

Spring Independent School District

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



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM, DECEMBER 10, 2019
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 December 10, 2019, 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
Jana Gonzales
Justine Durant
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 Westbrooks, 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 will be led by the Westfield Mustang Army JROTC Battalion and included Vivian Garcia, Dione Russell, Trentsia Miles, Alexandra Sanchez, Fabiana Cisneros, and Dana Vega.

III. Moment of Silence (7:08 PM)

President Newhouse asked the audience to join in a moment of silence.

IV. Board of Trustees (7:09 PM)

A. Swearing in Ceremony for Trustees Elected November 5, 2019

Trustee Deborah Jensen, Position 1, Trustee Kelly P. Hodges, Position 2, and Trustee Justine Durant, Position 3 were sworn into office.

V. Opening Remarks (7:19 PM)

A. Superintendent of Schools (7:19 PM)

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rodney Watson opened his remarks with a report on the 2020-2021 Education Planning Guides (EPGs) for middle schools and high schools, which were discussed at length during the Board Work Session on December 5, 2019. "We are really excited to be able to bring these to our families at an earlier date," said Watson. He said the guides are a valuable resource for students as they work with their school counselors and parents in selecting courses for the upcoming year. "We are excited to be able to bring these guides to our families to help them plan ... so once we get them approved tonight we are going to make them available to our counselors and our parents in print and on our website so they can begin the scheduling process," Watson said. Dr. Watson asked parents and students to "stay tuned" for more information that will be coming after winter break.

Next, he spoke about the fifth annual Winter Wonderland Literacy Event held at Dekaney High School on December 6th. "It was truly a wonderful evening with so many families spending time together with different crafts related to holiday-themed books," Watson said. A highlight of the evening was the fact that every child who attended got to take home a wrapped book thanks to a very generous donation from the Spring ISD Education Foundation. "It is great to have the support of our Foundation," he said. He also commented on the popularity of the man-made snow field that has become a much-appreciated tradition at the event.

In conclusion, he reported that the next phase of the strategic compensation program Spring Rewards had formally kicked off last week. "This program has been many years in the making," Watson said. He thanked the Board for their support over the past years as different components of the plan were introduced. "We thank you for your leadership," he said.

B. Board of Trustees (7:09 PM)

President Newhouse invited the Trustees to make remarks.

Trustee Donald Davis, a former Westfield Mustang JROTC instructor, saluted the Westfield football team for their advancement to the state semifinals. "This is their year to go all the way," he said. "Go Mustangs!"

Trustee Jana Gonzales said she attended the Celebrate CTE event last Thursday and was pleased to see all the students, advisors and administrators from campuses across the district represented. "It was a nice time to get to visit with other business partners as well as administrators," she said. "So thank you all for putting on a great event."

Trustee Justine Durant opened her remarks by thanking the community for her re-election to the Board. "First, I'd like to comment on how honored I am for the support of the community to give me an opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees," she said. "I'm grateful, and I never take that for granted." She went on to congratulate the

district on another successful Winter Wonderland literacy event, now in its fifth year. "It has got to be one of the biggest, most supported events that we have in the district," she said. "If you have not attended that event, don't miss it next year. It was a wonderful event!"

Trustee Dr. Deborah Jensen echoed her colleague's appreciation for recent events and added an event of her own to the list - the Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony held December 5th at the Randall Reed Center. "That was just an awesome, solemn, beautiful, beautiful event," Jensen said. "If you have not gotten to see the Veterans Memorial yet, this is a wonderful thing that I think Spring ISD has done for our community to honor our veterans. It is a wonderful place to visit so please come out and see it."

Trustee Kelly P. Hodges used her time to thank the community for her election to the Board of Trustees. "I am so excited. Thank you for the emails, and the text messages I received and just the love and support from the community," Hodges said. "I definitely want to thank my family and friends who are here tonight. And I am so excited, and just looking forward to serving my community."

Trustee Winford Adams Jr. began his remarks by offering congratulations to the recently elected trustees. "It is a testament to the community's engagement with the school district," Adams said. "We talk about people voting and being politically active, and this is where I think the rubber meets the road. I'm really glad to see that we continue to have quality people seeking these positions and gaining these positions." He went on to express how proud he was to see all the JROTC squads representing Spring ISD at the Veterans Memorial dedication, particularly the Spring Leadership Academy LOTC group of middle school students. "Very impressive," he said. "And again, I talk about making this a district of choice, and I think we are definitely on our way, and I want to thank Dr. Watson for that."

Trustee Davis concluded the remarks by thanking President Newhouse for arranging for her relative, General Vince Brooks, to speak at the Veterans Memorial dedication. He described the opportunity for students to be able to shake hands with a four-star general as "history all by itself."

