BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM, JANUARY 14, 2020
BOARD ROOM
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090

MINUTES

I. Call to Order (7:00 PM)
President Rhonda Newhouse called the Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent
School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 PM on January 14, 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
Khechara Bradford, Chief of Curriculum and Instruction
Mark Miranda, Chief Operations Officer
Deeone McKeithan, Chief Human Resources Officer
Ann Westbrook, Chief Financial Officer
Tiffany Dunne-Olfield, Chief Communications Officer
Jeremy Binkley, General Counsel
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

II. Flag Pledges (7:02 PM)
The Presentation of the Colors was be led by the Dekaney High School NJROTC Battalion
and included Carlasis Jurado, Kurt Koulavongsa, Erik Lopez, Esbin Alvarado, and Diego
Escobar.

III. Moment of Silence (7:05 PM)
President Newhouse asked the audience to join in a moment of silence.

IV. Presentation of Proclamations and Recognitions for Board Appreciation Month (7:06
PM)
Every January, school board members across the state and nation are recognized during National School Board Recognition Month for the contributions they make to their schools and communities. Prior to the meeting, Trustees were honored at a dinner where they were presented certificates of appreciation from Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson, gift baskets from campus administrators and many thanks for their tireless voluntary service.

A highlight of the Board Meeting was a presentation by Mr. Kent Clingerman, representing Harris County Precinct Four Commissioner R. Jack Cagle. During the presentation, Clingerman read a proclamation from Commissioner Cagle proclaiming January as School Board Recognition Month and recognizing Spring ISD Board Members for the distinguished leadership they provide and for their hard work on behalf of Spring ISD students.

V. Opening Remarks (7:07 PM)

A. Superintendent of Schools (7:07 PM)

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson opened his remarks by wishing the Board a happy Board Recognition Month. “For those of you who don’t know, many of our Board members spend countless hours volunteering, visiting schools, governing the District, working with members of our community and attending workshops and meetings,” said Watson. “Some of you may think that they get paid for this work, but they don’t, it is all volunteer. So once again we say thank you for all the tremendous responsibilities that you have for our students and our community.”

Dr. Watson then thanked everyone who took part in the 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar survey. “We asked our community for feedback on two specific calendars,” he said. “Tonight our Board will vote on the recommended calendar, like we do every year, and we’ll share it with our families and staff so they can start planning for the next school year.”

Next, Dr. Watson announced that registration is now open for the District’s third annual Fun Run and Wellness Fair, which will take place at 7:30 AM on Saturday, March 28. “If anyone is looking for a reason to improve their fitness this year, or you made a New Year’s resolution but have yet to start, you have a great reason to start training,” Watson said. “Hundreds of people took part in the event last year. As you know, for those who were able to attend, it was a big success.”

In closing, Dr. Watson spoke about a District campaign, called “Get the Scoop”, designed to familiarize fifth-grade students and their families with all the great programs and offerings at the comprehensive middle schools. “It’s no secret that this Board and our entire leadership team has been focused on improving our middle schools, and more important, our middle-school experience for our students,” Watson said. Every Thursday of this month, all seven comprehensive middle schools - Bailey, Bammel, Claughton, Duett, Springwoods Village, Twin Creeks and Wells will be hosting a special “Get the Scoop” event for our fifth graders and their parents. Students and their families will be able to visit their zoned middle school during the day on January 16 and January 23 and during the evening on January 30. “The goal is to bring our fifth graders and their parents into the schools so they can see the great instruction, learn about clubs and athletics and start thinking about their courses for their course selections,” Watson said.

B. Board of Trustees (7:11 PM)

President Newhouse invited the Trustees to make remarks.

Trustee Davis thanked Superintendent Watson for his service on the Houston Northwest
Chamber of Commerce last year. "Last Thursday, I had the opportunity to go to the luncheon where he was receiving an award for his leadership and his duties as the chair of the chamber," Davis said. "So I just wanted to say to Dr. Watson, thank you very much for representing our business world and our community on the chamber. Job well done."

