



BOARD MEETING MINUTES – September 11, 2017

PRESENT: Billy Whisenant, Kirby Andrews, David Welch, Carolyn Lawrence, Ken Becker, Larissa Place, Stacy Fritz, Dr. George McFarland

CALL TO ORDER: 11:02 AM by Billy Whisenant

PRAYER: David Welch

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. George McFarland, SISD Superintendent

- From the Abilene area with a coaching background.
- Has been a campus principal and superintendent before
- Has three grown kids that live in the Lubbock area. Sweetwater is the perfect location for him since he will be almost in the center of family locations.
- Dr. McFarland stated he feels Sweetwater has been one of the friendliest places he's been. The town is very open and very willing to change.
- He was impacted at a young age by the way his teachers and coaches treated him. He believes teachers are the difference makers. He's been that kid where teachers and coaches influenced his life.
- He believes all students can learn.
- The direction for the district: he wants Sweetwater to have a purpose for what we do. Why was school created in the first place? It was meant for learning to occur.
- One main topic for Dr. McFarland to focus on is relationships. He wants to incorporate a training in how to treat people.
- Pride is another main factor. And not just in athletics.
- He likes the Sweetwater Strong logo but wants to know why we are strong.
- The new slogan for the school is Sweetwater Strong with Purpose, people and pride.
- Ken stated some concerns we have heard from our housing study is the school district. These concerns may only be perception though. Ken said he appreciated Dr. McFarland reaching out to the families that have left SISD.
- Dr. McFarland stated he has started the Ambassador program for community members. No one from SISD will be a part of it. He wants to be transparent in the community and this may be a stepping stone for someone wanting to be on the school board in the future.
- Billy asked if meeting with the families who left show one major problem or were there different things? One issue Dr. McFarland found with disciplinary actions and how they were dealt with.
- Kirby asked how SISD will adjust to those kids with disciplinary concerns or those that have not been taught manners at home? Dr. McFarland stated they plan to change the programs so that discipline is not the rule
- Carolyn asked if the goal is to make learning the primary focus what will happen to the kids that are advanced? Dr. McFarland stated they will have an instructional strategy and structure in the classroom to meet the needs of all the students.

ACTION ITEMS:

MINUTES: Board to review and consider approving minutes from the August 2017 meeting. Carolyn Lawrence made the motion to approve the minutes. Kirby Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

FINANCIALS: Board to review and consider approving the July 2017 financial statements. David Welch made the motion to approve the financials. Carolyn Lawrence seconded. The motion carried.

BUDGET: Board to review and consider approving the amended 2017/2018 Budget. Carolyn Lawrence made the motion to approve the amended budget. David Welch seconded. The motion carried.

MOWING BID: Board to review and consider approving bid for mowing of West Broadway Industrial Park. Professional Property Care of Texas LLC provided an estimate in the amount of \$620.00 Kirby Andrews made the motion to approve the bid from Professional Property Care of Texas as long as quote does not exceed the amount on estimate. David Welch seconded. The motion carried.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE (David Vela): David Vela was unable to attend the meeting.



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MARKETING/ADMIN UPDATE (Larissa Place): The board was updated on the following topics.

- October 9th is Columbus Day and Kirby will be off. Would the Board be ok with moving next month's meeting to October 10th. Carolyn will be out on the 10th. We will move the meeting to October 16th even though Larissa will be out.
- Chamber banquet is coming up on September 25th. How many would like to attend? Carolyn Lawrence (2), David Welch (2), Billy Whisenant (2).
- Speakers Bureau starts next week. Had a cancelation but will have a replacement.
- Larissa have been invited to be a part of the SISD Ambassador Program. This program will allow for some transparency within the new leadership of SISD.
- CDS is working hard on the housing study but Hurricane Harvey has delayed their progress. They are still unable to get to their office. We are looking at over 700 surveys from the community and very happy with the numbers. USG and Ludlums really came through. The initial completion goal for the study was end of September but with the weather set back it may be October.
- Larissa has been working with a request from the Governor's office regarding a company looking to relocate their manufacturing facility to Texas. Larissa completed an 11 page request, seeking information from City, Appraisal Dept, Workforce Solutions, SISD, County, sell of Kmart facility. We may not hear anything back from this but we have been able to gather a lot of information for any future requests as well.
- Don Lilly from Global Fiberglass Solutions reached out to Larissa to make a donation for Hurricane Harvey relief through the City of Sweetwater. Larissa put him in contact with the Jayteen's. GFS donated \$5000.00 for the relief efforts.

EXEC DIR. UPDATE (Ken Becker): The board was updated on the following topics:

- TCEQ has confirmed that the GFS location south of Sweetwater is not an uncertified landfill. They will get a letter to GFS stating that and it will be sent on to SEED and the County.
- This will be David Welch's last meeting.
- TX A&M Geography of Energy course will be bringing students October 13th for a wind farm tour. Rod Wetzel's UT wind law class will also be doing a tour the same day.

Board to consider entering Executive Session. Kirby Andres made the motion to move into Executive Session. David Welch seconded. The motion carried.

- Board to consider re-entering Regular Session. David Welch made the motion to move into Executive Session. Carolyn Lawrence seconded. The motion carried.