

# TRUSTEE TIMES

2025



The BISD Board recognizes Larry Gouthia for his dedication and support of the District through his attendance at every School Board Meeting.



The Beaumont ISD Board is comprised of community leaders who are entrusted to govern the district. Governing the school district is the primary role of a school board. These policies dictate the standards and philosophy by which schools are run and the criteria used to judge whether they are being run well. The board serves as the advocate for educational excellence for the community's youth and puts those interests first.



*“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.”*

– Malala Yousafzai, activist



# Beaumont Independent School District Board of Trustees

This year, Beaumont ISD proudly joins districts across the state in celebrating School Board Appreciation Month under the theme Leadership for Tomorrow's Texas. In Beaumont ISD, our Board of Trustees embodies this theme in every way, guiding our district with vision, strength, and commitment to the success of our students.

President Tillie Hickman, Vice President Stacey Lewis Jr., Secretary Denise Wallace-Spooner, Trustee Robert Dunn, Trustee Joe Evans, Trustee Woodrow Reece, and Trustee Thomas Sigee are the driving forces behind Beaumont ISD. Their leadership is a testament to the collective belief that We Can, We Will, and We Must overcome challenges, inspire excellence, and achieve greatness for every student.

Each trustee dedicates hundreds of hours annually to this work—attending board meetings, training sessions, and seminars; engaging in campus activities; participating in community forums and events; and listening attentively to the concerns of students, parents, staff, and community members. Their efforts are rooted in a profound love for our children and a steadfast commitment to the future of our district and the entire city of Beaumont.



This exceptional team of leaders is passionate, caring, tenacious, and supportive, but above all, they are committed to ensuring that every student in Beaumont ISD has the tools and opportunities needed to thrive. Their service is not motivated by personal gain or

recognition but by an unrelenting belief in the potential of our students and the importance of education.

The work of a school board member

is challenging, often requiring difficult decisions and countless hours of preparation and engagement. Yet, our trustees approach their roles with humility and dedication, leading our district with a spirit of unity and purpose.

As we honor our Board during this month of recognition, we celebrate their critical role in shaping the future of Beaumont ISD. Their leadership demonstrates that We Can build a brighter tomorrow, We Will overcome any obstacles, and We Must remain focused on the success of our students and community.

On behalf of the entire Beaumont ISD family, we thank our Board of Trustees for their tireless efforts, their inspiring leadership, and their unwavering belief in the work that we do and the power of education.

Dr. Shannon Allen  
Superintendent of Schools

THANK  
YOU

*"Thank you BISD School Board for everything! All the Cougars love you so much! You are the best!"*

*— Adam Chambers  
Pietzsch-MacArthur Prek-8th Grade Center,  
2nd Grade*



## Tillie Hickman President

Lake Charles, Louisiana native Tillie Hickman was first appointed to the Beaumont ISD Board of Trustees in August of 2020. Voters elected to return her to her seat in 2021.

The retired educator began her career teaching English and French at Vinton High School in Vinton, Louisiana. Her first assignment in Beaumont was teaching journalism and Basic English III at Hebert High School. She later taught AP English and developed a combination AP

English/Journalism course for seniors who wanted to do both, but did not have enough time in their schedules.

A move to Baton Rouge provided her the opportunity to teach English as a Second Language to LSU students. Returning to Beaumont, Hickman began teaching ESL part-time at South Park High School where she taught AP English, journalism, and French until the school transitioned to a middle school in 1986. Her final teaching assignment was at Central Senior High School.

Hickman left the classroom in 1991 to become Beaumont ISD's Secondary English Supervisor. During her time as a supervisor, Beaumont's writing scores increased by double digits. After serving as a supervisor for 2 ½ years, Hickman became assistant principal at Odom Academy. She became principal in 2000 and continued in that role until her retirement in 2018. During her time at Odom, she created the Pegasus Magnet Program for gifted and talented middle school students.

A committed community volunteer, Hickman has chaired the Symphony Women's League fundraiser, Symphony of Trees, chaired the Heritage Society's Spindletop Boom Days, served on the boards of the Women's League, Symphony, Heritage Society, YWCA, Junior League of Beaumont, and the Beaumont Art Museum's Gallery Guild.



*"The West Brook High School community expresses heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated school board Trustees for their unwavering commitment to 'Leadership for Tomorrow's Texas'. Your efforts in shaping a brighter future for our students do not go unnoticed, and we appreciate your vision and support!"*

*– Nicholas Phillips*

*West Brook High School Principal*



## Stacey Lewis, Jr. Vice-President

First elected to the Board of Trustees in 2021, Stacey Lewis Jr. is a 2009 graduate of Beaumont ISD's West Brook High School. He served four years active duty in the United States Army and was awarded the distinguished Humanitarian Service Medal for relief efforts provided during Hurricane Sandy. After an honorable discharge from the military in 2015, Lewis enrolled in Artistic Academy School of Hair Design and became a licensed cosmetologist in the state of New Jersey. A year later, he earned an associate's degree in Business Administration from the University of the Incarnate Word.

