

# Spring Independent School District

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



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
7:00 PM, FEBRUARY 13, 2018  
BOARD ROOM  
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER  
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090**

## **MINUTES**

### **I. Call to Order**

Vice President Jana Gonzales called the Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 PM on February 13, 2018, 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:**

Jana Gonzales, Vice President  
Donald Davis, Secretary  
Justine Durant, Assistant Secretary  
Dr. Deborah Jensen  
Winford Adams, Jr.  
Chris Bell

### **Members Absent:**

Rhonda Newhouse, President

### **Others Present:**

Rodney Watson, Superintendent of Schools  
Victor Mitchell, Chief of Police  
Julie Hill, Chief of Staff  
Lupita Hinojosa, Chief of School Leadership and Student Support Services  
Lauren Topek, Chief of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Mark Miranda, Chief Operations Officer  
Deeone McKeithan, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Ann Westbrook, Chief Financial Officer  
Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield, Chief Communications Officer  
Jeremy Binkley, Legal Officer  
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

### **II. Flag Pledges**

The Presentation of the Colors was led by the Dekaney Wildcat NJROTC. Cadets Cameron Smith, Carl Koulavongsa, Kurt Koulavongsa, Tanisha Stewart, and Taisha Stewart presented the colors and led the Pledges of Allegiance.

### **III. Moment of Silence**

Vice President Gonzales asked the audience to join in a moment of silence.

### **IV. Opening Remarks**

#### **A. Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Rodney Watson opened his remarks with highlights from the Board Work Session on February 8, 2018 that included a presentation on the new Roberson Middle School replacement campus. He also noted that 45 student athletes from Westfield, Dekaney and Spring high schools participated in National Signing Day, signing letters of intent to play at higher educational institutions. Next, he personally congratulated Gabriella Sucasin, a Twin Creeks Middle School seventh grader, for taking the top spot in the Spring ISD Spelling Bee. He went on to draw attention to a recent article in the Houston Chronicle that noted Spring ISD has the highest average teacher salary of all of the region's largest school districts. In closing, Dr. Watson acknowledged that February is Career and Technical Education Month and talked about the many opportunities for students to explore different careers among the 45 different career pathways offered.

#### **B. Board of Trustees**

Vice President Gonzales invited the Trustees to make remarks.

Trustee Durant commended the administration at Claughton Middle School for hosting a "great event" on February 12, 2018 in celebration of the school's 15th anniversary.

Trustee Davis asked Dr. Rodney Watson to report on the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (HAABSE) Teacher of the Year event. Dr. Watson said that 14 Spring ISD teachers were recognized at the event and received awards from the HAABSE organization. After thanking Dr. Watson, Trustee Davis went on to congratulate the Dekaney, Spring and Westfield high school basketball teams for an excellent year.

Trustee Bell encouraged those in attendance to make sure they are registered to vote and participate in the upcoming elections, with a reminder that school board elections are held in November.

Trustee Jensen asked Dr. Rodney Watson to report on the Principal of the Year selection. Dr. Watson introduced the 2018 Principals of the Year, who happened to be in the audience – Beneke Principal LaTracy Harris, Elementary Principal of the Year, and Roberson Principal Tracey Walker, Secondary Principal of the Year. Dr. Watson stated that he was proud of the work that the principals are doing which he said is evident in their student achievement and leadership.

### **V. Presentations to the Board of Trustees**

#### **A. Presentation of Jostens Youth Matter Donation**

Gardner Seaholm, Ph.D., of Jostens, presented a check for \$1,000 from Jostens Youth Matter to Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson. Jostens Youth Matter is a charitable giving program established to support Jostens' customers and the communities they serve.

#### **B. Presentation of Proclamation**

Chief Julie F. Hill presented the Board of Trustees with a proclamation from Senator Sylvia R. Garcia's Office in honor of National School Board Appreciation Month which



was observed in January. The proclamation acknowledged the Board's commitment and notable contributions on behalf of the community in which they serve.

## **VI. Recognitions**

### **A. ABCD Award**

Chief Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield announced that the recognition of Rabbi Amy Weiss would be moved to a future meeting as Rabbi Weiss was unable to attend the meeting.

### **B. Spotlight**

The Board recognized students from Beneke Elementary, Booker Elementary, and Carl Wunsche Sr. High School who participated in activities to honor National Black History Month.

Booker Elementary's Orff Ensemble, directed by Suzette Fears, opened the segment with an African song.

Next, Dawn Ford, a tenth grader at Carl Wunsche Sr. High School presented her artwork titled "Color Blind".

Next, four students from Beneke Elementary School -- Alexandra Smith, Camille Jones, Rodney Watson and Kymani Walsh -- performed a variety of selections to demonstrate how Black History is about inspiration, dreaming, hoping and believing.

To conclude the Spotlight, students from Beneke Elementary School sang a verse of James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Every Voice and Sing".

### **C. Points of Pride**

The Twin Creeks Step Team, coached by Lebrandon Jenkins, was presented a Point of Pride award for winning first place in their age group at a national competition in Orlando, Florida, in December 2018. Coach Jenkins said the team started three years ago with 17 members and placed fifth in national competition during their first year. He commended his team members for "a lot of hard work."

## **VII. Chief Human Resources Officer**

### **A. EVERY day counts – Teacher Attendance Program**

The Board recognized the 52 Spring ISD teachers who earned \$1,500 incentive awards in the District's inaugural EVERYday Counts attendance drawing. The incentive program is part of the District's strategic compensation work, which recognizes and rewards high performance from every employee.

Vice President Jana Gonzales recessed the meeting for a short break at 8:22 PM.

