

Spring Independent School District

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



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL CALLED SESSION 7:00 PM, JUNE 30, 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 30, 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
Khechara Bradford, Chief of Curriculum and Instruction
Mark Miranda, Executive Chief of District Operations
Deeone McKeithan, Executive Director of Community Engagement
Ann Westbrook, 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. Board of Trustees

President Rhonda Newhouse began the Trustee Remarks by highlighting the Spring ISD Equity Plan that would be discussed during the meeting. "There is nothing more important to me than putting systems and resources in place to ensure every child has the opportunity for success", Newhouse said. President Newhouse noted that she is "confident that our focus on equity is going to make a difference in the lives of our students and our entire Spring ISD community".

Trustee Jensen added that tonight's agenda contains scenarios for opening schools as well as the Spring ISD Equity Plan. "Every one of us wants the best for our students", she said.

Trustee Davis noted that he strongly supports the Board's equity plan. He then described a recent walkthrough that he did at the new Westfield ROTC facility and commended District staff for the renovation that is underway. "All standards have been met and beyond", said Davis "and I'm excited to see the final product".

Trustee Adams noted that early voting started Monday and reminded the community that it is part of our civic duty to vote. "If you want improvement in your community get out and vote and civically engage", said Adams.

B. Superintendent of Schools (7:10 PM)

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson highlighted the items to follow on the agenda including the Spring ISD Equity discussion and Scenario Based Planning.

III. Spring ISD Equity Agenda Discussion (7:12 PM)

Chief Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield introduced the Spring ISD Equity Agenda Discussion. Dr. Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with the Spring ISD Equity Action plan, which is driven by the Board's goals and the District's vision. The presentation included the equity work structure, information on the steering committee application, the equity action plan timeline, and the agenda for the first steering committee meeting.

IV. Scenario Based Planning for 2020-2021 (7:31 PM)

Chief Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield introduced the Scenario Based Planning for 2020-2021. The plan will allow Spring ISD students to choose to participate in either in-person or remote learning for the 2020-21 school year. Spring ISD formed 11 scenario-based planning teams with more than 100 members in late May. The teams spent the month of June tackling challenges, including class configurations, child nutrition, instructional technology and transportation, among others, and finding solutions that are flexible enough to adjust to a range of COVID-19 scenarios that may occur in the 2020-21 school year.

These solutions came together to form five micro plans surrounding various topics—including school schedules, class configurations, student learning, staffing and professional development, student and family support and facilities—that can meet the needs of the following scenarios:

- Scenario 1: Schools open with minimum social distancing;
- Scenario 2: Schools open with significant need for social distancing; or
- Scenario 3: Schools do not open, and remote learning continues.

The planning resulted in two options for Spring ISD students: the Safety-First Hybrid Model, which includes both in-person and remote instruction, and the Empowered Learning At-Home Model, which is entirely remote learning.

Both options will allow students to participate in co-curricular activities, will offer a full suite of District student and family supports, will include standards-based curriculum and project-based learning experiences and will offer synchronous, or real-time, and asynchronous, or self-paced, learning.

While the Empowered Learning At-Home Model will not be affected by COVID-19, the District has developed an Operational Decision Meter—based on Harris County's COVID-

19 Threat Level system—to guide district officials in adjusting the Safety-First Hybrid Model to fit the three scenarios.

V. Closed Session (9:27 PM)

There was no Closed Session

- 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

VI. Action on Closed Session Items (9:27 PM)

The Board took no action.

VII. Adjournment (9:29 PM)

On a motion by Trustee Jensen, seconded by Trustee Hodges, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:29 PM. The vote was 6 in favor and 1 absent (Trustee Gonzales).

	
_____ Rhonda R. Newhouse, President	_____ Donald Davis, Secretary