

SWEET HOME INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 12, 2024

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 the meeting had been posted for the time and manner as required by law. All board members were present.

The pledges of allegiance were recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

The 2nd and 3rd grade classes, along with their teachers, Mrs. Belcik and Mrs. Shannon, presented an adjective fashion show.

Jennifer Stephenson-Smiga presented the Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) grant to the Board. Within this curriculum grant, SHISD has been awarded \$124,000 for implementation and another \$140,000 for foundations planning. The grant also allows for SHISD to qualify for additional state funding for the use of highly qualified materials to help defray the cost of consumables tied to the curriculum.

Tim Boswell presented to the Board a facilities financial summary which outlined in detail a proposed build and renovation model based upon a potential bond estimate of \$6 million.

The minutes from the January 8th meeting were read and reviewed. Johnny Turk made a motion to accept the minutes; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

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

There were no budget amendments.

Nathan Wenske made a motion to remove the current signature authority on the Sweet Home ISD Education Foundation bank account and grant new signature authority to Superintendent Dr. Candace Pohl and School Board President Ray Peagler. Robin Boswell seconded; all approved and the motion carried.

The Staff Development Waiver for school years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 was discussed; this is an annual waiver which dedicates 2100 minutes to staff development during the school year. Robin Boswell made a motion to approve the waiver for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

Dr. Pohl presented to the Board the SHISD Superintendent Evaluation Instrument. Robin Boswell made a motion to approve the evaluation tool as presented; Johnny Turk seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

The TASB Policy Update #122 was reviewed. Johnny Turk made a motion to approve the update and add the LOCAL policy updates as offered by TASB policy service and according to the Instruction Sheet for TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 122. Nathan Wenske seconded; all approved and the motion carried.

Senate Bill 763, passed by the 88th Texas legislature, requires school boards to adopt a resolution authorizing the district to accept chaplains as volunteers under Texas Education Code Chapter 23. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the resolution; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved and the resolution was adopted.

A Pre-K registration update was provided to the Board with cost comparisons of local school districts. Robin Boswell made a motion to increase SHISD's Pre-Kindergarten tuition to \$425/month, with staff receiving a ½ price benefit. Jeff Points seconded; all approved and the motion carried.

Dr. Pohl presented to the Board 2 proposed academic calendars for the 2024-2025 school year. Johnny Turk made a motion to approve Calendar C2, in which Fridays will return to a 3:30pm dismissal. Ray Peagler seconded; all approved and the motion carried.

The Walsh Gallegos retainer contract for SHISD general counsel was considered for renewal. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the renewal contract, with a \$1,000 retainer fee. Robin Boswell seconded; all approved and the contract was renewed as submitted.

A resolution to approve a contingency fee engagement letter with Leon Alcala, PLLC, to serve as bond counsel was discussed. Bond services cannot be adequately performed by District personnel, and bond counsel is recommended to remain separate from general counsel. Payment is contingent upon the successful issuance of a bond. Johnny Turk made a motion to approve Leon Alcala, PLLC, as Bond Counsel; Jeff Points seconded. All approved and the resolution carried.

An order calling for the school building bond election was presented. Robin Boswell made a motion that the SHISD Board of Trustees adopt the Order Calling School Building Bond Election, as presented. Jeff Points seconded. All approved and the order calling for school building bond election carried with a unanimous vote.

In the Superintendent's report, current enrollment is 146, and the campus Average Daily Attendance (ADA) is 94.7%. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Ray Peagler made a motion to enter closed session at 7:43pm, seconded by Jeff Points. As per the agenda, the Board discussed the superintendent evaluation, contract and student transfers. The Board reconvened at 9:02pm. Ray Peagler made a motion to address transfer students as recommended by the superintendent; Jeff Points seconded. All approved and the motion carried. Johnny Turk proposed the approval of the superintendent evaluation, contract and salary as discussed in closed session. Jeff Points seconded; all approved and the motion carried. Ray Peagler made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Robin Boswell seconded. All approved; the meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm.

Ray Peagler, Board President

Amy Picha, Board Secretary