

THE HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



AGENDA

**Board of Education
Meeting**

December 17, 2020

THE HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sue Deigaard, *President*
Judith Cruz, *Second Vice President*
Dr. Patricia K. Allen, *Secretary*
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Kathy Blueford-Daniels
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Myrna Guidry
Elizabeth Santos
Anne Sung

Grenita Lathan, Ph.D., *Interim Superintendent of Schools*

BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA

December 17, 2020

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A. SUPERINTENDENT'S PRIORITY ITEMS

- A-1. Approval Of Personal Services Performed By The Superintendent, Including Speaking Engagements, Panel Discussions, Workshops, Etc., In Accordance With Texas Education Code Section 11.201(E)

B. TRUSTEE ITEMS

- B-1. Adoption Of Resolution Requesting Governor Abbott To Include Public School District Personnel In The Official Expert Vaccine Allotment Panel's Definition Of Frontline Workers

- Resolution

C. CLOSED SESSION

- C-1. Personnel

- a. Deliberate the duties of the interim superintendent of schools, chief officers, assistant superintendents, principals, employees, chief audit executive, and board members; evaluations of the interim superintendent and chief audit executive, consideration of compensation, and contractual provisions.
- b. Consider and approve proposed appointments, reassignments, proposed terminations, terminations/suspensions, contract lengths, proposed nonrenewals, renewals, and resignations/retirements of personnel including teachers, assistant principals, principals, chief officers, assistant superintendents, and other administrators, and, if necessary, approve waiver and release and compromise agreements.
- c. Hear complaints against and deliberate the appointment, evaluation, and duties of public officers or employees and resolution of same.

- C-2. Legal Matters

- a. Matters on which the district's attorney's duty to the district under the Code of Professional Responsibility clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Law, including specifically any matter listed on this agenda and meeting notice.
- b. Pending or contemplated litigation matters and status report.
- c. Update on federal law enforcement activity on February 27, 2020.

- d. Legal discussion and advice concerning House Bill 1842 (84th Leg., 2015), Senate Bill 1882 (85th Leg., 2017), and the district's options.
- e. Legal discussion concerning *Houston ISD v. Texas Education Agency, et al.*, In the 459th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas, Cause No. D-1-GN-19-003695.
- f. Legal Update on Special Education Accreditation Investigation.

C-3. Real Estate

D. ACADEMIC SERVICES

E. SCHOOL OFFICES

F. STRATEGY AND INNOVATION

G. HUMAN RESOURCES

H. BUSINESS OPERATIONS

I. FINANCE

J. OTHER

K. POLICY

L. SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS

ADJOURN

Office of the Board of Education
Board of Education Meeting of December 17, 2020

Sue Deigaard, District V Trustee and President

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR ABBOTT TO INCLUDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL IN THE OFFICIAL EXPERT VACCINE ALLOTMENT PANEL'S DEFINITION OF FRONTLINE WORKERS

The Board of Education is asked to consider adoption of a resolution requesting Governor Abbott to include public school district personnel in the official Expert Vaccine Allotment Panel (EVAP) definition of frontline workers.

Through adoption of this resolution, the Houston Independent School District (HISD) will join State Board of Education member Ruben Cortez, Jr., in making this request of the governor.

The resolution recites that the board finds a public purpose exists in asking that all public school district employees be designated as frontline workers by the governor and the EVAP.

A copy of the above-referenced resolution is attached to this item.

COST/FUNDING SOURCE(S): None

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS: None

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS/IMPACT: This agenda item supports all four district goals and is aligned to Core Initiative 5: Culture of Trust through Action.

THIS ITEM DOES NOT REQUIRE CONSULTATION.

THIS ITEM DOES NOT ESTABLISH, MODIFY, OR DELETE BOARD POLICY.

RECOMMENDED: That the Board of Education adopts the resolution requesting that all public school district employees be designated as frontline workers by the governor and the EVAP, effective December 18, 2020.

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR ABBOTT TO INCLUDE PUBLIC SCHOOL
DISTRICT PERSONNEL IN THE OFFICIAL EXPERT VACCINE ALLOTMENT PANEL'S
DEFINITION OF FRONTLINE WORKERS**

WHEREAS, the Houston Independent School District Board of Education (Board) recognizes that the United States government, the State of Texas, and local health authorities have declared a disaster and emergency regarding coronavirus/COVID-19 (hereafter COVID-19) and its spread across the state and nation and continue to extend these declarations;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that COVID-19 is an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency of urgent public necessity, that the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and that additional emergency declarations have been and will continue to be issued in the coming days, weeks, and months;

WHEREAS, the public schools of the State of Texas impact millions of students and personnel and have a profound effect on educational, social, economic, and public health issues and are integral to the general welfare of the state;

WHEREAS, the public schools of the State of Texas are charged with the task of caring for, educating, nourishing, and providing extra-curricular activities to millions of Texas students five days per week, thus allowing a vast number of parents the opportunity to engage in gainful employment to support and nurture wholesome home environments for Texas students;

WHEREAS, the public schools of the State of Texas are dependent on dedicated school personnel from administrators, teachers, and educational and professional specialists to clerical, maintenance, transportation, child nutrition, security, and other support staff to conduct the day-to-day operations of our schools and ensure the efficient delivery of instruction;

WHEREAS, although our district and our personnel as well districts across the state have responded heroically to the challenges brought forth by COVID-19 regarding the delivery of instruction, issues persist in the quality of learning especially among students that would most benefit from live, face-to-face instruction;

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Health recently reported 31,678 students and 18,742 school employees tested positive for COVID-19 and the board, having a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community, therefore, desires to ensure that the district and community be prepared to the fullest extent possible in light of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, a substantial number of district employees are more susceptible to complications and/or death from COVID-19 due to age or pre-existing medical conditions;

WHEREAS, it appears that through the significant efforts of the public and private sectors, effective vaccines may soon be available to administer to our citizens in an effort to thwart the spread of COVID-19 and return our lives to a semblance of normality and stability;

WHEREAS, the State of Texas convened a team of external and internal subject-matter experts into the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP) to develop vaccine allocation strategies as recommendations to the Texas Commissioner of Health including guiding principles for the equitable distribution of the vaccine across the state which appropriately prioritize making vaccines available to **FRONTLINE WORKERS** and vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS, in order to balance the educational, health, and economic issues described above, the Governor of Texas, the Texas Commissioner of Education, and the Texas Education Agency prescribed guidelines and directives to public school districts to currently make available live instruction to those students who request it and to continue to aggressively phase in live instruction for all students in the near future;

WHEREAS, the Board and administration are following advice and directives from federal, state, and local authorities in responding to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Texas public school district personnel are essential to the day-to-day operations of a district as described above and critical for the resumption of live, face-to-face instruction;

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruben Cortez, Jr., District 2 Member of the State Board of Education recently requested of Governor Abbott that school district employees statewide be defined as **FRONTLINE WORKERS** for purposes of vaccine allocation and the Board wishes to join Mr. Cortez and support him in his request to the governor;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Board finds a substantial public purpose exists in requesting of the governor and EVAP that all public school district personnel be designated **FRONTLINE WORKERS** as that term is defined by EVAP and as essential **FRONTLINE WORKERS** be given appropriate priority in the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available.

The above resolution is passed and adopted this ____ day of December 2020 by the Board of Education.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education