

Spring Independent School District

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM, MAY 12, 2020 VIDEO CONFERENCE

MINUTES

I. Call to Order (7:01 PM)

President Rhonda Newhouse called the video conference Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:01 PM on May 12, 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 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. Opening Remarks (7:03 PM)

A. Superintendent of Schools (7:03 PM)

Dr. Rodney Watson reported that the Board would receive an update later during the meeting on Class of 2020 graduation plans, which are based on the recent announcement by Governor Abbott. He reminded Trustees of the graduation survey results, reported last month, showing students wanted an outdoor graduation in addition to the virtual one.

Next he reported that plans are underway for the summer. "As you know we are continuing to plan for the summer," Dr. Watson said, "and hopefully in our next Board Meeting, we will be able to provide you all with detailed information on our summer

school program, our summer learning opportunities for our students as well as we will be talking with you about our additional plans for the fall.”

B. Board of Trustees (7:05 PM)

President Newhouse invited to Board to make remarks.

Trustee Jensen reported that the Board’s legislative priorities would need to be adjusted and updated to address changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. “Each year we select our legislative priorities as a board, and we did not see the pandemic at the time we set up those priorities,” she said. Jensen said the overarching priorities – such as school safety, school finance, assessment and accountability – still serve the District, however some adjustments need to be made to ensure that staff and students are safe, and that the District remains viable as a school system and is continuing its mission under very different circumstances. “So I will be sharing some of this in the coming month and wanting feedback from Trustees,” she said.

President Newhouse recognized counselors for doing an outstanding job working with students under the current circumstances. “I praised our teachers last week and thanked, actually all our employees, for what they have done for us during this pandemic time, but I have to say the counselors are still working very hard with our students,” Newhouse said. She reported that the Spring ISD Education Foundation received over 200 applications for scholarships as a result of the District’s counselors continuing to work with students despite the current challenges. She also mentioned other scholarship awards that were recently announced, including two from KPRC Channel 2. “Hats off to our counselors, because they are really keeping our students engaged.”

Trustee Hodges applauded the efforts of the Communications team for getting information to the Trustees in a timely manner and keeping them abreast of what is going on in the District. “For me being new, it’s interesting because when I’m out at Walmart or Aldi, people from the community do stop me because they recognize me as a board member,” she said. “Because of the information I receive, when questions are asked, I’m able to provide an honest and informative response. So thank you. Good job.”

Trustee Gonzales echoed the other Trustees’ remarks. “I think the District is doing a phenomenal job on keeping communications, and it feels like we have not missed a beat with anything,” she said. “We have just continued instruction; communications are going; we’re feeding our students; so hats off to everyone in the District. You are doing a fantastic job.” In closing she recognized that employees were doing all this while still taking care of their own families. “As Dr. Watson always says, ‘we win as a team’.”

III. Presentations (7:11 PM)

A. Senior 2020 Graduation Plans (7:11 PM)

Chief Miranda presented the Board with information regarding Spring ISD’s planned graduation ceremonies for its Class of 2020 seniors. The presentation focused primarily on the virtual graduation ceremonies scheduled throughout the day on June 6 and the outdoor, in-person graduations scheduled over June 12-14 at the District’s Planet Ford Stadium.

The decision to change the schedule for the outdoor ceremonies was made following the announcement of Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines that allow school districts to have in-person ceremonies on or after June 1. "We realize not everyone is going to want to join the in-person graduation for various reasons," Miranda said, "and so we were already working on the virtual graduation before the TEA gave us guidance on an in-person graduation. The decision was made to keep them both, but they are unique."

The virtual graduation will include more speeches and a roll call featuring graduate photos, while the in-person graduation will be shorter than usual due to the need to follow social distancing guidelines for safety purposes. Safety precautions will include social distancing of six-feet in all instances, including the stage, graduate seating on the football field and guest seating in the stands. Screening stations for COVID-19 and sanitizers will be located at all entrances. Face coverings over nose and mouth will be required by everyone and the District will manage attendance by requiring a ticket to enter. Chief Miranda said the stadium will be sanitized throughout and thoroughly cleaned following each graduation ceremony. "We'll have an army of custodians coming in," he said.

The in-person graduation will be streamed online for those people who will not be able to attend. "We are excited about the possibility of doing our graduation in-person," Miranda said.

Virtual Graduation Schedule for Saturday, June 6:

- 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

In-person Graduation Schedule at Planet Ford Stadium:

- Friday, June 12 at 7 PM - Spring High School
- Saturday, June 13 at 8 AM - Carl Wunsche Sr. High School
- Saturday, June 13 at 7 PM - Dekaney High School
- Sunday, June 14 at 8 AM - Spring Early College Academy
- Sunday, June 14 at 7 PM - Westfield High School

IV. Chief Financial Officer (7:32 PM)

A. Request for Proposal (RFP) # 20-011 – Before and After School Child Care and Enrichment Services (7:32 PM)

The Board considered awarding the contracts for Before and After School Child Care and Enrichment Services to the providers recommended by the administration.

