

Remarks to the Board by SBEF Chairman Warren Matthews:

Good evening Dr. Klussman, President Converse, Board of Trustees and my fellow community members. It is a pleasure to be with you tonight.

I currently have the honor of serving as chairman of the Spring Branch Education Foundation, and I'm accompanied by Cece Thompson, executive director.

SBEF was founded in 1993 as an organization to facilitate and encourage voluntary financial support of the SBISD. In recent years, the Foundation has become a cornerstone of community support and involvement within the school district.

Our mission is to provide every student in our district the opportunity to receive a well rounded education, and to enhance the educational experience of our students.

The Spring Branch Education Foundation consists of 46 Board members, our Executive Director Cece Thompson, and her staff of two assistants.

We are business leaders, community leaders, volunteers, parents, Board Trustees and administrators.

We get it. We understand the vital role that public education plays in the overall success of our communities, and defining who we are. And we're doing something about it.

Without exception, our board members are very engaged, energized and passionate about our mission. Each board member makes a significant commitment of time, effort, and thought, as well as a significant financial commitment.

We recognize that students of today represent the workforce, the leaders, and educators of tomorrow.

We consider it our responsibility to help young people grow into well-rounded adults who will improve our communities and our world. They represent our legacy – a legacy worthy of our investments.

The Spring Branch Education Foundation invests in the future by helping young people grow into well-rounded adults who will continue to improve our communities. The Foundation provides exceptional opportunities for the community to be involved. Every campaign, every fundraising event, every volunteer project brings the community together for an opportunity to benefit our students.

The Foundation provides funding for a wide range of district-wide and campus programs and initiatives that enhance and supplement the educational experience.

For example, this past year we have provided financial support for numerous programs and initiatives including:

- A peer-based reading program where older elementary students help kindergartners and first graders develop and improve their reading skills. Older students benefit from exposure to leadership, responsibility and accomplishment, while the younger students benefit from additional learning support.
- We provide support for the district's Character Without Question Award, recognizing a student from every campus that demonstrate outstanding character through traits such as honesty, integrity, responsibility, respect, kindness, citizenship and civic virtue
- The Spring Oaks Middle School Girls Ensemble was named a National Honor Choir and we helped pay for their trip to perform in a national competition in Washington, D.C.
- We provided \$57,000 in college scholarships to graduating seniors from SBISD, including more than \$40,000 to children of district employees who graduate from our district.
- We also funded several thousand dollars to SBISD teachers looking to further their education and enhance their teaching skills.

The Foundation raises funds through donations and contributions from our board members, community donors, school district employees, local businesses and corporations, other charitable foundations, and through our three fundraising events.

The Foundation collaborates with area businesses and volunteers to host three signature fundraising events:

- Fall Golf Classic – October 25th
- Running for the Arts, a 5K run/walk
- Crystal Awards for Outstanding Teachers, in conjunction with the Houston Chronicle

We are very proud to represent our Foundation and our Board of Trustees tonight. It is very rewarding to see first hand the difference that can be made in the lives of so many individuals, from preschool children to the young men and women that will be graduating from our high schools.

Throughout its history, the Foundation has provided over \$6 million of financial support to the Spring Branch Independent School District. Tonight, on behalf of our Foundation board of directors, our supporters, donors and volunteers, we are extremely proud to present to Spring Branch ISD, a check in the amount of \$583,618 which represents the total dollar amount of all grants and scholarships that were awarded by the Foundation during our 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The support and advocacy that we receive from the board of trustees, Superintendent Klussman and his administration are invaluable and unprecedented. We greatly value this relationship and partnership. I speak for our entire board and foundation staff when I say that it is an honor and privilege to serve the best independent school district in the state of Texas. Thank you very much.

