

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Board of Education votes against turnaround and innovation partnerships

Dec. 14, 2018 – The HISD Board of Education rejected, 4-5, a move to request proposals for turnaround partnerships to operate four campuses that have been designated “Improvement Required” for four or more years.

The four campuses are Highland Heights Elementary School, Henry Middle School, and Kashmere and Wheatley high schools.

Under Senate Bill 1882, entering into a turnaround partnership would provide a two-year pause on accountability from the Texas Education Agency and prevent sanctions from the state related to House Bill 1842, including school closures or the appointment of a Board of Managers.

With the vote, trustees also declined to request proposals from potential innovation partners that could have provided additional support and resources to operate campuses in “Met Standard” status.

In other business, the board:

- Voted 6-3 to conduct a closed search for a permanent superintendent.
- Voted 6-2 to postpone until the January board meeting an agenda item on hosting Lone Star Governance (LSG) training for the community to foster communication and understanding between the Board and the public.
- Adopted a resolution to expand and strengthen anti-gang measures on and around campuses, including working diligently with school administration and area law enforcement, and embracing wraparound services to provide support to at-risk students.

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The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 284 schools and more than 214,000 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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