

The Board of Trustees of Denton Independent School District, State of Texas, met in a regular meeting at the Denton ISD Central Services building, 1307 N. Locust St., Denton, Texas, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

Pursuant to the Governor Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020, this meeting will be conducted via videoconference, which will be audible to the Board and public and allow for two-way communication. The Board President, presiding officer of trustees were physically present at one location, a quorum will be required for the meeting on the videoconference or phone. The public may access this meeting or obtain an electronic copy of the agenda packet at <https://www.dentonisd.org/trustees>.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Burns who announced that a quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Alexander, Burns, Chadwick, Price, Sosa-Sanchez, Smith, and Stafford

Board Members Absent:

Arrived Late:

Left Early:

School Personnel Present: Wilson, Niven, Mattingly, Pierce, Stripling, Perkins, O'Bara, Rainey, Robinson, Russell, Stewart, Stevenson, Valenta and Zwahr

Others: Marshall Reid, *Denton Record Chronicle*; Randy Stout, Attorney; citizens, staff, and students.

Pledges: The pledges to the flags were led virtually by LA Nelson students

Presentations/ Recognitions Denton Independent School District's Rodriguez Middle School Counseling Department was recently named as recipients of the CREST Award, which annually recognizes the top counseling staff in the state, by the Texas School Counselor Association. This marks the seventh consecutive year that at least one Denton ISD campus has received a CREST Award. The Rodriguez Middle School counseling staff consists of lead Counselor Stephani Mohon, counselor Michael Rooney, and Jennifer Cheek, student assistance counselor. CREST (Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas) is a program focusing on ten areas where school counselors have the greatest impact on the achievements, career aspirations, personal gains, and social aspects of students' lives. The program helps counselors evaluate their current counseling guidelines and techniques, while also promoting their services to students and parents.

Pecan Creek Elementary counselor, Shannon Wickstrom, was recently awarded The Rhosine Fleming Award as Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Texas School Counselor Association (TSCA). Ms. Wickstrom, along with eight other award winners in the state of Texas, was recognized virtually at the annual TSCA Professional School Counselor Conference in February. An educator since 2002, Wickstrom joined the Denton ISD family in 2015 as a member of the Pecan Creek Elementary staff. During her time with the district, Wickstrom has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to her staff mates, colleagues, and her community. She embodies the aspects of her role as the Professional School Counselor at Pecan Creek Elementary both professionally and personally.

Seven Denton ISD musicians have been honored as the recipients of All-State honors for the 2020-2021 school year by the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA). TMEA is an organization of more than 12,000 school music educators dedicated to promoting excellence in music education. This year, students did not perform live in front of other competitors or the judges due to the pandemic. Instead, students had to record and submit their auditions online for each of the three rounds: Region, Area, and State. Auditions were judged and scored by a panel of judges. To prepare for the online competition, students had to take private lessons virtually rather than in person with their private lesson teachers. Those earning the recognition, made the most of the challenges this year. However, an unfortunate byproduct of the pandemic is that students making TMEA All-State and All-Region, unfortunately, will not have the opportunity to perform in a concert with those groups as is the custom in years past.

The Denton ISD students named to the highest musical honor in Texas:

#### **Denton High Jazz Ensemble**

Matthew Garcia, All-State Jazz Ensemble, Tenor Saxophone

*Jesse Woolery, Lab Band Director*

*Emilio Mesa, Denton ISD Saxophone Private Instructor*

#### **Guyer High Choir**

Aiden Daniels, All-State Tenor/Bass Choir, Tenor

Luke Knittle, All-State Mixed Choir, Bass

Jasmine Labelle, All-State Treble Choir, Alto

*Katherine Engle, Director*

*Tyler Fox, Assistant Director*

#### **Guyer High Orchestra**

Christian Luevano, All-State Symphony Orchestra, String Bass

*Michelle Hanlon, Director*

*Jeremy Atkins, Assistant Director*

### **Ryan High Band**

Alex Howell, 5A All-State Band, Percussionist

*Dr. Akira Robles, Percussion Director*

Gabriel Williams, 5A All-State Band, Bass Trombonist

*Mary Brown, Director*

*Juan Nunez, Assistant Director*

#### COVID-19 Update

Dr. Richardson with Denton County Health Department stated Denton County had 13 deaths as of today. Denton County Health Department still recommends individuals to continue to wear masks and social distancing. Denton County TMS Hub received 27,000+ vaccines this week. Denton County is providing the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

