

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

August 11, 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), Bethany Page (Assistant Principal), Desiree Muenich (teacher), Dara Pierce (teacher)

Public Present: Mike Hoelscher (community member)

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. Administrative Reports

- a. In the Superintendent's report, enrollment is 169, and Dr. Pohl presented to the Board the proposed tax rate with comparison to last year's rates along with a proposed balanced budget of \$2,266,644. It is noted that the proposed 2025 tax rate of \$1.0985 is lower than last year's rate of \$1.1133.
- b. Mrs. Page presented SHISD's 2024-2025 Summative Performance for grades 3-8 and provided assessment data for grades PK through 2 as well. Goals for improvement were listed. It was noted that reading scores surpassed math. Science will be aligned with the same teacher for grades 2-5 and 6-8, using the newly implemented Summit curriculum. Math curriculum has changed to Bluebonnet. In aligning curricula, SHISD will attain data-driven instruction which would allow the school to follow student strengths/weaknesses: Bluebonnet RLA K-5; Amplify RLA secondary 6-8; Bluebonnet Math K-8; Summit Science K-8; Pre-K Frogstreet.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Action on minutes
 - i. July 14, 2025 regular Board meeting
- b. Action on budget amendments
 - i. There were no budget amendments at this time.
- c. Action on July Lonestar Investment Report
 - i. Construction Bond Funds: \$22,838.19 interest (June); total \$6,110,287.93
 - ii. SHISD General Operating Account: \$2,089.42 interest (June); total \$507,373.81
 - iii. I&S Tax Collection Account: \$872.86 (June); total \$233,530.41
 - iv. Total vested balance: \$6,851,192.15; yield 4.42% interest
- d. Action on July financial statements
- e. Action to consider and approve the Extracurricular Status for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Lavaca County 4-H Organization for 2025-2026
 - i. Resolution to approve Lavaca 4-H competitive and non-competitive activities as academically eligible
- f. Action to approve Adjunct Faculty Request through Texas A&M Agrilife Extension for 2025-2026
 - i. Natalie Knesek County Extension Agent – Family and Community Health
 - ii. Shannon DeForest – County Extension Agent – Ag and Natural Resources
- g. Action to consider and approve the 2025-2026 Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (TTESS) Calendar
- h. Action to consider and approve the Renewal of the Good Cause Exemption for Security for 2025-2026

- i. Resolution declaring the District is unable to ensure one armed security officer during regular school hours due to lack of funding and personnel
- ii. The District claims a good cause exception and has an alternative in place: a person to act as a security officer who is either a school marshal or school guardian, per district policy
- iii. A separate vote was obtained: Ray Peagler made a motion to approve the Good Cause Exemption for Security 2025-2026; all board members approved.

Johnny Turk made a motion to approve the consent agenda, items a-g and; Jeff Points seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

4. Action/Discussion Items

- a. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Cell Phone Policy
 - i. New law HB 1481 prohibits the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices during the school day
 - ii. SHISD already has a similar policy in place, but HB 1481 extends beyond existing policy
 - iii. Phones and other devices must be stored out of sight for the duration of the school day; under new law students may not access their phones/other devices during lunch or passing periods.
 - iv. Exceptions, expectations and consequences for offenses were provided with policy.
 - v. Amy Picha made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Cell Phone Policy with necessary changes to define time on campus during school hours and non-school hours; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- b. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 ESC Region 3 Contracted Services
 - i. The Board was presented estimated costs comparing contracted services for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026
 - ii. Most notable was the decision not to use the School Business Support service, an estimated savings of \$53,250.
 - iii. Other services remained approx the same or changed minimally.
 - iv. Based upon this data and further discussion regarding a business support proposal from a consultant outside Region 3 (Kristin Marak), the Board decided to approve the Region 3 Services as provided. Robin Boswell made a motion to approve; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- c. Consider and approve Kristin Marak Contracted Services for 2025-2026
 - i. The Board was provided a Business Support Services Proposal from Kristin Marak, which included:
 - 1. Monthly on-site support (\$800/day)
 - 2. Bookkeeping support (\$125/hr)
 - 3. Required reporting & submission assistance (\$125/hr)
 - ii. Terms will run from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026
 - iii. Robin Boswell made a motion to approve Kristin Marak as contractor for Business Support Services; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- d. Consider and approve the H&H Safety Quote
 - i. The Board was presented a proposal from H&H Doors and Hardware (Victoria, TX) to provide and install doors with card readers on the Jr. High building
 - ii. Estimated proposal is \$10,897, to be completed by August 31, turn-key; these funds will derive from the Safety Grant, which expires Aug 31
 - iii. Jeff Points made a motion to approve the proposal from H&H Door and Hardware; Johnny Turk seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- e. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 Library Policy EFB(LOCAL)-SLAC
 - i. SB 13 from the 89th legislative session relates to a district's library materials and catalog, establishment of a School Library Advisory Council (SLAC), and parental rights and access to library materials.
 - ii. Proposed policy EFB(LOCAL)-SLAC ensures the District provides a wide range of library materials and provides standards for collection development and review through a SLAC.

- iii. Johnny Turk made a motion to establish SHISD's Local School Library Advisory Council (SLAC); Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- iv. Ray Peagler made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Library Policy; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- f. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Student Code of Conduct
 - i. Johnny Turk made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Code of Conduct; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- g. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Student and Parent Handbook
 - i. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Student and Parent Handbook; Jessica Kusak seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- h. Consider and approve the 2025-2026 SHISD Employee Handbook
 - i. Nathan Wenske made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Employee Handbook; Amy Picha seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- i. Consider and announce the Date for Public Meeting to discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate
 - i. Budget and tax rate provided to Board
 - 1. Tax rate decreased from \$1.1133 to \$1.0985
 - 2. Balanced proposed budget \$2,266,644 (Function 199).
 - ii. Public hearing proposed for Monday, August 25, 2025, at 5:30pm.
 - iii. Amy Picha made a motion to approve and announce the meeting date to discuss the proposed 2025 tax rate and 2025-2026 budget for August 25, 2025, at 5:30pm; Ray Peagler 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 District Proposed Tax Rate to be published in the newspaper
 - i. Johnny Turk made a motion to approve to publish the District's 2025 Proposed Tax Rate in the newspaper; Nathan Wenske seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

5. Executive/Closed Meeting

- a. Ray Peagler made a motion, seconded by Nathan Wenske, to enter into closed session at 7:41pm to discuss student transfers and personnel matters as per the agenda.
- b. At 8:02pm, Ray Peagler made a motion to exit closed session, seconded by Johnny Turk.

6. Action from Executive/Closed Meeting

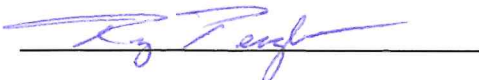
- a. Regarding Student transfers, Nathan Wenske made a motion to accept transfer recommendations as presented in closed session; Jessica Kusak seconded.
- b. Jessica Kusak made a motion to accept the teacher contract as discussed in closed session; Jeff Points seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

7. Future Business

Ray Peagler reminded the Board that the next special board meetings would be held on August 18 and August 25, 2025. The next regular board meeting will be held September 8, 2025.

8. Adjourn Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Ray Peagler and seconded by Nathan Wenske, the board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:04pm.



Ray Peagler, Board President



Amy Picha, Board Secretary