

# Spring Independent School District

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
WORK SESSION  
6:00 PM, DECEMBER 3, 2020  
BOARD ROOM  
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER  
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090**

## MINUTES

### I. Call to Order (6:09 PM)

President Rhonda Newhouse called the Work Session of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 6:09 PM on December 3, 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  
Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield, Chief of Innovation and Communications (via video conference)  
Jeremy Binkley, General Counsel  
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

### II. Minutes from Prior Meetings (6:10 PM)

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

- A. November 5, 2020 Board Work Session
- B. November 10, 2020 Regular Meeting

### III. Opening Remarks (6:11 PM)

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson began his remarks by saying that he "hoped everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving" and gave a special thanks "to all staff that continue to keep pushing regardless of what's happening outside of the building with their own personal families. Everyone on the team has really been focused and working hard to make sure that we're maintaining the

cleanliness and the safety for our students”.

Next Dr. Watson mentioned that the district is participating in a toy drive for the Northwest Assistance Ministries and he encouraged everyone to donate to the cause.

**IV. Public Agenda Participation (6:14 PM)**

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

**V. Presentations (6:14 PM)**

**A. 2021-2022 Education Planning Guide (6:14 PM)**

Chief Khechara Bradford presented information regarding the Education Planning Guide for the 2021-2022 school year. The Education Planning Guide (EPG) has been redesigned for the 2021-2022 school year and reflects an increase in course offerings designed to increase student opportunities, choice, and college preparedness options. The updated EPG was developed through collaborative efforts, across multiple departments, and based on feedback from campus staff.

**B. 2020-21 Budget Outlook Discussion (6:55 PM)**

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with a financial forecast based upon current enrollment and COVID-related funding formulas provided by TEA.

**VI. Board of Trustees (7:28 PM)**

**A. Discussion and Possible Nomination of Name for the Westfield High School JROTC Center**

The Board discussed naming the Westfield High School JROTC Center. (7:28 PM)

Trustee Hodges moved that the Board of Trustees name the Westfield High School JROTC Center as Captain Donald R. Davis JROTC Center. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Internal Auditor (7:35 PM)**

**A. Internal Audit – Mid-Year Progress Report (7:35 PM)**

Internal Auditor Patricia C. Rios presented the Board with information regarding the Internal Audit – Mid-Year Progress Report. The presentation included an update on the district’s internal audit plan, fraud hotline and a summary of activity funds, attendance and department internal audit reports.

**VIII. General Counsel (7:54 PM)**

**A. First Reading of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy BDB(LOCAL) (7:54 PM)**

Jeremy Binkley presented the Board with the first reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy BDB(LOCAL). Board Policy BDB(LOCAL) governs committees of the Board. Policy language is being revised to align with current practices. Specifically, to expand the list of standing committees this policy allows.

**IX. Chief of Innovation and Communications (7:57 PM)**

**A. Acceptance of Grant Funds - Texas Education Agency (TEA) School Action Fund (SAF) Grant and Additional Day School Year (ADSY) Grant (7:57 PM)**

Chief Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield presented the Board with information regarding TEA awarded grant funds for the School Action Fund (SAF) grant and the Additional Day School Year (ADSY) grant.

In accordance with Board Policy, grant funds of \$10,000 or more must be approved by the Spring Independent School District’s Board of Trustees.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) School Action Fund (SAF) grant will be used for blended learning redesigns and planning year activities at Bammel Middle School, Major Elementary, Bammel Elementary, and Eickenroht Elementary Schools. With support from this grant, each participating school will create a blended learning Campus Redesign Plan (CDP), which will be designed in partnership with the district’s assigned TEA Partner, Transcend Education.

Under the planning-year grant terms, each school team will spend a year planning a campus redesign focused on moving their campus to a blended-learning model. Schools participating in the grant will work collaboratively on their respective CDPs in an effort to positively impact academic outcomes across their schools. Campus redesign plans will be scored by the TEA and evaluated for continuation of grants funds for the 2021-22 school year.

