

Pearland Independent School District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 21, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Pearland Independent School District met in regular session on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at 1928 North Main Street, Pearland, Texas in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Government Code.

The meeting was also livestreamed on the district YouTube channel.

Opening **1.0** After noting that a quorum was present, President Murphy opened the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

**Establishment
of a Quorum** **2.0**
Trustee Sean Murphy, President
Trustee Crystal Carbone, Vice President
Trustee Kristofer Schoeffler, Secretary
Trustee Toni Carter
Trustee Amanda Kuhn, left meeting at 8:40pm
Trustee Robert Richter

Trustees Absent Trustee Nanette Weimer

**Executive Council
Present** Superintendent, Larry Berger
Chief Financial Officer, Jorgannie Carter
Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Lisa Nixon
Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Charles Allen
Executive Director for Human Resource Services and Communications, Dr. Sundie Dahlkamp
Executive Director of Elementary Schools, Marlo Keller
Executive Director of High Schools, Kelly Holt
Executive Director of Intermediate Schools, Dr. La’Kesha Henson – Vaughn
Chief Technology Officer, Jon- Paul Estes
General Counsel, Tanya Dawson

Recording Secretary Gina Guzzetta

Introductory Remarks **3.0** Trustee Carbone offered an invocation for wisdom, protection, and thanks. She emphasized her excitement for the 23-24 school year while actively working on culture and excitement for school learning and a safe learning environment with the continued emphasis on exceptional outcomes.

Board Recognition: **4.0** Students and Staff recognized:

- Retirement of David Moody, Deputy Superintendent
- Jade Arends, Samantha Guzzetta and Katie Stone, PHS, Lone Star Degree Recipients from Pearland FFA
- Briana Schramm, West Student, District Birthday Card Artist
- Students from Dawson High School earned the title of TSATA State Student Athletic Training Aid Competition State Champions
- John Hanna, Turner HS, HOSA International 1st Place Physical Therapy Skills
- Vic Coppinger, YMCA, Operation Backpack

Public Hearing

President Murphy opened the meeting as a Public Hearing at 5:24 p.m.

9. A. Discuss Results of Independent Efficiency Audit

On May 16, 2023, the Board of Trustees approved an efficiency audit to be conducted by Whitley Penn, LLP, should the adopted tax rate trigger a VATRE. For the 2023-24 school year, administration is recommending a tax rate of \$1.1373; although the rate is 16.54 cents lower than the prior year’s tax rate of \$1.3027, it exceeds the highest rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election.

Whitley Penn has completed the efficiency audit and discussed the results and findings which was an A at 94.

There were no patrons present to speak on the hearing.

Public Hearing was closed at 5:41 p.m.

9. B. Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate for Tax Year 2023

President Murphy opened the meeting as a Public Hearing at 5:41 p.m.

The Board of Trustees adopted the 2023-2024 Pearland ISD Budget and held preliminary tax rate discussions at the board meeting held on Friday, June 23, 2023. The purpose of this public meeting is to discuss the school district’s tax rate that will be adopted.

CFO, Jorgannie Carter conducted the 2023-2024 Tax Rate Hearing Presentation for the Board.

There were no patrons present to speak on the hearing.

Public Hearing was closed at 6:10 p.m.

New Business

Consent Agenda

President Murphy asked if members of the Board would like to remove an item from the consent agenda

Trustee Carbone requested to pull items 10.A.3

The following items were then voted on:

Approval of Minutes

10. A.1 Approval of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on June 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and June 23, 2023 Special Board Meeting

Interlocal Agreement

10. A.2 Approval of Participation in CCISD’s Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing for General Foods and Full Service Food Distribution for Procurement of Milk, Groceries, Product, Paper and Chemicals for the 2023-2024 School Year

Board Procedures

10. A.4 Annual Review/Update of Board Operating Procedures (Rules of Conduct and Standard Rules

Student Code of

worked with the District's financial advisors to identify additional savings; by increasing the proposed cash defeasance to \$7,335,000, savings to taxpayers are now estimated to be \$2.2 million, or a \$0.7 million.

Dan Martinez with Winstead PC discussed this item with the board of trustees.

A motion was made by Trustee Carbone and seconded by Trustee Schoeffler that the Board of Trustees approve a Resolution by the Board of Trustees of the Pearland Independent School District Providing for the Defeasance and Calling for Redemption Certain Currently Outstanding Obligations Designated "Pearland Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2016"; directing that district officials effectuate the defeasance of these obligations; authorizing the execution of an escrow agreement; and delegating to certain district officials and staff the authority to effectuate matters herein resolved.

Motion carried 6-0, Trustee Weimer Absent

Bond Order

10. B.2 Approval of a Bond Order to Refund Outstanding Bonds at a Lower Interest Rate

Administration seeks to refund certain bonds for debt services savings and I&S tax rate management. Dan Martinez with Winstead PC discussed this item with the board of trustees.

