BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM, OCTOBER 17, 2017
BOARD ROOM
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

President Deborah Jensen called the Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 P.M. on October 17, 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:

Dr. Deborah Jensen, President
Chris Bell, Vice President
Rhonda Newhouse, Secretary
Justine Durant, Assistant Secretary
Donald Davis

Members Absent:

Rhonda Faust
Jana Gonzales

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 Color Guard under the instruction of Major Charles R. Thompson, First Sergeant Cario Jackson, and Sergeant First Class Warner Fields. The U.S. and Texas Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cadet Battalion Commander Naisa Johnson. Carrying the U.S. Flag was Cadet Walker Blakely. The U.S. Guard was Cadet Faith Jones. Carrying the Texas Flag was Carlos Muniz. The Texas Guard was Cadet Kolby Grant.
III. Moment of Silence
President Jensen asked the audience to join in a moment of silence.

IV. Opening Remarks
A. Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rodney Watson welcomed the families in attendance to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. He discussed the busy day he and others at the meeting had spent, which included attending the Harris County Department of Education groundbreaking for Fortis Academy, Harris County’s first public recovery high school. He discussed attending the Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce event to celebrate 18 Teachers of the Year. He concluded his remarks with a report on the increased number of students who have been identified as homeless and qualify for services through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. He noted that Spring ISD currently has about 596 homeless students with 288 of those students directly affected by Hurricane Harvey and one by Hurricane Irma. Dr. Watson said, “We are going to continue to reach out and support our families and our students to make sure that we are meeting their needs.”

B. Board of Trustees
President Jensen invited the Board of Trustees to make remarks.

Trustee Bell reported on highlights of the recent TASA/TASB Convention, which he and other board members attended October 6-8. While at the convention, the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members presented the District with two boxes of books and money to purchase more books for Spring ISD schools. “I was out this weekend buying books with my wife,” Trustee Bell said, while holding up a couple of examples. He went on to talk about a handout that he and President Jensen received at one of the convention sessions that graphically shows the ever-increasing burden on America’s public schools over decades. Trustee Bell said the handout provoked a conversation about how the needs of schools and students have changed in a hundred years. President Jensen added, “I think one of the trends is they went from 1910 — teaching reading, writing and arithmetic — to now we’re training children for a future in the workforce, higher education and a variety of lifestyle needs as they grow up.” She concluded that Spring ISD is up to the challenge. Trustee Bell added, “More and more and more responsibilities are being placed on schools than over a hundred years ago. There are challenges out there, and we thank you guys for your support of public education.”

Trustee Newhouse spoke about an example of how the District is meeting some of those challenges at the campus level. “Last night Trustee Durant and I had an opportunity to attend Clark Primary Elementary School’s Homework and Hotdog Night,” she said. Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the event gave parents an opportunity to discuss with teachers and administrators how parents can support and assist children while they are doing homework. “It was a very successful night. They had a very large crowd, and I was impressed with the questions parents were asking the teachers and administrators about what they can do and how to go about doing it,” Trustee Newhouse said. “So I would like to challenge our parents who are here tonight: Don’t hesitate to contact your schools and talk with your teachers or administrators on helping your child with homework. Please take time and work with your children doing homework at night.”

Trustee Durant added that 10 Westfield High School students were at the event helping primary students with their homework. “I was really excited to see our high school students get involved,” Trustee Durant said. She then announced another event that is being sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a forum at 6 P.M. on November 2nd at the Spring High School Teaching Theater. The event will feature five board members representing surrounding school districts: Aldine, Humble, Klein, Cypress Fairbanks and Spring. “We will have a panel discussion about the literacy crisis in our community and how each district is addressing that crisis and how you as parents can get engaged and help support our literacy.” Trustee Durant also spoke about the experience board
members shared at the recent convention. “We learn a lot of things that we bring back to our District and a lot of times we are actually leading the charge because we have great things happening that we can share with our other partners in the state of Texas.”

Trustee Davis discussed attending a session at the TASA/TASB Convention on cyber bullying that he said provided good information, which he forwarded to fellow Board Members. “It’s something we have to deal with — putting this into policy.” He went on to say that he sees this as an opportunity to take care of students and serve the children, which is a primary goal of the District.

President Jensen concluded the Trustees’ remarks with an announcement about the District’s Fraud Hotline. She assured the audience that reports to the hotline are never ignored. She said, that whether they are anonymous or not, all reports of fraudulent will be investigated. She emphasized that, although it is not possible to respond to individuals who make anonymous reports, even anonymous reports are taken seriously and will be investigated.

V. Recognitions

A. Spotlight
Chief Hinojosa presented the Spotlight on National Hispanic Heritage Month that included recognizing 19 students who placed first, second or third in the 2017 Spring ISD Hispanic Heritage Language other than English (LOTE) Art and Essay Contest. Lettie Houck, Manager of LOTE Programs introduced the students.

