

Spring Independent School District

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



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM, AUGUST 14, 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 August 14, 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
Dr. Deborah Jensen
Chris Bell
Winford Adams, Jr.

Members Absent:

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
Mark Miranda, Chief Operations Officer
Deeone McKeithan, Chief Human Resources Officer
Ann Westbrook, Chief Financial Officer
Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield, Chief Communications Officer
Jeremy Binkley, General Counsel
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

II. Flag Pledges

Trustee Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

III. Moment of Silence

President Newhouse called for a moment of silence.

IV. Opening Remarks

A. Superintendent of Schools

"We are indeed excited about starting school tomorrow," Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson began his report. "We are truly excited about all the great work that our principals and teachers are doing to prepare for our students."

He went on to talk about the hard work of year-round employees who have been preparing all summer for opening of the 2018-19 school year.

"I am especially proud of our professional development," Watson said. He said both teachers and school leaders were engaged in learning over the summer that "helped us shape what they need to have ready for the school year."

"We not only offered more PD (professional development) than ever before, but we also had the highest participation rates ever," Watson said. "We are very confident that the training they have received over the summer and the work that they will be doing will definitely have an impact on student achievement moving forward."

He reminded the Board that the state accountability results were soon to be released and the District would be designated as Not Rated due to the Hurricane Harvey waiver. "But we are extremely proud of all the accomplishments that we have seen across our District in student achievement, and we look for it to continue."

Next he talked about 2018-19 being the District's LIFT year – the fourth year of the District's Every Child 2020 Five Year Strategic plan. "LIFT is designed to capitalize on all the achievements and successes that we have seen in years two and three. We want to capitalize on those as well as replicate those across our District," he said.

Dr. Watson went on to talk about programs that would offer more support to students this year, including the expansion of the Community Eligibility Provision that will provide free lunch to all students at 31 campuses. "We are always excited to be able to provide that service for our families."

Dr. Watson then added that the Director of Mental Health, a new position to the District this year, will be working with counselors to address students' needs. "Through Hurricane Harvey, we have seen an influx of mental health needs in our community as well as our students. So this year, Ms. (Denise) Zimmermann, will be working with our campus counselors to address any student needs beyond the classroom," Dr. Watson said.

Next, Dr. Watson said the District will continue to focus on the importance of attendance for both students and teachers. "Stay tuned," he said. "On August 20, we'll be live on Facebook with our teacher attendance incentive drawing for those teachers that returned from last year that had great attendance."

In closing, Dr. Watson announced that the District's Success Walk is set for Saturday, September 15. "We'll be out in our community talking about student attendance and credit recovery. That's our annual walk where we have opportunities to get out and see our families as well as bring those students back to school and register them at their home campus or the Achieving Academic Success Program (ASAP). We want each of

our students every day to be at school, to have a productive school experience, as well as our teachers, and we look forward to a great 2018-19 year," Dr. Watson said.

B. Board of Trustees

President Rhonda Newhouse invited Trustees to share remarks.

Trustee Jana Gonzales talked about the excitement experienced by graduates and their families at the Summer Graduation on Saturday, August 11. "It was an exciting time for some of our students who may have had some challenges and obstacles that kept them from graduating in May, but they persevered and were able to get their high school diploma last weekend. I think it's a great opportunity to celebrate their achievement, whether it is in May or August," Gonzales said.

Trustee Chris Bell welcomed everyone to the first board meeting of the 2018-19 school year. "We are excited about the students coming back tomorrow. Some have been working all summer, so again welcome back everyone," he said. He went on to remind those present that early voting on the flood control bond referendum is currently underway in Harris County and encouraged residents to participate.

Dr. Deborah Jensen asked Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson to elaborate on recent awards received by the District. He responded by first recognizing the high-quality work of the Procurement Department under the supervision of Director Philip Ellison and the leadership of Chief Financial Officer Ann Westbrook. "One of the awards that we recently received demonstrates the consistency in excellence provided by our Procurement Department in Ann's shop," Dr. Watson said. "So we want to say thank you once again to our Finance Department."

Next, Dr. Watson reported that the Communications Department had recently received 11 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) awards. "You know their work is evident by looking at our website and all the positive communications that go out. They have done some great work and many thanks to Tiffany (Dunne-Oldfield) and her leadership, as well as the entire communications team," Dr. Watson said.

