

Spring Independent School District

16717 Ella Blvd. • Houston, Texas 77090 • Tel. 281.891.6000



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019
BOARD ROOM
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090**

MINUTES

I. **Call to Order** (7:01 PM)

President Rhonda Newhouse called the Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:01 PM on September 10, 2019, in the Board Room of the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Boulevard, Houston, Tex accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Members Present:

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

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 Westbrooks, Chief Financial Officer
Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield, 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 led by the Westfield Mustang Army JROTC Battalion and will include Vivian Garcia, Oscar Velazquez, Trentsia Miles, Fabiana Cisneros, and Dana Vega.

III. **Moment of Silence** (7:07 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 Rodney Watson announced that this Saturday, September 14th, the District will kick off its annual Success Walk at 9 AM at Westfield High School. "This event is important because we are going out to our community once again to find those students who have not shown up for the new school year or are having difficulty with attendance," Watson said. "It is also a message to everyone that we really do care about attendance. Attendance does matter. We spend a lot of time in the District focusing and talking about attendance and this is one way to emphasize the work that we are doing this year."

Dr. Watson reported that the District is at about 99.8 percent of its projected enrollment for the 2019-20 school year, which would total 35,308 students. Percentages for the different levels are: high school - 101 percent; middle school - 98.2 percent; and elementary - 99.8 percent. "I think we are doing well based upon the percentages that we have," Watson said. "Our goal is to make sure those kids are here every single day."

Continuing his report on attendance, Dr. Watson said the District is changing the way it does daily attendance calls to high school parents. "We are now calling first thing in the morning after the first period in addition to an evening phone call," he said. "We are hoping that if the student overslept, we can reach the parent early enough that we can have a chance of getting that student back in school."

Watson went on to recommend that parents download the District's new integrated mobile app, which shows their student's attendance record, grades and assignments. "It's a great way to stay in touch with our community, but more importantly, our families," he said.

Next, Watson invited the community to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new TeachUp Spring Learning Center, located at 15651 North Freeway. "Please join us on Monday, September 23rd at 5:30 PM where we hope we can show off that building and the vision that we have for improving student achievement by providing relevant and engaging professional development." Watson thanked the Board for their leadership in helping the District acquire the former ITT building, which now serves as a "magnificent building" for District employees to engage in professional development.

Dr. Watson extended another invitation to the community to attend the Spring ISD Police Department's National Night Out event from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM on October 1st at Westfield High School. "This is also another wonderful way our community can gather together and help our officers build relationships with people that we serve in our community," Watson said. It will also be an opportunity for the community to meet the District's new Chief of Police Kenneth Culbreath, who was sworn in during the August board meeting and is looking forward to meeting District families and community members.

Next, Watson invited the audience to take a moment to applaud all three of the District's high school football teams. "Dekaney, Westfield and Spring are all undefeated this season with two games each under their belts. "It's a great way to start off the season and we are looking forward to a great year. Later this month, we'll see our teams play each other so it will be interesting to see what happens. Even if you're not a big football fan, I'd encourage everyone to come out to the games."

The District's new Transportation Director, Jack Mann, was in the audience, and Watson invited him to stand and be introduced to the Board and members of the audience. Mann comes to the District from Aldine ISD where he served as an administrator for their transportation department.

Dr. Watson introduced new campus leaders and recognized campuses that had made "extraordinary growth within their buildings". New principals recognized were Mayra Garcia, Cooper Elementary School; Elisa Cole, Hoyland Elementary School; Michael Walker, Marshall Elementary School; Shundra Brown, Bailey Middle School; Kristine Guidry, Wells Middle School; and Stacy Rodgers, Dueitt Middle School. Campuses that were recognized for percentage point gains in student achievement included Burchett Elementary - 6 percentage points; Heritage Elementary - 15 percentage points; Lewis Elementary - 2 percentage points; Link Elementary - 24 percentage points; Marshall Elementary - 11 percentage points; McNabb Elementary - 15 percentage points; Roberson Middle - 7 percentage points; Wunsche High School - 9 percentage points; Dekaney High School - 10 percentage points; Spring High School - 7 percentage points;

In closing, Watson extended a special thank you to all the principals for their leadership along with special recognition to the principals whose campuses received an A rating from the Texas Education Agency. Those campuses are McNabb Elementary, Roberson Middle School, Spring Early College Academy and Wunsche High School.

"Once again, we are definitely proud and thankful for all of our leaders. We know they have worked tirelessly, day in and day out," said Watson. "So from the bottom of my heart, I appreciate all that you do."

