

Board Notes

DeSoto ISD School Board Meetings



Monthly School Board Meeting Notes: 6:30 p.m. | Monday, January 24, 2022

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

Board Recognition

- In honor of School Board Recognition Month, Texas State Senator Royce West, DeSoto Mayor Rachel Proctor and Glenn Heights Mayor Pro Tem Sonja A. Brown expressed their gratitude for the work of the school board trustees.

Closed Session:

- The community viewed the monthly Celebrations and Recognitions and watched three student performances.
- 2. A. Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074 to consider the following: Personnel
- 2. B. Discussion with Search firm on matters related to Superintendent Search, Job Posting, and Candidate Profile.

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

District Highlights:

- In recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, DeSoto ISD celebrated its trustees with a small celebration and tokens of appreciation from the district staff, campus leaders, and its students with gratitude for their commitment to the theme, “RISING ABOVE” throughout the year.

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- The DeSoto ISD Student Support Services Department held its Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) workshop for parents and students to share strategies to support the school and home environments.
- The DeSoto Bilingual, ESL, and LOTE Department held a parent meeting to provide tools, information, and resources for its students and families.
- DeSoto ISD School Board President DeAndrea Fleming was recently awarded the Leadership ISD 'As One' Award during the organization's 10th-anniversary dinner.
- DeSoto ISD welcomed interim superintendent, Dr. Larry Lewis, to the district during its mid-year virtual convocation.
- DeSoto ISD launched its Teacher-in-Residence program to support the academic growth of its students.
- DeSoto ISD held its January Spring Career Expo to help bring more teachers, support staff, and volunteers to aid student growth and academic success. The district plans to host career expos monthly, please see www.desotoisd.org for more details and to apply for vacancies.

Student Highlights:

- DeSoto High School senior Devyn Bobby signed his letter of intent to attend Baylor University and play collegiate football for the Bears.
- DeSoto High School Girls Basketball team, the Lady Eagles, boasts seven nominees for the 2022 McDonald's All-American game. These scholars, average a 3.9 GPA in the classroom and are currently #2 in the nation.
- The DeSoto High School Eagle Band collected and donated \$700 to the KLTY Christmas Wish community giving program for a six-year total of \$2,700.
- Two DeSoto High School Fine Arts Choir students were selected to compete as finalists for the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Honors Choir and one

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DeSoto High School student from the A Capella choir received the All-State Honors from TMEA.

- The DeSoto High School Varsity Ladies choir will perform at the Regional Workshop for the 2022 SWACDA "Together" Conference at the Marriott in Little Rock, Arkansas in March.
- Six DeSoto ISD students auditioned and were accepted in the Southwest American Choral Directors' Association Honors Choir. They will be performing in March at the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center.
- In conjunction with the University of Hawaii, the DeSoto High School A Cappella Choir will be participating in the music festival with choirs from across the country and throughout the world at the Aloha State Choral Festival in March.
- Three DeSoto ISD students were surprised with tuition scholarships to attend Prairie View A&M University totaling approximately \$174,000 over four years.
- A Cockrell Hill Elementary student, known as Chef Karter, recently joined DeSoto Mayor Rachel Proctor in a community video sharing his special holiday recipe.

Staff Highlights:

- Through the district's recently launched Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) program, 30 DeSoto ISD teachers were surprised with checks between \$2,500 and \$10,000 and a special high-performance designation added to their state teaching credential.

