

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. on Oct. 9 at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center.**

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees met at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11 at Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center to address items on the agenda. President **Rhonda Newhouse** called the meeting to order, and Westfield JROTC Cadets **Fabiana Alvarado, David Nguyen, Faith Jones, Vivian Garcia, Arianna Bailey** and **Dana Vega** 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



Members of the Spring ISD Procurement Team join Board Trustees and Superintendent Watson in the horseshoe for a congratulatory photo.

### 2018 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award

The Board recognized the Procurement Services Department for receiving the Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement Institute (NPI) for the ninth-consecutive year. Spring ISD was one of just 48 recipients in Texas and one of only 26 school districts in both the U.S. and Canada to receive the distinction this year.

Each year, the National Procurement Institute presents the award, which recognizes traits like organizational excellence, professionalism, and a commitment to continuous innovation in procurement-related practices.

"The criteria for the award are always evolving," said **Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield**, chief communications officer, "and winning year after year – like our Procurement Services team has done for almost a decade now – shows both their dedication to best practices and a commitment to ongoing departmental growth and development. It also confirms how our procurement team exemplifies our core values – striving for excellence in all they do, building trust through integrity, and, of course, winning as a team."

Representing the procurement team were Executive Director **Phillip Ellison**, **Rhonda Mitchell**, **Erika Banda** and Chief Financial Officer **Ann Westbrook**.

"This year we obtained the highest score we've been able to get in the last nine years, and we are going to keep building on that as we can," said Ellison. [See story.](#)

## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Dr. Rodney Watson** opened his remarks by reminding everyone that September is Attendance Awareness Month. On Saturday, Sept. 15, the district is holding its annual EVERYday Counts Attendance Matters Success Walk. "I, and dozens of our Spring ISD teachers and volunteers, will be out in our neighborhoods talking with students who have left school about how we can help them get back on track," he said. "We will also be talking about the importance of good attendance for all of our students." [See story.](#)



Rodney E. Watson

Next week, the superintendent will be embarking on a middle school listening tour to get input that will help the district strengthen and improve its middle school programs. "This is a big priority for us because our data shows that some of our families are opting out of our middle schools," he said. Six meetings are planned, and he told the board he will be coming back with findings and recommendations.

Watson went on to mention that October is National Bullying Prevention Month, detailing the district's plan to officially launch its new anonymous reporting tool in the coming weeks as well as a general awareness campaign. The goal he said is to build a culture where all students and staff feel respected and safe.

The Superintendent was then joined in the horseshoe by members of the Spring ISD Education Foundation to accept a check for \$12,520. The amount represents a portion of the money collected by the Foundation from recurring employee donations. Watson explained that some of the money will be returned to the campuses and some will go to the central administration building. "Campuses will be able to use their funds in support of special projects focused on students and staff and Central Admin will use the money to support our employee HUGs Program," he said. "I'm very grateful to the Foundation and everything it does to support our district."



Members of the Spring ISD Education Foundation present a \$12,520 check to the district, surrounded by the Team of Eight.

Watson then talked about the Sept. 8 ground-breaking event for the district's replacement stadium. He said it was gratifying to see so many people come out to the event, especially student athletes, musicians and cheer teams all working together from all three high schools. He introduced a [video](#) recap of the event. He concluded by thanking the trustees who each received one of the shovels from the event, signed by event speaker Tony Ugoh, who graduated from Westfield High School and went on to play in the NFL. Ugoh had a distinguished football career, including his time as an offensive lineman with the New York Giants, where he and the team won Super Bowl 46 at the end of the 2011-12 season. [See story.](#)

## 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.

**Chris Bell** thanked everyone who came out to the meeting and those who turned out for Saturday's ground breaking for the district replacement stadium. He also noted "Tie Tuesday" and detailed how he quickly tried to put a tie on in his car on the way to the meeting. He said he was glad he did, when he saw others wearing ties on Tuesday, including the board president and Dr. Lupita Hinojosa, chief of School Leadership and Support Services. He said he was excited about Tie Tuesday and having students wearing ties. [See story.](#)

