

# Spring Independent School District

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



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
7:00 PM, MARCH 20, 2018  
BOARD ROOM  
GORDON M. ANDERSON LEADERSHIP CENTER  
16717 ELLA BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77090**

## **MINUTES**

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

President Rhonda Newhouse called the Regular Board Meeting of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 7:01 PM on March 20, 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:**

Rhonda Newhouse, President  
Jana Gonzales, Vice President  
Donald Davis, Secretary  
Justine Durant, Assistant Secretary (arrived at 7:08 PM)  
Dr. Deborah Jensen  
Chris Bell

### **Members Absent:**

Winford Adams, Jr.

### **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  
Jeremy Binkley, Legal Officer  
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

### **II. Flag Pledges**

The Presentation of the Colors and pledges of allegiance were led by the Westfield Mustang Army JROTC and included Cadets Faith Jones, Naisa Johnson, Arianna Bailey, Vivian Garcia, Alexis Washington, Raul Benevides, Jean Charles, Jorge Alcocer, and Timothy Beckelic.

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

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

### **IV. Opening Remarks**

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

Dr. Rodney Watson opened his remarks by assuring parents that the District is continuing to do everything it can to ensure that schools are as safe as possible in the aftermath of the tragedy in Florida. He discussed the importance for not only school administration but also parents to continue talking with their children so problems can be alleviated, especially those items that sometimes come up through social media. He pledged to continue to use resources to ensure that students are safe during the day, and asked for continued parent support.

In addition to the focus on safety, Dr. Watson went on to encourage parental support with the District's focus on attendance. He reported that the District's attendance and enrollment had been impacted this school year by Hurricane Harvey and the ice storm. Dr. Watson emphasized the importance of attendance during the next two months when preparation for the STAAR and End of Course testing is underway.

Next, Dr. Watson spoke about the District's recent celebration of Campus Rookie Teachers of the Year and pointed out that there were 32 teachers selected by their principals for this recognition.

Dr. Watson reported how pleased he was to see increased participation in the recent School Quality Survey, one of two important surveys held annually by the District.

In conclusion, Dr. Watson talked about the impressive accomplishment on the part of nine Spring ISD students who were invited to participate in all-state musical ensembles at the Texas Music Educators Association Conference last month in San Antonio. He then invited those present to watch a short video and see for themselves an example of what is happening in the district's Performing and Visual Arts program.

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

President Newhouse invited the Trustees to make remarks.

Trustee Davis spoke about two events he attended recently at Westfield High School and how impressed he was by the students, both current and former, who were involved. "I had a chance to be a part of the Westfield male summit before spring break. They brought back past alumni to provide mentorship and advice," said Davis. He was especially impressed by the former students, some whom he had taught, who have gone on to serve at the college level and others who now own businesses. "It was quite an enjoyment watching our past students come back to mentor and pass on information."

Davis also acknowledged the Westfield JROTC program for earning one of the highest awards a unit can achieve at its recent accreditation visit.



Trustee Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting. "We always appreciate it when parents, supporters and even our students come out. So again, thank you all for taking the time out to be with us tonight," Bell said.

## **V. Recognitions**

### **A. Appreciation of Book Donation**

Ponderosa Elementary students affected by Hurricane Harvey flooding thanked Trustees for their role in securing book donations, courtesy of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members (TCBSBM). Twenty-eight Ponderosa Elementary students each received five books from TCBSBM to help rebuild home libraries lost to the flood waters. The young students came to the podium to express their gratitude.

### **B. Spotlight - Women's History Month**

The Board recognized four Twin Creeks Middle School students who performed a skit in honor of Women's History Month. The students earned first place at the District's History Fair for their piece, titled "I Remember." The skit focused on the themes of racism and prejudice through short soliloquies given by the students, Catherine Castille, Trinity Trahan, Perla Deleon and Sana Syed.

Because the group finished first place in the regional competition, they will next be performing at the state level.

### **C. Spotlight – Spelling Bee Winners**

The Board recognized the Spring ISD Spelling Bee winners. Twin Creeks Middle School's Gabrielle Sucacin was recognized for her achievement in besting more than two dozen students to take top honors at the 2018 Spring ISD District Spelling Bee. Sucacin's younger brother Emanuel Sucacin from Hirsch Elementary won the alternate spot and joined her for congratulations from the Board of Trustees. The two students will compete in the regional Houston Public Media Bee on April 7.