Due to concerns over one of the provider's ratings, the Board agreed to remove the provider from consideration.

Trustee Durant moved that the Board award the contract for Before and After Child Care and Enrichment Services to the providers recommended by the administration. Trustee Adams seconded the motion.

Trustee Adams voiced concerns over one of the provider's recommended by the administration (Champions Before and After School) and the Board agreed to remove the provider from consideration.

Trustee Adams made an amended motion that the Board award the contract for Before and After Child Care and Enrichment Services to eliminate Champions Before and After School and approve all of the other providers recommended by the administration. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 abstention. Trustee Hodges abstained from the vote due to her employment relationship with YMCA of Greater Houston.

V. Consent Agenda (7:39 PM)

The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda items that were discussed in detail at the May 7, 2020 Board Work Session.

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

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

1. April 9, 2020 Board Work Session
2. April 14, 2020 Regular Meeting
3. April 30, 2020 Special Called Session

B. Renewal of CYS (Community Youth Services) Workers Contract

The Board will consider approving the renewal of the contract for the Harris County Community Youth Services.

C. Memorandum of Understanding with Harris County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)

The Board will consider approving the Memorandum of Understanding with Harris County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) for the 2020-2021 academic year.

D. Multi-Year (2020-2023) Edgenuity Contract Renewal

The Board will consider approving the renewal of a three year (2020-2023) contract with Edgenuity.

E. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AVANCE-Houston, Inc. and Spring Independent School District (Bammel, Eickenroht and Lewis Elementary Schools)

The Board will consider approving the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between AVANCE-Houston, Inc. and Spring Independent School District.

F. Acceptance of Grant Funds From the Texas Education Agency (TEA)

The Board will consider accepting the proposed amendment of additional grant funds of \$191,061 from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

G. Services Agreement Between The University of Texas at Austin and Spring Independent School District

The Board will consider approving the agreement between The University of Texas at Austin (Cockrell School of Engineering) and Spring ISD for Carl Wunsche High School engineering students.

H. AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination) Annual Contract Renewal

The Board will consider approving the annual renewal of the AVID contract.

- I. Safety and Security Bid Package G, 7th Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)
The Board will consider approving the Safety and Security Bid Package G, 7th Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) in the amount of \$1,444,740.
- J. Summer 2020 Projects, First Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)
The Board will consider approving the Summer 2020 Projects Initial (GMP) in the amount of \$6,067,360.
- K. Facilities Use Interlocal Agreement (Amendment 7) Between Lone Star College System (LSCS) and Spring Independent School District for LSCS' Transportation Institute
The Board will consider approving Amendment 7 of the Facilities Use Interlocal Agreement between Lone Star College System (LSCS) and Spring ISD for LSCS' Transportation Institute.
- L. Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020
The Board will consider approving the order authorizing the issuance of one or more series of the Spring Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020.
- M. List of Investment Brokers/Dealers
The Board will consider approving the list of investment brokers/dealers as presented.
- N. Interlocal Agreement with Region 5 Education Service Center
The Board will consider approving an Interlocal Agreement with Region 5 Education Service Center.
- O. Request for Proposal (RFP) #15-001 – Custodial Supplies
The Board will consider allowing an additional renewal term, up to one year, for the previously awarded custodial supplies contracts.
- P. Request for Proposal (RFP) # 20-014 – Special Education Contracted Services
The Board will consider awarding the contract for Special Education Contracted Services to the providers recommended by the administration.
- Q. Taxpayer Refunds
The Board will consider ratifying taxpayer refunds.

VI. Closed Session (7:52 PM)

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 7:52 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 will deliberate on the proposal to grant an easement to Harris County of approximately 0.6129 acres of land, situated in the Manual Tarin Survey, Abstract No. 778, Harris County, Texas, for sidewalks and other related purposes.
- 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 and/or renewal of probationary contracts to employees
 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 the proposed resolution agreement in the EEOC matter styled Patricia Fruit v. Spring ISD, Charge No. 460-2020-01513
- D. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices

VII. Action on Closed Session Items (10:04 PM)

President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 10:04 PM

- A. Trustee Adams moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to propose the nonrenewal of the Term contracts of Nina Haydon and Amy Frey as presented in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to provide notice of the Board's action to the impacted employees pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate at the end of their terms the probationary contracts of Louis Alexander, Cynthia Iyamu, Damonica Jenkins, and Leslie Williams as presented in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to provide notice of the Board's action to the impacted employees pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board approve the Settlement Agreement and Release of All Claims in the EEOC matter styled Patricia Fruit versus Spring ISD, Charge Number 460-2020-01513, as discussed in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Agreement. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Jensen, seconded by Trustee Adams, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 PM. The vote was 6 for and 1 absent (Trustee Gonzales).


Rhonda R. Newhouse, President


Donald Davis, Secretary