

Spring Independent School District

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



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WORK SESSION
6:00 PM, OCTOBER 8, 2020
BOARD ROOM
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order (6:00 PM)

President Rhonda Newhouse called the Work Session of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 PM on October 8, 2020, 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
Dr. Deborah Jensen, Vice President
Dr. Donald R. 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 (via video conference)
Julie Hill, Chief of Human Resources and Human Capital Accountability (via video conference)
Lupita Hinojosa, Chief Innovation and Equity Officer (via video conference)
Khechara Bradford, Chief Academic Officer (via video conference)
Mark Miranda, Executive Chief of District Operations
Ann Westbrook, Chief Financial Officer (via video conference)
Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield, Chief of Innovation and Communications
Jeremy Binkley, General Counsel
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

II. Minutes from Prior Meetings (6:01 PM)

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

A. September 3, 2020 Board Work Session

B. September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting

III. Opening Remarks (6:02 PM)

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson began his remarks by providing an update of recent events including the welcoming back of all of the district's in-person students. He also discussed the campus visits that he and other Cabinet members have made to each campus to monitor the

successful transition of students coming back to school. He noted that over the past few weeks he has met with groups of teachers to hear feedback on things that are going well as well as any struggles they may be having. Dr. Watson said he also recently met with student groups to get their feedback as well.

Dr. Watson concluded his remarks by highlighting presentations that would follow on the agenda including a presentation on Beginning of the Year (BOY) STAAR data and a presentation of a recent staff survey .

IV. Public Agenda Participation (6:05 PM)

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

V. Presentations (6:05 PM)

A. Fall Staff Survey (6:05 PM)

Chief Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield presented the Board with information regarding the Fall Staff Survey.

With staff returning to district campuses and facilities on Monday, August 10th and district schools reopening for in-person instruction on Monday, August 17th, Spring ISD surveyed staff to better understand how employees are feeling about being back on campus and providing in-person instruction. The survey was conducted as a "pulse" survey with a short window for participation, being open from Wednesday, September 30th to Tuesday, October 6th. Survey questions focused on:

- How comfortable staff feel in their work environment;
- Staff knowledge of COVID-19 safety procedures;
- Staff perceptions of how student learning – in-person and remote – is going this school year; and
- Additional training and resources that teachers need to support instruction.

The results of this staff survey were presented as well as district plans to respond to staff needs as identified in the survey.

B. 2020-21 Beginning-of-the-Year (BOY) STAAR Data and Campus Improvement Planning Process (6:31 PM)

Chief Mark Miranda and Chief Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield presented the Board with information regarding the 2020-21 Beginning-of-the-Year (BOY) STAAR Data and Campus Improvement Planning Process.

This summer our Board of Trustees worked with district leadership to discuss new strategic priorities for the district. These new priorities build upon the work of Every Child 2020 and will provide the framework for our new multi-year strategic plan, which is set to launch at the end of this calendar year.

As 2020-21 Campus Improvement Plans (CIPs) were developed, select pieces of our new and developing strategic framework have been leveraged. Additionally, strong efforts were made this year to keep the CIP process straight-forward and very targeted so campus leaders can focus on supporting students and staff during these unprecedented times.

VI. General Counsel (7:55 PM)

A. Second Reading of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy BBA(LOCAL) - BOARD MEMBERS - ELIGIBILITY/QUALIFICATIONS (7:55 PM)

The Board was presented with the second reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy BBA(LOCAL).

B. Second Reading of TASB Local Update 115 - Proposed Revisions Affecting the Following Board Policies (7:57 PM)

The Board was presented with the second reading of Local Policies revised in TASB Update 115.

