

SOUTHWESTERN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
Special Work Session

August 14, 2024

Members Present: Travis Beck, Jonathan Deater, Blake Newkirk, Isaac Pile, Dustin Simpson, Brad Stamper, and Derrek Tennell

**Call to Order**

Board President Derrek Tennell called the Special Work Session to order at 6:36 p.m. in the Southwestern Administration Building.

**I. New Business**

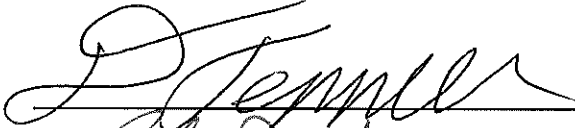

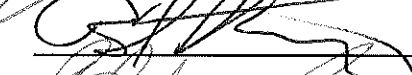

**A. Discussion of Issuing Bonds to Finance Facility Needs**

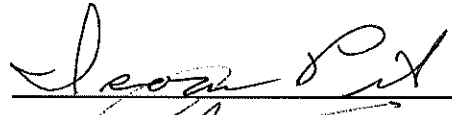
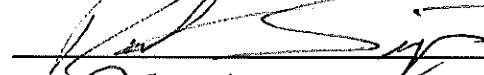
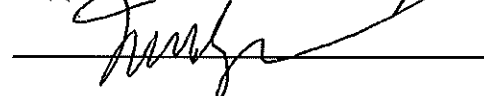
Mr. Tyler Loeffelholz from Baker-Tilly Municipal Advisors explained some of the financial implications of a bond issue. He shared a presentation that included four different possible scenarios for bond sales and how they would impact the school district and the community.

Mr. Terry Lancer, of Lancer and Associates, provided information to the board about changes made to the cost to include athletic improvements along with previously presented projects.

**III. Adjournment**

Mr. Tennell adjourned the special work session at 7:27 p.m.

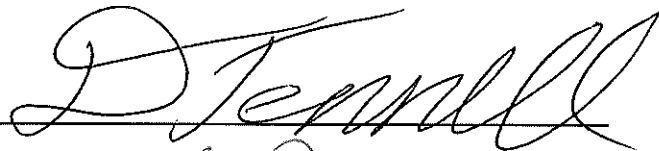
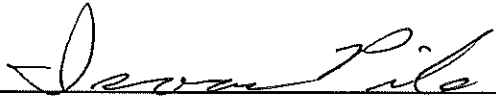

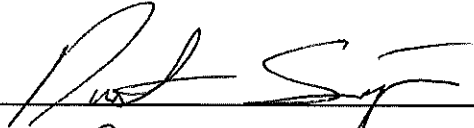

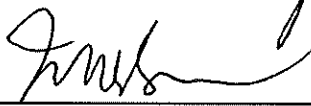
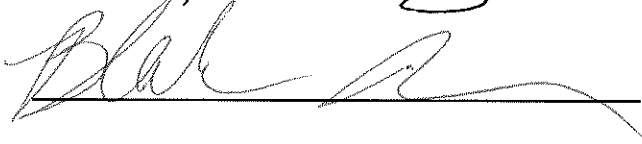
  
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SOUTHWESTERN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
August 14, 2024  
5:30 pm

Members Present: Travis Beck, Jonathan Deater, Blake Newkirk, Isaac Pile, Dustin Simpson, Brad Stamper, and Derrek Tennell

The board met in executive session before the regular board meeting. The only items discussed were as advertised.

SOUTHWESTERN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
August 14, 2024

Members Present: Travis Beck, Jonathan Deater, Blake Newkirk, Isaac Pile, Dustin Simpson, Derrek Tennell, and Brad Stamper

**I. Call to Order**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**

President Tennell called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Southwestern Consolidated Administration building. He led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

**B. Welcome, introductions and recognitions**

Derrek Tennell welcomed everyone in attendance.

