;
- Requested contract with Stetson & Associates;
- Requests for Proposals for track, baseball and softball equipment, and a gifted and talented screener and identification assessment; 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.