Davis also thanked Superintendent Watson and his leadership team for helping the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members host its Southern Regional Conference Workshop last week. "It was a great success. My colleague did an awesome job, and Dr. Watson, you've got other boards talking about wanting to host it next year. So, you set the standard, and we greatly appreciate you doing that, on behalf of the Texas Black Caucus," said Davis, who serves as treasurer for the organization.

Trustee Adams echoed Trustee Davis's gratitude for the support provided to the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members, specifically mentioning Dr. Watson, his team and Spring ISD staff. "I'm really appreciative of the support you all lent us as we hosted that workshop," Adams said. "I also want to thank my featured speakers by name, Kay Douglas at TASB, Dr. Deirdre Williams at the School Reform Initiative, and Jacinto Ramos and Quinton Phillips from Fort Worth ISD who drove all the way down, braved the storm, to talk about equity and things we can do to improve achievement in our school districts. So thank you again and thank you to those folks."

Trustee Durant opened her remarks by thanking Trustee Adams, who serves as the regional vice president for the Texas Black Caucus of School Board Members. She said the event was "well-worth being there" on a Saturday morning. "The speakers were excellent. I actually left on fire. I've got some things that I would like for us as a Board to talk about and implement in our team-building session," Durant said. "So that was really a great event, Trustee Adams. You did us proud, and also I want to thank the District for allowing us to use the TeachUp facility, because other boards that were there were a little jealous."

Trustee Adams added to his remarks by recognizing event sponsors Stephen Ferrar, Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), and Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson.

Trustee Jensen remarked on the Spring ISD custodial staff luncheon that was hosted on the District's first work day back from winter break. "It was a huge enthusiastic crowd," she said.

Trustee Gonzales said she is looking forward to the Fun Run and Wellness Fair, which she described as an exciting event. "You do not have to be a runner to go. You can walk, and I did — walked with a group of folks," she said. "There's so much to do for families out there. We were there before daylight, and stayed well into the day, but it's a fun-filled event for anybody to attend," Gonzales said.

Trustee Jensen seconded what Trustee Gonzales said about the Fun Run. "People dress up in costumes, and some of them bring their dogs, and some of them are wearing tutus, and it is just a kick," Jensen said. "And my husband and I are definitely in the walking crowd. There are lots of giveaways and interesting booths, and there's just so much information as well as goodies. So, a good activity for a Saturday."

President Newhouse expressed her appreciation following the Board's recognition dinner held prior to the meeting in honor of Board Recognition Month. "On behalf of the Board, I just want to publicly thank Dr. Watson, his cabinet and our leadership team of principals
and their cohorts, teachers, for their support for the Board. I also want to publicly announce that this is the best Board in the state! I want my Board Members to know how much I appreciate them, their support, their work, and everything that they do for Spring ISD, so it is easy for us to serve. On behalf of the Board, to Dr. Watson and others, we thank you for this evening and for the recognition. We appreciate you. Thank you,” Newhouse said.

VI. Agenda Participation (7:17 PM)
Members of the public did not register to speak to the Board.

VII. Public Hearing for 2020-2021 Instructional Materials Adoption Proclamation 2020 (7:18 PM)
A Public Hearing was held for the 2020-2021 textbook adoptions recommended by the Textbook Review Committee. Members of the public did not register to speak on this item.

Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees approve the 2020-2021 Instructional Materials Adoption, as presented by the administration. Trustee Durant seconded motion and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Chief of Staff (7:21 PM)

A. 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar (7:21 PM)
Chief Julie Hill presented the Board with information regarding the 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar.

The Board approved the 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar that will have students starting school on Monday, August 17, 2020 and ending the school year on Friday, May 28, 2021 ahead of the Memorial Day holiday.

Trustee Durant moved that the Board of Trustees approve the 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar, Option 1 as presented by the administration. Trustee Gonzales seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 abstention (Trustee Davis).