Recognitions

- DeSoto ISD thanks Texas Trust Credit Union for providing coffee for staff at The Meadows and the Curtistene S. McCowan campuses as they returned to work after the winter break.
- To support the wellness of its students and the entire school community:

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- DeSoto ISD partnered with the Praise Temple Church to host a three-day COVID-19 testing clinic for its school community.
- DeSoto ISD partnered with Bureson Pharmacy to offer a three-day COVID-19 Vaccine clinic and PCR-COVID-19 Testing to students and their families from ages 5 to 11 in January.
- Before the winter break, several organizations supported the DeSoto ISD Toy and Coat Drive. DeSoto ISD thanks the following:
 - Dr. Charles Martin, the pastor of Union Missionary Baptist Church, and his ministry partners for the delivery of a large donation of toys
 - The DeSoto ISD PTA Council for their toy donations
 - The DeSoto Tarantulas for their toy donations
 - DeSoto ISD appreciates and recognizes the Chocolate MINT Foundation for its continued support of our district students through their holiday event.

Public Session

- **Public Hearing: Texas Academic Performance Report**
 - Chief of Research, Evaluation, and Design Benjamin Mackey and Senior Data Strategist Josh Newton presented this annual report to the community.
- **Public Comments**
 - Two public comments on non-agenda items were received for this meeting regarding food service workers' compensation.
- **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. Interim Superintendent Dr. Larry Lewis presented the district data along with potential solutions to meet the progress measures.

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- This monitoring session centered on Board Goal 1: CCMR- College, Career & Military Readiness (GPMs 1.2 & 1.3).
- The District celebrated DeSoto High School and Early College High School students who passed the most dual credit courses during the fall semester.
- **Superintendent Constraints**
 - This discussion centered on Constraint 5 (5.1, 5.2, 5.3): Culture – Middle of the Year.
 - Interim Superintendent Dr. Lewis presented this item and shared that the progress measure for students is slightly off track while the staff progress measure was met. He also sighted potential solutions to help meet and exceed the goal progress measures.
- **Board Constraint Monitoring- Constraint 1**
 - Board President DeAndrea Fleming introduced this set of constraints that will govern how the superintendent and board will interact regarding the school district. During the meeting, the Board consented that this constraint has been upheld by all trustees.
- **Information (Discussion Only)**
 - **Board Recognition**
 - Interim Superintendent Larry Lewis provided tokens of appreciation to each board member and DeSoto ISD Principals presented expressions of appreciation.
 - **Board Corrective Action Plan Update**
 - The update was presented by Trustee Traci McNairy who shared that there were a few areas off track in the areas of Focus on the Vision and Communicating the Vision.
 - **Administration Corrective Action Plan update**

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- The update was presented by Interim Superintendent Dr. Larry Lewis who shared three updated progress measures in the Finance and Talent Management objectives.
- **Board Monitoring Calendar Update- First Read**
 - Chief of Research, Evaluation, & Design Benjamin Mackey shared the updates for the board to review based on previously shared feedback from trustees. The monitoring calendar denotes which goals and constraints are going to be monitored at which months of the school year.
- **Monthly Board Financials Update**
 - Chief Financial Officer Joey Jones presented the monthly financials for the district's general fund, debt to service ratio, and child nutrition accounts as of December 31, 2021.
- **FIRST Rating Update**
 - This item was presented by Chief Financial Officer Joey Jones who shared the Projected FIRST rating for the fall of 2022 based on data from the fiscal year ending 2021.
- **Policy Updates**
 - Discussion and possible approval of Policy Updates First Read as it related to Board Operating Procedures
- **ESSER II & ESSER III Update**
 - This item was presented by Executive Director of State and Federal Grants Andrae Rhyne who shared an update on this grant program.
- **Consent Items**
 - The Board unanimously **approved** all Consent Agenda Items

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- **Action/Discussion Items**

- **Consideration and approval of Board Evaluation (LSG Integrity Assessment Tool)**
 - The board performed their quarterly assessment and **unanimously approved** this item.
- **Discussion and action to approve the Job Posting and Candidate Profile for Superintendent of Schools**
 - The board **unanimously approved** this Item

Next Meeting Information

- The next monthly meeting of the DeSoto ISD School Board is scheduled for **February 28 at 6:30 PM**. The meetings are held at the DeSoto ISD Administration Building located at 200 E. Belt Line Road in DeSoto, Texas.
 - 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>.