BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
7:00 PM, FEBRUARY 11, 2020  
BOARD ROOM  
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER  
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090  

MINUTES  

I. Call to Order (7:02 PM)  
President Rhonda Newhouse called the Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:02 PM on February 11, 2020, 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:  
Rhonda Newhouse, President  
Dr. Deborah Jensen, Vice President  
Donald Davis, Secretary  
Winford Adams, Jr., Assistant Secretary  
Justine Durant  
Jana Gonzales  
Kelly P. Hodges

Members Absent:

Others Present:
Rodney Watson, Superintendent of Schools  
Ken Culbreath, Chief of Police  
Julie Hill, Chief of Staff  
Lupita Hinojosa, Chief of School Leadership and Student Support Services  
Mark Miranda, Chief Operations Officer  
Deeone McKeithan, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Ann Westbrook, Chief Financial Officer  
Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield, Chief Communications Officer  
Jeremy Binkley, General Counsel  
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

II. Flag Pledges (7:03 PM)  
The Presentation of the Colors was led by the Leadership Academy LOTC Color Guard and included Julissa Jaramillo, Ashley Rodriguez, Sebastian Digat, Kevin Giron, Johan Romero, and Fredy Roque.

III. Moment of Silence (7:06 PM)  
President Newhouse asked the audience to join in a moment of silence.
IV. Opening Remarks (7:08 PM)

A. Superintendent of Schools (7:08 PM)

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson opened his remarks by recognizing that February is Black History Month. "We've been celebrating this month across the District with a focus on key figures during the Jazz Age and the Harlem Renaissance," he said. He invited those in the audience to attend the Black History Art Expo on February 13 at Roberson Middle School to see artwork and student creative skills showcased. "You'll see some of the amazing student talent in our District," he said.

Next, Dr. Watson congratulated the 21 Spring ISD teachers recognized on February 7 by the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (HAABSE). He specifically recognized Candace Jackson, a Twin Creeks Middle School teacher, for being selected as the HAABSE Secondary Teacher of the Year and receiving a $1,000 monetary prize. "Congratulations to Ms. Jackson and all the Spring ISD teachers honored by HAABSE," Watson said.

Dr. Watson went on to talk about the recent classroom visits hosted by the Curriculum and Instruction Department. Forty-eight educators, including representatives from two other school districts, Spearman and Victoria ISDs, got to see the District's new Empowered Learning Model in action at Beneke, Ponderosa and Reynolds Elementary Schools and Roberson Middle School. The District and these four schools have been working all year with Engage2Learn on implementing the model, which includes a blended learning approach that combines face-to-face instruction with digital learning. "Many of our principals were able to go to classroom tours and learn from the examples that the students and teachers demonstrated. We really plan to roll out this model as we are looking at more blended learning opportunities throughout the District," Watson said.

Dr. Watson reminded those present to sign up for the third annual Fun Run and Wellness Fair. This year's event will be held at 7:30 AM on Saturday, March 28 at Carl Wunschke Sr. High School. He said hundreds of people took part in the event last year, raising thousands of dollars for student scholarships. "We're hoping to get even more participation this year to raise more money, so please take a few moments to sign up," he said.

Next, Dr. Watson thanked everyone who turned out for the Third Annual State of the District event on February 5 at the Randall Reed Center. "We had great participation from our Spring ISD partners and community members, and I just want to say that it was a privilege to be able to share some of the great things happening in our District."

Dr. Watson then introduced Dr. Clare Resilla, the new principal of Hirsch Elementary. She began her education career in the Philippines before coming to the United States where she got her first teaching job in 2006 in neighboring Aldine ISD. She joined Spring ISD in 2014 as a Multilingual Programs coordinator for secondary schools before returning to Aldine to become an assistant principal. "Well, we were able to lure her back in 2018, and we are very pleased that she is now leading our Hirsch Hawks," Watson said.