**II. Agenda Modifications**

None

**III. Public Comments**

Mr. Paul Baute stated that he had missed a portion of the earlier work session because he had not seen the posting. Mr. Baute asked that the board allow for additional questions later in the meeting if any additional information was provided. He informed board members that he had taken information from the last board meeting to the county assessor, Anne Thurston, to find out the impact on his personal property tax. Mr. Baute then stated facts from previous meetings as to how the capital projects fund for the current budget year had been approved to be used and that previous roof work was to have been paid from ESSER III funds. He then questioned why items had not been maintained throughout the years. Mr. Baute asked that the board continue to show transparency with the projects going forward.

Mr. Tennell explained that the board posting are found under the public notices section of the website. He invited Mr. Baute to watch the video of the work session and to contact him with any questions.

Mr. Skylar Aichenger spoke on behalf of his family letting board members know that they had been denied permission to bring their homeschooled children to Southwestern for a portion of each day. He stated that he felt the homeschool groups available in Shelby County did not provide the structure that was needed for his child. Mr. Aichenger then told board members that he was aware of a family in Shelby County who had made arrangements with Waldron schools for their students to attend a partial day. He stated that he had spoken with the elementary school principal in May and believed that their child would be able to attend Southwestern starting in the fall. On August 1st he received the news that his child would not be able to attend except for 45 minutes a day for specials classes. Mr. Aichenger then asked the board members to reconsider the decision for his child to be able to attend Southwestern on a part time basis.

Mrs. Rachel Barlow, national honor society sponsor, let board members know that students belonging to NHS had performed community service hours before the school year began. When asked, several students washed windows throughout the school district and they also weeded the area in front of the elementary school. She asked board members to acknowledge the work done by the students.

**IV. Consent Items and Claims**

**A. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting**

Mr. Beck moved and Mr. Stamper seconded. Carried 7-0.

**B. Approval of accounts payable vouchers**

Mr. Stamper moved and Mrs. Newkirk seconded. Carried 7-0.

**V. Business and Financial Reports**

**A. Financial Report**

Dr. Wilkins informed the board that the financial reports were in their packets. No questions were asked regarding the report.

**B. Extracurricular and Cafeteria Report**

Dr. Wilkins informed the board that the extracurricular and cafeteria reports were in their packets. No questions were asked regarding the report.

**VI. New Business**

**A. Recommend the acceptance of donations and grants**

a. Donation from Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in the amount of \$1450 for the FCA.

b. Donation from Mt. Auburn Christian Church in the amount of \$50 for the Spartan Food Pantry.

c. Approval of 24/25 Small & Rural Schools Grant in the amount of \$47,840.00

Mr. Simpson moved and Mr. Deater seconded. Carried 7-0.

**B. Request permission to post on the DLGF gateway the Notice of Hearing on September 11, 2024.**

Mrs. Newkirk moved and Mr. Beck seconded. Carried 7-0.

**C. Request permission to post Capital Projects Plan and Bus Replacement Plan on the district website.**

Mr. Beck moved and Mr. Stamper seconded. Carried 7-0.

**D. Recommend approval of PowerSchool subscription, certificate and PD+ subscription for \$13,898.25.**

Mr. Stamper moved and Mrs. Newkirk seconded. Carried 7-0.

**E. Recommend approval to sell obsolete technology equipment as listed.**

Mr. Deater moved and Mr. Simpson seconded. Carried 7-0.

**F. Recommend approval for permission to start informal negotiations in regards to upcoming teachers contracts.**

Mr. Stamper moved and Mr. Beck seconded. Carried 7-0.

