Consider approval of purchase of student online safety management software

1. **Background:**
   Southwest ISD is currently in need of an online resource that assists District staff in monitoring student online activity for potential bullying issues and concerning/ harming content (e.g., images, videos, documents) that might be posted or viewed by students. This resource must be capable of monitoring student online activity for district issued devices as well as other devices that might be utilized to access student district technology accounts. A robust student online safety monitoring platform would benefit the District in seeing the early warning signs so that appropriate action can be taken to protect students from potentially harming themselves or others. In addition to the student online management and monitoring component, the District is also in need of a new anonymous reporting tool that can be utilized by students, staff and community members to report bullying, suspicious behavior and other potential concerns.

   District staff vetted several platforms that are compatible with our student technology devices, online accounts and Google suite applications. In addition, several anonymous reporting tools were also evaluated to determine the best resource for SWISD. Gaggle provided the District with both the best value and features requested in a student online safety management software program and anonymous reporting system. In addition, Gaggle staff provides 24/7 live online monitoring to help identify critical student social emotional needs and/or safety concerns in real time. Any potential harmful incidents or concerning anonymous reports would then be immediately reported to the designated District team members to begin support and intervention.

2. **Process:**
   The need for the purchase of a student online safety management software program was presented to and recommended by the District Safety & Security Committee. A District committee composed of administration and operational/instructional technology staff evaluated proposals submitted from several vendors. The recommended vendor, Gaggle, is a member of the TASB BuyBoard purchasing cooperative.

3. **Fiscal Impact**
   The initial annual cost for the purchase of the Gaggle student online safety management software is $75,900. First year costs include both a set-up fee and staff training on utilizing the platform. The purchase of this online safety resource will be funded through local funds.

4. **Recommendation:**
   That the Board approve the recommendation to purchase Gaggle to provide the District with a student online safety management program at a cost of $75,900.

5. **Required:**
   Board action.