### **D. Spotlight – History Day Fair**

The Board recognized the winners of the Spring ISD History Fair. Spring ISD middle school students participated in the District and Regional History Day Fair. The contest, sponsored by National History Day, encourages students from around the world to conduct historical research on a topic of their choice. This year's theme was "Conflict and Compromise." Those students who placed first or second in the District competition were able to move onto the regional level. First-place winners in that contest will represent Spring ISD in the state competition on April 28.

Eight students won individual awards in the competition, and 17 students won six group awards. Those students recognized with District individual awards are:

First Place: Isabel Rincon, Roberson Middle School: Child Labor History in the U.S. exhibit, Ryann Presley, Roberson Middle School: Civil Rights website, Sean Hokanson, Twin Creeks Middle School: To Drop or Not to Drop paper

Second Place: Tate Sikes, Bailey Middle School: Salem Witch Trials paper, Rowan Coccimiglio, Roberson Middle School: Salem Witch Trials Reason vs. Religion exhibit

Third Place: Quinton Woods, Claughton Middle School: Emancipation Proclamation exhibit, Alexandra Ritualo, Twin Creeks Middle School: The Filipino Insurrection paper

Honorable Mention: Christian Mandujano, Claughton Middle School: Conscientious Objectors exhibit

Those students recognized with district group awards were:

First Place: Anthony Celauro and Jai Persuad, Twin Creeks Middle School: Agent Orange Controversy exhibit, Catherine Castille, Trinity Trahan, Perla De Leon and Sana Syed of Twin Creeks Middle School: I Remember performance

Second Place: Elyssa Dawkins and Brook Linscomb, Twin Creeks Middle School: Treatment of Jews website, Kinny Reyes, Stephanie Aguirre, Ashley Velasquez, Roberson Middle School: Bloody Mary exhibit, Sophie Bambara, Steven Canales, Erika Aldaz and Brenda Belmont, Roberson Middle School: New Marriage website

Third Place: Jonathan Lazo and Aaron Lopez, Roberson Middle School: The Cold War exhibit

E. Spotlight – San Jacinto Writing Competition

The Board recognized the District winner of the San Jacinto Writing Competition. Chris Estrada, a seventh-grader from Roberson Middle School, wrote the winning essay, looking at why African American soldiers who fought for San Jacinto did not receive pensions like their Caucasian peers. The essay writing contest -- a collaboration between the Literacy and Social Studies departments -- followed a presentation to all seventh-grade social studies scholars by San Jacinto Monument representatives. The first-place winner from each campus then participated in a District round of judging, by which Estrada was selected. Also recognized Tuesday were Ingrid Miller, Roberson literacy coach, and Estrada's parents for working with him through this process.

F. Points of Pride

The Board recognized nine Spring ISD high school students who received invitations to participate in all-state musical ensembles during the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) 2018 clinic and convention Feb. 14-17 in San Antonio. The students, including eight from Spring High School and one from Dekaney High School, are all recipients of the highest honor awarded to music students in Texas schools, one given to less than five percent of students.

This year's Spring High School band students who were selected include: Olger Carcache, Baritone Saxophone (All-State Symphonic Band); Austin Chapman, French Horn (All-State Symphony Orchestra); Ryan Dimaranan, Trumpet (All-State Symphonic Band); Immanuel Fernando, B-flat Clarinet (All-State Concert Band); Richard Olivarri, Trumpet (All-State Symphonic Band); and Melvin Vega, B-flat Clarinet (All-State Philharmonic Orchestra).

Spring High School choir students who participated, along with their placements, are: Elayna Freitas, Alto 1 (All-State Treble Choir); and Josue Hernandez, Tenor 2 (All-State Mixed Choir).



Representing Dekaney's band program, bassoon player Gabriel Manzano was selected for this year's All-State Symphonic Band.