In closing, Dr. Watson announced that Roberson Middle School is one of 26 schools in the state of Texas to be nominated as a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). "For the first time in the history of Spring ISD, we have one school that was nominated. So we would like to celebrate Roberson Middle School for their nomination as a Blue Ribbon School," Watson said.
B. Board of Trustees (7:17 PM)
President Newhouse invited the Trustees to make remarks.

Trustee Davis shared that the Texas Caucus of Black School Boards, an organization that gives scholarships annually to deserving students, has, once again, been accepting scholarship applications. "This year, I am very excited because Spring stepped up. I want to applaud Spring for applying for those scholarships."

Trustee Durant applauded the State of the District, describing it as an amazing event. "One of the things that I liked most was our emcees were our own students," Durant said. "They were funny, articulate and made us laugh. It was just a wonderful event, and it was a wonderful opportunity to be able to be there and witness it."

Trustee Durant also recognized the high school drill teams - Spring Starlettes, Westfield Lariettes and Dekaney Diamonds - who recently did "an amazing job" at their Showdown, which Durant attended with President Newhouse. "They've won a lot of awards this year in competition," Durant said. "I was really excited about the young ladies and what a great job they did."

Trustee Jensen shared that she attended the Spring ISD Elementary Honor Choir and Orff Ensemble concert recently at Spring High School and how impressed she was by the talent displayed by elementary students from across the District. "One thing I really enjoyed was that the children did dance moves, finger clicks and all kinds of things along with the performance. It was just a wonderful performance," Jensen said. She was also impressed by the packed auditorium and parental support. "I really want to thank all those elementary families that supported their students. It was so much fun seeing three generations in that auditorium celebrating the talent of their students," she said.

Trustee Gonzales talked about how much she appreciated the State of the District, especially the videos that highlighted Spring ISD parents. "I think what I enjoyed the most were the videos of our parents that have chosen to place their students in our District. It really brought tears to my eyes how passionate they were about what Spring ISD is doing for their children and their families, so I think that was a great touch."

Trustee Adams reported that he recently attended the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Grassroots Meeting of the Gulf Coast Association of School Boards, which was held to determine legislative priorities for the next Legislative Session. He thanked Trustee Davis and Trustee Jensen for representing the region on the Legislative Action Committee, which advocates for public schools, students and teachers. "Chris Bell used to always talk about the importance of voting and discourse," Adams said. "So I will be the champion on this Board for active engagement and participation in our legislative process."

President Newhouse reported that she attended the National Signing Day events at Spring and Westfield High Schools on February 5 when students annually sign letters of intent to participate in college sports. She was impressed by the number of female athletes participating at Spring High School, and that three Westfield football players signed to play for the Naval Academy. "We made some history that day," Newhouse said. "So we want to make sure that we recognize them and thank them for their service and hard work."
V. Recognitions (7:25 PM)

A. Points of Pride – Westfield High School Mustangs Varsity Football Team (7:25 PM)
   The Board recognized the Westfield High School Mustang Varsity Football Team and
   Coach Matt Meekins for a tremendous run this year, ending the season with an overall
   record of 13 wins and just 2 losses. They also went undefeated in District 16 play, with a 7-
   0 record.

   Representing the team, along with Coach Meekins, were team captains Leonard
   Cummings III, Timothy Hardiman Jr., Malachai Jones and Marcus Moore Jr., who had the
   honor of leading and representing 1 of 4 teams in Westfield history to reach the State
   Semifinals.

   As State 16-6A football semi-finalists, Westfield ranks among the best football teams in
   Texas, making it into the final 8 of over 250 teams competing in Conference 6A last fall, an
   especially impressive achievement in a conference that contains some of the biggest and
   most competitive schools in the state.

   Over the last several seasons, Westfield is on a streak of 32 straight district wins and four
   straight district championships

   Some highlights from this season include:
   • 26 Westfield players were named to the 16-6A Academic All District Team
   • 22 players were named to the 16-6A All District Team
   • 6 Players were named to the Padilla Poll All State Team
   • Coach Meekins was named a Padilla Poll 6A Division II Coach of the Year
   • Coach Meekins was also named a Touchdown Club of Houston Coach of
     the Year Finalist

B. Spotlight – District Science and Engineering Fair (7:36 PM)
   The Board recognized middle school scholars who competed in the District Science and
   Engineering Fair.

   Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Matthew Pariseau detailed the
   January 14 event, highlighting that all middle schools participated with more than 80
   entries. Students had the opportunity to compete in nine categories, including physics,
   chemistry, plant science and Best of Show.

   Among all the student entries, 29 district-level winners were awarded trophies, nine
   received honorable mentions and 10 were accepted to advance to the Houston Regional
   Fair, which will take place February 14 - 15 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

   Myles Williamson, Twin Creeks Middle School student, earned a Best in Show for his
   Erosion in Motion project and was invited to the podium to tell the Trustees what he
   learned curing his project, which looked at urbanization and its impact on erosion.

   “From my project, I learned that humans have a very large impact when it comes to plants
   and the environment around us” he said. “We should be careful when we start urbanizing
   to make room for buildings, because that involves a large factor in erosion and flooding.”
The following students had projects that were selected to advance to the Houston Regional Fair:

Behavioral and Social Sciences category
- *The Generation of Social Media* by Julissa Zalaya, Darwin Candelario, Benjamin Leon, Roberson Middle School;
- *Classical vs. Heavy Metal* by Brooklyn Mena, Bailey Middle School; and
- *Eddy Language* by Nneka Ahaiwe and Marie-Blanche Boti Lou, Roberson Middle School.

Chemistry category
- *Exiting Them Flies* by Emily Moynihan and Madison Mendoza, Twin Creeks Middle School.

Earth and Space Science category
- *Erosion in Motion* by Myles Williamson, Twin Creeks Middle School.

Engineering, Electrical, Mechanical and Civil category
- *Will It Hold?* by Kylie Khalii, Twin Creeks Middle School;
- *Using Solar Cells* by Jade Rosa, Roberson Middle School;
- *Torsion Powered Catapult* by Elijah Agimudie, Twin Creeks Middle School; and
- *Exploring Bridges* by Howard Amonti and Lewis D'Marcus, Twin Creeks Middle School.

Medicine and Health category
- *Do Different Containers Affect the Mold Growth on Foods?* by Cassidy Layne, Twin Creeks Middle School.

VI. Agenda Participation 7:44 PM
Members of the public did not register to speak to the Board.

VII. Public Hearing for Spring Independent School District’s Texas Academic Performance Report (7:46 PM)
A Public Hearing was held for the Spring Independent School District’s Texas Academic Performance Report.

Texas Education Code Section 39.306 specifies that the District must publish an annual report of its educational performance and the Texas Academic Performance Report received from the Texas Education Agency. Additionally, a hearing for public discussion of the report must be held.

Members of the public did not register to speak on this item.

VIII. Public Hearing for Full Day Prekindergarten Request for Partnership Proposals and Exemption Waiver for 2019-2020 (8:05 PM)
A Public Hearing was held for Full Day Prekindergarten Request for Partnership Proposals and Exemption Waiver for 2019-2020.

A indicated in House Bill 3, passed by the 86th Texas Legislature, Texas public schools must provide full day prekindergarten to all eligible 4-year olds beginning the 2019-2020 school year unless a district requests, and is granted, a waiver from the state.
To be eligible for an exemption, a school district must demonstrate the need to construct or repurpose classroom facilities to provide prekindergarten classes. To apply for an exemption, a school district must solicit and consider proposals for partnerships with public or private entities regarding offering full day prekindergarten at a public meeting.

Trustee Gonzales moved that that the Board of Trustees approve the 2019-2020 request for Partnership Proposals and Full Day Prekindergarten Exemption Waiver Request, as presented by the administration. Trustee Hodges seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 abstention (Trustee Durant).

IX. Consent Agenda (8:09 PM)
The Board approved the Consent Agenda items that were discussed in detail at the February 6, 2020 Board Work Session.

