Texas Education Agency

Commissioner Mike Morath

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204-904

March 6, 2020

Mr. Rick Hartley, Superintendent
Ms. Susan Bailes, Board President
Mr. David Smith, Board Vice President
Mr. Darryl Richardson, Board Secretary
Mr. Daniel Brown, Board Member
Mr. Mike Courvelle, Board Member
Mr. Jerry Cutaia, Board Member
Mr. Dwayne Wright, Board Member
Shepherd Independent School District
1401 S. Byrd Ave.
Shepherd, TX 77371

Dear Trustees, Mr. Hartley, and Ms. Bailes:

As you are aware, in correspondence dated February 13, 2020, I notified the Shepherd Independent School District ("ISD" or "district") of my decision to appoint a board of managers and conservator to the district following the requested formal and informal review conducted on December 18, 2019. Texas Education Code (Tex. Educ. Code) §§39A.003, 39A.051(a), 39A.102(b), and 39A.111(1); 19 Texas Administrative Code (Tex. Admin. Code) §§97.1057, 97.1059, 97.1065(c), and 97.1073. The correspondence further explained that the conservator's appointment was effective immediately and that the announcement regarding the individuals appointed to the board of managers and superintendent appointment would be forthcoming.

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify you of my appointments to the board of managers to the Shepherd ISD. As authorized by 19 Tex. Admin. Code §97.1073(g)(5), I am establishing a five member board of managers. The initial board of managers will be comprised of the following individuals:

- Melodee Arrendell
- John Few
- Richard Irwin
- Yvonne Johnson
- Delbert Reeves

The Board of Managers is comprised of members of the Shepherd ISD community who are committed to service on behalf of the students of the district and the community. The members of the Board of Managers will be responsible for overseeing the management of Shepherd ISD. They will provide the leadership needed to begin working toward positive change for the district. The powers of the board of trustees of the district are HEREBY SUSPENDED for the period of the appointment of the board of managers. Tex. Educ. Code §39A.202(a)(1).

Section 39A.202(a)(2) of the Tex. Educ. Code also requires that I appoint a superintendent. I therefore appoint Dr. Jason Hewitt as superintendent of the district. Dr. Hewitt's experience in improving academic performance for a school district, turning around low performing campuses, and his experience as an academic leader will provide valuable new leadership for the students of Shepherd ISD. The board will need to determine who will serve as chair of the board of managers. The agency reserves the right to implement all available interventions and sanctions under Tex. Educ. Code, Chapter 39, and Title 19, Tex. Admin. Code, Chapter 97, to address the current, or any future, deficiencies identified for the Shepherd ISD.

Sincerely,

Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education

MM/lm

cc: Michael Holland, Executive Director, Region 6, Education Service Center
Jeff Cottrill, Deputy Commissioner, Governance & Accountability, TEA
Kelvey Oeser, Deputy Commission, Educator Support, TEA
Mike Meyer, Deputy Commissioner, Finance, TEA
Jason Hewitt, Associate Commissioner, Governance, TEA
Leo Lopez, Associate Commissioner/Chief School Finance Officer, TEA
Cory Green, Associate Commissioner, Grants and Compliance Oversight, TEA
Joe Siedlecki, Associate Commissioner, Innovation & Charters, TEA
Von Byer, General Counsel, TEA
Christopher Jones, Senior Legal Counsel, TEA
Lizette Ridgeway, Director, School Improvement, TEA
Vicki Mims, Conservator