- G. Recommend to Appoint Board Members to attend ISBA/IAPSS Fall Conference.**  
Mr. Tennell will be attending the conference.
- H. Recommend annual adoption of Teacher Appreciation Grant Policy for the 2024/2025 school year.**  
Mrs. Newkirk moved and Mr. Stamper seconded. Carried 7-0.
- I. Recommend approval to pay Blue River Environmental and Restoration \$14,118.31 for humidity remediation at SWE.**  
Mr. Beck moved and Mr. Deater seconded. Carried 7-0.
- J. Recommend the first reading of policies submitted by Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim. Policy numbers:**
- A300-Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Use Policy
  - A301-Wireless Communication Device Policy
  - B150-Organizational Meetings, Board of Finance, and Committees
  - B200-Membership
  - C525-Release and Authorization for Adult Volunteers
  - D200-Standard of Care and Supervision of Students
  - D375-Employee Discipline
  - D500-School Resource Officer Employment and Training
  - E125-Promotion, Placement, and Retention of Students
  - G360-Data Breach and Protection
- First readings do not require a vote.
- K. Other**  
None

## **VII. Reports and Presentations**

Ms. Hoeing provided a presentation showing ILEARN and NWEA data results. She showed that last year 45% of the elementary students showed high growth in the area of mathematics, and stated that this was an area where the staff was still concentrating. She then pointed out highlights of how Southwestern Elementary students compared to the state averages on the ILEARN testing. Mrs. Hoeing reported that she and the elementary leadership team had met over the summer to develop plans for the upcoming school year. They reviewed the school improvement goals for last year and the created new improvement goals for this year.

Mr. Tindall provided board members with a handout showing ILEARN results for 7th and 8th grade ELA and math testing. He explained to the board members how Southwestern students were ranked against the state averages. He also shared growth goals for the upcoming school year, and instructional goals being implemented. He reported that one of his main goals was to spend more time in the classrooms supporting the teachers. Mr. Tindall spoke to the new policy about student attendance and electronic devices, he stated that he felt with less distractions the students would be able to concentrate more on classroom activities.

## **VIII. Personnel**

### **A. Leaves/Resignations/Terminations**

- Recommend to accept the resignation of Olivia Chandler as Instructional Assistant at Southwestern Elementary as of July 31, 2024
  - Recommend to accept the resignation of Dennis Reese as Custodian at Southwestern Elementary as of August 5, 2024
  - Recommend to accept the resignation of Jessica Hatton as Librarian at Southwestern CSD as of August 8, 2024
- Mr. Beck moved and Mrs. Newkirk seconded. Carried 7-0.

### **B. Recommendations to Hire**

- Recommend hiring Rilee Jessee at Elementary for the position of Instructional Assistant for the 24-25 School year at \$13.75 for 29 hours per week or less
  - Recommend hiring Kayla Johnson for the position of Elementary Preschool Assistant for the 24-25 School year
  - Recommend approving Jami Guy for the position of Lead for High school Cafeteria.
  - Recommend approving Chelsey Smothers for the position of Lead for Elementary Cafeteria.
  - Recommend hiring Alexandria Evans for the position of Elementary Cafeteria Staff.
  - Recommend hiring Michelle Kightlinger for the position of Speech Assistant at Southwestern Elementary.
  - Recommend hiring Isaac Overby- Assistant Soccer Coach, Varsity
  - Recommend hiring Blake Miano- Jr. High Soccer Coach
  - Recommend hiring Devon Raisor (Pending background check)- Jr. High Soccer Coach
  - Recommend hiring Courtney Weddle- Jr. High Volleyball Coach
  - Recommend hiring Valentina Richardson as an elementary part time custodian
- Mrs. Newkirk moved and Mr. Stamper seconded. Carried 7-0.

## **IX. Superintendent Comments**

Dr. Wilkins reported to the board members that the school year was off to a great start. He mentioned that he was impressed with the work that had been completed over the summer break in the school buildings. Dr. Wilkins said that he had enjoyed the back to school night and seeing all of the excited students. He discussed that new transportation procedures had been put in place in an effort to improve the process.

## **X. Board Member Comments**

Mrs. Newkirk and Mr. Tennell thanked everyone for attending the work session and the meeting. Mrs. Newkirk asked that more students be recognized at board meetings to highlight the activities and accomplishments to show they were appreciated.

**XI. Adjournment**

Mr. Tennell adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Tennell  
Bob Deeb  
[Signature]  
[Signature]

Jayen Pib  
[Signature]  
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