



**HUGHES SPRINGS INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

871 Taylor Street - Hwy 161 North Hughes Springs, Texas 75656
903-639-3800

**Agenda
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

DATE: Monday, December 11, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Hughes Springs ISD Administration Building, 871 Taylor St. - Hwy 161 North

Notice is hereby given that on the **December 11, 2023**, the Board of Trustees of the Hughes Springs Independent School District will meet at the Hughes Springs ISD Administration Building, 871 Taylor St. - Hwy 161 North, Hughes Springs, TX 75656 at 6:00 PM for a Regular Board Meeting. At this meeting, the subjects listed on the attached agenda will be considered and acted upon by the Board.

If, at any time during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board of Trustees should determine that a closed meeting of the Board of Trustees is required, then the Board may conduct such closed meeting as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, and in accordance with Texas Government Code Section §§ 551.071 – 551.084. Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. Agenda items that may be discussed in a closed meeting include, but are not limited to, private consultation with the Board's attorney (Sec. § 551.071), discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property (Sec. § 551.072), discussing negotiated contracts for prospective gifts or donations (Sec. § 551.073), discussing personnel or to hear complaints against personnel (Sec. §§ 551.074 and 551.082) and considering the deployment, specific occasions for, or implementation of, security personnel or devices (Sec. § 551.076).

Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the Board with regard to any matter considered in such closed meeting, then the final action, final decision, or final vote shall take place in an open meeting covered by the Notice.

On the **7th day of December 2023**, this notice was posted in conformance with Texas Government Code §§ 551.053 and 551.055.

Sarah Dildine, Superintendent

1. OPENING ACTIVITIES:

- 1.1 Call to Order
[Gov't Code 551.001 (6), 311.013 (b), HSISD Policy BE]
- 1.2 INVOCATION and Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 PUBLIC COMMENT
[HSISD Policy BED]

2. PRESENTATION:

- 2.1 Godwin Architects
- 2.2 Mike Allison with Red Tree Investments

3. HEARING:

- 3.1 HEARING: F.I.R.S.T. Report (State Financial Accountability Rating)
{HSISD Policy BAA, CFA, and Education Code 39.083}

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- 4.1 CONSIDERATION to Approve Minutes of Meeting on November 13, 2023
{HSISD Policy BE}
- 4.2 CONSIDERATION to Approve Budget Amendments (as needed)
{HSISD Policy BE}

5. AGENDA ITEMS:

- 5.1 CONSIDERATION to Approve 1st Semester CCSSA Invoice
- 5.2 CONSIDERATION to Approve Revision of Policy CDA (Local)
- 5.3 CONSIDERATION to Approve Resolution-Investment Pool Increase

- 5.4 CONSIDERATION to Approve the Localized Policy Update Policy 122 as Required by Local Policy
 Local Policies: CQB, CSA, DC, DP, EHB, EHBC, EHBCA, EIC, FEA, FFAC, FFB, FL
 Legal Policies: AF, AIB, BBB, BBBA, BBBB, BBBC, BBC, BBD, BBI, BE, C, CCA, CDA, CDB, CHE, CJA, CK, CKA, CKC, CKE, KEA, KEKB, KEKC, CLA, CLE, CMD, CNA, CNC, CQA, CQB, CQC, CS, CSA, CSB, CSC, CV, DBAA, DBE, DEAA, DEC, DF, DG, DGC, DH, DI, DIA, DL, DLB, DMA, DP, EEB, EF, EFA, EFB, EHAA, EHAB, EHAC, EHB, EHBA, EHBAB, EHBAD, EHBC, EHBCA, EHBG, EHBK, EHDD, EHDE, EHDF, EI, EIA, EIE, EIF, EKB, F, FA, FD, FDA, FDB, FEA, FEB, FEC, FED, FFAC, FFAF, FFB, FFBA, FFEA, FFG, FL, FM, FNCA, FNCC, FNCD, FNCF, FNCG, FNG, FO, FOC, FOCA, FOD, FODA, GBA, GBAA, GC, GKA, GKC, GKG, GRAC, GRB
 {HSISD Policies Education Code 11.201 (d)}
- 5.5 CONSIDERATION to Approve Revision of Policy GKG (Local)
- 5.6 CONSIDERATION to Take action to approve a contingent fee contract with Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins and Mott, LLP pursuant to Section 6.30 of the Texas Property Tax Code, said contract being for the collection of delinquent government receivables owed to Hughes Springs ISD and notice of said contract is posted with the agenda in accordance with Section 2254 of the Government Code.
- 5.7 CONSIDERATION to Approve Red Tree Investments as Investment Advisor and American Deposit Management LLC as Approved Broker for FDIC insured investments.

