

# Spring Independent School District

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



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL CALLED SESSION 7:00 PM, JUNE 23, 2020 VIDEO CONFERENCE**

### **MINUTES**

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

President Rhonda Newhouse called the video conference Special Called Session of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:01 PM on June 23, 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  
Kelly P. Hodges

#### **Members Absent:**

Jana Gonzales

#### **Others Present:**

Rodney Watson, Superintendent of Schools  
Ken Culbreath, Chief of Police  
Julie Hill, Chief of Human Resources and Human Capital Accountability  
Lupita Hinojosa, Chief Innovation and Equity Officer  
Mark Miranda, Executive Chief of District Operations  
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)**

Dr. Rodney Watson highlighted the items that would follow on the agenda.

#### **III. Chief Financial Officer (7:06 PM)**

##### **A. Third Budget Review (7:06 PM)**

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with the Third Budget Review. In accordance with Board Policy CE(LOCAL), this review reflects amendments to the adopted budget. Section 44.006 of the Texas Education Code also mandates that public funds may not be expended in any manner other than as specified in the adopted budget, as properly amended.

Trustee Jensen moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Third Budget Review as presented by the administration. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried

with 5 in favor and 2 absent (Trustee Gonzales was absent and Trustee Davis could not vote due to technical difficulties).

**B. 2020-2021 Spring Independent School District Budget for Student Success Initiative and Accelerated Instruction (7:39 PM)**

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with the 2020-2021 Spring Independent School District Budget for Student Success Initiative and Accelerated Instruction.

The 2020-2021 Operating Budget for the Student Success Initiative and Accelerated Instruction has been developed as part of the General Fund budget to sufficiently support the cost of additional accelerated instruction for students who fail to perform satisfactorily on and End of Course Assessment instrument. The budgeted appropriations amount for this purpose is \$351,000.

State Compensatory Education funds will be used for all expenditures related to the Student Success Initiative and Accelerated Instruction.

Trustee Adams moved the Board of Trustees approve the 2020-2021 Spring Independent School District Budget for Student Success Initiative and Accelerated Instruction. Trustee Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 absent (Trustee Gonzales).

**IV. Public Hearing for the 2020-2021 Spring Independent School District Budget (7:43 PM)**

A Public Hearing was held for the 2020-2021 Spring Independent School District Budget.

The 2020-2021 Operating Budget has been developed to support the priorities of the District's Five Year Strategic Plan. The budgeted appropriation amounts in the General Fund \$336,991,456, Child Nutrition \$29,500,000 and Debt Service \$59,690,952 total \$426,182,408.

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

**A. 2020-2021 Spring Independent School District Budget (8:21 PM)**

Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees adopt the 2020-2021 Spring Independent School District Budget, as presented by the administration. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 absent (Trustee Gonzales).

**V. Public Hearing for the 2020-2021 Optional Flexible School Day Program (8:23 PM)**

A Public Hearing was held for the 2020-2021 Optional Flexible School Day Program.

The Optional Flexible School Day Program will provide flexible hours and days of attendance for students in any high school grade who meet one of the following criteria:

- The student has dropped out of school or is at risk of dropping out.
- The student will be denied credit for one or more classes in which the student has been enrolled as a result of attendance requirements under the Texas Education Code, §25.092.

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

This program was approved last year, however, districts must submit a new/revised application annually.



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

**A. 2020-2021 Optional Flexible School Day Program - Achieving Success Alternative Program (8:36 PM)**

Trustee Durant moved that the Board of Trustees adopt the 2020-2021 Optional Flexible School Day Program, as presented by the administration. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 absent (Trustee Gonzales).

**VI. Executive Chief of District Operations (8:38 PM)**

**A. Texas Virtual School Network Course Review Process Waiver (8:38 PM)**

Chief Mark Miranda presented the Board with information regarding a waiver request for the Texas Virtual School Network Course Review Process.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) administers the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN), sets standards for and approves TXVSN courses and professional development for online teachers, and has fiscal responsibility for the network. For the past ten years, Spring ISD has been a provider of courses for the TXVSN. As a TXVSN provider, districts must submit a waiver from the TXVSN course review process administered by the TEA and certify that each course meets all TXVSN course standards and requirements for courses that fit one of the following criteria:

- Updates/revisions to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
- New course offering
- New course developer for an existing course

Trustee Jensen moved that the Board of Trustees approve the waiver request for the Texas Virtual School Network Course Review Process, as presented by the administration.

Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 absent (Trustee Gonzales).

**B. Westfield High School JROTC Update (8:46 PM)**

Chief Mark Miranda presented the Board with information regarding the Westfield High School JROTC program. The presentation included an update on the design and construction of the JROTC facilities at Westfield High School.

**VII. Chief of Human Resources and Human Capital Accountability (9:04 PM)**

**A. 2020-2021 Staffing Guidelines (9:04 PM)**

Chief Julie Hill presented the Board with information regarding the recommended 2020-2021 Staffing Guidelines.

In accordance with Board Policies DP(LOCAL) and DC(REGULATION), the Staffing Guidelines for the 2020-2021 school year was provided to the Board for approval.

Trustee Jensen moved that the Board of Trustees approve the 2020-2021 Staffing Guidelines as presented by the administration. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 absent (Trustee Gonzales).

**B. 2020-2021 Compensation Manual (9:31 PM)**

Chief Julie Hill presented the Board with information regarding the Compensation Manual for the 2020-2021 school year.

In accordance with Board Policy DEA(LOCAL), the Compensation Manual for all District employees was provided to the Board for approval.

Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees adopt the changes to the Compensation Manual for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the Superintendent or designee to make any additional changes as required or allowed by the budget. Trustee Hodges seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 absent (Trustee Gonzales).

**VIII. ~~Spring ISD Equity Plan Discussion~~**

~~The Board will receive information regarding the Spring ISD Equity Plan.~~

**THIS ITEM WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE JUNE 30, 2020 SPECIAL CALLED SESSION**

**IX. Closed Session (9:40 PM)**

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 9:40 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 the issuance of school district teaching permits for noncore career and technology courses
  - 4. 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
- D. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices

**X. Action on Closed Session Items (10:22 PM)**

President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 10:22 PM.

- A. Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees issue a school district teaching permit to the following employee, Steven Seltz, for the purpose of teaching noncore career and technology courses and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board's action. Trustee Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 absent (Trustee Gonzales).

**XI. Adjournment (10:24 PM)**

On a motion by Trustee Durant, seconded by Trustee Hodges, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 10:24 PM.

  
Rhonda R. Newhouse, President

  
Donald Davis, Secretary