Dr. Watson also commended Human Resources for the work they did this summer to make sure teaching positions were filled when school started. "I do want to also say a special thank you to Mr. (Deonne) McKeithan and the entire HR team – I think as of last Thursday there were only six positions across the entire District that weren't filled, and we know that they are still working to make sure there are teachers in front of our students because we know that impacts them the most," Dr. Watson said.

Trustee Justine Durant spoke about the recent accomplishments and future plans of the Board's Governance Committee. The accomplishments included launching the Board of Trustees Employee Excellence Award, revamping the facilities rental policy, making the Spring ISD Learning Center available to the community free of charge except for custodial fees, and aligning board policy with the District's Five Year Strategic Plan, Every Child 2020. Durant thanked Trustee Deborah Jensen for her work on the District's Series E Policies that support the curriculum and Trustee Donald Davis for his work on the cyberbullying policy. "We got a lot of work done as a governance committee, and we're proud of that," Durant said. Looking toward the new school year, she asked the Trustees to submit any policies or governance oversight that they would like the committee to address. She said the committee has already identified two areas

of focus for next year: middle school enrollment and a stronger legislative agenda. "Right now, public education is under attack," Durant said. "There are a lot of governance policies and legislation that is going on, and I think that we need to make sure that we have a voice in Austin moving forward."

President Rhonda Newhouse concluded the Trustees' remarks with a follow-up to Dr. Watson's recognition of Human Resources for having so many of positions filled at the start of school. "That is truly bragging rights, Mr. McKeithan," Newhouse said.

V. Recognitions

A. Points of Pride – Thomas Woods, Athletic Trainer at Dekaney High School
The Board recognized Dekaney High School Athletic Trainer Thomas Woods as a recipient of the Board of Trustees' Points of Pride award. The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) recently presented Mr. Woods with the 2018 Gatorade Secondary School Athletic Trainer Award. Woods is the winner for a region encompassing all of Arkansas and the entire state of Texas, and he is one of only 10 trainers nationwide to receive the award this year. Chief Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield reminded those present that Woods had previously received NATA's 2017 Athletic Trainer Service Award, noting that his repeated national-level recognition was a testament to his dedication and commitment to his students, to Dekaney High School, and to the District.

B. Spotlight – Congressional Award Leadership Camp Scholars
A Board Spotlight recognition was presented in honor of a group of Spring ISD high school students who recently participated in a number of academic and youth leadership camps through a program sponsored by the District's Multilingual Department. The student group includes English language learners and recent immigrants to the U.S. who were identified as candidates for the program and as potential student leaders both in their schools and in their communities. In addition to other ongoing projects, a number of the students are now working their way toward national recognition through the Congressional Award program.

Over the summer months, representatives from this student group attended several events, both locally and around the country, including: Tapia Center "Say STEM" Camp at Rice University, Spring ISD's Congressional Award Leadership Camp and Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) World Leadership Congress in Chicago.

A student representative from the group, Neemekh Mudvari of Westfield High School, addressed the Trustees and those gathered for the meeting. He spoke about his own personal story – including coming to the U.S. two years ago not knowing English – and about how the Multilingual Department's program had helped him and other students succeed and grow.

"Thank you for seeing something in us that so often times society does not see," Mudvari said during his remarks. "The faith that you put in us changes us to be better citizens, better students, better community members, and better servant leaders. It is because of people like you that our zip code will never define us."

VI. Chief Financial Officer

A. Participation in The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Purchasing Cooperative
Chief Ann Westbrooks presented to the Board information regarding participation in The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Purchasing Cooperative. 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. Participation in this cooperative will allow the District access to contracts that it would otherwise not have access to through other cooperatives.

Trustee Durant moved that the Board of Trustee approve participation in The Interlocal Purchasing System Purchasing Cooperative, as presented by the administration.

Trustee Gonzales seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. Consent Agenda

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

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

1. June 7, 2018 Board Work Session
2. June 11, 2018 Board Workshop
3. June 12, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

B. Order for and Notice of Trustee Election on November 6, 2018

The Board will consider approving the Order and Notice of Trustee Election.

C. Link Elementary School Deferred Maintenance Package E, Guaranteed Maximum Price

The Board will consider approving the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Link Elementary School Deferred Maintenance Package E, in the amount of \$2,612,292, with a total Package E GMP of \$6,399,875.