Essay winners included:

Spanish for Spanish Speakers — Areli Zuniga, first place, Wells Middle School; Sheila Vasquez, second place, Westfield High School; and Emily Castillo, third place, Claufton Middle School

Spanish 1 — Cody Chou, first place, Spring Early College Academy; Addy Anyichie, second place, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School; and Anthony Pabon, third place, Twin Creeks Middle School

Spanish 2 — Axl Erazo, first place, Twin Creeks Middle School; Wilmer Romero, second place, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School; and Ariel Williams, third place, Spring Early College Academy

Spanish 3 — Alexa Coto-Mejia, first place, Spring High School; Jasmine Castro, second place, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School; and Keylan Forest, third place, Spring High School

Spanish 4 - Juan Guerra, first place, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School; and Juan Pereira, second place, Spring Early College Academy

Spanish 5 - Jose Herrera, first place, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School

First-place essay winners Cody Chou, Areli Zuniga and Juan Guerra presented their essays to the Board in both English and Spanish.

Art Contest Winners included:

Jocelynne Castillo, first place, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School; Reece Dees, second place, Spring Early College Academy; Jordyn Pharris, third place, Spring Early College Academy; and Jorge Herrera, honorable mention, Carl Wunsche Sr. High School
VI. Board of Trustees

A. Review of the Trustees’ Continuing Education Credit Hours
President Jensen read a review of the Trustees’ Continuing Education Credit Hours as required by state law. As of the meeting date:

Trustee Bell exceeded the required training hours with: 0 Level 1 hours; 13.5 Level 2 hours; and, 30.5 Level 3 hours.

Trustee Davis exceeded the required training hours with: 2.5 Level 1 hours; 13.5 Level 2 hours; and, 63.5 Level 3 hours.

Trustee Durant exceeded the required training hours with: 0 Level 1 hours; 13.5 Level 2 hours; and, 21.00 Level 3 hours.

Trustee Faust exceeded the required training hours with: 0 Level 1 hours; 13.5 Level 2 hours; and, 6 Level 3 hours.

Trustee Gonzales exceeded the required training hours with: 0 Level 1 hours; 13.5 Level 2 hours; and, 35 Level 3 hours.

President Jensen exceeded the required training hours with: 0 Level 1 hours; 13.5 Level 2 hours; and, 43.25 Level 3 hours.

Trustee Newhouse exceeded required training hours with: 0 Level 1 hours; 13.5 Level 2 hours; and, 56.25 Level 3 hours.

VII. Chief Financial Officer

A. 2017 Tax Rate
Chief Westbrooks presented information regarding the 2017 Tax Rate. A tax rate of $1.51 for the 2017 tax year was presented consisting of $1.04 for maintenance and operations and .47¢ for debt services. Trustee Newhouse moved that the Board of Trustees approve a tax rate of $1.51 for the 2017 tax year, as presented by the administration. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Public Hearing for 2017-2018 Targeted Elements for Clark Intermediate School and Dekaney High School
Chief Hinojosa presented information regarding the 2017-2018 Targeted Elements for Clark Intermediate School and Dekaney High School. Targeted elements for Clark Intermediate included: Reading – By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percent of all students who scored “approaches grade level” will increase from 54% to 75%, Writing – By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percent of all students who scored “approaches grade level” will increase from 42% to 70%, Science – By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percent of all students who scored “approaches grade level” will increase from 53% to 70%, and Math – By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percent of all students who scored “approaches grade level” will increase from 59% to 75%.

Targeted elements for Dekaney High School included: Algebra 1 EOC – By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percent of all students who scored “approaches mastery level” will increase from 44% to 54%, Biology 1 EOC – By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percent of all students who scored “approaches mastery level” will increase from 56% to 66%, English 1 EOC and English II EOC – By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percent of all students who scored “approaches mastery level” on English I EOC will increase from 24% to 40% and the percent of all students who scored “approaches master
"level" on English II EOC will increase from 33% to 43%, and U.S. History EOC – By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percent of all students who scored "approaches mastery level" will increase from 79% to 85%.

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

Trustee Bell moved that the Board of Trustees approve the 2017-2018 Targeted Elements for Clark Intermediate School and Dekaney High School, as presented by the administration. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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

A. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Following Meetings:
   1. September 7, 2017 Board Work Session
   2. September 12, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
   3. September 25, 2017 Special Called Session

B. 2017 Appraisal Roll Certification

C. Taxpayer Refunds

D. Acceptance of Grant Funds

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

XI. Closed Session
President Jensen recessed the open session at 8:10 P.M. 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 regarding the Superintendent's evaluation
   3. 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
   4. The Board will deliberate on a recommendation for the termination and finding of no good cause for an employee's abandonment of contract
   5. The Board will deliberate on the issuance of school district teaching permits for noncore career and technology courses

D. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for
implementation, of security personnel or devices

XII. **Action on Closed Session Items**

President Jensen reconvened the open session at 9:21 P.M.

A. Trustee Bell moved that the Board of Trustees declare the probationary contract of Stephanie Quinones Oppenheimer to be void pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code and approve the termination of her employment with Spring ISD and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify this employee of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Trustee Newhouse moved that the Board of Trustees issue a school district teaching permit to Waylon Randolph and Donna Royston 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 Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XIII. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Trustee Durant, seconded by Trustee Newhouse, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 9:23 P.M.

[Signatures]

Deborah L. Jensen, President
Rhonda R. Newhouse, Secretary