Lewis was selected to the inaugural class of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats 40 Under 40 and was honored as Black Business Professional of SETX's Businessman of the Month in April 2021. The licensed barber and cosmetologist owns and operates a barber studio.







## Denise Wallace-Spooner

Secretary

Denise Wallace Spooner was first elected as a Beaumont ISD Trustee At-Large in 2017. The former board vice president was one of the first elected trustees to be seated by Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath after the 2018 state takeover. This appointment marked the beginning of the return of local control of the district.

The Beaumont native is a 1975 graduate of Hebert High School. Her post-secondary education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education from Lamar University, Master of Education in Educational Administration with Mid-Management Administration specialization from Prairie View A&M University, various certifications and professional development training/teacher trainer through throughout her 30 plus years as an educator.

Wallace-Spooner is active in a multitude of organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Hebert High School Alumni Association, Top Ladies of Distinction, and the NAACP (Life Member).



*"I am grateful to our Board Members for sacrificing their time to support our students, staff, and community. We are blessed to have servant leaders guiding us."*

*– Angela Lund*

*Regina Howell Elementary School Principal*



## Robert C. Dunn, Sr.

Robert C. Dunn Sr. joined the Beaumont ISD Board of Trustees in 2019. A proud 1970 graduate of Charlton-Pollard High School, he served with distinction in the United States Navy for 26 years. After retiring from the military, Chief Dunn continued his public service as a supervisor of Juvenile Corrections Officers with the Texas Youth Commission. In 2001, he began his career in education as a Naval Science Instructor at Beaumont ISD, where he taught NJROTC at Ozen High School for 10 years and at Port Arthur Memorial High School for an additional 5 years before retiring.

During his tenure at Ozen High School, Senior Chief Dunn led the NJROTC program to historic achievements, including being the first high school NJROTC unit in Beaumont to qualify for the State NJROTC Competition at Texas A&M University in College Station. His Ozen NJROTC Marksmanship team also earned a spot at the prestigious National NJROTC Marksmanship Competition at the Naval Base in Millington, Tennessee, where they ranked among the best in the nation. He continued this legacy of excellence at Memorial High School, where his NJROTC unit also qualified and competed in the State's Marksmanship and Academic Championships. The Beaumont native has served as president of the Charlton-Pollard Alumni Association and was instrumental in the naming of Charlton-Pollard Elementary School. He also oversaw the construction of the Charlton-Pollard High School Memorial Monument during his tenure as president. Chief Dunn's memberships include American Legion, Dorie Miller Post 817; NAACP, Appomattox Social Club, Golden Triangle Submarine Veterans and the Disabled Veterans Association.







## Joe A. Evans, Jr.

Joe A. Evans Jr. is a dedicated community leader known for his relentless advocacy and commitment to service. Elected to the Beaumont ISD Board of Trustees in 2021, he has worked tirelessly to improve educational opportunities for local students.

Evans holds a Bachelor of Science in History-Education from Florida A&M University (2001) and a Master's in Public Health from Lamar University in Beaumont. He moved to the area in 2006, where he quickly integrated into

the community and launched a small business.

In addition to his role with the school district, Evans was elected Chairman of the Jefferson County Republican Party in 2022, further demonstrating his leadership in public service. His passion for giving back is reflected in his involvement with numerous local organizations. He serves on the Board of Directors for The Garth House, working with the Mickey Mehaffey Children's Advocacy Program, and has been President of Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Texas since 2017. He also contributes to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Southeast Texas and is a Partner Advocate with Men of CASA, supporting children in the foster care system through the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. Evans is also an active Council Member of the Golden Triangle Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, reinforcing his deep commitment to community development and well-being.



*"The PMAC Middle School student body thanks our school board for your support! Without you, we would not have the great things we have. Thank you for everything school board"*

*thank you!*

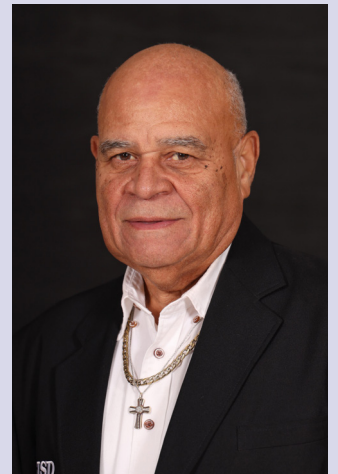
– Malachi Zachary  
ASB Co-Student Body President

*"Thank you to the amazing school board for fostering positive relationships between our faculty and Beaumont community, and having a clear vision of student success in all departments. With your support, BISD employees can be held accountable that students are loved, learning, and leaving a legacy in BISD!"*

– Autumn Niedenthal  
Guess Elementary Teacher

## Woodrow Reece II

Woodrow Reece was first elected to the Beaumont ISD Board of Trustees in 1998, giving him the distinction of having served on the board longer than any other current trustee. Throughout his service, the Hebert High School alumnus has been a dedicated advocate for student success, working tirelessly to enhance facilities and ensure students have the resources and environment to thrive both inside and outside the classroom. His strong community



involvement further underscores his commitment to the district, including efforts to ensure the safe return of students to school following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reece is very active with the Hebert High School Alumni Association, currently serving as president. He has also had the honor of serving as a past BISD Board president.







