

Spring Independent School District

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



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM, NOVEMBER 13, 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 7:00 PM on November 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:

Rhonda Newhouse, President
Jana Gonzales, Vice President
Donald Davis, Secretary
Justine Durant, Assistant Secretary (left at 9:34 PM)
Dr. Deborah Jensen
Chris Bell (arrived at 7:15 PM)
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
Khechara Bradford, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
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

The Presentation of the Colors and pledges were led by the Dekaney High School NJROTC Battalion and included Janae Chevis, Kurt Koulavongsa, Gerbert Guadamuz, Erik Lopez, and Marco Cuenca.

III. Moment of Silence

President Newhouse called for a moment of silence.

IV. Opening Remarks

A. Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson opened his remarks with a report on some of the items that were discussed at length during the Board Work Session on Thursday, November 8th, starting with the Middle School Re-envisioning Plan, which is based on feedback gathered from the Superintendent's recent Middle School Listening Tour. "We are pleased that, with the support of our Board, we're moving forward with an ambitious impactful plan to strengthen our middle school offerings," Watson said. "We are currently planning to expand our portfolio of specialty programs and strengthen our comprehensive neighborhood schools as well." Dr. Watson said the District is planning to pilot an International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Middle School #8, which is located across from Northgate Crossing Elementary School. The highly regarded program will give students access to more rigorous academic programs with a proven track record of preparing students to compete in the global economy. In addition, Middle School #9, which will open at the campus on T.C. Jester where Spring Early College is now located, will be an option for blended learning with an emphasis on leadership and community service. "We will be recruiting students who might benefit from smaller learning environments and are looking for opportunities to grow as leaders," Watson said. This will be possible when Spring Early College Academy relocates to the Lone Star College-North Harris campus next school year.

Next, Dr. Watson announced the opening of the District's fourth-annual Employee Engagement Survey on November 28th. "We want to encourage all of our staff members to take advantage of this survey either through the email link that will be sent out on November 28th, or on paper. Just like last year, we're offering the survey in both Spanish and Vietnamese because we don't want any barriers to keep people from participating," Watson said.

He concluded with a report on the Professional Development/Parent and Teacher Conference Day held on November 9th. The day included keynote speaker Anthony Colannino presenting on building cultures where learning is the focal point.

B. Board of Trustees

President Newhouse invited the Trustees to share remarks.

Trustee Justine Durant reported that the Governance Committee met to discuss the naming of nine locations, including the two new schools, seven streets, and the three ninth-grade centers. In addition, the Committee is recommending going out for Requests for Proposals for sponsorships for the new stadium and field house located on Cypresswood Drive.

Trustee Winford Adams, Jr. complimented the Westfield Theater Department for their recent performance of the *Little Shop of Horrors*. "The production was phenomenal," Adams said. "We have a really talented group of students at Westfield. I have nothing but praise for those students. They did a fantastic job." Trustee Adams also announced that he would be serving on a panel with trustees from area school districts at an event sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on Thursday, November 15th, discussing what they are doing to address school safety and security in this region. Trustee Adams also reported on a tour of the new Fortis Academy that he and Trustee Jensen attended recently. Opened by the Harris County Department of Education, the academy is designed to serve students who are in recovery from substance abuse.

Trustee Chris Bell commented that he attended the Renewal Summit, sponsored by Allstate. He noted that Neil Bush, Founder and Co-Chair of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, led an initiative on literacy. "I was real happy to tell folks about the things that we are doing here in our District regarding our literacy efforts and the priority that we are giving to literacy," Bell said.

Trustee Donald Davis congratulated the District's football teams that advanced to the playoffs. "It's exciting that we have two teams – Spring and Westfield," Davis said. "I wish them the best of luck as they start the playoffs Friday night."

President Rhonda Newhouse concluded the Trustee comments by addressing traffic concerns that have resulted in accidents and how the Board is reaching out to Harris County Precinct 4 and Precinct 1 for help with safety and traffic surveys around the District's schools. President Newhouse said the Board will look at those surveys and bring back any recommendations for ensuring the safety of students and staff. In addition, she reminded the community that the District added a Mental Health Director this year and implored parents and community members to take advantage of that resource. "If you know of any student that may be having any problem – home, school community – you need to share with their school, their counselor or our Director of Mental Health. Please, please, reach out to our District. Reach out to our schools. Reach out to us. We are very concerned about the safety of our students."

V. Recognitions

A. Spotlight – Lead Spring Leadership Academy

The Board recognized the 2018-2019 Lead Spring Leadership Academy participants. The Lead Spring Leadership Academy is designed to expose employees to a unique opportunity to engage in a robust transformational experience focused on career and leadership development. The strategies and learning experiences are designed to excel our students, the District, and our community when applied. The Academy offers opportunities that grow, support, and leverage our current and emerging leaders. The Lead Spring Leadership Academy provides participants with a relevant and engaging curriculum, strategic accountability partnerships to include feedback and guidance, meaningful opportunities for self-discovery, and reflection. It's a distinctive opportunity to expose the Fellows to the real-life application and the benefit of collaboration with others across the District.

