



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
7:00 PM, APRIL 14, 2020  
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order (7:03 PM)**

President Rhonda Newhouse called the video conference of the Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:03 PM on April 14, 2020, 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 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. Opening Remarks (7:05 PM)**

**A. Superintendent of Schools (7:05 PM)**

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson opened his remarks with a report on the status of the Class of 2020 Graduation plans. Dr. Watson announced that, based on feedback received from parents and students, the District would be moving forward with plans for two graduations — virtual ceremonies to confirm graduates for each campus on Saturday, June 6, followed by in-person events for each of the high schools during the week of July 27-31 at Planet Ford Stadium.

Under the District's plan, the Class of 2020 will have a virtual graduation on Saturday, June 6, 2020, following this schedule:

- 9:00 AM Dekaney High School
- 11:30 AM Spring Early College Academy
- 2:00 PM Westfield High School
- 4:30 PM Spring High School
- 7:00 PM Carl Wunsche Sr. High School

The week of July 27-31, the District is planning to host in-person graduation ceremonies at the Spring ISD Planet Ford Stadium each evening at 7:00 PM, using the schedule below:

- Monday, July 27 - Dekaney High School
- Tuesday, July 28 - Spring Early College Academy
- Wednesday, July 29 - Westfield High School
- Thursday, July 30 - Spring High School
- Friday, July 31 - Carl Wunsche Sr. High School

Next, Dr. Watson reported that, as of April 14, the Spring ISD Child Nutrition workers have provided 98,731 meals to families with children 18 years old and younger at schools across the District since the curbside meal distribution began on March 16. "We know that we have several employees that are out on the front line every day making sure that our families are fed," Watson said. "Every week our meal distribution number is going up ... which lets you know that it is a need in our community and thanks to your support we are able to provide that for our families."

Dr. Watson then shared with the Trustees that he had watched a video before the meeting of an elementary student reading her first, completed Project-Based Learning (PBL) assignment online. "It was beautiful to watch the young lady complete her assignment," he said. Empowered Learning 2.0 PBL assignments began this week for prekindergarten through 11th-grade students, while seniors began Empowered Learning 2.0 on April 6.

In closing, Dr. Watson thanked District employees for their work. "Once again, I want to say a very special thank you to all our police officers that are out there working every day, our child nutrition staff, our principals and also our teachers who are not only on the front lines working but also contacting our parents. Thank you so much for your sacrifice and for supporting our students in Spring ISD," Watson said.

**B. Board of Trustees (7:09 PM)**

President Newhouse invited the Trustees to make remarks.

Trustee Adams discussed the challenge of maintaining the balance between governance and management that faces school boards during social distancing. "I've been attending some virtual meetings and I want to acknowledge publicly that it is challenging right now to the work of governing the board, and having these virtual meetings is not quite the same as meeting with you all face-to-face and so I miss that fellowship and that coming together," he said.

Trustee Jensen spoke about seeing "some wonderful things happening in our District during this challenging time." She gave kudos to Westfield High School Principal David Mason for his weekly newsletter. "It is just phenomenal this week," Jensen said. "He not only gave a forum for students to show off their skills and wonderful accomplishments, but also he gave directions to parents and students about their assignments. He has information about where to get food – not just what Spring ISD does – he has references for finding employment in our community and then he had connections to all the PBL projects," she said. "Just kudos

to principal Mason and this District for providing much useful information to parents, including how to access community support in the way of food banks and other forms of assistance."

Trustee Davis commended District principals, administrators and staff for their efforts during the closure. "They do an awesome job," Davis said. He went on to say that the District's stories need to be told, and with approval from the Board and Superintendent, he intends to share those stories with Leadership TASB and the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members (TCBSBM).

Trustee Gonzales also commended District employees. "You all are doing a fantastic job while you are also trying to take care of your own families," she said "We certainly appreciate everything you are doing. The communication has been unbelievable through Twitter, Facebook, and the emails we are receiving from you all. You are doing a fantastic job. Keep up the good work and continue to take care of your own families as well. Thank you so much," she said.

