



Beaumont ISD Superintendent Shannon Allen gathers with board members last week following a press conference about the Texas Education Agency Commissioner's decision for the state to take over the district.

Beaumont ISD appealing state's take-over decision

By Matt Faye
SPORTS EDITOR

Beaumont ISD is appealing the Texas Education Agency's decision to take over the district, marking a last effort by the school to keep its current leadership in place.

During Tuesday's school board meeting, Superintendent Shannon Allen said Beaumont ISD would present information this week and request that TEA Commissioner Mike Morath reconsider his decision.

If Morath upholds the move, Allen and Beaumont ISD's school board will be replaced by a new board of managers. The TEA has already started accepting applications for the new board to oversee the district.

Allen said she was "disappointed and frustrated" by the state's move to take over Beaumont ISD. After Morath visited the district in September, school leaders were hopeful that a different course of action might be taken.

According to the state's accountability ratings, Beaumont ISD had seven failing schools in the 2024-25 academic year. Fehl-Price Elementary failed for the fifth consecutive year, which met the threshold for TEA intervention.

That left Morath two options: a state takeover of the district, or closing Fehl-Price. Morath said in his initial decision that closing only Fehl-Price would not solve the district's overall problems, so he instead opted for a total takeover by TEA.

A state takeover would mark the second time Beaumont ISD has received TEA intervention. The district was previously taken over by TEA in 2014 after investigations into financial malpractice.



Texas Education Association Commissioner Mike Morath speaks with Superintendent Shannon Allen and Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Anetra Cheatham during a visit to Vincent Middle School in September.



Beaumont ISD Superintendent Shannon Allen gathers with board members following a press conference regarding Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath's decision to have the state take over the district.

Although Beaumont ISD is appealing Morath's decision regarding the current takeover, Allen said the district will continue to work with TEA no matter the result.

"Beaumont ISD will operate with professionalism and transparency throughout this transition," Allen said. "We will cooperate with TEA and remain focused on what matters most — our students and their success."

Haunted Hotel to host a Christmas event

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

The Haunted Hotel in Beaumont will soon host its first Christmas event, putting a holiday scare into Southeast Texans.

"Twas The Fright Before Christmas" will be held for the first time from 7 to 10 p.m on Saturday at 447 Orleans St. in Beaumont. A family-

friendly, no scary actor event will take place beforehand from 4 to 6 p.m., according to the Haunted Hotel's website.

The family-friendly event will feature an elf scavenger hunt, Christmas crafts such as coloring and holiday ornaments, a Christmas sing-along with elves, hot chocolate, Christmas snacks and other food options.

"For the first time, the Haunted Hotel will deck the halls with its eeriest holiday best," the website reads. "Every flicker of light hides a ghostly delight. The halls still hold the horror and screams behind every door, but now they glimmer with tinsel and terror, echoing with the haunting whispers of twisted carols."

General admission is \$25 and VIP admission is \$35. The family-friendly event is \$15.

City Council censures two members over resignation post

By Tessa Noble
STAFF WRITER

Beaumont City Council has voted to censure two of its members for charter violations related to a Facebook post urging the fire chief's resignation.

The vote to censure At-Large Council member Mike Williams and Ward II Council member Joey Hilliard came in response to a Facebook post made by Williams — and publicly supported by Hilliard — that called for the resignations of Fire Chief Earl White and Assistant Chief Christian Singler.

Separate votes to censure Williams and Hilliard each passed 4-2. Ward I Council member Cory Crenshaw voted no on both, while Williams and Hilliard each voted no on the other's censure.

Williams' statements were accused of violating the charter and being unprofessional. Williams requested a review from city attorney Sharae Reed to determine whether this was true, stating in an email that his post was not meant as a directive to city staff.

"My intent in the post was not to direct staff, interfere with operations or assert any authority outside of the charter," Williams said. "The statement was made in the context of a years-long staffing issue and a need for accountability. As elected officials, we routinely comment on policy, performance outcomes, and matters affecting public safety. My statement was made in that capacity."

Reed issued an opinion that parts of the post did violate the charter. She stated that under Article V Section 4 of the city charter, it doesn't matter whether Williams meant the post as a directive, but if it could reasonably be interpreted as "dictating, influencing or interfering in the appointment, removal or discipline of personnel under the City Manager's authority."

"While framed as an opinion, the charter prohibits the Council members from publicly or privately advocating for the appointment or removal of employees under the city manager's authority," Reed stated in her email. "Expressing that an employee 'should resign' can be reasonably interpreted as seeking to influence or effectuate a removal decision, which the charter expressly reserves to the city manager. The fire chief and assistant fire chief are not Council-appointed employees, because they fall under the city manager's supervision; the Council does not have charter authority to initiate or direct disciplinary or termination proceedings. Stating

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Jack Brooks remembered on his birthday

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

On this day in history, the Enterprise is remembering Congressman Jack Brooks on what would be his 103rd birthday.

Born in Crowley, Louisiana, on Dec. 18, 1922, Brooks moved to Beaumont when he was five years old and graduated from Beaumont High School with scholarships to Lamar Junior College, according to the Museum of the Gulf Coast website. He went on to earn a degree in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin.

After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, Brooks was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1946 representing Jefferson County. He held that seat until 1948.

As a state representative, Brooks wrote a bill making Lamar Junior College a four-year school and co-authored the first increase in workmen's compensation in many years. He served as the Chairman of the Banks and Banking Committee and a member of the State Affairs Committee, according to the museum.

In 1949, Brooks earned a law degree from the University of Texas, and in 1952, he was elected to the U.S. Congress from the 2nd District of Texas. Brooks held that position until 1965.

In 1966, he was elected to Congress from the 9th District of Texas and continued until Jan. 3, 1995, according to the museum.

Brooks played a key role in getting funds for extensive improvements to deep water shipping channels serving Beaumont, Galveston, Port Arthur and Texas City. He also played a significant role in writing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the

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