#### Discussion of Natural Disaster Facility Update

Chris Bomberger, Exec. Director of Risk Management and Paul Andress, Exec. Director of Operations provided the Board with an outline of the impact of the severe weather that occurred from Sunday, February 14 through Sunday, February 21, 2021. Chris and Paul provided current and future operational and fiscal implications of the damage done and repair needed along with the following:

- A summary of our property coverage and deductible with TASB
- Collaboration in place with mitigation teams and TASB adjusters
- Steps taken and processes currently in place to mitigate, repair, evaluate and document damages
- The probable cause and extent of damage to each campus impacted
- Review projected timelines

This item is for information only. No action is required.

#### Discussion of Budget for 2021-2022

Dr. Scott Niven, Chief Financial Officer reviewed Denton ISD's Debt Service and Bond overview. As of March 2, 2021, the District's outstanding bond portfolio is 88.6 % fixed rate, 6.5% variable rate and 4.9 synthetic structure. May 5, 2018 the District had a bond election of \$750,500,000. The first portion of 2018 bonds issued were \$442,430,000 with a true interest rate of 3.94%. August 2020 the District issued the remaining 2018 bonds in the amount of \$308,070,000 with a true interest rate of 1.93%. In 2020 the District also refunded bonds of \$269,445,000 with a true interest cost of 2.11% saving taxpayers \$67,124,217. Depending on the District's appraised value projections that will determine how much early payoff of debt the District can pay down.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of  
College &  
Career Academy  
at LaGrone  
Advanced  
Technology  
Complex

Dr. Mike Mattingly, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Gwen Perkins, Area Superintendent and Marcus Bourland, ATC Principal provided an overview of the expansion of our Career and Technical Education programs with the creation of the College and Career Academy at the LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex. The College and Career Academy will allow our students who have identified their college/career path by their junior year to attend the academy full-time in an effort to focus intently and intentionally on their post-secondary. Establishing a College and Career Academy provides a school of choice option for juniors and seniors who are focused on post-secondary readiness in a setting which allows students to pursue a college/career pathway with a strong academic core designed to support their aspirations.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of  
Dual Language  
Program  
Expansion

Teresa Luna-Taylor provided information regarding the expansion of the dual language program in the Braswell High School (BHS) Zone for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Taylor provided an overview of the BHS zone current enrollment numbers who qualify to participate in a dual language program. She discussed the next steps with timelines associated with the expansion of the dual language program in the BHS zone and provided information on future dual language expansion in the GHS zone & secondary campuses. The expansion of the dual language program in the BHS zone will allow Spanish-speaking emergent bilingual students to receive the recommended language services closer to their homes. Parents will have easier access to enroll their child in the LPAC recommended dual language program instead of accepting the ESL services currently offered at their zone campus. These DL students greatly benefit as studies show they outperform non-DL peers in two important ways: English learners reached English proficiency at higher rates and DL students performed as well as or better than their peers in the core content areas. More importantly, students maintain their native language while adding another language, and they develop pride in their own culture while developing an understanding of others. The rigorous academic curriculum in two languages prepares students to be successful in a college bound, globalized future.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of  
TASB Policy  
Update 116

TASB Policy Update 116 focuses on updating and reorganizing policies throughout the Board Policy Manual. Specifically, CQB grants the Superintendent the authority to determine and verify the District's cybersecurity training program. In the DC series of the policy manual, employee appeals are addressed. FFAC has been revised on the subject of medical treatment and medication provided to students. GKA simply

clarifies the measure of time for filing complaints when appealing an ejection or exclusion from school premises decision.

