

**Houston ISD Trustees appoint José Leal to fill District III seat until special election in November**

Special Education teacher chosen to fill seat in special meeting

Aug. 14, 2017 – The Houston ISD Board of Trustees voted to appoint José Leal to fill the seat left vacant after the death of long-time District III Trustee Manuel Rodríguez Jr last month. Board members chose Leal unanimously in a closed session held during a special meeting Monday afternoon.

José Leal has more than 20 years of classroom experience. His career in education started with HISD in 1981 where he worked in operations and maintenance. He’s worked as a bilingual teacher at Pugh Elementary School, a counselor and Dean of Students at Hamilton Middle School, and an assistant principal at Wheatley High School. He’s also been a Dean of Students at Johnston Middle School, assistant principal at North Forest High School, and a counselor at YES Prep Northbrook. He’s currently a special education teacher at HCAN Academies.

“Jose Leal was the only candidate who met the caretaker qualifications the board was looking for in this temporary appointment,” Wanda Adams said. “The Board would like to thank the other candidates who wanted to volunteer their time.”

Leal will be sworn in on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 and will serve in the Board of Trustees’ next monthly meeting on September 14, 2017. He’ll serve until a special election the board called at its monthly meeting on August 10. That special election will be held November 7.