

Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees Work Session Minutes

Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order (6:02 PM)

President Rhonda Newhouse called the Work Session of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 6:02 PM on October 7, 2021, 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
Winford Adams, Jr., Vice President
Kelly P. Hodges, Secretary
Justine Durant, Assistant Secretary (arrived at 6:22 PM)
Dr. Deborah Jensen
Carmen Correa
Natasha McDaniel

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Rodney Watson, Superintendent of Schools
Mark Miranda, Executive Chief of District Operations
Ken Culbreath, Chief of Police
Julie Hill, Chief of Human Resources and Human Capital Accountability
Lupita Hinojosa, Chief of Innovation and Equity
Ann Westbrooks, Chief Financial Officer
Jeremy Binkley, General Counsel
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

2. Minutes from Prior Meetings (6:03 PM)

The Board reviewed the minutes from the prior month's meetings.

September 2, 2021 Board Work Session

September 7, 2021 Regular Meeting

September 20, 2021 Special Called Session

September 27, 2021 Special Called Session

3. Opening Remarks (6:04 PM)

3.1. Superintendent of Schools (6:04 PM)

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson highlighted items that would follow on the agenda including a presentation on Beginning of Year Assessment data and a presentation on Student Based Budgeting.

4. Public Agenda Participation (6:05 PM)

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

5. Presentations (6:06 PM)

5.1. Beginning of Year (BOY) Assessment Update (6:06 PM)

A presentation was made to provide the Board an update on student performance and growth, on the NWEA MAP, mCLASS, and Circle Assessments for the Beginning of Year.

6. Chief Financial Officer (7:51 PM)

6.1. Consideration and Approval of Bid Offer for Tax Resale of Property (7:51 PM)

Note: This item was moved up on the agenda to accommodate a guest speaker.

Chief Ann Westbrooks and Attorney Yolanda Humphrey of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott, LLP, presented the Board with information on an offer to purchase tax resale property described in the Private Resale Bid Analysis, which is owned by Spring Independent School District in trust by virtue of tax foreclosure proceedings.

7. Presentations (cont.) (7:59 PM)

7.1. Student Based Budgeting (SBB) (7:59 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrook led a discussion regarding the vision for implementing student-based budgeting as recommended by the System of Great Schools.

Student Based Budgeting (SBB) is a school funding system where schools receive dollars based on the number of enrolled students and their individual needs (such as English Language Learners or Economically Disadvantaged) and includes giving school leaders more control over their budgets. SBB has been recommended as part of the work the district is doing in collaboration with the System of Great Schools.

President Newhouse recessed the meeting at 8:27 PM for a short break.

President Newhouse resumed the meeting at 8:41 PM.

8. Board of Trustees (8:41 PM)

8.1. Board Governance Committee Update (8:41 PM)

- **TASB Delegate Assembly Update**
Trustee Jensen provided an update on the recent Delegate Assembly that she and Trustee McDaniel attended on September 25th in Dallas, TX.
- **New Legislative Priorities**
Trustee Jensen noted that the Board is working on their new legislative priorities. She encouraged the Board to submit their top priorities to the Board Governance Committee, who will review the submissions and come back with a recommendation.
- **Discussion of Board Policy BED(LOCAL)**
General Counsel Jeremy Binkley led a discussion on Board Policy BED(LOCAL). The Board discussed resuming Public Participation at Regular Board Meetings. Public Participation was suspended when the district began remote meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The consensus from the Board was to resume Public Participation per Board Policy BED(LOCAL).
- **Employee Excellence Award**

Trustee Durant provided an update on the Employee Excellence Award. The Board discussed creating a promotional video to encourage nominations for the award. More information on the Employee Excellence Award can be found at:

<https://www.springisd.org/employee-recognition>.

9. Executive Chief of District Operations (9:09 PM)

- 9.1. Northwest Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 23 – Easement for Spring ISD Roberson Middle School Campus (9:09 PM)

Chief Mark Miranda presented the Board with information regarding a storm water quality easement between Northwest Harris County MUD 23 and Spring ISD Roberson Middle School campus.

10. Chief of Innovation and Equity (9:13 PM)

- 10.1. Acceptance of Grant Funds Awarded by the Harris County Department of Education and the Education Foundation of Harris County (9:13 PM)

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information regarding grant funds totaling \$20,000 awarded by the Harris County Department of Education and the Education Foundation of Harris County to the Spring ISD Education Foundation. The awarded funds will be used to purchase Swivl robots for Bailey, Claughton, Dueitt, Twin Creeks, and Wells Middle Schools as well as Spring Leadership Academy.

- 10.2. The Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) “Achieving Success Alternative Program – ASAP” (9:18 PM)

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information regarding the proposed 2021-2022 Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) “Achieving Success Alternative Program—ASAP.”

ASAP will provide flexible hours and days of attendance for students in grades 3-12 who meet one of the following criteria:

- the student is at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by the TEC §29.081;
- the student, as a result of attendance requirements under the TEC §25.092, will be denied credit for one or more classes in which the student has been enrolled; or
- the student is attending a campus with an approved early college high school program designation.

The goal of the program is to improve graduation rates for students who are in danger of dropping out of school or have dropped out or who are behind in core subject courses.

10.3. 2021-2022 Child Care Local Match Contribution Agreement with Gulf Coast Local Workforce Board (9:44 PM)

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information regarding a local match contribution agreement for the federal funds received annually for child care services. The local match contribution agreement for the federal funds is received annually for child care services at Westfield High School.

These federal funds will be used for direct child care services for eligible children and teen student parents meeting Texas Workforce Commission guidelines.