6. CLOSED SESSION:

as authorized by Texas Government Code Chapter 551.001 through 551.146, shall be declared by the Board of Trustees when necessary, during the course of the meeting at the time, date and place of this notice. The Board may close this meeting to consult with its attorney on any item posted on this agenda in order to receive legal advice or to maintain the attorney-client privilege. The Board may also close the meeting to consult with its attorney on any other matter when the attorney's professional and ethical duty to the Board requires a confidential communication.

Consent Action

- 6.1 PERSONNEL: (Action)
 Consider Employment, Resignations, Reassignments, Transfers, Substitute Teacher List, Extended Leaves, Additional Positions, and

Other Personnel Matters

7. RECONVENE:

Open Meeting to vote on matters considered in executive/closed session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, to take action necessary regarding closed session items (if any).

7.1 PERSONNEL:

8. INFORMATION ITEMS:

[HSISD Policy BE and BJA]

SUPERINTENDENT's Reports

- 8.1 Enrollment
- 8.2 Building/Grounds/Transportation
- 8.3 Students/Instruction
- 8.4 Goals/Plans
- 8.5 Special Programs
- 8.6 Current District Events
- 8.7 Miscellaneous/Incidental Information

BUSINESS MANAGER's Report

- 8.8 Monthly Financial Statements
- 8.9 Tax Collections
- 8.10 Cash Positions by Bank Account
- 8.11 Investment Listing
- 8.12 School Foundation Payment Schedule
- 8.13 Disbursements
- 8.14 Other Reports

9. CLOSING ACTIVITIES:

9.1 QUESTIONS asked of and by Board Members
{HSISD Policy BE}

9.2 ADJOURNMENT

Sarah Dildine, Superintendent

NOTICE PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SEC. 2254.1036

WHEREAS, the Hughes Springs Independent School District (“District”), will consider entering into a contingent fee contract with the law firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P. (“Firm”) and hereby posts this notice pursuant to Sec. 2254.1036 of the Government Code.

WHEREAS, this notice shall be posted before or at the time of giving the written notice required by Government Code Sec. 551.041 for a meeting described by Sec. 2254.1036(a)(2) of the Government Code and shall announce the following:

A. The District pursuing a contract with the Firm for the collection of delinquent ad valorem taxes owed to the District and through this contract the District seeks to increase recovery of its delinquent debts in as expeditious a manner as possible. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(a)(1)(A).

B. The District believes the Firm has the competency, qualifications, and experience necessary to fulfill this contract. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(a)(1)(B). The Firm has collected delinquent government receivables for 52 years, including the collection of delinquent ad valorem taxes. The Firm currently has 15 primary offices and multiple satellite offices throughout Texas, Oklahoma and Florida. It employs more than 400 individuals, including over 60 attorneys. It uses a multi-office, fully integrated team approach allowing the District access to all its offices and resources. Its collection team consists of long-term Firm employees, including attorneys, call center associates, paralegals, law clerks, legal secretaries, collection support personnel and information technology experts. The Firm utilizes proprietary collection software that can be tailored to meet any special need the District may have. This proprietary software also automates many aspects of the collection process, such as: account/debtor research, mailings and phone calls, return mail and address updates, payment notification and processing and workflow.

C. The nature of any relationship between the District and the Firm is as follows. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(a)(1)(C).

The Firm currently represents the district for Property Value Study audits or appeals.

D. The District is unable to collect its delinquent ad valorem taxes. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(a)(1)(D). The District currently does not have adequate support staff, computer software/programming, or experience to internally conduct these collection services and acquiring these will result in substantial expense to the District.

E. These collection services cannot be provided for an hourly fee. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(a)(1)(E). The Tax Code allows the assessment of a percentage-based fee to recover the costs of collecting delinquent ad valorem taxes. This percentage-based fee is assessed only against the debtor and not the District or taxpayers of the District. The collection of delinquent ad valorem taxes is a high-volume practice, requiring a significant amount of research, mailing, and handling of outbound/inbound calls. An hourly fee for such work will likely exceed amount of delinquent ad valorem taxes due. Moreover, the District will bear the cost of these hourly fees and not the

debtor, because the Tax Code does not expressly authorize the District to pay for collection services based on an hourly fee.

F. The District believes this contingent fee contract is in its best interest. GOVT. CODE § 2254.1036(a)(1)(F). Under the contingent fee contract, the Firm will be paid the amount of the percentage-based collection fee, regardless the number of hours the Firm spends researching, contacting and mailing to collect the delinquent debt. Additionally, the percentage-based collection penalty is a pass-through expense to the debtor and not an expense to the District or taxpayers in the District.