Vice President Jana Gonzales reconvened the meeting at 8:34 PM.

## **VIII. Chief of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

### **A. Instructional Technology Presentation: Maker Spaces**

Chief Lauren Topek provided the Board an update of progress with Maker Spaces. The presentation included examples of Maker Spaces at various Spring ISD campuses and future plans for Maker Spaces throughout the District.

## **IX. Board Governance Committee**

### **A. Discussion of CW(LOCAL) NAMING FACILITIES**

Trustee Durant led a discussion on the current policy and practices regarding the

naming of District facilities. The purpose of the discussion was to get feedback from the Board of Trustees for the Board Governance Committee to take under consideration while revising the current policy.

**X. Chief of Staff**

**A. Approval of the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar**

Chief Julie F. Hill presented the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar for Board approval. Included in the presentation were the results of a community survey, which drew feedback from nearly 2,500 respondents on two proposed calendar options, A and B. The preferred option in the survey, with more than 70 percent of the vote, was Option B, which was recommended by the Administration for approval by the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Davis moved that the Board of Trustees approve the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar, as presented by the administration. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**XI. Chief of School Leadership and Student Support Services**

**A. Memorandum of Understanding between EMERGE Fellowship and Spring Independent School District**

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented information regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between EMERGE Fellowship and Spring Independent School District. EMERGE is a program to prepare high-potential students from underserved communities to attend and graduate from selective colleges and universities from across the nation.

Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Memorandum of Understanding between EMERGE Fellowship and Spring Independent School District, as presented by the administration. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**B. Annual Renewal Contract for College Board**

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented information regarding the Annual Renewal Contract for College Board. The contract covers the College Board testing that occurs during the 2017- 2018 school year. This includes: PSAT 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT Day.

Trustee Jensen moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Annual Renewal Contract for College Board, as presented by the administration. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**XII. Consent Agenda**

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

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

1. January 11, 2018 Board Work Session
2. January 18, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

**B. Memorandum of Understanding with Harris County District Attorney's Office**

The Board will consider approving the MOU between Spring Independent School District and the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

- C. Memorandum of Understanding with Harris County Sheriff's Office  
The Board will consider approving the MOU between Spring Independent School District and the Harris County Sheriff's Office.
- D. First Reading of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy DEC(LOCAL)  
Chief Julie Hill will present proposed revisions to Board Policy DEC(LOCAL).
- E. First Reading of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy DFBB(LOCAL)  
Chief Julie Hill will present proposed revisions to Board Policy DFBB(LOCAL).
- F. Second Reading of TASB Local Update 109 - Proposed Revisions Affecting the Following Board Policies  
Chief Julie Hill will present the second reading of Local Policies revised in TASB Update 109.
  - 1. BBE(LOCAL)
  - 2. CDA(LOCAL)
  - 3. CKC(LOCAL)
  - 4. CNA(LOCAL)
  - 5. CO(LOCAL)
  - 6. DF(LOCAL)
  - 7. DH(LOCAL)
  - 8. EHBAF(LOCAL)
  - 9. EJ(LOCAL)
  - 10. FEA(LOCAL)
  - 11. FFAA(LOCAL)
  - 12. FFF(LOCAL)
  - 13. FFI(LOCAL)
  - 14. GBAA(LOCAL)
  - 15. GKA(LOCAL)
  - 16. GKC(LOCAL)
  - 17. GKE(LOCAL)
- G. 2017-2018 Second Budget Review  
Chief Ann Westbrooks will present the Second Budget Review of 2017-2018.
- H. Financial Update – Actual Expenditures – December 2017  
The Board will consider ratifying the year-to-date actual expenditures.
- I. Annual Report on Purchasing Cooperative Fees for 2016-2017 Fiscal Year  
Chief Ann Westbrooks will present the Board with a report on purchasing cooperative fees.
- J. Taxpayer Refunds  
The Board will consider ratifying refunds exceeding \$500.

**XIII. Public Participation**

Terry McQueen addressed the Board regarding concerns of school safety.

**XIV. Closed Session**

Vice President Gonzales recessed the open session at 9:06 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
  - 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
  - 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 the recommendation to void the term contract of Aisha Taylor, Assistant Principal at Dekaney High School, and to terminate Ms. Taylor's employment, pursuant to Texas Education Code 21.0031

**XV. Action on Closed Session Items**

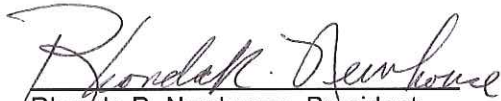
Vice President Gonzales reconvened the open session at 10:56 PM.

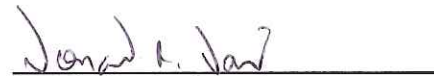
- A. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate at the end of the contract term, the probationary contract of Lashovious Smith as presented in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent to provide notice of the Board's action to the impacted employee pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Trustee Durant moved that the Board declare the term contract of Aisha Taylor to be void pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code and approve the termination of her employment with Spring ISD, effective upon the deactivation of her Intern Certificate by the Texas Education Agency. Trustee Durant further moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify this employee of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. Trustee Adams moved that the Board render a final order to terminate the contract of Melissa Ciau and authorized the Superintendent to notify the employee of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Bell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Trustee Bell moved that the Board issue a school district teaching permit to Valencia Krakue for the purpose of teaching noncore career and technology courses and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**XVI. Adjournment**

On a motion by Trustee Jensen, seconded by Trustee Durant, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 11:02 PM.

  
Rhonda R. Newhouse, President

  
Donald Davis, Secretary