B. Board of Trustees (7:17 PM)

President Newhouse opened the Trustees' remarks by thanking the principals who were in attendance for their commitment to helping students. "We're happy to see all of our new principals, hear of the improvement in the schools, and we're just excited about 2019-20 and the wonderful job that all of you principals will do for our students in Spring ISD," Newhouse said.

Trustee Adams reported during the past week he had the opportunity to tour several schools where he noticed that implementation of the "SpringWay" is "much, much, much better than it was when I did this tour last year." He specifically acknowledged the authentic use of "threshold" as an important part of classroom management. "I'm just very impressed, and I know that's going to have a huge impact on our student achievement, and closing our gaps, and doing the things that we need to do. So I want to thank all the principals out there for making sure that we are executing SpringWay."

Trustee Bell reported that he recently attended a meeting where State Representative Jarvis Johnson gave a legislative update. "For those who don't know, this last legislative session was very busy for public education," Bell said. "We got a lot of good things passed, and some things that we are tasked with implementing. So if you run across any of your state legislators – mostly those who serve us, and we have a handful – thank them for taking a stand for public education."

Trustee Jensen thanked the community for supporting the 2016 Bond referendum that has provided the funding to upgrade facilities, making them safe and healthy while supporting instruction. "Because now that we get to see the buildings that are up and how they support education, it is a very amazing experience for me to go into those schools." She went on to thank Operations Chief Mark Miranda and his department for their work on the projects. "Mr. Miranda, I know that you and your department have just handled so many things simultaneously that I'm just amazed," Jensen said. "I certainly hope that our public gets to visit some of our schools and see what's going on and how we're supporting instruction."

Trustee Durant elaborated on Dr. Watson's invitation to participate in the Success Walk on Saturday, September 14th. "I'm really excited. It's one of my favorite events of the year," Durant said. She shared a story about a student who responded to last year's visit and returned to school. "That's what it's about. It's about reaching every kid and making sure that we don't lose them along the way, and just taking a morning to dedicate a little bit of your time to make a difference in a child's life. So, I'd like to invite you to come out."

Trustee Gonzales congratulated all schools for starting the year on a positive note with all the gains the District has made. "Welcome to those of you that are new to Spring ISD and congratulations to those of you that are taking on new roles. We've got some exciting things happening in Spring right now, and it is just so much fun to be able to share everything that's going on within our district."

Trustee Davis saluted new Spring ISD Chief of Police Kenneth Culbreath for doing a great job of keeping students off the streets and in the classrooms where they can learn. "Chief, whatever you're doing, keep on doing it," Davis said. "We appreciate it." In addition, Davis commended Westfield Principal David Mason for the weekly newsletter to parents, thanking him on behalf of the Board for sharing the communications.

President Newhouse concluded the remarks with a report on her visit, along with Trustee Bell, to Smith Elementary School's College Day event. The event featured classrooms representing colleges, students with college paraphernalia, T-shirts, and a rap song performed by the students. "Everything was so even, it was so wonderful, it was hard to judge," Newhouse said. "So, Smith Elementary, we applaud you."

V. Agenda Participation (7:28 PM)

Members of the public did not register to speak to the Board.

VI. Recognitions (7:29 PM)

A. Points of Pride – Dekaney High School Head Athletic Trainer Thomas Woods (7:29 PM)

The Board recognized Dekaney High School Head Athletic Trainer Thomas Woods who over the summer received the 2019 Volunteer Service Award from the NATA Research and Education Foundation. The foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. The Volunteer Service Award is a national-level honor given to one individual each year for their service in support of the foundation.

B. Points of Pride – Spring ISD Child Nutrition Department and Child Nutrition Director Shelly Copeland (7:32 PM)

The Board recognized members of the Spring ISD Child Nutrition team for winning state and national awards, including once again receiving "Best of the Bunch" status in the Texas Department of Agriculture's Farm Fresh Challenge. In addition to the award from

the Texas Department of Agriculture, the department was also recognized for being named one of only 66 Silver Awardees in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's third annual "Turnip the Beet" contest, which recognizes stand-out summer meal programs across the U.S.

Along with the two department recognitions, the Board also awarded a Point of Pride to Director of Child Nutrition Shelly Copeland, who over the summer finished a yearlong tenure as president of the Texas Association for School Nutrition (TASN). During the Child Nutrition Association (CNA) national conference in July, Copeland was awarded the organization's President's Award of Achievement for accomplishments during her time leading TASN.

- C. Points of Pride – Members of the Spring ISD Transportation Department (7:36 PM)
The Board recognized several members of the District's Transportation Department for awards and honors they received over the summer. Those receiving awards included:

Texas Association of Pupil Transportation (TAPT)

- Leah Shipman, Operations Specialist of the Year
- Annie Brownfield, Regular Driver of the Year
- Treva Haake, Special Needs Driver of the Year

Texas Association of School Bus Technicians (TASBT)

- Michael Durr, Supervisor of the Year and Master Technician Certification
- Patrick Shay, Technician of the Year
- William Starmack, Master Technician Certification

The employees were initially given the awards during each organization's annual summer conference. Both groups support excellence in school transportation, including an emphasis on professional growth and development.

