



**Press Release**

For Immediate Release

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## **By unanimous vote, RISD Trustees adopt transition plan for district election process**

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(Richardson, TX – May 21, 2019) Richardson ISD Trustees last night finalized the district’s transition plan to a new 5-2 electoral system by unanimously adopting the phase-in schedule for single-member and at-large positions on the board. The vote is the final step in a process designed to create opportunities for greater diversity on the board.

“I am pleased that the board has approved the transition plan to the new electoral system and did so unanimously,” said Board President Justin Bono. “This was the last official step Trustees needed to take in this process, and I am thankful we were able to do so well ahead of the first election under this new system in November 2019.”

Under the new [5-2 single-member district system](#) — that the board approved in February 2019, along with a new [single-member district boundary map](#) — five of the seven RISD Trustees will be elected from single-member geographic districts by registered voters residing within those outlined boundaries. The remaining two board members will be elected at large by registered voters throughout RISD.

During the past three months, Trustees have worked to develop the transition plan, detailing which seats will be elected as the new system is phased in over the next three election cycles, concluding in May 2021.

The first election cycle in this new process will take place this fall, after a [U.S. District Court granted permission](#) for RISD to postpone its May 2019 board election to the November 2019 general election date.

Three seats will be up for election on this November’s ballot. Board elections will then cycle back to their normal May schedule in 2020 and 2021. The board adopted a schedule that sets the order of elections for the new 5-2 single-member district alignments as follows:

Single-member or At-large district	Current Place	Currently Held By	Election Cycle
1	1	Jean Bono	May 2021
2	5	Eron Linn	November 2019
3	7	Kristin Kuhne	May 2020
4	4	Katie Patterson	November 2019
5	3	Karen Clardy	November 2019
At-large 6	6	Justin Bono	May 2020
At-large 7	2	Kim Caston	May 2021

Current trustees will serve out their elected terms and if they choose to run for re-election, will do so under the 5-2 system either in the single-member district in which they reside or an at-large seat.

Additionally, single-member districts 3 and 4 were deemed opportunity districts after being shaped from geographic areas with the majority of eligible voters identifying as a racial minority race based on census data. In February, RISD Superintendent Dr. Jeannie Stone recommended that the board’s transition plan include District 4 among the first seats up for election later this year.

Under the new plan, both opportunity districts will be elected within the first two election cycles, with both elections occurring during the 2019-20 school year.

“Our Trustees have made clear throughout this process their intentions of bringing more diversity to the school board,” said RISD Superintendent Dr. Jeannie Stone. “Inclusion is part of the RISD culture and this plan continues our efforts to promote educational equity across the district. I am pleased with this outcome and look forward to new opportunities for our community to become involved.”

For more information visit [web.risd.org/boardmemberdistricts](http://web.risd.org/boardmemberdistricts).

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