D. Wells Middle School Deferred Maintenance Package E, Guaranteed Maximum Price

The Board will consider approving the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Wells Middle School Deferred Maintenance Package E, in the amount of \$3,787,583, with a total Package E GMP of \$6,399,875.

E. Dueitt Middle School Deferred Maintenance Package F, Guaranteed Maximum Price

The Board will consider approving the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Dueitt Middle School Deferred Maintenance Package F, in the amount of \$5,643,650, with a total Package F GMP of \$10,500,000.

F. Twin Creeks Middle School Deferred Maintenance Package F, Guaranteed Maximum Price

The Board will consider approving the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Twin Creeks Middle School Deferred Maintenance Package F, in the amount of \$4,856,350, with a total Package F GMP of \$10,500,000.

G. Contract Extension for PEIMS Consultant

The Board will consider approving the PEIMS Consultant contract extension.

H. Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 110, Addendum to the Water and Sewer Agreement

The Board will consider authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to extend the agreement between Spring ISD and Harris County Water Control and Improvement District 110 for an additional 15 years.

I. Acceptance of Grant Funds

The Board will consider accepting the proposed grant funds of \$1,693,620.00 to operate the 2018-2019 Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

J. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AVANCE-Houston, Inc. and Spring Independent School District (Lewis Elementary)

The Board will consider approving the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between AVANCE – Houston, Inc. and Spring Independent School District.

K. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Mental Health America Greater Houston (MHAGH) and Spring Independent School District

The Board will consider approving the MOU between Mental Health America Greater Houston and Spring Independent School District for the start of 2018-2019 of school year.

L. Dual Credit Courses Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Lone Star College System and Spring Independent School District

The Board will consider approving the Dual Credit Courses MOU between Lone Star College System and Spring Independent School District.

M. Camelot Education Texas, LLC – Amendment #4

The Board will consider approving the contract between Camelot Education Texas, LLC and Spring Independent School District.

N. Hobsons (dba Naviance) Contract Renewal

The Board will consider approving the contract between Hobsons (dba Naviance) and Spring Independent School District.

O. Taxpayer Refunds

The Board will consider ratifying refunds exceeding \$500.

P. Request for Proposal #18-018 – Team and Club Shirts

The Board will consider awarding the contracts for Team and Club Shirts to the providers recommended by the administration.

Q. Request for Proposal #18-021 – Energy Management and Conservation Program

The Board will consider awarding the contract for Energy Management and Conservation Program services to the provider recommended by the administration.

R. Request for Proposal #19-001 – Tax Office Collections Software

The Board will consider awarding the contract for Tax Office Collections Software to the provider recommended by the administration.

S. Request for Proposal #19-002 – Charter Bus Services

The Board will consider awarding the contract for Charter Bus Services to the providers recommended by the administration.

T. Request for Proposal #19-004 – Refurbished Cubicles

The Board will consider awarding the contract for Refurbished Cubicles to the providers recommended by the administration.

VIII. Public Participation

Princess Williams addressed the Board of Trustees regarding a termination complaint. Rogaciano Villalobos Jr. addressed the Board of Trustees regarding a campus ban.

IX. Closed Session

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 7:48 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 and/or nonrenewal
- D. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices

X. Action on Closed Session Items

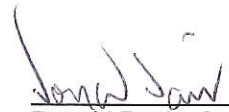
President Newhouse reconvened the open session at 8:46 PM.

- A. Trustee Durant moved that the Board render a final order to terminate the contract of Cecilia Kees and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the employee of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board issue a school district teaching permit to Cassey Simien and Dierdre Rand 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's action. Trustee Bell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. Trustee Adams moved that the board authorize the Superintendent of Schools to give written notice to Omar Durham that a proposed action to terminate his probationary contract is pending before the Board of Trustees. Trustee Gonzales seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- D. Trustee Gonzales moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate the contracts of Raymond Jackson, Vonnie Dones III, Stanley Alexander, Adrian Gomez, and Isaac Rodriguez upon finding that the employees failed to perform their contracts without good cause, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the employees of the proposed termination pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Gonzales further moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify the State Board for Education Certification that the employees failed to perform their contracts without good cause, and of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Durant, seconded by Trustee Adams, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:51 PM.


Rhonda R. Newhouse, President


Donald Davis, Secretary