In addition to these local changes, Update 116 includes several other legal policies affected by legislation from the 86th Legislative Session that were not included in Update 115 and incorporates numerous changes from the revised Administrative Code rules that impose changes effective with the 2020-2021 school year.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Denton ISD 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Growth Report	Rocky Gardner, Templeton Demographics presented the 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Growth Report which covers through December 2020. Since 2010, the average new home price in Denton ISD has increased by \$106,603, or 50%. The average existing home price within the district has increased by 75%, or roughly \$133,186 since 2010. Denton ISD had more home starts and closing than any district in North Texas. Developments on the 380 corridor closed 60% of all the lots in Denton ISD.
Bond Progress Report	Kathy Lawson, Co-Chair of the Bond Progress Committee presented the Board with an overview of the Bond Progress Committee meeting from the February 10, 2021 virtual meeting.
Construction Report	The Board was provided a report of all of the current construction projects.  This item is for information only. No action is required.
Open Forum	No one submitted comments.
Consent Agenda	Motion by Charles Stafford and seconded by Doug Chadwick  To approve (the minutes for the February 9, 2021 Board meeting; personnel matters, leaves and absences; Investment Report as of January 31, 2021; approval of the quotes from Heinemann in the total amount of \$329,935.82 for curriculum content for Wilson Elementary School; approval to extend the RFP #1901-03 E-Rate Eligible Locate Services for Denton ISD's Self-Provisioned Fiber-Optic Broadband Network award for a term of one (1) year beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022; approval of the Interlocal Agreement between ESC Region 10 Equalis Group; approval of the quote from Hellas Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$627,689.00 for the proposed C.H. Collins Stadium renovations; approval of the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services between Denton County and Denton Independent School District for the May 1, 2021 election; approval of surplus property to be recycled, auctioned or disposed of and approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Denton and the Denton

Independent School District for the use of storage space in the city-owned warehouse located at 651 S. Mayhill Road).

With the approval of the Consent Agenda Cecilia Holt current principal of Newton Rayzor Elementary is named the Early Childhood Education Coordinator.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting

Consider  
Approval of  
Board  
Committee to  
Review Board  
Operating  
Procedures

Motion by Jim Alexander and seconded by Doug Chadwick

To approve a Board Committee to review the Board Operating Procedures composed of Jim Alexander, Doug Chadwick, and Barbara Burns.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting

Consider  
Approval of  
Resolution  
Regarding Board  
Delegation of  
Authority During  
Texas Severe  
Winter Storm  
EM-3553-TX

Motion by Mia Price and seconded by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez

To approve the of the resolution providing certain authority to the Superintendent during this emergency, including the following:

- Paying all individuals, including any premium payment to hourly workers;
- Authority for hiring contract employees;
- Authority for accepting donations;
- Authority for waivers;
- Authority to enter into interlocal agreements with other governmental entities, which would be thereafter ratified by the Board;
- Authority to adjust leave times;
- Authority to adjust the school calendar;
- Authority to declare disaster and temporarily extend timelines under the TPIA;
- Authority for purchasing any emergency items and any budgeted items with the purchasing limit removed;
- Authority for waiving local timelines and rules pertaining to employee evaluations; and
- Authority for waiving any local policies regarding grading.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting

Closed Meeting

The Board convened into Closed Session at 9:08 pm

Open Meeting

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:40 pm

Motion by Charles Stafford and seconded by Jim Alexander

To approve the naming of Middle School #9 off of 1385 North of Fish Trap after Pat Haagan Cheek.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting

Motion by Mia Price and seconded by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez

To approve to name the newly renovated Communications Center located at 1212 Elm the Sharon Cox Communications Center.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm

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President

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Secretary