

**SWEET HOME INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

April 14, 2025

**Board Members Present:** Ray Peagler (Pres), Nathan Wenske (VP), Amy Picha (Sec), Robin Boswell, Jessica Kusak, Jeff Points, Johnny Turk

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Dr. Candace Pohl (Superintendent), Tasha Mueller (Administrative Assistant), Abigail Clark (Teacher)

**Public Present:** Brayden Griffin (Gallagher Construction)

**1. Call to Order**

Ray Peagler called this regular meeting of the board to order at 5:30pm. All board members were present at the start of the meeting. 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.

**2. Executive/Closed Meeting**

- a. Jeff Points, made a motion, seconded by Jessica Kusak, to enter into closed session at 5:32pm to discuss with attorney: procurement and contracting of construction and professional services; roles and responsibilities of board members; personnel matters; and student transfers as per the agenda.
- b. At 7:40pm, Ray Peagler made a motion to exit closed session, seconded by Jeff Points.

**3. Administrative Reports**

- a. Brayden Griffin gave an update on the bond project's geotech and general contractor progress: SHISD continues to await legal counsel's deliberation and finalization of contracts with ABA and Terracon.
- b. In the Superintendent's report, enrollment is 149, and the ADA was 95.02% for March, a significant improvement from previous recent months. The Board was presented the LASO Grant update, during which it was announced that SHISD is 1 of 11 schools in Region 3 to receive all 3 awards: Strong Foundations Planning (Math \$120,000), Strong Foundations Implementation (RLA \$200,000), and Strong Foundations Implementation (Math, final award amount pending). The 2025-2026 Master Schedule was reviewed, and a presentation was given regarding the Texas Strategic Leadership Program, for which Dr. Pohl has applied for participation. This program would provide SHISD with multiple supports as a district, including planning and performance management; talent systems; student, instructional and academic supports; and finance and operations assistance. The Board was also apprised of the multiple FOIA requests the school has had to process: 13 requests have been processed since 10/24/24: 1 request - B. Grumet re: chaplains; 1 request - T. Nobles re: budgets, contracts, school board procedures; 2 requests- L. Barnes re: insurance policies; 9 requests - T. Boswell re: school bond construction project.

**4. Consent Agenda**

- a. Action on minutes
  - i. March 10, 2025 regular Board meeting
- b. Action on budget amendments
  - i. There were no budget amendments at this time.
- c. Action on bills paid
- d. Action on January Lonestar Investment Report
  - i. Construction Bond Funds: \$22,664.11 interest (March); total \$6,020,849.60
  - ii. SHISD General Operating Account: \$3,266.63 interest (March); total \$867,799.43
  - iii. I&S Tax Collection Account: \$112.14 (March, since 3/28); total \$230,112.14

- iv. Total vested balance: \$7,118,761.17; yield 4.45% interest
- e. Action on the Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials for 2025-2026
  - i. K-8 ELAR Curriculum: Bluebonnet Learning
    - 1. Supplemental/Tier 2: mClass and IXL
  - ii. K-8 Math Curriculum: Bluebonnet Learning
    - 1. Supplemental/Tier 2: IXL
  - iii. K-8 Science Curriculum: K12 Summit Learning
    - 1. Supplemental/Tier 2: IXL
  - iv. K-5 Social Studies Curriculum: IXL and Scholastics Weekly
  - v. 6-8 Social Studies Curriculum: Lowman Consulting and IXL
  - vi. K-8 Technology Applications: Typing.com (Proclamation 2024)
  - vii. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Health (Human Sexuality): GlenCoe Teen Health
  - viii. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Human Sexuality: SHARE Program
- f. Action on approving the Dewitt-Lavaca Special Education Interlocal Agreement for 2025-2026

Johnny Turk made a motion to approve the consent agenda, items a-f; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

## **5. Action/Discussion Items**

- a. Because PSI (a local geotech company) will not sign a legal contract due to the small estimated cost for the scope of services, it was recommended by legal counsel to consider an alternative geotechnical engineer due to potential liabilities. Therefore, Nathan Wenske made a motion to rescind the previous board action regarding the selection of PSI as the Geotechnical Engineer for the Campus Renovations and New Additions Projects; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- b. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve TerraCon as the Geotechnical Engineer based on their demonstrated competence and qualifications for the Campus Renovations and New Additions Projects and further delegate authority to the Superintendent to negotiate a contract. Jeff Points seconded; all approved and the motion carried.

## **6. Action from Executive/Closed Meeting**

- a. Regarding Personnel Matters, Contracts, and Resignations discussed in Executive Session, Robin Boswell made a motion to accept the resignation of Carrie Sofka; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved and the motion carried. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve new staff, Abigail Clark, as recommended by Dr. Pohl; Johnny Turk seconded. All approved and motion carried. Ray Peagler made a motion to approve the Certified Staff Contracts for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented and recommended by Dr. Pohl in closed session; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- b. Action regarding student transfers was tabled until the next regular meeting in May.

## **7. Future Business**

Ray Peagler reminded the Board that the next regular board meeting would be held on May 12, 2025 and that the Region 3 School Board Conference will be May 14, 2025.

## **8. Adjourn Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Ray Peagler and seconded by Jeff Points, the board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40pm.

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Ray Peagler, Board President

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Amy Picha, Board Secretary