BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM, DECEMBER 12, 2017
BOARD ROOM
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Vice President Jana Gonzales called the Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:02 PM on December 12, 2017, in the Board Room of the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Boulevard, Houston, Texas, in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Members Present:

Jana Gonzales, Vice President
Donald Davis, Secretary
Justine Durant, Assistant Secretary
Deborah Jensen
Chris Bell
Winford Adams, Jr.

Members Absent:

Rhonda Newhouse, President

Others Present:

Rodney Watson, Superintendent of Schools
Victor Mitchell, Chief of Police
Julie Hill, Chief of Staff
Lupita Hinojosa, Chief of School Leadership and Student Support Services
Lauren Topek, Chief of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment
Mark Miranda, Chief Operations Officer
Deeone McKeithan, Chief Human Resources Officer
Ann Westbrook, Chief Financial Officer
Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield, Chief Communications Officer
Jeremy Binkley, Legal Officer
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

II. Flag Pledges

The Presentation of the Colors was led by the Westfield High School Army JROTC. Cadets Walker Blakley, Abner Perez, Albert Salas, Faith Jones, Raul Benavides, Jean-Charles Cadeau, Jorge Alcocer and Timothy Beckel presented the colors and led the pledges of allegiance.
III. Moment of Silence
Vice President Gonzales asked the audience to join in a moment of silence.

IV. Opening Remarks
A. Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rodney Watson opened with an announcement about the 2018 Smart Kid Cool Car giveaway that will take place in May 2018 and thanked Honda of Spring for partnering with the District. The giveaway gives students the opportunity to have their name put in a drawing for a brand-new Honda vehicle and is open to Spring ISD seniors who meet certain academic, attendance and community service requirements. He continued with a reminder that seniors who plan to attend college should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible, as it will open the door to possible financial opportunities and loans. Next, Dr. Watson talked about the District’s focus on attendance, which includes monthly updates at board meetings. He went on to thank everyone who helped make the District’s Third Annual Winter Wonderland literacy event a success, with over 1,000 attending. He expressed special thanks to the Spring ISD Education Foundation for not only donating the books for the literacy event but for also coordinating a luncheon on December 9th for Spring ISD families who had been impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Through a partnership with the Josh Beckett Foundation, and donations from HEB and Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale of Gallery Furniture, they hosted a luncheon in the Spring High School cafeteria and also presented HEB gift cards and a check for $250 to each family. In addition, four families were given gift certificates from Gallery Furniture valued at $4,000 each. Dr. Watson then introduced two Finance Department team members who had been recently promoted: Susy Morales, Director of Finance, now oversees compliance, activity funds and treasury; and Yvette Washington, Director of Financial Operations, who oversees payroll, accounts payable and the finance side of benefits.

B. Board of Trustees
Vice President Gonzales remarked on all the great comments she had heard in the community about the Winter Wonderland event and commented on the recent Westfield High School football playoff game. She then invited the Board of Trustees to make remarks.

Trustee Davis commented on the Bammel Elementary School 50th Anniversary Celebration and yielded to Trustee Durant to elaborate on the event.

Trustee Durant highlighted the Bammel Elementary School 50th Anniversary Celebration. She thanked Dr. Berky Hernandez-Owolabi for a well-planned, elegant event that included long-time staff members and student alumni sharing what the school meant to them. She also reported that Trustees had attended the Greater Houston Partnership Annual Board Reception where they had the opportunity to meet other elected officials. She concluded her remarks with comments about the great turnout for the Winter Wonderland event.

Trustee Adams also commented on the Winter Wonderland event, saying that his children had a “phenomenal time”. He commented on the recent game night at Roberson Middle School that featured games that were content-oriented and encouraged the District to continue doing similar events.
Trustee Bell welcomed Trustee Adams who had been sworn in and took his seat on the Board at the December 7th Work Session. Trustee Bell also recognized the members of a Boy Scout Troop who were present and thanked them for attending.

Trustee Jensen commented that she had an opportunity to speak with the Boy Scout Troop and said, “I think we have some future trustees.”

V. Board of Trustees

A. Recognition of New Trustee
Dr. Rodney Watson recognized and welcomed new Trustee Winford Adams, Jr. to the Board of Trustees with the presentation of a plaque.

VI. Recognitions

A. Spotlight on 2017 Superintendent’s Holiday Card Contest Winners
The Board recognized three elementary school students for their submissions to the District’s Holiday Card Contest. Chosen as this year’s winning entry was artwork by Jenna Duong of Hirsch Elementary. Her artwork will grace the cover of the District’s 2017 Holiday Card from the Office of the Superintendent.

The students in this year’s competition that were recognized were:

Winner: Jenna Duong
Grade: 2nd
School: Hirsch Elementary
Teacher: Angel Reynaud

1st Finalist: Kiarrah Blatz
Grade: 1st
School: Smith Elementary
Teacher: Dorris Pauley

2nd Finalist: Kenia Ochoa
Grade: 5th
School: Meyer Elementary
Teacher: Barbara Gardner

Dr. Joe Clark, Director of Performing and Visual Arts, presented each student with a gift bag of art supplies.

VII. Public Hearing for Spring Independent School District’s State Financial Accountability Rating

A Public Hearing was held for Spring Independent School District’s State Financial Accountability Rating based on results released by the Texas Education Agency for the year ended June 30, 2016. The Spring Independent School District received the highest rating possible from the Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas for the District’s 2015-16 fiscal year. The objective of the rating system is to assess the quality of financial management in Texas public schools.

