

**Spring Branch Independent School District  
Agenda Item Information**

**Date of Board Meeting:** September 22, 2008

**Subject:** Request for Approval of Resolution on Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Proposed Grade Point Average (GPA) Rules

**Administrator Responsible:**

**Name:** Dr. Duncan Klussmann

**Position:** Superintendent of Schools

**Purpose of Agenda Item:**

Information only       Action needed       Report

**Additional Information and/or Back-Up:**

Resolution will be provided to Trustees on Monday, September 22, 2008.

**RESOLUTION BY THE SPRING BRANCH ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CONCERNING TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
RECOMMENDED UNIFORM GPA CALCULATION**

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 3851, subsequently codified as Section 28.0252(b) of the Texas Education Code; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 3851 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to create a standard method of determining high school student grade point averages (GPA) for admission to a Texas public university; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 3851 further requires that the standard method for computing a student's high school grade point average must (1) be based on a four-point scale, and (2) assign additional weight for each honors course, advanced placement course, international baccalaureate course, or dual credit course completed by the student as the board considers appropriate, taking into consideration the academic rigor of each course completed by the student; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 3851 further requires that the standard method for computing a student's high school grade point average applies to computing the grade point average of a student applying as a first-time freshman for admission to a general academic teaching institution beginning with admissions for the 2009 fall semester; and

**WHEREAS**, THECB asked the Attorney General for an opinion to clarify whether school districts were required to use the standard method of calculation and whether or not the Coordinating Board had the latitude to provide a transition period for implementation of the standard method of calculation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Attorney General issued an opinion on August 26, 2008, which in summary states that (1) the standard GPA calculation must be used by the school districts for purposes of public university admissions, and (2) House Bill 3851 is not to be applied retroactively to students; and

**WHEREAS**, THECB has proposed rules to implement House Bill 3851; and

**WHEREAS**, the rules proposed by THECB to calculate the high school grade point average provide in pertinent part as follows:

- (1) A four-point scale shall be used in computing the Uniform Grade-Point Average except that Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and academic Dual Credit courses that are part of Chapters 110 - 114 of this title, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, shall be weighted equally with an additional weighting of 1.0 points in the calculation of the Uniform Grade-Point Average;

- (2) All academic courses included in Chapters 110 - 114 of this title, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, shall be used in calculating the Uniform Grade-Point Average regardless of when the course was taken; and
- (3) Grades earned in local credit courses shall not be included in the computation of the Uniform Grade-Point Average; and

**WHEREAS**, the process used to create the proposed rules did not involve broad participation from K-12 stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, the Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees believes there are substantial modifications that should be made to the proposed rules prior to the implementation of the standard method for calculating a student's high school grade point average.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees requests that THECB withdraw the current proposed rule, and create a formal committee with broad representation of K-12 stakeholders to determine appropriate rules for the implementation of House Bill 3851.

The Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees further requests the following:

- (1) Pre-AP and Pre-IB courses should be given additional weight in the calculation of the student's grade point average;
- (2) Career & Technology courses should be included in the student's grade point average;
- (3) THECB should permit school districts to exercise local control to determine the minimum passing grade and should not assign all grades in the 95th to 100th percentile to be equivalent to an "A" or a 4.0 (or a 5.0 if earned in an Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Dual Credit course);
- (4) All courses included in the Recommended High School curriculum should be included in the grade point average calculation rather than only those "academic courses included Chapters 110-114" of the Texas Administrative Code;
- (5) Consistent with the Attorney General's opinion, the implementation date should be later than the 2009-10 school year in order to avoid retroactive application to students currently in grades 6, 7 and 8 who have made course selection decisions based on the current grade point average calculation methodology;

- (6) Fine arts courses are considered "academic" courses under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, by the College Board and by the State Board of Education; and, therefore, should be included in the GPA; and
- (7) The process for approving the rules should be slowed down so that all possible ramifications and consequences are considered.

**PASSED AND APPROVED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2008.**

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Trustees  
Spring Branch Independent School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Spring Branch Independent School District

We, the members of the Board of Trustees of Spring Branch Independent School District join in signing this Resolution.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Kellner, President

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Mary Grace Landrum, Board Member

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Theresa Kosmoski, Vice President

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Wayne Schaper, Sr., Board Member

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Susan Mathews, Secretary

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David Converse, Board Member

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Mike Falick, Board Member

**Spring Branch Independent School District  
Agenda Item Information**

**Date of Board Meeting:** September 22, 2008

**Subject:** Request for Approval of the Board/Superintendent Operating Procedures  
on Items #1, 11 and 17

**Administrator Responsible:**

**Name:** Diane Jackson, Ed.D.

**Position:** Policy Administration & Governmental Relations

**Purpose of Agenda Item:**

Information only       Action needed       Report

**Additional Information and/or Back-Up:**

Request approval of the Board/Superintendent Operating Procedures

#1 Questions about the Agenda

#11 Board member preparation for meetings

#17 Selection and operation of board liaisons

**1). Questions about the Agenda**

draft revision

Procedure:

- 1). Board Members will direct their individual requests for additional materials or information relating to Agenda related questions to the appropriate staff member via e-mail, while copying the request to the Superintendent, Board President and appropriate Board Liaison prior to the Board Meeting.
- 2). If the requested information is not available, the Superintendent shall inform the Board Member prior to the start of the meeting.
- 3). If the Board Member is unsure of which staff member would be able to answer questions, the Board Member shall seek the advice of the Board President or Superintendent.
- 4). Requests for additional materials or information relating to regular Board Meeting Agenda items shall be made at least two (2) business days prior to the day of the Board Meeting.
- 5). If staff feels that a request for additional information or materials is not readily available, would interfere with District operations or cannot reasonably be prepared before the Board meeting, the Superintendent or designee will notify the requesting Board Member and the Board President.
- 6). The Superintendent or designee will ensure that any additional materials or information that is provided to one Board Member is provided to all Board Members.
- 7). If a Board Member has requested information or materials, and the request has been denied or delayed in such a manner that the Board Member feels that he/she will not be able to make an informed decision, the request will be placed on the agenda as an Executive Session item posted as "Consideration of the Duties of a Public Officer".
- 8). If the Board determines that the request should be honored, the Board and the Superintendent will determine the appropriate time line for presentation to the Board Members and the Agenda item will be pulled from that agenda.
- 9). Information requested by one Board Member shall be provided to all Board Members at the same time.