VII. Discussion About the Spring High School Swimming Pool (7:41 PM)

A discussion was held regarding the Spring High School swimming pool. Superintendent Rodney Watson began the discussion by reporting that over the past couple of months he has received some correspondence regarding the condition of the Spring High School swimming pool. He announced that last week a parent meeting was held for parents of students who swim at the pool as well as community members that use the pool, in order to gather more input.

Chief Mark Miranda reported on the information gathered from the parent meeting. He noted that the pool and the water are safe but there are aesthetic items that could be addressed.

Dr. Watson said the plan is to come back to the Board in October with recommendations that can be further discussed.

VIII. Public Hearing for the 2019–2020 Spring Independent School District Campus Improvement Plans (7:50 PM)

A Public Hearing was held for the 2019–2020 Spring ISD Campus Improvement Plans.

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

Trustee Jensen moved that the Board of Trustees approve the 2019-2020 Spring Independent School District Campus Improvement Plans, as presented by the administration. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda (7:52 PM)

The Board approved the Consent Agenda items that were discussed in detail at the September 5, 2019 Board Work Session.

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

A. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Following Meetings:

1. August 8, 2019 Work Session
2. August 13, 2019 Regular Meeting
3. August 24, 2019 Special Called Session

B. Revised 2019-2020 Spring ISD Student Code of Conduct

The Board will consider approving the revised 2019-2020 Spring ISD Student Code of Conduct.

C. Acceptance of Grant Funds – Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)

The Board will consider accepting the proposed grant funds of \$1,606,939 to operate the 2019-2020 Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program.

D. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Research

The Board will consider approving a resolution that 4-H will be considered as an extracurricular activity and that the Board will recognize the Extension agents as adjunct staff.

E. Second Reading of TASB Local Update 113 – Proposed Revisions Affecting the Following Board Policies

Chief Julie Hill will present the second reading of Local Policies revised in TASB Update 113.

1. BDD(LOCAL) – BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION – ATTORNEY
2. CI(LOCAL) – SCHOOL PROPERTIES DISPOSAL
3. CO(LOCAL) – FOOD AND NUTRITION MANAGEMENT
4. COA(LOCAL) – FOOD AND NUTRITION MANAGEMENT – PROCUREMENT
5. COB(LOCAL) – FOOD AND NUTRITION MANAGEMENT – FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS
6. CRB(LOCAL) – INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES MANAGEMENT – LIABILITY INSURANCE
7. ED(LOCAL) – ORGANIZATION OF INSTRUCTION
8. EFD(LOCAL) – INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES – FIELD TRIPS
9. EHBAF(LOCAL) – SPECIAL EDUCATION – VIDEO/AUDIO MONITORING
10. FMG(LOCAL) – STUDENT ACTIVITIES – TRAVEL
11. MOU Between Education Service Center Region 4 and Spring Independent School District for Texas Lesson Study Professional Development

The Board will consider approving the MOU between Education Service Center Region 4 and Spring Independent School District.

F. Certification of Anticipated Collection Rate for Spring ISD

The Board will consider approving the Certification of Anticipated Collection Rate for Spring ISD.

G. Taxpayer Refunds

The Board will consider ratifying refunds exceeding \$500.

X. Public Participation (7:54 PM)

Members of the public did not register to speak to the Board.

XI. Closed Session (7:54 PM)

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 7:54 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
- 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 (8:50 PM)

President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 8:50 PM.


- A. Trustee Gonzales moved that the Board render a final order to terminate the contract of Amber Kelly and authorize the Superintendent or designee to notify the employee of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Durant 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 Jonathan Lee upon finding that the employee failed to perform his contract without good cause, and authorize the Superintendent or designee 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 or designee 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.

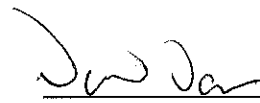
C. Trustee Durant moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to propose the termination of the Term contract of Lannie Milon as presented in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to provide the employee notice of the Board's action and his rights pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board declare the contract of Marshal Sheraze to be void pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code and approve the termination of her employment with Spring ISD effective immediately. Trustee Jensen further moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent or designee to notify this employee of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Bell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment (8:53 PM)

On a motion by Trustee Gonzales, seconded by Trustee Durant, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:53 PM.


Rhonda R. Newhouse, President


Donald Davis, Secretary