

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 Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 5:30 pm at the Puckett-Dudensing CTE Building, 1205 Ragland, Sweetwater, Texas.

Members Present: Jeff Allen, Dennis Cumbie, Mark Garcia, Kelly Sheridan, Tasha Soto, Brenda Valdez, Reggy Spencer

Absent: Domingo Castillo, Dennis Cumbie left the meeting at 6:45 pm

Others Present: Casey Bills, Krystal Woolard, Ann Allen, Sonya Davison, Carmen Crane, Mindi Jeter, Peggy Elliott, Amy Nixon, Carolyn Mullican, Kevin Stoker, Scott Cottenior, Marina Wilcox, Nina Wilson, Traven Berrie & Dasha, DECA students-Allie Thompson & Sophia Vela, community visitors.

1. Call to Order

Board President, Mark Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm and announced the a quorum of 6 members were present. Everyone in attendance stood and recited the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Brenda Valdez read the Board Social Contract.

2. Public Forum

Paula Kisinger, introduced herself to the Board as the new chief appraiser for the Nolan County Central Appraisal District. Ms Kisinger gave each board member a business card and encouraged them to reach out to her if she could be of any assistance.

3. Student Recognition

In recognition of February being National Career & Technology Education Month

Mr. Spencer introduced CTE Director, Marina Wilcox who gave the Board an overview of what the different departments in the CTE program are doing at this time. Mrs. Wilcox introduced Officer Traven Berrie & his K-9 partner, Dasha. Officer Berrie worked with the graphic design students and students from the DECA program to create a book about anti-bullying for students PK-3. Allie Thompson and Sophia Vela presented their DECA state qualifying program about Dasha's book. Officer Berrie told about his plans to continue with additional books featuring Dasha, and the hope to receive donations in order for every student in grades PK-3 and school libraries to receive one of the books.

4. Bond Update

Mr. Spencer reported to the Board that the gym is about 95% complete. The new rails have been installed in the gym. Roofers are completing the roofing trim. Other projects that are moving forward are the playground shade for East Ridge, Marquee signage for high school and paving for the courtyard area between the two Ag shops

5. Action Items

A. Consider and Act on the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

Carmen Crane and Coach Hodnett worked together to adjust the fall break to fewer days and to coincide with the football open week. Dennis Cumbie made the motion to accept the 2026-27 calendar as presented, seconded by Brenda Valdez, motion passed 6-0. Board members voting in favor were: Jeff Allen, Dennis Cumbie, Mark Garcia, Kelly Sheridan, Tasha Soto, Brenda Valdez.

B. Approve TEA Waiver for Bad Weather Days

Mr. Spencer reported on the TEA Waiver for Bad Weather days that must have Board approval for submission. Students will attend school on two days that were previously scheduled to be staff development days, Feb. 17 and Apr. 6. Tasha Soto made to motion to move forward with the waiver application, seconded by Dennis Cumbie, motion passed 6-0. Board members voting in favor were: Jeff Allen, Dennis Cumbie, Mark Garcia, Kelly Sheridan, Tasha Soto, Brenda Valdez.

6. Superintendent Reports

Mr. Spencer reported that the daycare furniture purchased by SEED has been donated to SEED and the newly formed daycare. SISD had paid a portion of the furniture costs, but since we no longer have use for baby beds etc, it was all donated to the new daycare.

Our TIA data has been validated in the amount of \$250,000. In May the teachers receiving those payments will be introduced. We also have received the LASO grant. Students have been informed of the cash money that they can possibly receive from improved test scores. A discussion was held on the engage2learn program we are considering. Thursday, Feb. 12 a group of SISD principals are going to Floydada Mr. Spencer announced the Education Commissioner has approved two new positions, math & reading, as part of the Turn Around Plan for Middle School.

7. 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

*****Board went into a Closed Session at: 6:21 pm

****Board returned to Open Session at: 6:47 pm

8. Consider and Act on Administrator Contracts

Brenda Valdez made the motion to approve the Administrator Contracts as presented, seconded by Tasha Soto, motion passed 5-0. Voting in favor were: Jeff Allen, Mark Garcia, Kelly Sheridan, Tasha Soto, Brenda Valdez.

9. Consent Agenda

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

Tasha Soto made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Brenda Valdez, motion passed 5-0. Voting in favor were: Jeff Allen, Mark Garcia, Kelly Sheridan, Tasha Soto, Brenda Valdez.

10. Announcements

The Board decided to have a Special Called Board meeting Monday, March 2 at 8:30 to finalize the plan to send to TEA. The regular March Board meeting will be held Monday, March 2 at 5:00 pm.

11. Adjourn

Tasha Soto made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm

School Board President

Date Approved

School Board Secretary