The 2018-2019 Fellows include Toscia Arvie, Gaylon Davenport, Candace Gilliam, Taneka Greenwood-Cramond, Katrina Horace, Vermeille Jones, Diana Kimberly, Sandra King, Jared Lee, Carlos Lewis, Jr., Kiara Meade, Paula Mickle, Geralyn Mosely, Shontel Newsome, Susan Pelezo, Shaneka Richardson-Thomas, Jy'Syria Selmon, Kendrick Thomas, and Angela Veals-Johnson.

B. Points of Pride – Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE) 2018 ESL Teacher of the Year

The Board recognized Westfield High School teacher Allison Brown, who was recently named 2018 ESL Teacher of the Year by the Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE). This statewide award is presented to only one Texas teacher each year. Ms. Brown received the official award during the TABE Annual Conference in October in Dallas.

VI. Chief Financial Officer

- A. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2018 and the Independent Auditor's Report
- Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with information regarding the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Year Ended June 30, 2018 and the Independent Auditor's Report. The CAFR is management's report of financial operations to the Board of Trustees, taxpayers, grantor agencies, employees, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and other interested parties. The report provides an overview of the District's governmental activities, while detailed fund financial statements describe specific activities of each fund group used in accounting for the District's financial transactions.

Trustee Adams moved that Board of Trustees approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2018 and the Independent Auditor's Report, as presented by the administration. Trustee Davis 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. Minutes from Prior Meetings
- The Board will review the minutes from the prior month's meetings.
1. October 4, 2018 Board Work Session
 2. October 9, 2018 Regular Meeting
- B. Interlocal Agreement Between My Texas Direct and Spring Independent School District
- The Board will consider approving the interlocal contract between My Texas Direct and Spring Independent School District for the purpose of providing workers' compensation medical benefits to injured workers by contracting directly with health care providers.
- C. Safety and Security Bid Package #1, First Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)
- The Board will consider approving the first Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Safety and Security Project in the amount of \$762,833.
- D. Chimera License Agreement
- The Board will consider approving the contract between Chimera and Spring Independent School District the amount of \$2,500.
- E. AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination) Annual Contract Renewal
- The Board will consider approving the annual renewal of the AVID contract.
- F. Facility Use Agreement Between Lone Star College-Greenspoint Campus and Spring Independent School District
- The Board will consider approving the Facility Use Agreement between Lone Star College-Greenspoint Campus and Spring Independent School District.
- G. Texas A&M Engineering Extension (TEEX) Service Memorandum of Understanding
- The Board will consider approving the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service Memorandum of Understanding.

H. 2018-2019 First Budget Review

The Board will consider approving the 2018-2019 First Budget Review.

I. Taxpayer Refunds

The Board will consider ratifying refunds exceeding \$500.

J. Request for Proposal (RFP) # 19-008 – Glass Purchase and Installation Services

The Board will consider awarding the contract for Glass Purchase and Installation Services to the provider recommended by the administration.

VIII. Public Participation

Anitiz Muonagolu addressed the Board of Trustees regarding PVA concerns.

Neemekh Mudvari addressed the Board of Trustees regarding an ESL project update.

Erick Chavarria addressed the Board of Trustees regarding the Choir Department at Westfield High School.

IX. Closed Session

President Newhouse recessed the open session at 8:01 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

1. The Board will discuss with counsel potential amendments to the eligibility requirements relating to the Employee Retention Supplement previously approved by the Board. Any action on this item will occur in open session following the discussion.

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
6. The Board will deliberate on a Resignation and Release Agreement in the TEA Matter styled Spring ISD v. Diane Hawkins, Docket No. 021-LH-11-2018, including the recommendation to rescind the Board's prior action proposing the termination of Ms. Hawkins's contract

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 9:34 PM.

- A. Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate the contract of Shamica Marbley upon finding that the employee failed to perform her contract without good cause, and authorize the Superintendent to notify the State Board for Education Certification that the employee failed to perform her contract without good cause, and of the action taken by the Board. Trustee Gonzales seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Trustee Durant).
- B. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board of Trustees approve the recommendations of the Superintendent, as presented in closed session, to propose the termination of the term contracts of Shamira Williams and Marcus LeFlore, and to authorize the Superintendent to provide each employee notice of the proposed action and his or her rights under Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and carried with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Trustee Durant).
- C. Trustee Adams moved that the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation of the Superintendent, as presented in closed session, to propose the termination of the term contract of Robert Blain, and to authorize the Superintendent to provide the employee notice of the proposed action and his rights under Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. Trustee Bell seconded the motion and the motion carried with 3 in favor (President Newhouse, Trustee Bell, and Trustee Adams), 2 abstaining (Trustee Davis and Trustee Gonzales), 1 opposed (Trustee Jensen), and 1 absent (Trustee Durant).
- D. Trustee Bell moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Resolution and Release Agreement, as presented in closed session, in the matter styled Spring ISD v. Diane Hawkins, Docket Number 021-LH-11-2018. Trustee Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Trustee Durant).
- E. Trustee Davis moved that the Board of Trustees approve and adopt the Spring Independent School District Amended Resolution to provide an employee retention supplement, effective immediately. Trustee Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Trustee Durant).

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Gonzales, seconded by Trustee Adams, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.


Rhonda R. Newhouse, President


Donald Davis, Secretary