

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

July 14, 2025

**Board Members Present:** Ray Peagler (Pres), Nathan Wenske (VP), Amy Picha (Sec), Robin Boswell, Jessica Kusak  
[5:34pm arrival]

**Board Members Absent:** Jeff Points, Johnny Turk

**Staff Members Present:** Dr. Candace Pohl (Superintendent), Megan Miranda (teacher)

**Public Present:** PJ and Mindy Delarosa (parents), Tim Boswell (parent, business owner), Brayden Griffin (Gallagher Construction)

**1. Call to Order**

Ray Peagler called this regular meeting of the board to order at 5:30pm. Board members present at the start of the meeting include: Ray Peagler, Nathan Wenske, Amy Picha, and Robin Boswell. 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. Administrative Reports**

- a. In the Superintendent's report, enrollment is 166, and the Board was apprised of newly-passed education-related legislation along with expenses incurred by the district due to information requests. Requestor and costs incurred include: B. Grumet (1 request: chaplain resolution) \$0, T. Nobles (1 request: budgets/contracts) \$0, T. Boswell (10 requests: cmar, bond, policy, construction project) \$8,342.35, L. Barnes (2 requests: insurance) \$0, S. Watts (1 request: employee roll) \$0.

Jessica Kusak arrived at 5:34pm.

- b. Brayden Griffin gave an update on the bond project's design phase: SHISD is at 100% of the design phase, with a projected goal to be able to advertise for bids by mid-August and break ground by the beginning of September, pending Board approval.

**3. Consent Agenda**

- a. Action on minutes
  - i. June 9, 2025 regular Board meeting
  - ii. June 30, 2025 special Board Workshop meeting
- b. Action on budget amendments
  - i. There were no budget amendments at this time.
- c. Action on June financial statements
- d. Action on April Lonestar Investment Report
  - i. Construction Bond Funds: \$21,990.91 interest (May); total \$6,087,449.74
  - ii. SHISD General Operating Account: \$2,329.65 interest (May); total \$605,284.39
  - iii. I&S Tax Collection Account: \$840.48 (May); total \$232,657.55
  - iv. Total vested balance: \$6,925,391.68; yield 4.41% interest
- e. Action on the 2025-2026 Professional Development Plan
  - i. No changes from school year 2024-2025
- f. Action on 2025-2026 Staff Development Waiver
  - i. Provides 2100 additional minutes for staff professional development within the SHISD instructional calendar
- g. Action on the 2024-2025 Attendance Waiver Request
  - i. Due to multiple absences caused by illness during the 2024-2025 school year

- h. Action on approving the Certified Tax Assessor-Collector for 2025 Tax Rates
  - i. Resolution naming Deborah A. Sevcik, PCC as Certified Tax Assessor-Collector for 2025
- i. Action on approving the TASB Risk Management Fund for 2025-2026
  - i. Tabled until August Board meeting
- j. Action on approving TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 125
  - i. BDAA(LOCAL): Officers and Officials – Duties and Requirements of Board Officers
  - ii. BDB(LOCAL): Board Internal Organization – Board Committees
  - iii. BDF(LOCAL): Board Internal Organization – Advisory Committees
  - iv. EI(LOCAL): Academic Achievement
  - v. FDE(LOCAL): Admissions – School Safety Transfers
  - vi. FEC(LOCAL): Attendance – Attendance for Credit

Amy Picha made a motion to approve the consent agenda, items a-h and j (item i was tabled until next board meeting); Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved, with Robin Boswell abstaining, and the motion carried.

