

MINUTES  
SPECIAL CALLED JOINT MEETING – STAFFORD CITY COUNCIL AND  
STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Stafford, Texas and Board of Trustees of the Stafford Municipal School District (SMSD) met in the Board Room of the Scarcella Administration Building in said City. The following members of the City Council were present: Mayor Ken Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Alice Chen, and Council Members William K. Bostic Jr., Tim Wood, Christopher Caldwell, Virginia Rosas, and Xavier Herrera. Absent: None. The following members of the SMSD Board of Trustees were present: President Manuel Hinojosa, Vice-President Ash Hamirani, Secretary Jacqueline Jean-Baptiste (arrived at 7:03 p.m.), Trustee Joyce Wilkins, Trustee Patricia Soza-Montelongo, Trustee Suzette Thompson, and Trustee Adam Sanchez. Absent: None. The following City and SMSD Staff were present: City Secretary Roxanne Benitez and SMSD Executive Assistant/Board Coordinator Sonya M. Austin.

NOTE: Items appearing in these minutes are in the order they were discussed, not necessarily in the order they appeared on the agenda.

1. Call to Order.

President Hinojosa called the meeting to order for the SMSD Board at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Mathew called the meeting to order for the City Council at 7:03 p.m.

2. Review updates and address questions from Lockwood, Andrews, & Newnam, Inc. (LAN) and RBC Capital Markets.

SMSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic introduced representatives from Lockwood, Andrews, & Newnam, Inc. (LAN), RBC Capital Markets, and Orrick.

Vice-President Hamirani and President Hinojosa spoke on the needs of SMSD and list of priorities.

Clarence Grier, with RBC Capital Markets, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding bond election scenarios and current market.

J.P. Grom, with LAN, answered questions from Mayor Pro Tem Chen.

*Board Trustee Sanchez exited the meeting at 7:27 p.m.*

*Board Trustee Sanchez entered the meeting at 7:29 p.m.*

*Council Member Bostic exited the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

*Council Member Bostic entered the meeting at 7:31 p.m.*

President Hinojosa also answered questions from Mayor Pro Tem Chen.

Vice-President Hamirani answered questions from Mayor Pro Tem Chen.

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items.

Public Comments were received from the following:

- Mary Kendrick asked questions regarding the proposed election and follow-up election. Dr. Bostic answered her questions.
- Joe Longoria advised that he wanted to hear from the Council Members regarding their concerns.

*Board Trustee Soza-Montelongo exited the meeting at 7:44 p.m.*

*Board Trustee Soza-Montelongo entered the meeting at 7:47 p.m.*

- Marcus Deitz, with Orrick, spoke regarding the various propositions. He answered questions from Ms. Kendrick.
- Denisha Ukpe spoke regarding the documents previously presented and the most recent submittal. She asked questions regarding improvements to sports facilities. Mr. Grom answered her questions.
- Ray Thomas commended the SMSD Board Trustees on their efforts. He suggested that the City Council work with the school district to get better agreements. Mr. Thomas also suggested that the Council Members be more present.
- Letty Almendarez spoke on school funding allocated by the state and the proposed election.
- Joe Longoria spoke regarding the school voucher system and renovating SMSD facilities.
- Mary Kendrick suggested that attendance and graduation statistics be provided to voters.

*Council Member Wood exited the meeting at 8:06 p.m.*

*Council Member Wood entered the meeting at 8:07 p.m.*

- Council Member Rosas spoke on her history with SMSD, agricultural programs, proposition changes, federal school funding, and giving the opportunity to the voters.
- Council Member Wood commended the community members and SMSD Board Trustees on their efforts.

*Council Member Wood exited the meeting at 8:17 p.m.*

- Council Member Caldwell spoke regarding student achievement, success, and resources.

*Council Member Wood entered the meeting at 8:20 p.m.*

*Secretary Jean-Baptiste exited the meeting at 8:20 p.m.*

- Council Member Caldwell spoke regarding student services and producing future leaders.
- Council Member Bostic commended the long-range planning committee and SMSD Board Trustees. He spoke about SMSD's current debt, district needs, state funding, declining population, and insolvency.
- Mayor Pro Tem Chen commended the SMSD Board Trustees, long-range planning group, and volunteers. She spoke regarding her professional experience.

*Council Member Caldwell exited the meeting at 8:27 p.m.*

*Secretary Jean-Baptiste entered the meeting at 8:28 p.m.*

- Mayor Pro Tem Chen spoke regarding giving the opportunity to the voters. She encouraged all to study the details of the bond election.

*Council Member Caldwell entered the meeting at 8:30 p.m.*

- Council Member Herrera thanked everyone who attended the meeting as well as those who were watching at home. He spoke regarding his family's history with SMSD and previous joint meetings. He commended the SMSD Board Trustees and Staff.
- Council Member Wood spoke regarding the impact on the students, leaking roofs, lack of air conditioning, and uneven flooring in various schools. He also spoke on the benefits of the bond election.
- Mayor Mathew spoke on a strong education being the foundation for children.

### 3. Consideration and approval of a Resolution Requesting School Building Bond Election.

Vice-President Hamirani motioned to adopt a resolution approving the school building bond election, as presented, and Secretary Jean-Baptiste seconded. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Hamirani, Secretary Jean-Baptiste, and Trustees Thompson, Soza-Montelongo, Sanchez, and Wilkins voted "Aye". "Nay" – none. Motion carried 7-0.



4. Consideration and approval of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Stafford, Texas, Calling a School Building Bond Election for the Stafford Municipal School District; Making Provisions for the Conduct and the Giving of Notice of the Election; and Containing Other Provisions Related Thereto.

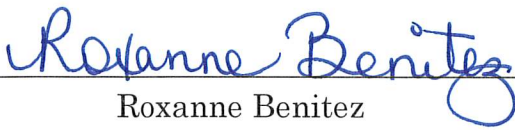
Council Member Herrera motioned to approve Ordinance No. 1293, as presented, and Council Member Rosas seconded the motion. Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Council Members Bostic, Wood, Caldwell, Rosas, and Herrera voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Adjournment.

Secretary Jean-Baptiste motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m., and Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. President Hinojosa, Vice-President Hamirani, Secretary Jean-Baptiste, and Trustees Wilkins, Thompson, Soza-Montelongo, and Sanchez voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 7-0.

Council Member Herrera motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m., and Council Member Wood seconded the motion. Mayor Mathew, Mayor Pro Tem Chen and Council Members Bostic, Wood, Caldwell, Rosas, and Herrera voted “Aye”. “Nay” – none. Motion carried 7-0.

ATTEST:



Roxanne Benitez  
City Secretary



Ken Mathew  
Mayor