## Thomas P. Sigee, Sr.

Thomas P. Sigee Sr., a proud 1979 graduate of Beaumont Charlton-Pollard High School, was first elected to the Beaumont ISD Board of Trustees in 2017. He is currently serving his second term on the board, having previously served as president from 2019 to 2021.

Sigee's military career, which began with his enlistment in the U.S. Army, allowed him to travel to more than 60 countries, gaining diverse and invaluable experiences. Throughout his service, he worked in critical areas such as nuclear missiles,

patriot missiles, personnel, logistics, and with the Corps of Engineers.

A dedicated and impactful leader, Sigee played a key role in major recovery efforts, including the rebuilding of Iraq during the Iraq War, New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, and Southeast Texas after Hurricane Rita. Over the course of his distinguished 32-year military career, he has earned 19 medals and ribbons, with the highest honor being the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Deeply committed to his community, Trustee Sigee has initiated several mentorship programs and continues to actively support the BISD ROAR program at multiple district schools, demonstrating his dedication to the success and growth of local youth.



*"On behalf of our Curtis Family, I want to thank each and every member of the Beaumont ISD School Board for their tireless dedication and unending support. Your commitment to the staff, students, parents, and community has an immeasurable impact on the entire City of Beaumont. Therefore, it is only natural and fitting that we express our sincere gratitude during this special month in which you are recognized for all that you do. At Sallie Curtis Elementary, it is an honor to work under your leadership as we strive to ensure success for all students. Thank you for your hard work and Happy School Board Appreciation Month!"*

*– Cheryl Tripplett  
Sallie Curtis Elementary Principal*



*"Thank you for making our Guess Elementary 2024-25 "Out of this World" Mission Possible! I look forward to everything we'll accomplish together in this out of this world school year. Better yet, our out of this UNIVERSE school year! BISD Board Members, thank you for everything you do and you are appreciated more than words could ever express. YOU are where the inspiration starts"*

*– Aubreigh Adams  
Guess Elementary Student Council Vice President*





It is our vision that, in collaboration with the entire community, we will create an inclusive environment of academic excellence that supports the diverse needs of all learners.

It is our mission that we will inspire and prepare all students for lifelong success by providing an exemplary education in a safe learning environment.

*we can  
we will  
we must*

**25**  
CAMPUSES

**14 Elementary Schools, 4 Middle Schools, and 3 High Schools**

(including one PK-8 school, one Early College High School, as well as three Special Program Schools, and the Career & Technical Education Center)



**2,550**  
EMPLOYEES



**173** COMMUNITY & BUSINESS PARTNERS

**1,925**

REGISTERED VOLUNTEERS

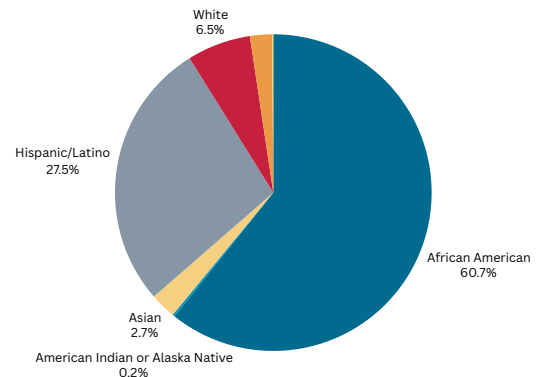
**EDUCATING**  
**16,335**  
**STUDENTS**



**1,023 CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATES**

**42 ASSOCIATE DEGREES**  
**556 Industry Based Certifications**

### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



BISD students receive recognition from College Board as AP Scholars!



For six consecutive years, BISD has earned the state's highest fiscal accountability rating of "A+" for Superior Achievement.

### TAX RATE HISTORY

	TOTAL TAX RATE	M&O	I&S
2018-19	1.294050	1.04	0.254050
2019-20	1.224050	0.97	0.254050
2020-21	1.220150	0.9661	0.254050
2021-22	1.161510	0.9089	0.252610
2022-23	1.161510	0.9089	0.252610

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER**



Beaumont ISD is always looking for dedicated members of our community and local businesses to work with our students.



BMTISD.COM/VOLUNTEERS



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Advanced Placement programs offered in Beaumont ISD!



[www.bmtisd.com](http://www.bmtisd.com)