

SWEET HOME INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 9, 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 members were present.

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

The public hearing on School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) commenced, with an overview of the rating system and Sweet Home ISD's 2023-2024 financial accountability rating. Dr. Pohl presented to the Board SHISD's 'Superior' rating, with a score of 100 out of 100 possible points based on the 2022-2023 school year. There were no public comments regarding the School FIRST hearing.

Mrs. Tammy Nobles spoke to the Board during public comment pertaining to concerns regarding bond issues.

Ray Peagler made a motion to enter into closed session at 5:46pm, seconded by Johnny Turk. As per the agenda, the Board and counsel discussed legal issues related to the procurement of professional and construction services, in addition to student transfers. The Board reconvened at 6:53pm, with a motion made by President Peagler and seconded by Jessica Kusak.

The minutes from the November 11th regular meeting were read and reviewed. Johnny Turk made a motion to accept the minutes; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

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

There were no budget amendments at this time.

The SHISD District Improvement Plan (DIP) was then reviewed for 2024-2025, with Dr. Pohl, Erica Cook, Bethany Page, Veronica Sluka, and Tamara Rogers presenting as members of the Planning and Decision-Making Committee. Robin Boswell made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 DIP; Jeff Points seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

Dr. Pohl presented to the Board 10 proposed days for the upcoming calendar year to be considered non-business days for the purpose of responding to Public Information Act (PIA) requests. These days include March 19-20, November 24-26, December 22-23, and December 29-31. Johnny Turk made a motion to approve the non-business days as recommended; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

The Final Auditor Report for Fiscal Year End (FYE) 2024 was then presented to the Board by Dr. Pohl via memorandum from Roloff, Hnatek & Co, LLP. It was noted that there were no significant internal control weaknesses or indications of fraud. Overall, the general fund experienced an overall net increase of \$209,008, which equated to approximately 4.8 months of operating expenditures in its fund balance as of August 31, 2024. Jeff Points made a motion to approve the 2024 final audit report; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

The TASB Contribution and Coverage Summary for 2025 was discussed. It was noted that the total estimated contribution would be \$24,137 for property, auto, school and security liabilities offered through the TASB Risk Management Fund. Johnny Turk made a motion to approve coverage as presented; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

The need for a Geotechnical Engineer for the campus renovations and new additions project was later discussed. A cost estimate with a scope of services, including field exploration, lab testing, and engineering/project delivery, was

presented to the Board from Terracon Consultants, Inc. Jessica Kusak made a motion to approve Terracon as the Geotechnical Engineer, subject to the negotiation parameters set forth in closed session and to further delegate authority to Dr. Pohl to negotiate and execute a contract for a fair and reasonable price, as approved by legal counsel; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

In response to SHISD's RFP for a construction manager at-risk (CMAR), ABAS provided their proposal for the campus renovations and new additions project, which included references and cost control measures. It was noted in the proposal that ABAS 'would prefer that local companies are involved in the project to not only minimize travel costs but also to simplify the logistics of this project.' Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve ABAS as the CMAR subject to the negotiation parameters set forth in closed session and to further delegate authority to the superintendent to negotiate and execute a contract for a fair and reasonable price as approved by legal counsel; Johnny Turk seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

The book, Angel Baby, written by SHISD alumnus Helen Patek, was presented to the Board as a donation to the school library. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the donation as presented; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

Johnny Turk made a motion to approve transfer recommendations as discussed in closed session; Amy Picha seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

In the Superintendent's report, enrollment is 151, and the ADA was 96% for November. The Board was updated on dismissal operations through PickUp Patrol and recognition was given to SHISD ELAR teachers for being chosen to present at the 60th Annual TCTELA (Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts) Conference and Exposition in February 2025; the name of the presentation is *Changing Our Literacy Mindset: Good Enough is Not Enough*.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2025 at 5:30pm. Nathan Wenske made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.



Ray Peagler, Board President



Amy Picha, Board Secretary