The Board of Trustees of the Deer Park Independent School District met in a Combined Workshop and Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. immediately following the Early Notification Incentive Hearing on January 20, 2020, in the Board Room of the Education Support Center, 2800 Texas Avenue, Deer Park.

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

Central Office Staff Present: Victor White, Stephen Harrell, Peaches McCroskey, Ronda Kouba, Pete Pape, Matt Lucas, Janet Byers, and others who did not sign the register.

Others Present: Steve Corry, Senator Carol Alvarado, and others who did not sign the register.

President Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Opening exercises were led by students from Deer Park High School South Campus. Elijah Joy gave the invocation. Haley Matusek and Bryan Ceron led the pledges to the US and Texas Flags.

Director of Communications Matt Lucas introduced Special Guests: Tiffany Regan was recognized with Deer Park Junior High as an Apple Distinguished School for 2019-2020.

President Kirkpatrick opened the floor for audience participation. The Board heard from the following patrons: State Senator Carol Alvarado.

Trustee Giddens moved, seconded by Trustee Lowe, to approve the minutes of the Tier II Team of Eight Training of December 9, 2019, Public Hearing for Value Limitation #1367 from INEOS Styrolution America, LLC of December 16, 2019, Public Hearing for Reinvestment Zone for INEOS Styrolution America, LLC of December 16, 2019 and the Combined Workshop and Regular Meeting of December 16, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly reports given include: Enrollment, Financial Statements, Delinquent Tax Collections Report, and Calendar of Events.

Workshop Discussion Included: District Improvement Plan Mid-Cycle Update, Engagement of External Auditor for 2019-2020, Amendment of the Equistar Chemicals, LP (1139) Chapter 313 Agreement to Assign Agreement from Equistar Chemicals, LP to LYB LaPorte Hyperzone, LLC, and Construction Reports.
Trustee Lowe moved, seconded by Trustee Morris, that the Board of Trustees approve the Early Notification Incentive offering a one-time $1,000 payment to certified employees who would be recommended for a contract by their supervisors, and who are not planning to return to work the following year, if they submit a letter of resignation or retirement before March 1, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Cable moved, seconded by Trustee Cothran, that the Board of Trustees approve the engagement of Whitley Penn LLP as the District’s external auditor for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The motion carried unanimously.

President Kirkpatrick polled the Board for bias or conflict of interest with regard to the agenda items pertaining to Equistar Chemicals, LP (1139) Agreement. Trustees Morris, Giddens, Lowe, Kirkpatrick, Donnell, Cothran, and Cable all indicated they had no conflict of interest or bias regarding the Equistar Chemicals, LP to be assigned to LYB LaPorte Hyperzone, LLC.

Trustee Donnell moved, seconded by Trustee Cothran, that the Board of Trustees approve an Amendment to the Application for Value Limitation Agreement in connection with the Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operation Taxes between Deer Park ISD and Equistar Chemicals, LP, Comptroller Agreement No. 1139, which assigns the Agreement from Equistar Chemicals, LP to LYB LaPorte Hyperzone LLC, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

President Kirkpatrick called for a closed meeting following the Texas Government Code Section 551.074.

Open meeting resumed at 7:36 p.m.

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

Trustee Giddens moved, seconded by Trustee Cothran, that the Board of Trustees approve the temporary disability leave of absence for one employee as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Lowe moved, seconded by Trustee Giddens, that the Board of Trustees name Stephen Harrell as the lone finalist for the position of Superintendent of Schools. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.
Approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 17, 2020

Lynn Kirkpatrick
President, Board of Trustees

Rhonda Lowe
Secretary, Board of Trustees

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