#### 4. Action/Discussion Items

- a. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Compensation Plan
  - i. Increase in basic allotment
  - ii. Teacher Retention Allotment provided by HB 2:
    - 1. \$4,000 per classroom teacher with 3-5 years experience (1 staff member)
    - 2. \$8,000 per classroom teacher with >5 years of experience (8 staff members)
    - 3. Excludes paraprofessionals, teacher with < 3 years experience, counselors, nurses, and administrators (4 teachers, 1 AP, 1 nurse, 1 counselor, 11 paraprofessionals)
  - iii. In an attempt to provide equitable increases, new salary scales were presented to the Board for all levels of employees for the 2025-2026 school year. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the Compensation Plan for 2025-2026; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- b. Consider and approve the 2025-2027 Depository Contracts
  - i. The Board was presented rubric comparing local depositories: Crossroads Bank, People's State Bank and Prosperity Bank
  - ii. Scoring included: cost of services (40%), earning potential (40%), ability to provide necessary services (10%), automated services offered (5%), and board discretion (5%).
  - iii. Based upon the results, it was recommended to remain with Crossroads Bank as the 2025-2027 Depository for SHISD. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the Crossroads Bank Depository Contract for 2025-2027; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- c. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Cell Phone Policy
  - i. Tabled until August Board meeting
- d. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 Technology Use Policy and Optional Insurance
  - i. The SHISD technology and use policy will remain the same per the 'Responsible Use Technology Agreement for Students.'
  - ii. An optional insurance will be available for parents to purchase. A yearly fee would cover repairs incurred by the student. Those who opt out of the insurance would be responsible for repairs or replacements due to student misuse.
  - iii. Jessica Kusak made a motion to approve the Technology Use Policy and Optional Insurance for 2025-2026; Amy Picha seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- e. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 Resolution for UIL Participation for Non-Enrolled Students (SB 401)
  - i. For the upcoming school year, UIL and TEA specify that public school districts must formally opt out of homeschool student participation in district sponsored extracurricular activities prior to August 1, 2025.
  - ii. The SHISD Board deemed it to be in the best interest of the District to not permit homeschool students to participate in UIL activities for the 2025-2026 school year and subsequent years until amendment. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the resolution regarding participation

of homeschooled students in UIL programming; Robin Boswell seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

- f. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Instructional Plan Policy (SB 12)
  - i. Tabled until August Board meeting
- g. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 Pre-Kindergarten Policy
  - i. Expands eligibility for public Pre-K to children of classroom teachers at no cost
  - ii. Robin Boswell made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 HB 2 Pre-K policy; Ray Peagler seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- h. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Investment Policy
  - i. The Public Funds Investment Act requires the Board to:
    - 1. Review the District's investment policy and strategies set forth in CDA(LOCAL) no less than annually; and
    - 2. Adopt a resolution reflecting the Board's review of the investment policy
  - ii. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the resolution regarding the review of the investment program; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- i. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Board Operating Procedures Manual
  - i. The question regarding contracted services has been addressed in the revised BOP manual
  - ii. Jessica Kusak made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Board Operating Procedures manual; Amy Picha seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- j. Consider and approve Roloff, Hnatek & Co., LLP as Auditors for Fiscal Year ending August 31, 2025
  - i. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve Roloff, Hnatek & Co., LLP, as the auditors for FY ending August 31, 2025; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- k. Consider and approve the 100% Schematic Design documents for Construction Purposes
  - i. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the schematic design documents; Amy Picha seconded. Robin Boswell voted Nay. Motion carried with 4 members in approval.

#### **5. Executive/Closed Meeting**

- a. Ray Peagler made a motion, seconded by Nathan Wenske, to enter into closed session at 7:00pm to discuss student transfers and personnel matters as per the agenda.
- b. At 7:47pm, Ray Peagler made a motion to exit closed session, seconded by Nathan Wenske.

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

- a. Regarding Student transfers, Nathan Wenske made a motion to accept transfer recommendations as presented in closed session; Jessica Kusak seconded.
- b. Ray Peagler made a motion to accept the resignation of Tamara Belcik; Amy Picha seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- c. Robin Boswell made a motion to accept Megan Miranda as the First Grade teacher for the upcoming school year based upon Dr. Pohl's recommendation; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

#### **7. Future Business**

Ray Peagler reminded the Board that the next regular board meeting would be held on August 11, 2025.

#### **8. Adjourn Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Ray Peagler and seconded by Jessica Kusak, the board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:51pm.



Ray Peagler, Board President



Amy Picha, Board Secretary