VI. Recognitions (7:29 PM)

A. Spotlight – 2019 Superintendent's Holiday Card Contest Winners (7:29 PM)

The Board recognized the winners from the 2019 Superintendent's Holiday Card Contest, an annual fine arts event that draws entries from students across the district. The top three winners for 2019, listed together with their campus and art teachers, are as follows:

First Place: Joshua Castro
Title: First Snow
Grade: Fifth
School: Marshall Elementary
Teacher: Patricia Ballast

First Runner Up: Abigail Watson
Title: Snowy Night

Grade: Fifth
School: Winship Elementary
Teacher: Deanna Wesner

Second Runner Up: Anni Pachon
Title: Waiting for Christmas
Grade: Fifth
School: Northgate Crossing Elementary
Teacher: Jessica Gilland

Each student was presented with a bag filled with art supplies as well as a poster-size print of their artwork, which will be displayed at the district's collaborative arts performance, The Greatest Winter Show, on December 16, 2019.

The district's holiday card is sent out each year from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rodney Watson to community leaders, business partners, senior administrators and others whose efforts support the district and area students.

B. Points of Pride – Spring ISD Finance Department (7:22 PM)

The Board recognized the Spring ISD Finance Department, whose financial transparency efforts recently resulted in the district being awarded a "Transparency Star" by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Points of Pride awards were presented to three employees whose work helped make the award possible – Budget Manager Alisha Kennedy, Records Manager Gerardo Rochin, and Web Specialist Rony Canales.

The Texas Comptroller's Transparency Star program was launched in 2016 to recognize cities, counties and school districts making strides toward greater openness in their financial reporting.

VII. Board of Trustees (7:41 PM)

A. Election of Board Officers (7:41 PM)

President Newhouse recessed the open meeting at 7:42 PM for the purpose of entering into closed session.

President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 7:53 PM.

The Board conducted their Election of Board Officers. In accordance with Board Policy BDAA, the Board of Trustees shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary at the first meeting of the Board following the election of Trustees.

Trustee Durant nominated Trustee Newhouse for President. Trustee Davis seconded the nomination. The Board unanimously elected Trustee Newhouse as President.

Trustee Adams nominated Trustee Jensen for Vice President. Trustee Gonzales seconded the nomination. The Board unanimously elected Trustee Jensen as Vice President.

Trustee Jensen nominated Trustee Davis for Secretary. Trustee Durant seconded the nomination. The Board unanimously elected Trustee Davis as Secretary.

Trustee Hodges nominated Trustee Adams for Assistant Secretary. Trustee Davis seconded the nomination. The Board unanimously elected Trustee Adams as Assistant Secretary.

VIII. Agenda Participation (7:58 PM)

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

IX. Consent Agenda (7:59 PM)

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

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

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

1. November 7, 2019 Board Work Session
2. November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting
3. November 18, 2019 Special Called Session

B. 2020-2021 Education Planning Guide

The Board will review and consider approving the Education Planning Guide for the 2020-2021 school year.

C. Internal Audit – Mid Year Progress Report and Revised Internal Audit Plan

The Board will consider approving the Internal Audit – Mid Year Progress Report and Revised Internal Audit Plan.

D. Facility Use Agreement between Lone Star College–North Harris Campus and Spring Independent School District

The Board will consider approving the Facility Use Agreement between Lone Star College–North Harris Campus and Spring Independent School District.

E. 2019-2020 Compensation Plan

The Board will consider approving the proposed changes to the Substitute Staff Salary Schedule.

F. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between The Children's Assessment Center (CAC) and Spring Independent School District

The Board will consider approving the MOU Between The Children's Assessment Center and Spring Independent School District.

G. Westfield High School Ninth Grade Center, 3rd Guaranteed Maximum Price

The Board will consider approving the Westfield High School Ninth Grade Center, 3rd Guaranteed Maximum Price in the amount of \$6,909,148.

H. Taxpayer Refunds

The Board will consider ratifying taxpayer refunds.

X. Public Participation (8:01 PM)

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

XI. Closed Session (8:03 PM)

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 8:03 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 551.072 - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property
 - 1. The Board may deliberate on easements for power and sewer related to current construction projects
 - 2. The Board will deliberate on the sale of Restricted Reserve "B" of Spring ISD New Stadium, a subdivision of Harris County, Texas, to Harris County Municipal District No. 82
- 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 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
 - 7. The Board will deliberate on a proposed Resignation and Release Agreement in the matter styled Spring ISD v. Lannie Milon, Docket No. 010-LH-10-2019
- 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 (9:07 PM)

President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 9:07 PM.

- A. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board render a final order to terminate the contracts of the following employees and authorize the Superintendent or designee to notify the employees of the action taken by the Board: Channan Burns; Veasna Chhim; Latasha Rose; and, Kimberly Blazek. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Trustee Adams moved that the Board declare the contract of Carlais Pyles 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 Gonzales further moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent or designee to notify this

employee of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Trustee Gonales moved that the Board approve the resignation and release agreement in the termination appeal styled Spring ISD v. Lannie Milon, Docket Number 010-LH-10-2019, as discussed in closed session. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

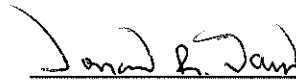
D. Trustee Durant moved that the Board approve the sale of Restricted Reserve B of Spring ISD New Stadium, a subdivision in Harris County, to Harris County Municipal Utility District Number 82, as discussed in closed session. Trustee Hodges seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment (9:12 PM)

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



Rhonda R. Newhouse, President



Donald Davis, Secretary