

Board Notes

DeSoto ISD School Board Meetings



Monthly School Board Meeting Notes: 6:30 p.m. | Monday, November 15, 2021

Board notes are not the approved minutes of the DeSoto ISD School Board meeting but are just a recap of the major votes/actions of the meeting.

Click here: [View the meeting](#). View the official minutes and agenda items, please [click here](#) or check the website at www.DeSotoISD.org.

Closed Session:

- The community will be able to view the monthly Celebrations and Recognitions.
 - 2. A. Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074 to consider the following:
Personnel: Employment of Administrative Personnel
 - 2. B. Pursuant to Section 551.074: Discuss personnel
 - 2. C. Discussion regarding superintendent's resignation letter and consideration of proposed voluntary separation agreement (BJCE (LEGAL))

Celebrations and Recognitions ([Watch Video](#))

- **Celebrations:**
 - *District Highlights:*
 - The Human Resources Department hosted a successful substitutes and tutors job fair.
 - The district launched its Teacher Incentive Allotment program.
 - District principals hosted a professional development day for their campus staff.

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- The Student Support Services Department hosted its Red Ribbon Week Parent and Family Engagement night to raise awareness on drugs and drugs prevention.
- DeSoto ISD hosted its Veterans Day Tribute for all district and community veterans and their families.
- DeSoto ISD Superintendent Dr. D'Andre Weaver launched his superintendent advisory council sessions with parent, student, and staff stakeholder groups.
- DeSoto ISD was selected as a feature district on the WFAA Daybreak news broadcast.
- *Student Highlights:*
 - Seven DeSoto High School Lady Eagles Basketball senior student-athletes signed their letters of intent during the National Early Signing Day and were included on the Dallas Morning News' top 20 high school Girls Basketball recruiting class of 2022.
 - Two DeSoto High School Fine Arts Dance students were selected out of 1500 candidates to participate in the All-American Dance team in Honolulu, HI in the spring of 2022.
 - The DHS Band earned straight 1's at the UIL Region 20 marching band competition which promoted the band to the UIL Area Marching Contest.
 - Twenty-Four DeSoto ISD Middle School students from Curtistene McCowan Middle School and West Middle School earned placements in the All-District Middle School Honor Band on October 23, 2021. Students were selected by audition and earned the opportunity to work under the direction of a renowned clinician, Mr. Peter Ware, before participating in their first concert of the year under his direction.

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- The DHS Choir Students received UIL Region Honors in the
 - UIL Region 20 All-District Choirs, the UIL Region 20 Honor Choir, the All-Region Choir, and the Pre-Area Round.
- Selected from among hundreds of choirs who submitted recordings across the United States, the DeSoto High School Acapella Choir has been invited to perform at the WorldStrides Choral Festival to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- After a rigorous audition process that included 1500 candidates, two DHS Eaglettes were selected to participate in the HTE Dance Academy National Dance Team and will perform in Honolulu, Hawaii in March 2022, mingle with top college recruiters, and learn about the history and culture of the island.
- The DHS Choir has earned two incredible honors at the Southwest American Choir Directors Association Conference, which will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas on February 28-March 3, 2022.
 - Six DHS choir students have auditioned and earned placement in the SWACDA Honor Choir.
 - The DHS Varsity Ladies Choir was selected as the first ladies' demonstration honor choir to ever be selected for the event.
- Six DeSoto High School AP students who were recognized as National College Board Scholars took the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or AP Exams as a part of the National Recognition program for the following areas: African American, Hispanic, and Indigenous.
- The DeSoto High School Advanced Placement Program has experienced growth:

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- Increase in the overall number of exams taken from 642 in 2020 to 804 2021
- Increase in student college readiness scores from 90 in 2020 to 119 2021
- Increase in qualifying scores for female students from 27 in 2020 to 32 2021
- Increase in the number of exams taken by African American students from 260 in 2020 to 595 in 2021
- Increase in total AP enrollment from 418 students in 2020 to 775 in 2021
- Students received qualifying scores for the first time in the following AP exam groups:
 - 2D Art Design from 0 in 2020 to 2 2021 * 3 and 5 scores
 - Environmental Science 0 2020 to 2 2021 * 4 and 5 scores
- **Recognitions**
 - DeSoto ISD thanks the following donors for their contributions and support of the district:
 - Von's Vision Foundation – Over one hundred DeSoto ISD students participated in the Von's Vision Day event at DeSoto High School. This event allowed the students to receive basic and in-depth eye exams and eyeglasses.
 - Texas Trust Credit Union for their recent donation to DeSoto ISD.

Public Session

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- **Public Comments**
 - One public comment was received for this meeting regarding getting the board and community engaged in the process.
 - Agenda item - superintendent voluntary resignation

- **Board Monitoring**
 - This monthly progress monitoring session is designed to discuss student and teacher progress in selected areas as it relates to the board's goals.
 - The high achievers' recognition for students centered around Goal 2 and Goal 3 based on data from our PreK to third-grade assessments, in alignment with our board goals and GPMs collected throughout September and into October for BOY data. Students from the Cockrell Hill, Woodridge, and Katherine Johnson Technology Magnet campuses were included.
 - The board monitoring aspect of this Item was postponed.

- **Information (Discussion Only)**
 - The **Board Corrective Action Plan** update was postponed.
 - The **Administration Corrective Action Plan** was postponed.
 - The monthly report on **Financial Statements** was presented by Chief Financial Officer Joey Jones who discussed the district's general fund, debt to service ratio, and child nutrition reporting for October 31, 2021.
 - The **A2E2 Grant Program Review** was presented by Chief Academic Officer Dr. Mya Asberry who shared a draft of the grant amendment submission which detailed the data and program report from the last four years along with the narrative of the proposed comprehensive plan for the district to continue the magnet learning offerings for our students.

- **Consent Items**

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- The Board unanimously **approved** all Consent Agenda Items **except** Item 8D.
- **Action/Discussion Items**
 - **Presentation of 2020-2021 Financial Audit by Chief Financial Officer Joey Jones and Whitley Penn**
 - Audit completed for the year ending June 30, 2021. The auditor issued an Unmodified (clean) opinion.
 - The board **unanimously approved** this Item.
 - **Consideration and possible approval of Woodridge Principal Finalist**
 - The board **approved** this Item.
 - **Consideration and take possible action of rescinding prior approval of T-Clas Grant**
 - The board **unanimously approved** this Item.
 - **Discussion and take action regarding superintendent's resignation letter and proposed voluntary separation agreement (BJCE (LEGAL))**
 - The board **unanimously approved** this Item.
 - President Fleming shared a tentative timeline for selecting an interim leader and the next steps for the district.

Next Meeting Information

- The DeSoto ISD School Board will host their **Bi-Monthly Town Hall on November 30 at 6:30 PM** in the DeSoto ISD Administration Building.
- The next monthly meeting of the DeSoto ISD School Board is scheduled for **December 13 at 6:30 PM**. The meetings are held at the DeSoto ISD Administration Building located at 200 E. Belt Line Road in DeSoto, Texas.

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- In-person public comments must be submitted at least (15) fifteen minutes before the start of the meeting to be considered. During the Board Meeting, the public will read their comments to the board.
- Viewers can access the meeting via the DeSoto ISD website or at this direct link: <http://desotoisdtx.swagit.com/live>.