

**HISD Board of Education names new interim superintendent**

*Oct. 12, 2018* –The Houston Independent School District Board of Education voted 5-4 to appoint Dr. Abelardo Saavedra to the position of interim superintendent.

Saavedra previously served as superintendent of HISD from 2004 until 2009. Dr. Grenita Lathan will resume her position as HISD Chief Academic Officer. The changes will be effective Monday, Oct. 15.

The board voted to approve the contract with executive search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates to conduct the search for a permanent superintendent. Trustees stated that Dr. Saavedra will not be a candidate for the permanent position.

In other board action, trustees voted unanimously to keep the tax rate the same for the 2018-2019 school year. Homeowners in HISD won’t see an increase in school district property tax rates.

The Board of Trustees voted to keep the rate at $1.2067 per $100 of taxable property value for the third year in a row. The tax rate includes two parts: $1.04 dedicated to funding general maintenance and operations and $0.1667 earmarked for debt service. Trustees adopted a $2 billion budget for the 2018-2019 school year last June based on this tax rate.

Trustees also unanimously adopted campus improvement plans that aim to increase student achievement at 12 Comprehensive Support schools as identified by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The 12 Comprehensive Support schools are: Foerster Elementary School, Deady and Holland middle schools, High School Ahead Academy, Middle College High School at Fraga, Texas Connection Academy of Houston, and Kashmere, Liberty, Madison, Wheatley, Worthing, and Yates high schools. The plans must now be approved by the TEA.

Also during the board meeting, trustees and Dr. Lathan recognized Worthing High School senior Marcus Dillard, who rescued Houston resident Gloria Cage from her burning car last week.

“I was kind of nervous,” Dillard said, recalling how he broke the car’s windows and pulled Cage out. “Being a firefighter, that’s what I hope to do,” he said. His younger brother, Worthing ninth-grader Marvieon Simien, was with him and helped pull Cage out of the burning car.

Trustee Wanda Adams presented Dillard with a commendation and framed inspirational picture.

“I think he’s awesome,” Darrell Cage, the victim’s son, said. “He saved my mother’s life.” Cage said his family is working on getting scholarship money for Dillard to attend Texas Southern University.