Key requirements for the CDPs include:

- Effective Schools Framework
- Blended Learning
- Extended Day or Year
- High-Dosage Tutoring
- Socio-Emotional Components

Schools were invited to participate in this grant due to similar demographics, accountability status, and the opportunity to improve academic outcomes within a feeder pattern.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Additional Day School Year (ADSY) grant will be used to create “full-year” redesigns at Clark Primary and Clark Intermediate Schools. These full-year redesigns, which have a 210-day requirement, will allow these campuses to begin instruction two weeks earlier than other district schools as well as extend instruction into June when other district campuses have begun summer break. All other breaks and holidays during the academic school year will align to the district's academic calendar.

Additional areas of redesign include:

- Innovative instructional program that includes blended learning and enrichment activities
- Strategies that strengthen the whole child (social emotional needs); and
- Provide additional learning and planning time for teachers during the school day.

The planning grant award is for \$200,000 with an opportunity for additional funding for the implementation of the grant.

#### **X. Executive Chief of District Operations (8:10 PM)**

##### **A. High School Boundary Discussion (8:10 PM)**

Chief Mark Miranda led the High School Boundary Discussion.

Last February, the decision was made to put the last phase of our planned attendance boundary changes — adjustments to our comprehensive high school boundaries — on hold. At the time, the goal was to take an additional year to allow our new ninth-grade centers to open successfully and to collect additional input from key stakeholders on how best to support the transition.

Since last spring, things have changed greatly with COVID-19. Accordingly, administration recommended continuing to pause the high school boundary changes due to the pandemic.

##### **B. Interlocal Contract Between Harris County Department of Education and Spring ISD - 21st Century Cycle 9 Year 5 Grant (8:18 PM)**

Chief Mark Miranda presented the Board with information regarding an Interlocal Contract Between Harris County Department of Education and Spring ISD - 21st Century Cycle 9 Year 5 Grant. Pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, this Interlocal Contract is entered into by and between Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) and Spring Independent School District for the purpose of providing Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers/Texas ACE Cycle 9 Year 5 (afterschool program) at select site(s) within the ISD. Spring ISD will provide quality after-school programs at the sites.

**XI. Chief Financial Officer (8:21 PM)**

**A. Popular Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 (8:21 PM)**

Chief Ann Westbrooks presented the Board with the information regarding the Popular Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.

The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is a brief summary of the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This report is intended to increase public awareness throughout the community about Spring ISD's financial condition by presenting the financial information in a way that is more understandable to parents, students, community members, taxpayers, and other interested parties. The financial information within this report is taken in large part from the district's independently audited set of financial statements. Unlike the CAFR, the PAFR is not prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

**B. Taxpayer Refunds (8:26 PM)**

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

**C. Report of Cooperative Purchases Exceeding \$50,000 (8:27 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
10/22/2020	High Point Sanitary Solutions	Hand Sanitizer, Toilet Paper, Pine Cleaner Disinfectant and Scrub/Strip Hand Pads	\$ 50,397
10/23/2020	SHI	TI 84 Plus Graphics Calculators for Westfield H.S. – 9th Grade Center**	\$ 63,738
10/27/2020	Dell Computer Corp.	Dell Latitude 5410 computers	\$ 58,200
10/29/2020	Butler Business Products	Clorox Wipes, Nitrile Gloves (M, L, and XL)	\$ 86,119
11/2/2020	Engage2Learn	Additional Days School Year Planning and Execution – Phase 1	\$ 89,680

\* Blanket Purchase Order for anticipated annual spend

\*\* Bond Related Expenditures

**XII. Closed Session (8:32 PM)**

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 8:32 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 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, 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

**XIII. Action on Closed Session Items (9:22 PM)**

President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 9:22 PM. The Board took no action.

**XIV. Adjournment (9:23 PM)**

On a motion by Trustee Adams, seconded by Trustee Durant, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 9:23 PM.

  
Board President

  
Board Secretary