**Donald Davis** thanked **Superintendent Watson** for the opportunity on behalf of himself and his organization to gather school supplies. He said they wanted to bring the supplies directly to the schools and students. Six schools were selected as well as 25 teachers. He thanked the donors for their generosity and noted that all of the contributions went to a good cause. On another topic, he mentioned that he had gotten an earlier phone call from a former Westfield High School student who just graduated from West Point and was commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Davis said she is the first female JROTC cadet at Westfield High School and the first to go to West Point and get a commission. She now wants to come back and talk with other Spring ISD students, he said, also noting that he is proud of the student's accomplishment and grateful for the ongoing support of the JROTC program in the district.

**Winford Adams Jr.** congratulated area organizers for putting together a Labor Day Parade in which he had the opportunity to participate. He congratulated the Spring High School NJROTC cadets for carrying the colors during the parade in spite of heavy rain and noted their commitment and dedication.

**Dr. Deborah Jensen** talked about the district being at a progress point with regards to its strategic plan, Every Child 2020. This year marks the fourth year of the plan, or the LIFT year. She congratulated **Dr. Watson** for leading a plan that continues to guide the work of the district. In particular, she said the plan is not just gathering dust on a shelf. "I'm just very impressed with our strategic plan and how everyone who makes a presentation always ties back whatever they're doing to the strategic plan," she said.

**Justine Durant** echoed her support for the strategic plan and noted that it began when **Dr. Watson** became superintendent and he embarked on a listening tour. She said she's looking forward to seeing the results from the middle school listening tour. "That is our area of opportunity, and we're putting a strong focus on it." She went on to talk about all three high schools performing together at the ground-breaking ceremony on Saturday and the display of unity. "I was just filled with so much emotion and pride, she said. "It was an amazing experience."

**Rhonda Newhouse** had the opportunity to visit Clark Intermediate School, and she thanked **Donald Davis** for letting her know that there was need at the school. She was able to tap into available resources and gathered a lot of backpacks together for the students. "I'd like the schools to know that when they have students who are in need to please let us know," so that the board can help and call on resources in the community. She also recognized Tie Tuesday and presented a bag of ties to be donated to students. "This is turning out to be a very, very nice thing for the district," she said of the campaign, "a new culture for our students."

## Action Items

### Board Approves Bid Package for Middle School No. 8

The Board approved a guaranteed maximum price of \$6.7 million for bid package 4 related to ongoing construction of Middle School No. 8 under the 2016 bond program. The new middle school is being built off the North Freeway near Northgate and is being Element and will accommodate 725 students. The school was designed by Stantec Architects and is being built by Satterfield & Pontikes.

### Board Approves CMAR firm for the Spring High School Ninth Grade Center

The Board approved authorizing the district to negotiate, execute and amend contracts with a CMAR firm for the Spring High School Ninth Grade Center being built under the 2016 bond program. Brookstone Construction was selected for the project based on its response to the district's request for proposal.

### Board Approves Cancellation of 2018 Trustee Election

The Board approved, at the work session on Sept. 6, the cancellation of the 2018 Board of Trustee Election. The election to fill Board of Trustees positions six and seven was scheduled for Nov. 6, however during the candidate declaration period, only one candidate filed to seek election to each position. Because the candidates are unopposed, it is not necessary to hold an election to fill the positions. Cost savings is approximately \$50,000.

In Other Action the Board Approved:

- 2018-19 Campus Improvement Plans;
- Certification of anticipated collection rate of the district for the 2018 taxable year;
- First reading of proposed revisions to local Board Policy CNA regarding transportation management and student transportation;
- First reading of TASB Local Update 111 revisions affecting Policies BBD (board member training and orientation), CAA (fiscal management goals and objectives - financial ethics), DH (employee standards of conduct), DHE (employee standards of conduct - searches and alcohol/drug testing) DI (employee welfare), FEA (attendance - compulsory attendance) and GKA (community relations - conduct on school premises);
- Interlocal contract with Harris County Department of Education for therapy services;
- Interlocal contract with Harris County Department of Education for the 21st Century Grant program; 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.