

**HISD Board of Education approves resolution against child sex trafficking**

*Aug. 9, 2018* – The Houston Independent School District Board of Education approved a resolution against human trafficking and sex trafficking of children in support of the district’s efforts to keep students safe.

Trustees unanimously voted to approve the resolution that acknowledges the Board of Education supports the strengthening and expansion of efforts to combat child sex trafficking in Houston.

“If we can save just one student, it’s worth it.” HISD Board of Education Trustee Sergio Lira said. “We must work together with the city and law enforcement on this issue.”

Under this approved item, the district will continue its efforts to provide a safe educational environment for all students. The resolution supports the training of school and district personnel so that they may recognize indicators of children at risk and signs of child trafficking and report suspicious activity to authorities.

During the first regular board meeting of the 2018-2019 school year, trustees were also presented with an update on the district’s Student Summer Leadership Program, Ascending to Men (an initiative aimed at providing increased support to African-American and Hispanic males), and Launch HISD (the district’s comprehensive college and career readiness and advising program).

District leaders also announced new initiatives, including HISD Parent University and Houston Connect/Houston Promise. HISD Parent University is designed to help parents and family members of enrolled students connect with district and community leaders to educate them about HISD initiatives, resources and parent engagement strategies. The first monthly HISD Parent University workshop will be held September 27.

Houston Connect/Houston Promise is a partnership between the district, Houston Community College, and the University of Houston-Downtown to increase access to higher education and provide students with increased levels of support and wraparound services that will result in increased postsecondary educational attainment.

Houston ISD trustees voted 5-4 to pass the 2018-19 HISD Compensation Manual that includes an amendment to maintain the current teacher salary schedule. Teachers will receive a raise if they are advancing a pay step as indicated by the 2017-2018 teacher salary schedule. The cost to increase the budget for raises is estimated to be $5.2 million.

Trustees also approved the adoption of proposed revisions to Board policy related to bullying of district students associated with Senate Bill (SB) 179.

Changes in state law from SB 179 prompted several recommended revisions to this local policy on student bullying, including changes to the district’s definition of bullying. The revised policy also requires the district to develop procedures for students to anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying and requires school administrators to notify parents of any allegation of bullying within one day after the incident is reported. This policy enables the Board to approve the proposed revisions on a first public reading. Standard procedure is for two readings.

Approval of this agenda item waives the two readings required by local policy of the proposed revisions and makes the updated Board policy on student bullying available for immediate publication in the HISD Board Policy Online manual.