President Newhouse talked about the response she received from the Spring community to a letter she sent out prior to the spring holiday to staff and parents, thanking them for their support in working with us in this uncertain time and thanking employees for all the hard work that they are doing. "I must say, I was truly surprised that I got a lot of emails back from people thanking the Board for supporting the District, so you guys need to know that you are being appreciated as well, Board, for your support of the District," Newhouse said.

### **III. Consent Agenda (7:17 PM)**

The Board approved the Consent Agenda items that were discussed in detail at the April 9, 2020 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. March 5, 2020 Board Work Session
2. March 17, 2020 Regular Meeting
3. March 27, 2020 Special Called Session

#### **B. Second Reading of TASB Proposed Revisions to Board Policy BED(LOCAL) – BOARD MEETINGS – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chief Julie Hill will present the second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy BED(LOCAL).

#### **C. Second Reading of TASB Proposed Revisions to Board Policy FL(LOCAL) – STUDENT RECORDS**

Chief Julie Hill will present the second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy FL(LOCAL).

#### **D. Second Comprehensive Resolution Regarding District Procedures Due to COVID-19**

The Board will consider the proposed Second Resolution regarding COVID-19 response actions, including but not limited to altered operations, services to students, employee pay, waivers, policies, appraisals, and delegations to the Superintendent.

#### **E. Resolution to Temporarily Modify Class Rank Calculation and Suspend the Requirement for AP Testing to Receive AP Weighted Credit**

The Board will consider approving the resolution to temporarily modify class rank calculation and suspend the requirement for AP testing to receive AP weighted credit.

- F. 2020-2021 Texas Education Agency (TEA) Annual Allotment and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Certification  
The Superintendent of Schools, Board Secretary and Board President will consider approving the 2020-2021 Allotment and TEKS Certification.
- G. Rifle Resistant Body Armor Grant  
The Board will consider accepting awarded grant funds of \$51,750 to purchase rifle resistant body armor for all Spring ISD police officers.
- H. Taxpayer Refunds  
The Board will consider ratifying taxpayer refunds.
- I. Independent Auditor's Engagement Letter  
The Board will consider approving engagement with Whitley Penn for the District's annual audit.
- J. Request for Proposal (RFP) # 20-012 – Motor Fuels  
The Board will consider awarding the contract for Motor Fuels to the providers recommended by the administration.
- K. Request for Proposal (RFP) #20-016 – CMAR Summer 2020 Projects  
The Board will consider authorizing the Superintendent of Schools or a designee to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts with the construction manager-at-risk (CMAR) firm for the project and fees listed in the attachment.

#### **IV. Closed Session (7:19 PM)**

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 7:19 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
- 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 and goals
  - 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

6. The Board will deliberate on recommendations for the proposed termination of employees on probationary contracts and nonrenewal of employees on term contracts, effective at the end of the contract period
  7. The Board will deliberate on recommendations for the proposed issuance of a fourth probationary contract to employees for whom it is doubtful that a term contract should be given
  8. The Board will deliberate on recommendations for the proposed issuance and/or renewal of term contracts to employees
  9. The Board will deliberate on recommendations for the proposed issuance and/or renewal of probationary contracts to employees
- D. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices

**V. Action on Closed Session Items (8:07 PM)**

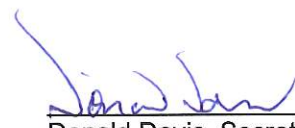
President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 8:07 PM.

- A. Trustee Adams moved that the Board render a final order to terminate the contract of Roberto Cavazos, effective immediately, and authorize the Superintendent to notify the employee of the action taken 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 renew for a one-year period the probationary contracts of the employees identified in the Superintendent's recommendation as presented in closed session. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. Trustee Adams moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to renew for a one-year period the term contracts of the employees identified in the Superintendent's recommendation as presented in closed session. Trustee Gonzales seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Adjournment (8:13 PM)**

On a motion by Trustee Gonzales, seconded by Trustee Jensen, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.

  
Rhonda R. Newhouse, President

  
Donald Davis, Secretary