Trustee Adams 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. January 9, 2020 Board Work Session
   2. January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

B. Second Reading of TASB Local Update 114 – Proposed Revisions Affecting the Following Board Policies
   Chief Julie Hill will present the second reading of Local Policies revised in TASB Update 114.
   1. BDAP(LOCAL) – OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS – SELECTION AND DUTIES OF CHIEF TAX OFFICIALS
   2. CKC(LOCAL) – SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT – EMERGENCY PLANS
   3. CKE(LOCAL) – SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT – SECURITY PERSONNEL
   4. CQ(LOCAL) – TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES
   5. CQB(LOCAL) – TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES – CYBERSECURITY
   6. DFFA(LOCAL) – REDUCTION IN FORCE – FINANCIAL EXIGENCY
   7. DH(LOCAL) – EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
   8. EHBB(LOCAL) – SPECIAL PROGRAMS – GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS
   9. FDE(LOCAL) – ADMISSIONS – SCHOOL SAFETY TRANSFERS
   10. FFAA(LOCAL) – WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES – PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS
   11. FFB(LOCAL) – STUDENT WELFARE – CRISIS INTERVENTION
   12. FFBAP(LOCAL) – CRISIS INTERVENTION – TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE
   13. GBAA(LOCAL) – INFORMATION ACCESS – REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
   14. GKA (LOCAL) – COMMUNITY RELATIONS – CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

C. Second Reading of TASB Proposed Revisions to Board Policy CDA(LOCAL) – OTHER REVENUES – INVESTMENTS and Annual Review of Investment Policy
   The Board will consider approving the second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy CDA(LOCAL) and will review the investment policy.
D. First Reading of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy GKG(LOCAL) - COMMUNITY RELATIONS - SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM and Request for Adoption on First Reading
Chief Julie Hill will present the first reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy GKG(LOCAL). The Board will consider adopting the proposed revisions on first reading.

E. First Reading of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy BE(LOCAL) - BOARD MEETINGS
Chief Julie Hill will present the first reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy BE(LOCAL).

F. Taxpayer Refunds
The Board will consider ratifying taxpayer refunds.

The Board will review the report to be aware of purchasing cooperative fees processed during the period referenced in the report.

H. Request for Proposal (RFP) #20-009 - Internet Access -- Project B (E-Rate)
The Board will consider awarding the contract for internet access to the provider recommended by the administration.

I. Financial Update — Actual Expenditures — December 2019
The Board will ratify the actual expenditures presented.

J. 2019-2020 Second Budget Review
The Board will consider approving the Second Budget Review of 2019-2020.

X. Public Participation (8:10 PM)
Members of the public did not register to speak to the Board.

XI. Closed Session (8:12 PM)
President Newhouse recessed the open session at 8:12 PM for the purpose of entering into closed session pursuant to the following provisions 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 551.074 - 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 regarding the Superintendent’s evaluation
   2. The Board will deliberate on employees nominated for special recognition
   3. The Board will deliberate on a recommendation for the termination and finding of no good cause for an employee's abandonment of contract
   4. The Board will deliberate on the issuance of school district teaching permits for noncore career and technology courses
   5. 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, recommendations for the proposed nonrenewal of employees on term contracts, recommendations for termination at the end of the year for employees on probationary contracts, and final orders for employees on term and probationary contracts previously proposed for termination and/or nonrenewal

C. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices
XII. Action on Closed Session Items (9:09 PM)

President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 9:09 PM

A. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board render a final order to terminate the contracts of Ellen Peikins, Sharonda Ausbie, Bryan Wilson, Charlotte Thomas and Danilo Martinez as presented in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent to provide notice of the Board’s action to the impacted employees pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Trustee Adams moved that the Board approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to terminate, at the end of the contract term, the Probationary Contracts of James Appiah and Antoinette Odums and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to provide notice of the Board’s action to the impacted employees pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment (9:12 PM)

On a motion by Trustee Durant, seconded by Trustee Gonzales, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM.

Rhonda R. Newhouse, President
Donald Davis, Secretary