



HIPPO NATION UNIVERSITY 2022-23

Program Overview

Hutto ISD established HIPPO NATION UNIVERSITY (HNU) in 2018 to provide community members a unique, comprehensive overview of the inner workings of a public school district. HNU is led by the District's Executive Leadership Team. They create two-way learning opportunities for its participants. They discuss the academic and operational goals of the school district (Vision 2025, strategic plan) and community members educate us about the community's needs, concerns, and wonders. The ultimate goal is to create a resource pool of informed citizens from which the district can draw for District leadership opportunities. In addition, the HNU experience serves as comprehensive initial training for those interested in serving as HuttoISD school board trustees. The program is interactive and allows participants to ask questions openly in a safe, collaborative environment among the district leaders in their respective areas.

The structure of Hippo Nation University is a half-day, once a month workshop for seven months. Executive Team members provide an overview of their divisions, the responsibilities they carry and may involve their directors in the discussions. They present their respective department processes and procedures and provide in-depth details about specialized programs and initiatives. Most importantly, the program also includes tours of the district facilities. We will upload all materials, including the presentations, into a digital file that participants access during the meetings. We encourage participants to bring their laptops or electronic devices to access information. Electronic devices are available for those who do not have one readily available. This year's format will be in-person and the district will follow all necessary safety protocols.

The Hippo Nation University sessions culminate with a recognition ceremony of the program graduates at the April Board Meeting. The graduates will then be included in a database of community members who the district will call upon to support the district's efforts such as strategic planning, redistricting (attendance boundaries), district and campus improvement teams, focus groups, task forces, and other vital planning, districtwide committees.

HIPPO NATION UNIVERSITY SCHEDULE 2022-23

DATE / LOCATION	TOPIC	PRESENTER
Saturday, September 17 Boardroom	District Overview and Strategic Plan	Dr. Celina Estrada Thomas, Superintendent
	District Instructional Program	Dr. Robert Sormani Associate Supt. for Instruction & Innovation
Saturday, October 15 Boardroom	Efforts to Attract and Retain Staff from Human Resources	Dr. Rhonda McWilliams Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
	District Operations	Mr. Henry Gideon, Assistant Superintendent for Operations
Saturday, November 12 Board Room	The Basics of School Finance Part I	Mr. Glenn Graham, Chief Financial Officer
Saturday, January 21 Boardroom	School Finance Part II	Mr. Glenn Graham, Chief Financial Officer
	Bond Oversight Committee Work	Mr. Henry Gideon Assistant Superintendent for Operations
Saturday, February 11 HHS & EWCHEC	Career and Technical Education Programs in HISD	Mr. Jason McAuliffe, Executive Director for School Support Travis Clark, Director, Career and Technology Education
	EWCHEC	Dr. Robbin Ray, Temple College Lissa Adams, Provost TSTC
Saturday, March 25 Meet at Transportation Facility	Tour of Facilities	Dr. Celina Estrada Thomas, Superintendent Henry Gideon, Asst. Supt. Operations David Uecker, Director of Transportation
Saturday, April 23 Boardroom	Board Operating Procedures and School Board Member Roles and Responsibilities	Ms. Billie Logiudice, Hutto ISD Board of Trustees President
Thursday, April 27 Boardroom 7:15 pm	Attend Board of Trustees Meeting and Recognition of the HNU Graduates	

HUTTO ISD HIPPO NATION UNIVERSITY APPLICATION

Dear Hutto ISD Parent/Guardian or Community Member,

Thank you for your interest in participating in the fourth Hippo Nation University class. We are accepting applications through Monday, August 29, 2022. We will notify selected applicants by email on Friday, September 9. By submitting your application, you agree to the schedule provided and the attendance requirements.

Please note that we limit participation to 16 participants annually to allow ample opportunity for questions and quality interactions. We welcome community members to participate but preference will be given to parents in the district.

Please answer the following questions and complete this application no later than Monday, August 29 at 5 p.m. You may submit the [application on-line through Google Forms](#), or you may print and [scan a hard copy to](#) Dr. Thomas' email, or mail a hard copy to:

Dr. Celina Estrada Thomas, Hutto ISD 200 College Street
Hutto, Texas 78634

Sincerely,

Celina Estrada Thomas, PhD, Superintendent

1. Name:

Address:

Home/Cell Phone Number:

Email:

2. How long have you been a resident of Hutto?

3. Do you have children in the Hutto schools?

Yes

No

4. Employer Name & City Location:

5. Occupation:

6. Please list any civic leadership or community service experience:

7. Why do you want to be a member of the Hutto ISD Hippo Nation University? Or what do you hope to accomplish?

8. Are you able to walk for several hours at a time (we will be doing facility tours)?

Yes

No, I will need assistance.

9. Are you available to attend all seven of the Saturday morning meetings?

Yes

No, I will miss _____.

10. We will recognize graduates at the School Board meeting on April 27, 2023. Candidates must attend at least 6 of the 7 sessions and complete a short survey at the end to meet graduation requirements. Please acknowledge that you are aware of this requirement before applying for the class.

I am aware of the attendance requirements for the Hippo Nation University. Please sign and date below.

Signature

Date