

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Board of Education set to appoint, swear in trustee for District IX position

Board also scheduled to approve \$250,000 grant for family mental health supports

Dec. 8, 2020 — The Houston Independent School District Board of Education is scheduled to appoint during a special meeting a new trustee for District IX, which was vacated by Wanda Adams last month. The new trustee will be sworn in on Thursday at noon before the regular meeting.

The board's virtual regular monthly meeting begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 10 and the swearing-in ceremony of the new District IX Trustee will be held at noon. Both 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 for the regular board meeting.

Adams resigned after being elected to serve as a Harris County Justice of the Peace. The new appointee will fulfill Adams' unexpired term, which ends Dec. 31, 2021. The board is reviewing applications from interested individuals and conducting interviews.

The board is also scheduled to accept a \$250,000 grant from School-Based Healthcare Solutions Network to address students' and parents' mental health issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant would be used at 10 participating schools to assist families whether their students are enrolled in virtual or face-to-face instruction. Only 25 recipients across the nation are receiving the grant. The HISD schools are: Highland Heights and Wesley elementary schools; Attucks, Cullen, Henry, and Thomas middle schools; and Bellaire, Madison, North Forest, and Waltrip high schools.

Also, at its Thursday evening meeting, the board is set to approve an agreement for the University of Houston to hire, train and supervise select students to tutor and mentor HISD students enrolled in the district's Miles Ahead Scholars (MAS) program, as well as targeted students who attend Kashmere, Wheatley and Worthing high schools. The UH students would work with a teacher at the high schools or a program manager with the MAS program. UH tutors would also provide MAS students with college application guidance.

The board is also scheduled to vote on the district's annual Targeted Improvement Plans for Comprehensive Support schools that require additional resources and for schools that received an F rating from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) during the 2018-2019 school year. Ratings for 2019-2020 were not issued by the TEA due to COVID-19. Plans for the schools include

essential actions needed to address the identified focus areas for school improvement, goals for the improvement process, and persons responsible for implementing and monitoring improvement activities. All campuses are required to have their Targeted Improvement Plans approved by HISD's Board of Education prior to submission to the TEA.

Additionally, the board is set to accept a \$20,000 donation from the family of the late Irma Rodriguez, who was a veteran teacher at Sanchez Elementary School. The donation would be used for instructional classroom technology. She is remembered as a devoted, award-winning, generous teacher who donated toys, laptops, and groceries to assist students and their families.

Trustees are scheduled to vote on a \$20,000 cash donation from the Houston Texans and Reliant, an NRG company, to eight HISD schools to support technology. The Texans and Reliant are also donating \$84,000 worth of drawstring bags, phone chargers, and Deshaun Watson jerseys and autographed footballs to reward attendance.

Also, at its Thursday evening meeting, the board will consider \$10,000 worth of supplies and materials donated by FedEx's Purple Totes campaign to four HISD elementary schools in response to wish lists provided by the schools.

Trustees will also consider a \$31,700 in-kind donation of video production equipment and a sound mixing console from NASA's Johnson Space Center for Sam Houston Math, Science, and Technology Center High School to support STEM education through student-led productions.

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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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