10.4. 2021-2022 Workforce Solutions Memorandum of Understanding (9:46 PM)

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information regarding the 2021-2022 Workforce Solutions Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Through this MOU, Workforce Solutions will provide qualified, trained specialists to collaborate with the school district on designated campuses to provide college and career planning information and tools and connections to the students, counselors, teachers, administrators, and parents. They will

conduct both in-person and virtual classroom presentations or one-on-one meetings with students that need career guidance. Workforce Solutions will also support, participate in, and help organize activities such as job fairs, career days and professional development.

10.5. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (9:49 PM)

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information regarding the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

The item included a resolution with the following items:

Extracurricular Status of Harris County 4-H

- 4-H is a part of Spring Tri-Club.
- The signed resolution allows 4-H to be considered an extracurricular activity.
- Students that participate in 4-H can have excused absences (like FFA students).
- Students must meet the academic eligibility to participate (like FFA students).

Adjunct Faculty

- If the Board recognizes the Extension Agents as adjunct staff, then the District can count students that are participating in 4-H activities for school day attendance when participating in extracurricular activities during the school day.
- The District does not have to compensate the Extension Agents.

11. General Counsel (9:54 PM)

11.1. Resolution Regarding School Closures Due to Hurricane Nicholas (9:54 PM)

General Counsel Jeremy Binkley presented the Board with a Resolution Regarding School Closures Due to Hurricane Nicholas.

Due to severe weather associated with Hurricane Nicholas, resulting in unsafe travel conditions throughout Harris County and the Greater Houston Region, Spring ISD closed Tuesday, September 14, 2021. This resolution will allow the district to take necessary administrative actions related to the closure.

12. Chief Financial Officer

12.1. 2021 Appraisal Roll Certification (10:00 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with information regarding the 2021 Appraisal Roll Certification.

The Chief Appraiser of the Harris County Appraisal District has certified the 2021 property values for our District. This is the tax base (in addition to estimated amounts for uncertified property) which will support the 2021-2022 operating and debt service budgets.

12.2. Taxpayer Refunds (10:06 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with a report of taxpayer refunds exceeding \$500.

12.3. Report of Cooperative Purchases Exceeding \$50,000 (10:07 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with a report consisting of cooperative purchases exceeding \$50,000 that were made by the district through one or more authorized purchasing cooperatives.

Procurement Services			
Period: August 7 - September 16, 2021			
General Funds - Total \$1,1419,634			
PO Date	Vendor Name	Description	PO Amount
8/10/2021	Harvest Innovative Solutions, LLC	New Roof for Link Elementary School**	\$ 333,871
8/11/2021	College Board	Advance Placement Tests	\$ 81,177
8/12/2021	Liberty Office Products	Medical Disposable Masks for Adults and Children	\$ 86,120
8/13/2021	Riverside Insights	GT Testing Materials*	\$ 75,000

8/16/2021	Eduphoria! Inc.	K-12 Test Maker Bank	\$ 65,469
8/19/2021	N2Y	Software Renewal to SymbolStix Prime for Communication Activities and Support and Unique Learning System for Teacher Planning and Reporting	\$ 104,756
8/27/2021	iSphere Innovation Partners, LLC	Security Architecture and Breach Assessment Services**	\$ 81,000
8/31/2021	High Point Sanitary Solutions	Foaming Soap	\$ 67,875
9/13/2021	Enome, Inc.	Goalbook Toolkit and Pathways Member Access to Research-Based Strategies, Classroom-Ready Resources and Professional Development	\$ 196,350
9/16/2021	Apex Learning Inc.	Online Tutorial Services	\$ 144,136
Procurement Services Period: August 7 – September 16, 2021			
ESSER Funds – Total \$2,040,605			
PO Date	Vendor Name	Description	PO Amount
8/13/2021	Education Galaxy LLC	Instructional Software for K-5th Math and Reading, 3rd-4th Writing, and 4th-5th Science	\$ 97,250
8/24/2021	Amplify Education, Inc.	Reading Texas Grades 3-5 Student License	\$ 196,715
8/24/2021	Sirius Education Solutions, LLC	High School and Middle School Instructional Resources for Algebra I, English I and II, Biology, 8th Grade Math, 8th Grade Science, and 8th Grade Social Studies	\$ 213,440
9/1/2021	Renaissance Learning Inc.	Professional Development and Customized Project Plan***	\$ 33,200
9/13/2021	Kelly Services, Inc.	Educational Staffing – Substitutes	\$ 1,500,000
Procurement Services Period: August 7 – September 16, 2021			
Federal Funds – Total \$199,300			
PO Date	Vendor Name	Description	PO Amount
9/1/2021	Renaissance Learning Inc.	Student Access to Reading Materials***	\$ 199,300

* Blanket Purchase Order for anticipated annual spend.

** Bond Related Expenditures

***Split Fund Purchase

- 12.4. Request for Proposal (RFP) #22-002 – 21st Century Enrichment Services (10:10 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with information regarding awarding a contract for 21st Century Enrichment Services to providers recommended by the administration.

13. Closed Session (10:16 PM)

President Rhonda Newhouse recessed the open session at 10:16 PM for the purpose of entering into closed session pursuant to the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

- 13.1. 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
- 13.2. Under Section 551.072 - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property
- 13.3. 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

The Board will deliberate regarding the Superintendent's evaluation and goals

The Board will deliberate on employees nominated for special recognition

The Board will deliberate on a recommendation for the termination and finding of no good cause for an employee's abandonment of contract

The Board will deliberate on the issuance of school district teaching permits for noncore career and technology courses

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

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

14. Actions on Closed Session Items (11:28 PM)

President Rhonda Newhouse reconvened the open session at 11:28 PM.

The Board took no action.

15. Adjournment (11:29 PM)

On a motion by Trustee Adams, seconded by Trustee McDaniel, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 11:29 PM.


Rhonda R. Newhouse, President


Kelly P. Hodges, Secretary