VIII. Presentations

A. 420 Lockhaven Design Review
Chief Miranda introduced the presentation of the 420 Lockhaven Design Review. The 420 Lockhaven location will be renovated to accommodate the new Spring ISD Police Command Center and Tax Office. The GPD Group (previously SBWV), presented a $1.8 million plan that would renovate the first floor of the 41,644-square-foot building
for the Police Department and renovate the second floor for the Tax Office, Technology Department offices and the District’s Risk Management group.

B. District Stadium Design Review
Chief Miranda introduced the presentation of the District Stadium Design Review. Laura Sachtleben, an architect on the design project from the firm of Stantec, highlighted the new stadium features including a state-of-the art turf field with seating for 8,000 fans, a large community room, Hall of Fame area, band plaza, concessions and food prep areas, home and away locker rooms, as well as hospitality and press box areas. The proposed design was developed with the input of multiple departments, including Athletics, Transportation and Police.

C. Introduction to EMERGE
Chief Hincjosa presented an Introduction to EMERGE, an organization that empowers and prepares high performing students from underserved communities to attend and graduate from selective colleges and universities across the nation. EMERGE Executive Director Trisha Cornwell was at the meeting to show how the program aligns with the goals of the District, its benefits and what a potential partnership would look like.

Vice President Gonzales recessed the meeting for a short break at 8:43 PM.
Vice President Gonzales reconvened the meeting at 8:54 PM.

IX. Chief of School Leadership and Student Support Services
A. Memorandum of Understanding with iEducate
Chief Hincjosa presented information regarding a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between iEducate and Spring ISD. She described how iEducate is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to expose elementary students to role models that not only assist in instruction, but also represent the potential of academic excellence and the pursuit of higher education.

Trustee Davis moved that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between iEducate and Spring Independent School District. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried with 5 in favor and Trustee Bell abstaining due to his affiliation with the University of Houston–Downtown.

X. Chief Financial Officer
A. Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2018
Chief Westbrooks presented information regarding the Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2018. She explained how favorable interest rates provide the District the opportunity to refund debt that can save the District millions of dollars over the remaining life of outstanding bonds.

Trustee Jensen moved that the Board of Trustees approve the order authorizing the issuance of one or more series of the Spring Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2018, as presented by the administration. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Request for Proposal #18-009 – Excess Workers’ Compensation Stop-Loss Insurance
Chief Westbrooks presented information regarding a Request for Proposal #18-009 – Excess Workers’ Compensation Stop-Loss Insurance. She explained that the requested policy would provide coverage to the District for claims in excess $400,000 per occurrence for workers’ compensation injuries.
Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees award the contract for Excess Workers’ Compensation Stop-Loss Insurance to the provider recommended by the administration. Trustee Bell seconded the motion and the motion carried with 5 in favor and Trustee Durant abstaining due to her employment in the insurance industry.

XI. Consent Agenda
Trustee Durant moved that the Board of Trustees approve and adopt all of the items listed on the Consent Agenda. Trustee Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

A. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Following Meetings:
   1. November 9, 2017 Board Work Session
   2. November 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
B. Internal Audit – Mid-Year Progress Report
C. Consideration and Possible Vote for Board of Director Position of the Harris County Appraisal District
D. Interlocal Agreement between Spring Independent School District and Klein Independent School District for Armored Truck Services
E. Request for Proposal #18-005 — Group Travel Services
F. Request for Proposal #18-006 — Carpet & Vinyl Tile Replacement
G. Request for Proposal #18-008 — Plumbing Services
H. Taxpayer Refunds

XII. Public Participation
Members of the public did not register to speak to the Board.

XIII. Closed Session
Vice President Gonzales recessed the open session at 9:05 PM for the purpose of entering into closed session pursuant to the following provision of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

A. Under Section 551.071 - For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board’s attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized, including any item posted on this agenda
B. Under Section 551.072 - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property
C. Under Section 551.074 - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee
   1. The Board will deliberate on employees nominated for special recognition
   2. The Board will deliberate on a recommendation for the termination and finding of no good cause for an employee's abandonment of contract
   3. The Board will deliberate on the issuance of school district teaching permits for noncore career and technology courses
   4. The Board will deliberate on employee resignations, recommendations to withdraw prior actions taken, recommendations to void employee contracts, recommendations for the proposed termination of employees on probationary and/or term contracts, and final orders for employees on term contracts previously proposed for nonrenewal
D. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices

XIV. Action on Closed Session Items
Vice President Gonzales reconvened the open session at 9:51 PM.

A. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board issue a school district teaching permit to Michael Curtain for the purpose of teaching noncore career and technology courses and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board's action. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Trustee Adams moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate the contract of Kyle Francis upon finding that the employee failed to perform his contract without good cause, and authorize the Superintendent to notify the employee of the proposed termination pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Adams further moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent to notify the State Board for Educator Certification that the employee failed to perform his contract without good cause, and of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Trustee Durant moved that the Board approve an exception to Board Policy DK(LOCAL) as discussed in closed session. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XV. Adjournment
On a motion by Trustee Durant, seconded by Trustee Jensen, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 9:54 PM.

Rhonda Newhouse, President
Donald Davis, Secretary