



January | 19 | 2021

District Recognizes Trustees for Commitment to District, Students

Trustee Culton: Combines Passion for Education and Service with Civic Experience

Long before Jacqueline Culton was chosen by voters to serve as a Duncanville ISD Board Trustee, she regularly mentored, tutored and supported children and young adults through church and community activism.

"I just have a love for students and young minds. I've always been interested in helping young people achieve their full potential," Ms. Culton said. "No matter their economic status or their race or intellectual ability or disability, I just want to see every student perform at their highest potential."



Ms. Culton pairs her passion for education and civic purpose with her analytical thinking.

You'll regularly find Ms. Culton at Duncanville ISD Board of Trustee meetings asking meticulous questions and providing insight from her perspective from more than 30 years of municipal engineering and budget planning.

Ms. Culton is a registered civil engineer and is the city of Duncanville's Assistant Director of Public Works. She credits her administrative knowledge and familiarity with capital infrastructure as assets that have given her a unique view as a school board trustee.

Ms. Culton has lived in Duncanville for 10 years, but is just 12 miles from where she grew up in Dallas. Her mother was a nurse and her father was employed in the City of Dallas Parks Department, where he was a coach who worked with young people across various sports programs.

Growing up, Ms. Culton said she regularly saw her parents giving back, such as using household money to buy uniforms for the track team her father coached.

"I was raised with the belief that you have an obligation to make the world a better place, to give and not just be a taker," Ms. Culton said.

Read [more](#).

Trustee Fahey: Developed Lifelong Relationships as Parent, Volunteer and Educator



Carla Fahey first fell in love with Duncanville Independent School District in 1984.

"It all started when my oldest started kindergarten at Fairmeadows," said Mrs. Fahey, who over the past 37 years has served in various volunteer roles for the school district. She began as a volunteer in the Fairmeadows school library and eventually became active in the Duncanville ISD Council of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA). In that role, Ms. Fahey attended board meetings and was impressed by the engagement of the trustees.

Now Mrs. Fahey is in her 15th year serving as a Duncanville ISD Board of Trustee.

"Being on the school board you really get involved. It's more than going to meetings once a month. You also go to games, concerts and I fell in love with the band," she said. "Volunteering has led to lifelong relationships and great friends. Over the years, the district became my family."

Mrs. Fahey's husband, Bill Fahey, was still a professional baseball player when they first moved to Duncanville in 1977 placing their home halfway between the Texas Rangers ballpark and Samuel High School, where Mrs. Fahey was teaching. Over the years, Mr. Fahey played for the Washington Senators, Texas Rangers, San Diego Padres and Detroit Tigers. He also coached for the San Francisco Giants for six years.

"Once the kids started school, we had to put down permanent roots," Mrs. Fahey said.

Read [more](#).

Dallas County Promise Provides Free Tuition for DHS Graduates

Savyna Viraphonh graduated from Duncanville High School in 2019 and is now studying Business Administration at Mountain View College. Her tuition is covered by the Dallas County Promise program.



"I've been able to go to college with little worry about when I have to pay and how I'm going to pay it," Savyna said. "I feel like it's lifted the main concern I had about going to college."

Savyna is one of 254 students from Duncanville High School who signed up for the Dallas County Promise program in 2019. The class of 2020 saw an increase with 262 students signing pledges.

The goal of the scholarship program is to increase the number of students in Dallas County who pursue college degrees. Dallas County Promise offers all high school graduates at the 57 participating schools, regardless of grade point average or family income, an opportunity to receive what's called a 'last-dollar scholarship.'

Dallas County Promise covers any gap between a student's state and federal financial aid and the cost of tuition. Graduating seniors can choose from one of 11 partner colleges including Dallas College, The University of Texas at Arlington and Prairie View A&M University.

Here are the key deadlines:

February 5 – Complete Dallas County Promise pledge and college/university application

March 5 – Fill out FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

July 30 – Register for classes

Read the rest of the story [here](#).

For more information on Dallas County Promise, click [here](#).

Duncanville ISD Volunteers Seek to Reconnect With Students



A group of volunteers from Duncanville ISD will spend part of their day Saturday knocking on doors to reach out to more than 100 students who have not been engaging in school. The effort, called 'Operation Connection,' identified students who enrolled in the district's virtual learning program but have not been attending or completing work online.

"Unfortunately, we have seniors and juniors who are off track to graduate because they're not engaging," said Chief of Schools Sam Nix. "We have students [where] the learning gap is just continuing to widen. Not because they're not enrolled, but because they're not engaging."

The decision to connect with students and their families in person comes after repeated attempts by teachers, counselors and administrators to reach them.

"We're just going to connect with them," said Dr. Nix. "We're going to inform them and support them and we're going to do everything we can before this semester ends to provide them with opportunities to be successful."

Fairmeadows Elementary School Assistant Principal and Operation Connection organizer Latonia Dennis agrees.

"I know they will see how much we miss and care about them," said Mrs. Dennis.

Read [more](#).

Board Business: 2021-2022 Academic Calendar Approved



The Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees hosted a regular board meeting on January 11, 2021. A video recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#) on the district website under Board of Trustees.

Information shared and decisions made during the meeting includes the following:

After gathering feedback from the community on three variations of sample calendars, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted on an academic calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. A survey was sent to parents, staff and community members via social media, the district website and email weeks prior to the board review.

The majority of community feedback was in favor of Calendar A, which includes a one-week fall break in October and two early release days. To view the 2021-2022 academic calendar, click [here](#).

To read more board business, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events:

District Professional Development, Monday, Feb. 15, no classes

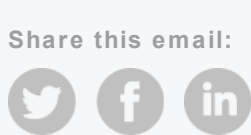
Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees Meeting, begins at 6:30 p.m. and goes into executive session, on Monday, Feb. 22 at the Duncanville ISD Education Plaza, 710 S. Cedar Ridge Rd., Duncanville. The public portion of the meeting resumes around 7:00 p.m.



The Informer is distributed by the Communications Department at Duncanville ISD. The weekly newsletter, published each Monday, is intended to keep the community informed about important news and events happening within the district. Story ideas or questions can be directed to: [Lari Barager](#) - Director of External Communications

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