A discussion took place with the board asking questions of Mrs. Carter.

A motion was made by Trustee Schoeffler and seconded by Trustee Carbone that the Board approve an order authorizing the issuance of "Pearland Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2023"; authorizing the execution of a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement, an Escrow Agreement, and a Purchase Contract; and delegating to certain district administrative staff and district officials the authority to approve all final terms of the bonds

Motion carried 6-0, Trustee Weimer Absent

Tax Rate

10. B.3 Consider Adoption of Resolution Setting the Tax Rate for Tax Year 2023-2024

A motion was made by Trustee Kuhn and seconded by Trustee Carter that the Board move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 1.1373, which is effectively a 10.71 percent increase in the tax rate."

Motion carried 6-0, Trustee Weimer Absent

VATRE

10. B.4 Consider Approval and Adopt an Order Calling a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE), Making Provision for the Conduct of the Joint Election, and Canvassing the Results

A motion was made by Trustee Schoeffler and seconded by Trustee Kuhn that the Board of Trustees (1) approves and adopts the Order calling the November 7, 2023, Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election; (2) authorizes the Superintendent to enter into election contracts with the counties; and (3) sets the date to canvass the election to be November 20, 2023.

Motion carried 6-0, Trustee Weimer Absent

HB3**10. B.5 Consider Approval of HB3 Good Cause Exemption and Safety Plan**

Based on the total estimated funding required to meet the new HB3 requirement of \$4.8 million, \$3.5 million in additional costs due to HB3 and the shortage of available staff, Pearland ISD, in partnership with the City of Pearland, developed an alternative plan that details the hiring of a second sergeant and rotating four (4) extra duty positions to cover the 15 campuses currently not assigned an SRO. The goal would be to place full-time SRO or armed security personnel at every campus when funding and personnel become available.

Questions were asked from the Board regarding funding.

A motion was made by Trustee Schoeffler and seconded by Trustee Carbone that the Board approve a Good Cause Exemption and alternative plan related to HB3 and the safety plan be reauthorized annually.

Motion carried 6-0, Trustee Weimer Absent

Public Comment

8.0 A link to a public comment form was made available prior to the board meeting at: <https://www.pearlandisd.org/publiccomment>. The deadline to submit the completed form was prior to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 20, 2023, for anyone who wished to address the Board of Trustees

No patrons requested to speak to the Board of Trustees

Closed Session

5.0 President Murphy convened the Board into Closed Session at 7:09 p.m. in accordance with Section 551.001

- A. Section 551.071 - Private Consultation with the Board's Attorney Regarding any Item Listed on the Agenda
 - 1. Shafer et.al v. Pearland ISD Civil Action No. :3:22-cv-00387
- B. Section 551.074 - Personnel Discussion
 - 1. Employment of Professional and Instructional Personnel
 - 2. Review Resignations
 - 3. Consider Teacher Abandonment of Contract: Cleath, Lauren
- C. Section 551.076 - Considering the Deployment, Specific Occasions for, or Implementation of, Security Personnel or Devices

Mr. Berger, Dr. Dahlkamp and Ms. Dawson participated in closed session with the Board regarding matters.

Reconvene

6.0 The Board reconvened in open session at 9:00 p.m.

No action was taken in closed session.

Consider Action

7.0 Action to be taken place on items discussed in closed session.

A motion was made by Trustee Carbone and seconded by Trustee Schoeffler that the board accept and approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the Employment of Personnel, as presented.

Motion carried 5-0, Weimer and Kuhn Absent

A motion was made by Trustee Carbone and seconded by Trustee Carter that the Board issue a finding in accordance with TEC Section 21.210(c)(2) and 19 TAC 249.14(g), that good cause did not exist for Cleath, Lauren, a probationary contract teacher, to abandon her employment contract and abandon her position with Pearland ISD.

Motion carried 5-0, Weimer and Kuhn Absent

A motion was made by Trustee Carbone and seconded by Trustee Carter that the Board authorize the Board President to send a letter to the Texas Education Agency - Educator Certification Division seeking sanction of a probationary contract teacher, Cleath, Lauren, for abandonment of her employment contract.

Motion carried 5-0, Weimer and Kuhn Absent

Administrative Reports

- Purchases over 50K** **11.A** Purchases over \$50,000 for the month of May and June 2023
- Interim Financial** **11.B** Interim Financial Statement Report as of May 31, 2023
- Investment Report** **11.C** Fourth Quarterly Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
- Adjournment** **12.0** The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

We affirm that these minutes are official, complete and correct.

President, Sean Murphy

Secretary, Kristofer Schoeffler

Date Minutes Approved _____

Date Signed by Officers _____