1. BF(LOCAL) - BOARD POLICIES
2. DED(LOCAL) - COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS - VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS
3. DIA(LOCAL) - EMPLOYEE WELFARE - FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION
4. DMD(LOCAL) - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND VISITATIONS
5. EI(LOCAL) - ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
6. FB(LOCAL) - EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
7. FD(LOCAL) - ADMISSIONS
8. FEB(LOCAL) - ATTENDANCE - ATTENDANCE ACCOUNTING
9. FFG(LOCAL) - STUDENT WELFARE - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
10. FFH(LOCAL) - STUDENT WELFARE - FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION
11. FMF(LOCAL) - STUDENT ACTIVITIES - CONTESTS AND COMPETITIONS
12. FNG(LOCAL) - STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES - STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES
13. GF(LOCAL) - PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

VII. Executive Chief of District Operations (7:58 PM)

A. 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar Revisions (7:58 PM)

Chief Mark Miranda presented the Board with information regarding the 2020-2021 realignment to the Intersessional Period of the Instructional Calendar as recommended by the administration.

The Board of Trustees approved an intersessional academic calendar in May. At the time, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) recommended adopting an intersessional academic calendar so school districts could have flexibility in making up days potentially lost due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Since that time, TEA's revised guidance allows for remote instruction to count for funding purposes, eliminating the need for physical make-up days related to COVID-19. This revised guidance provides Spring ISD with the opportunity to realign our Instructional Calendar back to a traditional calendar. With this revision, the last day of school for all grade levels will be June 4th.

Trustee Hodges moved that the Board approve the 2020-2021 realignment to the Instructional Calendar, specifically option 1, as recommended by the administration. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Memorandum of Understanding with Lone Star College for College Preparatory Mathematics and English Language Arts Courses (8:09 PM)

Chief Mark Miranda presented the Board with information regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with Lone Star College for Preparatory Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELAR) Courses. This Memorandum of Understanding is for the creation of College Preparatory Courses in Mathematics and English Language Arts. Spring ISD and Lone Star College shall collaborate to develop and provide courses in college preparatory Mathematics and ELAR.

C. Notice of Grant Award - Spring ISD's 21st Century Community Learning Program (8:17 PM)

Chief Mark Miranda presented the Board with information regarding a Notice of Grant Award - Spring ISD's 21st Century Community Learning Program. The Texas Education Agency awarded Spring ISD \$1,800,000 to continue its 21st Century Community Learning program.

D. Child Care Local Match Contribution Agreement with Gulf Coast Local Workforce Board for the 2020-21 School Year (8:19 PM)

Chief Mark Miranda presented the Board with information regarding the Child Care Local Match

Contribution Agreement with Gulf Coast Local Workforce Board for the 2020-21 School Year. The funds will be used for direct child care services for eligible children and families meeting TWC's (Texas Workforce Commission) rules.

E. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (8:22 PM)

Chief Mark Miranda presented the Board with information regarding the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Resolution. The resolution allows 4-H to be considered as an extracurricular activity and that the Board will recognize the Extension agents as adjunct staff. The resolution states:

Item 1: Extracurricular Status of Harris County 4-H:

1. 4-H is a part of Spring Tri-Club
2. Signed resolution allows the 4-H to be considered as extracurricular activity.
 - a. Allows students that participate in 4-H to have excused absences (like FFA student).
 - b. Students must meet the academic eligibility to participate (like FFA).

Item 2: Adjunct Faculty:

1. 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.
2. The District does not have to compensate the Extension agents.
List of adjunct staff for the 2020-21 school year is provided.

VIII. Chief of Police (8:24 PM)

A. Memorandum of Understanding Between Spring ISD and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) (8:24 PM)

Chief Ken Culbreath presented the Board with information regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between Spring ISD and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). Texas A&M and Spring ISD will work cooperatively to allow for periodic use of the SISD training and school facilities. TEEX will provide training to the officers as well based on schedule availability.

IX. Chief Financial Officer (8:26 PM)

A. 2020 Appraisal Roll Certification (8:26 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with the 2020 Appraisal Roll Certification. The Chief Appraiser of the Harris County Appraisal District has certified 2020 property values for our District. This is the tax base in addition to estimated amounts for uncertified property which will support the 2020-2021 operating and debt service budgets.

B. 2020 Tax Rate

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with the 2020 Tax Rate. The tax rate for the 2020 tax year is a rate of \$1.3843. As required by state regulations, the District published a proposed tax rate of \$1.4164 in the Houston Chronicle on June 10, 2020. Upon receipt of the certified values from the Harris County Appraisal District on September 1, 2020, an additional review was done resulting in a proposed tax rate of \$1.3843. In accordance with Property Tax Code, a taxing unit authorized to both maintenance and operations (M & O) and debt service (I & S) expenditures with property taxes must adopt its rate in two separate components; one for maintenance and operations (\$0.9343) and one for debt services (\$0.45).

