

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD board to consider next steps in appointment of permanent superintendent

Trustee Wanda Adams resigns District IX board position

Nov. 11, 2020 -- At its Thursday meeting, the Houston Independent School District Board of Education will consider naming Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan as the lone finalist for the position or consider resuming a search for candidates for superintendent.

The board's virtual regular monthly meeting begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, and can be viewed live online at www.hisd.tv and on HISD TV (Xfinity channel 18 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99). Click [here](#) to view the full agenda.

Lathan has served in the interim role since March 2018. In February of 2019, the board voted to suspend the search for a superintendent. If Lathan is named the lone finalist for the position on Thursday, board policy states she would officially be named the permanent superintendent 21 days later.

Also, at its Thursday meeting, the board is scheduled to accept the resignation of District IX Trustee Wanda Adams who has been elected to serve as Harris County Justice of the Peace Court Precinct 7, Place 1. The board will consider filling the vacancy by appointment, since Adams' term was set to expire Dec. 31, 2021.

Trustees will also consider adoption of legislative priorities for the upcoming 117th session of the United States Congress and the 87th session of the Texas Legislature. The district's federal and state priorities include far-reaching supports for student equity, school finance, and COVID-19 considerations to help HISD with the funding and flexibility necessary to continue providing instructional continuity throughout the pandemic.

The district's legislative priorities are based on discussions with various HISD departments, federal legislative service providers, parents and community members of the Houston Educational Advocacy Representatives (HEAR), District Advisory Committee members, and Interim Superintendent Lathan. Once adopted, the priorities will be posted on the district's website. Congress is scheduled to convene on Jan. 3, 2021, and the Texas Legislative session is scheduled to begin Jan. 12, 2021.

Additionally, the board will consider approval of a \$250,000 donation from the HISD Foundation on behalf of the Brown Foundation toward reimbursement for technology the district

purchased for students to access classes virtually. HISD has closed its digital divide by providing 111,000 devices and 38,700 hot spots for students.

Trustees are also scheduled to approve the annual District Improvement Plan, which guides the mission to improve student performance among all groups, close student achievement gaps, and meet and exceed state standards. Additionally, the board is scheduled to approve annual School Improvement Plans in alignment with HISD's strategic priorities, which are to expand educational opportunities, ensure student health, safety, and well-being, and transform student outcomes. The plans have been revised to ensure a more targeted and action-focused process. They are approved by each school's faculty, school support officers, and area superintendents. Each plan will be available on the HISD website after they are approved.

Also, on the agenda is approval of a \$435,000 Texas Education Agency grant for the HISD Homeless Office to improve attendance and increase academic success for homeless students. The grant provides clothing, supplies and transportation for students as well as training for staff and parents. It also supports targeted interventions for student success on end-of-course exams and the reading and math portions of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exams.

Additionally, the board will consider approval of a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund the Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence program to support first responders in addressing, assessing, and mitigating school-based incidents. The grant would be jointly managed by the HISD Police Department and the Social and Emotional Learning Department to improve student safety in the areas of threat assessment, parental involvement, mental health support, safety planning, and security personnel.

Trustees will also consider a \$92,000 in-kind donation from Arts Connect Houston to expand students' access to arts education through programming from local arts and cultural organizations.

The board will also consider approval of an \$80,000 grant from the HISD Foundation on behalf of the No Kid Hungry Campaign to purchase up to 5,000 frozen turkeys for HISD families to encourage them to visit food and supplies supersites on Dec. 12 and Dec. 16 prior to the district's winter break.

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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 280 schools and more than 209,772 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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