

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees Sweetwater Independent School District

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Sweetwater Independent School District was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the J P Cowen Cafeteria, 400 W. 4th St., Sweetwater, Texas.

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

Others Present: Casey Bills, Janell Martin, Krystal Woolard, Ann Allen, Sonya Davison, Kevin Stoker

1. Call to Order – (6:28 pm)

Mark Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm and announced that a quorum was present. Everyone in attendance stood and recited the pledges to the American & Texas flags.

Jeff Allen read the Board Social Contract.

2. Public Forum

No one was in attendance or had requested by email to address the Board.

3. Bond Update – (6:30 pm)

Dr. Parish updated the Board on the construction projects. They have completed pouring the concrete for the CTE building, walls are going up and the tennis courts should be ready in the spring. A brief discussion was held on allowing the visioning committee to decide on the naming plaque for the Puckett/Dudensing building and bring their ideas to the Board for approval.

4. 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

B. TEC 39.030(a) Assessment Instruments

****The Board went into a Closed Session at 6:32 pm

****The Board returned to Open Session at 7:12 pm

5. Consider and act on Board operating procedures -- (7:12 pm)

Dr. Parish outlined the changes to the Board Operating Procedures Manual. Matt Weaver made the motion to accept the changes as presented, seconded by Brenda Valdez, motion passed 7-0.

6. Consider and act on Board annual evaluation – (7:14 pm)

Mark Garcia noted that during closed session the Board participated in their annual self-evaluation. Matt Weaver made the motion to accept the self-evaluation, seconded by Tasha Soto, motion passed 7-0.

7. Consider and act on finance agreement for additional vehicles – (7:14 pm)

Casey Bills reported on the recent purchases of 3 new buses, a suburban & 2 Equinox's that was approved during the May Board meeting. Financing was obtained through Government Capitol. Dennis Cumbie made the motion to act on the finance agreement as read, seconded by Matt Weaver, motion passed 7-0.

8. Superintendent Reports – (7:17 pm)

A. Monitoring Calendar Reports GPM 1.3, GPM 2.3, CPM 2.1, and CPM 3.2

Janell Martin presented data on GPM 1.3, showing improvements on various levels. Kevin Stoker, SMS principal, presented a project that Mrs. Lucas and her 8th grade honors classes had recently completed. He also reported that the Maintenance Department had refurbished the Courtyard and was being enjoyed by students & staff. SMS hosted a very successful Veteran's Day assembly and has just completed recoating the front parking lot.

B. District Vulnerability Assessment – (7:36 pm)

C. Attendance celebration

Krystal Woolard reported that everyone is onboard to increase attendance at all campuses. Attendance is up on every campus.

D. Sweetwater Education Foundation gifts – (7:40 pm)

Sweetwater Educational Foundation has donated \$1,500 to SMS for attendance prizes, which include backpacks, ear buds, bikes, TVs. They also donated \$500 to the Destination Imagination group at SIS.

E. Student Behavior Management Coalition – (7:42 pm)

Dr. Parish gave a brief report on the Student Behavior Management Coalition and a recent visit from Rep. Stan Lambert. This coalition will advocate local control of student discipline and that students receive mental health support.

9. Consent Agenda – (7:44 pm)

- A. Act on Monthly Minutes
- B. Act on Financials

Matt Weaver made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Brenda Valdez, motion passed 7-0.

10. Announcements

- A. Superintendents Coffee @ Argos, Thurs. Nov 21, 7:30-9:30 am
- B. December Board Meeting, Dec. 16, 5:30
- C. January Board Meeting date was changed to Tuesday, January 14th at 5:30 pm
- D. May 2025 Board Elections - Domingo Castillo, Tasha Soto, Matt Weaver

11. Adjourn - (7:49 pm)

Domingo Castillo made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm.

School Board President

Date Approved

School Board Secretary

