

June 14, 2013

***Via Email***

Mr. Woodrow Reece, Board President  
Members of the Board of Trustees

[woodror@beaumont.k12.tx.us](mailto:woodror@beaumont.k12.tx.us)

Dr. Timothy B. Chargois, Superintendent  
Beaumont Independent School District  
3395 Harrison Avenue  
Beaumont, TX 77706-5009  
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[tchargo@beaumont.k12.tx.us](mailto:tchargo@beaumont.k12.tx.us)

**Subject: Notice of Special Accreditation Investigation**

- Financial Accounting Contracts and Purchasing
- Student Attendance Accounting
- Administration of Statewide Assessment
- Special Education Program

Dear Mr. Reece and Dr. Chargois:

This letter serves to notify the Beaumont Independent School District (ISD) of a Special Accreditation Investigation to be conducted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). In response to complaints filed with the TEA, the Commissioner of Education is taking the following actions as authorized under the Texas Education Code (TEC).

By this notice, TEA has initiated a Special Accreditation Investigation, to include an onsite component, based on the need to answer questions in response to allegations concerning:

- a program, including special education, required by federal law or for which the district receives federal funds (TEC §39.056 (a)(1));
- civil rights or other requirements imposed on the state by federal law or court order; (TEC §39.057(a)(3));
- financial accounting practices and state and federal program requirements (TEC §39.057(a)(4)); and

- a possible violation of an assessment instrument security procedure established under TEC §39.0301, including for the purpose of investigating or auditing a school district under that section (TEC §39.057(a)(8)).

#### Previous Action Taken by TEA

In August 2012, TEA referred Beaumont ISD's financial matters to the Special Investigation Unit of the State Auditor's Office. TEA's referral of the Walker's Electric Company to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, resulted in the debarment of the company for five years. Based on TEA's referral to the Legislative Budget Board in September 2012, a Texas School Performance Review (TSPR) was initiated.

The nature and scope of this investigative audit will include, but is not limited to, a review of financial and student attendance records, a review of test administration procedures, investigation and incident reports, and interview statements. The LBB review is ongoing and the scope of this investigation may change based on that outcome. The findings and conclusions of other agencies will be considered in making further determinations.

Further, this investigation may require the independent monitoring of local administration of student assessments during the summer testing window. The onsite activities and itineraries will be determined in coordination with the Superintendent or designee.

#### Request for Information

In order to further define and plan the investigative audit for the identified areas, I will send separate requests for information with instructions.

#### Referral to Other Agencies

During the course of this investigation, TEA may discover matters that may warrant immediate attention or identify concerns that are not within its jurisdiction and authority to address. TEA will make referrals to the proper agency, as deemed necessary.

The complaints alleging violations of the Texas Open Meeting Act and Texas Public Information Act are investigated and enforced by the District Attorney's Office in Jefferson County or the Office of the Attorney General of Texas. TEA will refer the complaints to these agencies for proper review and determinations.

#### Confidentiality and Public Information Requests

Please note that until TEA finalizes its investigation report, the information gathered for the investigation and the preliminary investigation report are treated as confidential audit working papers, and TEA will seek to withhold them from public release in accordance with the Texas

Public Information Act. Additionally, requests from the media will be referred to our Communications Division at (512) 463-9000.

Point of Contact

To facilitate the coordination of this investigation, I will serve as your point of contact. You may reach me at (512) 463-9342. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Emi Johnson, Director  
Special Investigations Unit

cc: Michael L. Williams  
Commissioner of Education, TEA

Lizzette González Reynolds  
Chief Deputy Commissioner, TEA

Dr. Danny Lovett, Executive Director  
Education Service Center, Region V

Lesli Cathey, Manager  
Texas School Performance Review  
Legislative Budget Board

Pam Munn, Manager  
Special Investigation Unit  
Texas State Auditor's Office