

SWEET HOME INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 13, 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. Muenich and her 5th grade class recited the pledges and presented to the Board a slide show of current lessons and recent field trips.

Live Oak Financial Advisors presented information regarding public education finance. Information was provided regarding the Over 65 Homestead Exemption, a basic timeline of bond election and sale, along with different scenarios of potential bond capacity based upon various Interest and Sinking (I&S) rates. The Bond Capacity Summary and tax impact to homeowners may be requested from SHISD for more details.

Jenny Pohler provided an update on SHISD's Special Education and Dyslexia program. During the Cyclical Monitoring Report, it was noted that the previous cap of 8.5% of SPED students per student population was lifted, and 51% of districts anticipated needing a corrective plan. The SHISD program, however, now serving 25 SPED and 23 RTI students, excelled in all areas, and no corrective action was needed, despite the significant workload and stringent deadlines.

The minutes from the October 10th meeting were read and reviewed. Johnny Turk made a motion to accept the minutes; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

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

There were no budget amendments.

With regards to rescinding Property Tax Code 31.05(d) regarding discounts, the Board took no action at this time. It is noted that the district did not receive \$16,863.77 of income due to the early credit option.

The Board discussed updating our 25 portable district radios which would allow SHISD to have better communication with law enforcement via a direct channel with authorities. The cost would be \$10,560 to be paid from the \$200,000 safety grant; after this upgrade, the allotment remaining would be \$88,556. Johnny Turk made a motion to approve payment for the radios; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

NASA Engineer Henry O. Pohl donated several books focusing on the NASA space program and aeronautics, in the hopes to spark an interest in this field of study. The books include The Apollo Chronicles, Guardians of the Right Stuff, and Eight Years to the Moon: The History of the Apollo Missions. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the donation to the Sweet Home School Library; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

In the Superintendent's report, current enrollment is 148. We serve 23 of those students in the intervention program under House Bill 1416. Under this bill, SHISD is required to provide services to students who were not successful on the STAAR reading or math tests and students in 1st or 2nd grades may be served based upon TPRI testing, benchmarks or teacher input. Maintenance updates were provided: the sensor for the exit gate is on order, purchase orders have been submitted for previously approved safety upgrades, and security lightbulbs, plumbing, and the pilot light in the cafeteria were also addressed. SHISD was selected to receive a Texas Farm Bureau Learning from the Ground Up garden grant in the amount of \$500. The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 11, 2023.

Ray Peagler made a motion adjourn the meeting; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved; the meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.



Ray Peagler, Board President



Amy Picha, Board Secretary