The Board of Trustees of the Deer Park Independent School District met in a Combined Workshop and Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on July 17, 2017, in the Board Room of the Education Support Center, 2800 Texas Avenue, Deer Park.

Board Members Present: Jason Cable, Brenda Cothran, Lynn Kirkpatrick, Ken Donnell, Rhonda Lowe, Lee Giddens and Jason Morris.

Central Office Staff Present: Victor White, Peaches McCroskey, Stephen Harrell, Ronda Kouba, Pete Pape, Matt Lucas, Sheri Vaughn, Cindy Hart, Denise Haynes, Kathy Owings, Patricia De La Cruz, Lisa Meyer, and others who did not sign the register.

Others Present: Terry Sain and others who did not sign the register.

President Donnell called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Trustee Lowe gave the invocation. Trustee Morris led the pledges to the US and Texas Flags.

Director of Communications Matt Lucas introduced Special Guests: Deer Park High School Culinary Arts Students, National ESPY winner Brenden “Bebo” West, and Deer Park High School Students who received the State Lone Star FFA Degree.

President Donnell opened the floor for audience participation. The Board heard from the following patrons: Monique Rodriguez.

Trustee Giddens moved, seconded by Trustee Lowe, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 12, 2017, the Budget and Tax Rate Hearing of June 19, 2017, and the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly reports given include: Financial Statements, and Calendar of Events Reports.

Workshop Discussion Included: Spring 2017 Results for STAAR 3-8 and EOC Exams, Bond Planning Update, Certified and Non-Contract Employee Handbooks, and Recommendation for Increase in Bus Driver Hourly Rate.

Trustee Lowe moved, seconded by Trustee Cothran, that the Board of Trustees adopt the Certified Employee Handbook for 2017-2018 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Cothran moved, seconded by Trustee Morris, that the Board of Trustees approve increasing the beginning hourly rate for bus drivers to $16.25 beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. The motion carried unanimously.

President Donnell called for a closed meeting following the Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074.

Open meeting resumed at 8:31 p.m.

Trustee Lowe moved, seconded by Trustee Morris, that the Board of Trustees approve the employment of 30 persons as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Lowe moved, seconded by Trustee Morris, that the Board of Trustees approve contracts for 9 persons as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Lowe moved, seconded by Trustee Giddens, that the Board of Trustees authorize the District’s attorneys, Thompson and Horton, to intervene in La Feria ISD vs. Morath, Cause No. D-1-GN-17-001385, 261st District Court, Travis County, as outlined in closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on August 14, 2017.

Ken Donnell
President, Board of Trustees

Rhonda Lowe
Secretary, Board of Trustees

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