The approved calendar, known as Option 1, was one of two innovative options presented to staff and the community for input in a survey that drew feedback from nearly 3,000 people. Both calendars included calendar breaks throughout the year for students and staff, as well as designated professional development days for teachers.

Chief Julie Hill presented the calendar options to the board, noting that they were done in consultation with the District’s Advisory Committee on Education, which provided guidance. "We work with them to format them and get them to a place where we can submit them to our community for a vote," she said.

The calendar approved by the Trustees was the one that received the most votes from the community and staff by a margin of three to one. It includes two Parent Involvement Days, one on November 3, 2020 and the other on February 15, 2021. Students and staff will have a full week off for Thanksgiving, November 23, 2020 – November 27, 2020 and Winter Break will start on December 21, 2020 with students returning to class on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Spring Break will be the third week in March for students, from March 12, 2021 – March 19, 2021. The approved calendar meets all state requirements.
IX. Consent Agenda (7:34 PM)
The Board approved the Consent Agenda items that were discussed in detail at the January 9, 2020 Board Work Session.

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

A. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Following Meetings:
   1. December 6, 2019 Board Work Session
   2. December 10, 2019 Regular Meeting

B. First Reading of TASB Local Update 114 – Proposed Revisions Affecting the Following Board Policies
Chief Julie Hill will present the first reading of Local Policies revised in TASB Update 114.

1. BDAF(LOCAL) – OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS – SELECTION AND DUTIES OF CHIEF TAX OFFICIALS
2. BE(LOCAL) – BOARD MEETINGS
3. CDA(LOCAL) – OTHER REVENUES – INVESTMENTS
4. CKC(LOCAL) – SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT – EMERGENCY PLANS
5. CKE(LOCAL) – SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT – SECURITY PERSONNEL
6. CQ(LOCAL) – TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES
7. CQB(LOCAL) – TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES – CYBERSECURITY
8. DFFA(LOCAL) – REDUCTION IN FORCE – FINANCIAL EXIGENCY
9. DH(LOCAL) – EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
10. EHBB(LOCAL) – SPECIAL PROGRAMS – GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS
11. FDE(LOCAL) – ADMISSIONS – SCHOOL SAFETY TRANSFERS
12. FFAA(LOCAL) – WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES – PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS
13. FFB(LOCAL) – STUDENT WELFARE – CRISIS INTERVENTION
14. FFBA(LOCAL) – CRISIS INTERVENTION – TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE
15. GBAX(LOCAL) – INFORMATION ACCESS – REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
16. GKA (LCCAL) – COMMUNITY RELATIONS – CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

C. Request for Proposal (RFP) # 20-008 – Tutorial Services
   The Board will consider awarding the contracts for Tutorial Services to the providers recommended by the administration.

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

X. Public Participation (7:36 PM)
   Members of the public did not register to speak to the Board.

XI. Closed Session (7:37 PM)
   President Newhouse recessed the open session at 7:37 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, and final orders for employees on term and probationary contracts previously proposed for termination and/or nonrenewal
6. The Board will deliberate on an amendment to the Superintendent's contract

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 (9:45 PM)

President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 9:45 PM

A. Trustee Gonzales moved that the Board approve the First Amendment to Spring Independent School District Superintendent's Employment Contract as previously discussed by the Board. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to terminate the contracts of Ellen Perkins, Sharonda Ausbie, and Bryan Wilson, upon finding that the employees failed to perform their contracts without good cause, and authorize the Superintendent or designee to notify the employees of the proposed termination pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Trustee Hodges moved that the Board approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to propose the termination of the Term contract of Danilo Martinez as presented in Closed Session and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to provide the employee notice of the Board’s action and his rights pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Trustee Adams moved that the Board approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to suspend Darilo Martinez without pay pending discharge and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to provide the employee notice of the Board’s action. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
XIII. **Adjournment (9:50 PM)**

On a motion by Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee Adams, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 9:50 PM.

Rhonda R. Newhouse, President

Donald Davis, Secretary