

# Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting

## The Board of Trustees Sweetwater Independent School District

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A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Sweetwater Independent School District was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the J P Cowen Cafeteria, 400 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Sweetwater, Texas.

**Members Present:** Jeff Allen, Domingo Castillo, Dennis Cumbie, Mark Garcia, Tasha Soto, Brenda Valdez, Matt Weaver, Dr. Deidre Parish.

Domingo Castillo left the meeting at 6:20 pm.

**Others Present:** Casey Bills, Janell Martin, Krystal Woolard, Ann Allen, Sonya Davison, Rhonda Crass, Gerald James, Charlie Davis, Ryan Wunder, Justin Shaw

1. Call to Order – (5:29 pm)

Board President, Mark Garcia called the meeting to order and announced that there was a quorum present. Everyone in attendance stood and recited the pledges to the American & Texas flags. Tasha Soto read the Board Social Contract.

2. School Board Recognition

Dr. Parish announced that it was School Board Recognition month and expressed to the Board her appreciation for their work, effort, leadership, dedication to the children of SISD. She also pointed out the many posters & cards of appreciation students had made.

3. Public Forum – (5:32 pm)

Community member, Justin Shaw appeared before the Board asking that the Board consider adding the position of Girls Athletic Director.

A. Public Hearing: Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) – (7:34 pm)

Casey Bills reviewed with the Board SISD's FIRST Rating (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). Sweetwater's score was a 96, which is considered superior by the state. She explained the FIRST report is a measurement of how the state feels

we are handling our day to day practices. Mrs. Bills gave credit to everyone who works in her department for their efforts in achieving this.

4. Bond Update – (6:20 pm)

Dr. Parish reported that they are still working on the tennis courts. There is a meeting coming up January 23 with members of the Visioning Committee to begin reviewing interior pieces.

5. Schneider Electric 50% Investment Grade Audit Report – (6:20 pm)

Representatives from Schneider Electric, Charlie Davis and Ryan Wunder reviewed with the Board and presented a handout with findings from their Audit. Mr. Davis explained this project would help capture & re-invest funds back into our district. Mr. Wunder reviewed the findings from each campus and answered questions from Board members.

6. Consider and act on Audit Report for the year ending August 31, 2024 – (6:43 pm)

Gerald Rodgers, auditor with James E. Rodgers and Company, presented a brief summary report on the audit conducted for the fiscal year ending August 2024. Dennis Cumbie made the motion to accept the findings of this audit, seconded by Matt Weaver, motion passed 6-0.

7. Consider and act on Legislative Priorities for SISD – (7:04 pm)

Mark Garcia reviewed with the Board a handout of the Board's Legislative Priorities. Matt Weaver expressed his appreciation for those who served on the committee and asked all Board members to encourage their friends and neighbors to get behind these priorities.

Dennis Cumbie made the motion to accept these priorities for SISD, seconded by Matt Weaver, motion passed 6-0.

8. Superintendent Reports – (7:10 pm)

A. Monitoring Calendar Reports

Janell Martin presented a PowerPoint on the recent STAAR Interim Assessments. In RLA & Math we are performing better than we were at this time last year.

B. Calendar Options from DEIC – (7:25 pm)

Mrs. Martin presented to the Board the 2025-2026 proposed calendar that the DEIC committee selected to be presented to the Board for approval.

9. Closed Session: Closed Session will be held for purposes permitted by the Texas Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code Section 551 Subchapters D and E.

A. 551.074 Discuss Personnel Matters

\*\*\*\* The Board went into a Closed Session at 5:35 pm

\*\*\*\*The Board returned to Open Session at 6:19 pm

10. Consider and act on Superintendent's contract -- (6:19 pm)

Mark Garcia made the motion to offer Dr. Parish a contract as was discussed in Closed Session, Jeff Allen seconded the motion, motion passed 7-0.

11. Consent Agenda – (7:30 pm)

- A. Act on Monthly Minutes
- B. Act on Financial Reports
- C. Act on Investment Report
- D. Act on the engagement of James E. Rodgers and Company, P.C. for the annual audit report ending fiscal year 2025.
- E. Act on Order of General Election

Matt Weaver made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Brenda Valdez, motion passed 6-0.

12. Announcements – (7:31 pm)

- A. Jan. 16 Coffee with Superintendent 7:30-9:30 am at Argos
- B. Jan. 23 Bond Visioning Committee meetings at SIS 3:00 pm
- C. TASA Midwinter Jan. 26-29
- D. The first edition of the Mustang Monthly newsletter available on January 16
- E. February Board meeting on Feb. 17 - President's Day, School holiday

Dr. Parish reviewed with the Board upcoming events, after discussion it was decided to move the February meeting to Monday, February 24 at 5:30 pm.

13. Adjourn – (7:38 pm)

Dennis Cumbie made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm

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School Board President

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Date Approved

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School Board Secretary