Nothing in this operating procedure shall be construed to limit a Board Member's ability to ask questions during the Board Meeting.

<b>Related Policies:</b>	BE (LEGAL) BDB (LOCAL)	BE (LOCAL) BJA (LOCAL)	BDB (LEGAL)
<b>Date Approved:</b>	Oct. 25, 2004		
<b>Date Revised:</b>			

Board/Superintendent Operating Procedures

**11). Board member preparation for meetings**

draft revision

Procedure:

- 1). The Superintendent will ensure that all necessary or requested information is supplied to the Board Members to allow for informed decisions. Agenda packets will be electronically posted and delivered ten (10) days in advance in the case of Regular meetings and three (3) days in advance for Pre-Agenda meetings. Items not available when the Agenda is electronically posted and/or delivered will be electronically posted or delivered in the weekly packet immediately prior to the meeting.
- 2). Board Members will read and study the packet prior to each meeting.
- 3). Board Members will direct Agenda related questions to the Superintendent or appropriate staff member, according to Operating Procedure #1, ~~and at least four (4) hours before meeting. If the information is not available the Superintendent will inform the Board Member prior to the beginning of the Board meeting.~~
- 4). In order to honor the time of SBISD staff, Trustees will make every attempt to submit questions about regular meeting agenda items 2 working days before a regular board meeting.
- 5). If requested information is not available the Superintendent will inform the Board Member at least 4 hours prior to the beginning of the regular Board meeting.
- 6). By consensus of the Board, an item may be pulled from the agenda if sufficient information is not provided in a timely manner.

Moved from #3

<b>Related Policies:</b>	BE (LEGAL) BDB (LOCAL)	BE (LOCAL)	BDB (LEGAL)
<b>Date Approved:</b>	Oct. 25, 2004		
<b>Date Revised:</b>			

**17). Selection and operation of board liaisons**

**draft revision**

**Procedure:**

- 1). The following are considered to be standing Liaison roles for the Board:  
Academic/Curriculum, Administration/Personnel, Audit/Finance, Facilities/Operations, Legislative, Policy/Operating Procedures, Technology, Communications/Community Engagement
- 2). By June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, the Board President will solicit input from the Board Members regarding preferences and will assign each Member to Liaison position(s) as well as selecting a back up liaison. No member shall serve more than 2 consecutive years in the same Liaison position if another Member wishes to serve.
- 3). Board Liaison(s) may function as Committee of the Whole if that is the desire of the Board Members and if the meetings are posted and conducted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- 4). The function of the Liaison shall be:
  - a).
  - b).
  - c).
  - d).
  - e).
- 5). Liaisons shall not:
  - a).
  - b).
  - c).
- 6). By law, Liaisons are prohibited from making decisions on behalf of the Board.
- 7). Board Members may also be appointed as representatives to other District committees organizations.

<b>Related Policies:</b>	BE (LEGAL) BED (LOCAL) BJA (LOCAL) BBE (LEGAL) BDB (LEGAL)	BE (LOCAL) BED (LOCAL) BDAA (LEGAL) BBE (LOCAL)	BEC (LEGAL) BJA (LEGAL) BDAA (LOCAL) BDB (LOCAL)
<b>Date Approved:</b>	Oct. 25, 2004		
<b>Date Revised:</b>			



**17). Selection and operation of board liaisons**

**Procedure:**

- 1). The Board President, in consultation with the Superintendent, shall determine the nature, duties and composition of all standing Board committees. The Board President shall assign the chairmanship of each committee in June of each year.
- 2). Board Committees may function as Committee of the Whole if that is the desire of the Board Members and if the meetings are posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- 3). Agendas for posted committee meetings are developed by the Superintendent in cooperation with the committee chairman and the staff member assigned to the committee.
- 4). For posted committee meetings:
  - A). No Board member may request an item be added to the committee agenda less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting, unless an emergency or public necessity exists.
  - B). Any committee meeting agenda item added to the agenda after the original posting shall be done in accordance with state laws.
- 5). The Superintendent will ensure that each Board member receives a copy of the agenda and all related information to allow for an informed decision. The materials/ information must be supplied to each Board member at least three (3) days prior to a committee meeting.
- 6). For all posted committee meetings, the Superintendent will ensure that each Board member who does not attend a particular meeting will receive the minutes and a copy of all materials distributed at that meeting.
- 7). Action may be taken at any committee meeting on an item which is properly posted according to state law and at which a quorum of the Board is in attendance.
- 8). Any committee which includes less than a quorum of the Board and serves in a purely advisory function with no power to control public business is not subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act. Such committees may make recommendations to the Board but may take no action.

<b>Related Policies:</b>	BE (LEGAL)	BE (LOCAL)	BEC (LEGAL)
	BED (LOCAL)	BED (LOCAL)	BJA (LEGAL)
	BJA (LOCAL)	BDAA (LEGAL)	BDAA (LOCAL)
	BBE (LEGAL)	BBE (LOCAL)	BDB (LOCAL)
	BDB (LEGAL)		
<b>Date Approved:</b>	Oct. 25, 2004		
<b>Date Revised:</b>			