C. Taxpayer Refunds (8:43 PM)

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

D. Report of Cooperative Purchases Exceeding \$50,000 (8:45 PM)

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

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
08/17/2020	Butler Business Products	Multipurpose wipes, disinfectant spray, nitrile gloves, poster board and paper clips	\$ 57,031
08/19/2020	Liberty Source, LP	Comprehensive Electronic Assessment Tool License for Benchmark and Progress Monitoring, Dyslexia Screener and Central Reporting	\$ 77,370
08/31/2020	Cengage Learning	Inside the U.S.A.: Student Book	\$ 95,040
08/31/2020	Butler Business Products	Disinfectant spray and multipurpose wipes	\$ 228,645
09/09/2020	SHI Government Solutions	TI 84 Plus Graphing Calculators for Spring High School Ninth Grade Center**	\$ 89,552

* Blanket Purchase Order for anticipated annual spend.

** Bond Related Expenditures

E. Covid-19 Testing for Employees (8:46 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with information regarding Covid-19 Testing for Employees. A partnership with Houston Medical ER will provide an opportunity for Covid-19 rapid testing for district employees allowing for a more effective process in identifying, isolating and returning employees to work.

F. 2020-2021 Application for General Pregnancy Related Services On-Campus Compensatory Education Home Instruction (CEHI) Waiver (8:50 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with information regarding the 2020-2021 Application for General Pregnancy Related Services On-Campus CEHI Waiver. Spring ISD is requesting a waiver to offer Pregnancy Related Services On-Campus Compensatory Education Home Instruction (CEHI) on a Spring ISD campus. Students will receive four hours of face-to-face instruction with a certified teacher in a classroom setting. This will allow for quality instruction and counseling support during the postpartum period.

G. Membership Continuation with OMNIA Partners (8:52 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with information regarding the Membership Continuation with OMNIA Partners. Pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code and Chapter 271, Subchapter F of the Texas Local Government Code, state agencies or local governments, including public school districts, are encouraged to engage in cooperative purchasing to achieve savings and/or create efficiencies in the purchase of goods and/or services. OMNIA Partners purchased U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (U.S. Communities), whom the District was previously a member of. The District now requests approval for continued membership through Omnia Partners. Participation in this purchasing cooperative does not require an annual administrative fee.

H. Request for Proposal # 21-002 - District-Wide PK-12 Equity Audit Services (8:53 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with information regarding Request for Proposal # 21-002 - District-Wide PK-12 Equity Audit Services. The Spring Independent School District requested competitive sealed proposals for the purpose of identifying a qualified vendor to provide District-Wide PK-12 Equity Audit Services to support the needs of the District. The Board considered awarding a contract for District-Wide PK-12 Equity Audit Services to the provider recommended by the administration.

I. Request for Proposal # 21-003 - Global Culture Competency Development (9:01 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with information regarding Request for Proposal # 21-003 - Global Culture Competency Development. The Spring Independent School District

requested competitive sealed proposals for the purpose of identifying qualified vendors to provide Global Culture Competency Development Services to support the needs of the District. The Board considered awarding the contracts for Global Culture Competency Development Services to the providers recommended by the administration.

X. Closed Session (9:04 PM)

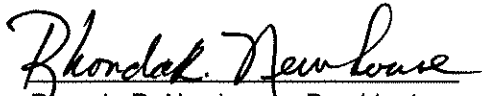
There was no Closed Session.

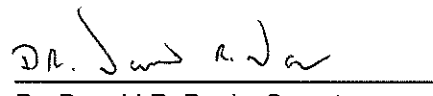
XI. Action on Closed Session Items (9:04 PM)

The Board took no action.

XII. Adjournment (9:06 PM)

On a motion by Trustee Hodges, seconded by Trustee Durant, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM.


Rhonda R. Newhouse, President


Dr. Donald R. Davis, Secretary