

SWEET HOME INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 10, 2023

A meeting was called to order by President Ray Peagler at 5:30pm. A quorum was present, the meeting was duly called, and notice of meeting had been posted for the time and manner by law. All board members were present.

Mrs. Sluka and her 4th grade class recited the pledges and presented to the Board a slide show of current lessons and field trips.

RMA and BWA Architects presented architectural proposals for future construction projects.

A public hearing was then opened to the Board to discuss the school's financial accountability rating (FIRST, Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). It was declared that the SHISD 2022-2023 total score, based upon 2021-2022 data was 96, an A rating. Business transaction and reimbursements of employees and board members were also disclosed. Of note, Dr. Fairchild received \$636.32 in travel reimbursements, and Jeff Points received \$950 and Nathan Wenske received \$20,856.21 in business transactions for Fiscal Year 2022.

The minutes from the September 11th meeting were read and reviewed. Johnny Turk made a motion to accept the minutes; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

Nathan Wenske made a motion to accept the payment of bills and budget status; Robin Boswell seconded.

There were no budget amendments.

The Board discussed the architectural providers who presented their services previously. Based upon local projects and accessibility, Amy Picha made a motion to approve RMA architects as the architectural service provider for SHISD; Johnny Turk seconded. All approved, and the motion carried.

The Board discussed the selection of a financial advisor firm for the District's future facility improvements. Robin Boswell made a motion to approve Live Oak Finance, LLC as the financial advisory firm for future improvements. Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved, and the motion carried. Live Oak Finance will be present at the next meeting on November 13th to present their conclusions and recommendations for future steps forward.

The purchase of a security access control system, intercom, door/hardware and shatterproof window film was discussed. A bid by Weaver & Jacobs was presented at the previous September meeting. The total package cost will be \$62,396, which will be paid out of the \$200,000 safety allotment grant. There remains \$137,604 in grant funds to be spent on safety improvements. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the purchase of the security package for the amount of \$62,396; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved, and the motion carried.

An upgrade to the campus video surveillance system was proposed to the Board. Twenty-four cameras will be upgraded with new mounts per a proposal from Weaver & Jacobs also presented at the September meeting. Out of the safety allotment grant, this will incur a cost of \$38,488, leaving a remainder of \$99,116 to be spent on safety improvements. Robin Boswell made a motion to approve the video surveillance upgrade; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved, and the motion carried.

In the Superintendent's report, it was announced that the school will be rolling out the Clever Parent Portal, a single digital classroom to organize resources with one username and password. This will enable a single login for all programs students use at school, and parents may support learning at home as well. A technology update was provided, including the possible purchase out of the eMAT fund for charging stations in classrooms, desk tops, and additional hard cases for

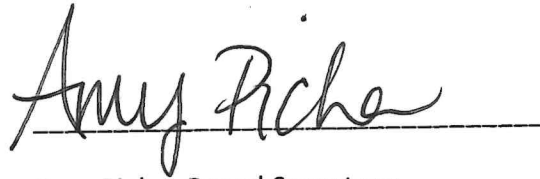
chrome books. Teacher laptops will need upgrading in the future. Guardian signs will be placed; additional insurance considerations for guardians will be discussed as evaluations are in process. Maintenance updates were provided, including upgrades to bathroom dispensers, painting the propane tank and replacing the counselor ac unit. The SHISD school board has been identified as an Outstanding School Board and nominated for the 2024 HEB Excellence in Education Awards. Application is due December 4, 2023. The public meeting ended with a candid conversation regarding property tax discounts. More information to follow, as this is a significant loss to the school each year. School boards may rescind the property tax discounts by vote of the board, which must occur by December 31 of the year prior.

Ray Peagler made a motion to enter into closed session at 8:02pm to discuss personnel matters. The Board came out of closed session at 8:30pm with a motion made by Ray Peagler; Robin Boswell seconded. No actions were voted upon once the board reconvened.

Nathan Wenske made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved; the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.



Ray Peagler, Board President



Amy Picha, Board Secretary