Goal 6 Action Plan Year 2 Priorities – 2023-2024

Call to Action:

Katy ISD learners, through active engagement, achieve individual success while making positive contributions in an ever-changing world.

Goal 6:

Katy ISD will address challenges in the school finance system.

Specific Result:

6.1 Build awareness in all stakeholders around the current state finance system and its limitations for local control.

Summary Report:

Throughout the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, the Board of Trustees and district administration facilitated internal and community discussions to share information and gather feedback on the most challenging school finance issues impacting upcoming school years. Three major areas of interest affecting school finance and district budgets emerged as focal points as a result of these conversations. These focal points included:

1) **House Bill 3 (2019).** This bill was a historic milestone for public education. The bill promised to direct increased funding to classrooms, raise teacher salaries, and reduce property taxes. However, decisions made as a part of the HB3 "cleanup" bill in 2021 produced funding reductions and caps to state aid allotments that resulted in Katy ISD losing millions in funding that support school operations.
2) **Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMTA) funding**. Katy ISD's IMTA allotment from the state funds instructional resources, and technology equipment and services, though was defunded by 63%.
3) **Fast Growth Allotment funding.** Katy ISD's Fast Growth Allotment, which represents over $38 million of the district's general operating fund, was reduced by the state by $8 million due to appropriations limits.

These three major areas of reductions produced a significant strain on Katy ISD's budget which is already operating on a static basic allotment (i.e., the legislatively mandated funding for a basic education). Over the course of the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, district administration provided reports to the Board and community on these issues. Administration also developed, and executed a Katy ISD Advocacy Plan to listen to, and educate the community, as well as assist Trustees in the identification of legislative priorities addressing school finance. Other action steps were inclusive of a social media educational campaign, the

development of a Governmental Relations webpage, educational video messages on school finance, and elected official and community letters addressing budget reductions. It is the district's intention to review school finance issues annually, and update advocacy initiatives as needed, until adequate funding is restored to Katy ISD schools.