#### **VI. Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Following Meetings:
  - 1. February 8, 2018 Board Work Session
  - 2. February 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Facilities Use Interlocal Agreement between Lone Star College System(LSCS) and Spring ISD for LSCS's Transportation Institute and Amendment 4  
The Board will consider ratifying the Facilities Use Interlocal Agreement between Lone Star College System (LSCS) and Spring ISD for LSCS's Transportation Institute and Amendment 4.
- C. Roberson Middle School Replacement Bid Package 1, Initial Guaranteed Maximum Price  
The Board will consider approving the Initial Guaranteed Maximum Price for Roberson Middle School Replacement.
- D. Model Interlocal Agreement Between Spring ISD and Other Local School Districts to Conduct Third Party Commercial Driver License (CDL) Skills Testing Through Spring ISD Transportation  
The Board will consider approving as to form the Model Interlocal Agreement between Spring ISD and other local school districts to conduct Third Party Commercial Driver License (CDL) Skills Testing through Spring ISD Transportation.
- E. Second 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 Proposed Revisions to Board Policy DEC(LOCAL)  
Chief Julie Hill will present proposed revisions to Board Policy DEC(LOCAL).
- G. First Reading of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy CW(LOCAL)  
Chief Julie Hill will present proposed revisions to Board Policy CW(LOCAL).
- H. Taxpayer Refunds  
The Board will consider ratifying refunds exceeding \$500.
- I. Independent Auditor's Engagement Letter  
The Board will consider approving engagement with Whitley Penn for the District's annual audit.
- J. Resolution Amending Authorized Representatives for the Texas Local Government Investment Pool and BBVA Compass Bank  
The Board will consider approving the resolutions amending the authorized representatives to transact business with TexPool Participant Services and BBVA Compass Bank.
- K. Request for Proposals # 18-015 - Property & Casualty Insurance  
The Board will consider approving the vendor selected to provide Property & Casualty Insurance for the District.

L. Request for Proposal #18-016 – Bond Auditing Services for Construction Projects

The Board will consider awarding the contract for Bond Auditing Services to the provider(s) recommended by the administration.

M. Request for Proposal #18-019 – Internet Access - Project A (E-Rate)

The Board will consider awarding the contract for internet access to the provider recommended by the administration.

N. Request for Proposal #18-020 – Internet Access - Project B (E-Rate)

The Board will consider awarding the contract for internet access to the provider recommended by the administration.

**VII. Public Participation**

Mark Rambis addressed the Board regarding concerns of contract non-renewal.

Debbie Rambis addressed the Board regarding concerns of treatment of staff.

**VIII. Closed Session**

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 8:17 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 entry of final orders for employees on term contracts previously proposed for nonrenewal
  - 8. The Board will deliberate, in consultation with legal counsel, regarding which method, as found in policy DFBB(LOCAL), will be used for the hearing of employee appeals related to the proposed nonrenewal of their term contracts



- D. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices

**IX. Action on Closed Session Items**

President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 9:53 PM.

- A.. Trustee Gonzales moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to propose the nonrenewal of the Term contracts of Loretta Davenport and Mark Rambis as presented in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent to provide notice of the Board's action to the impacted employees pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Durant asked that the motion be amended to only include Loretta Davenport. Trustee Gonzales accepted the amended motion. Trustee Gonzales moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to propose the nonrenewal of the Term contract of Loretta Davenport as presented in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent to provide notice of the Board's action to the impacted employees pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

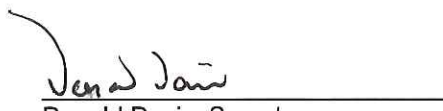
Trustee Durant moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to propose the nonrenewal of the Term contract of Mark Rambis as presented in closed session and to authorize the Superintendent to provide notice of the Board's action to the impacted employees pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Gonzales seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-2 with Trustee Bell and Trustee Davis abstaining.

- B. Trustee Jensen moved that that hearings requested by employees whose contracts have been proposed for non-renewal at the end of the 2017-2018 school year be heard by the Board pursuant to Board Policy DFBB(LOCAL). Trustee Bell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. Trustee Gonzales moved that the Board render a final order to terminate the contract of Celia Caldera-Dzidowski and authorize the Superintendent to notify the employee of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- D. Trustee Bell moved that the Board declare the probationary contract of Lindsey Baccari to be void pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code and approve the termination of her employment with Spring ISD effective immediately. Trustee Bell further moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify this employee of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**X. Adjournment**

On a motion by Trustee Jensen, seconded by Trustee Bell, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM.

  
Rhonda R. Newhouse, President

  
Donald Davis, Secretary