

Sonora ISD Focus on Improvements

Sonora ISD administration and the Board of Trustees are in ongoing discussions in developing long term goals for the school district. The main focus has been facilities, safety, and transportation.

The process to identify needs began during the 2022-23 school year when all faculty and staff were asked to compile a list of everything that needed to be updated to benefit the students' educational setting. A comprehensive list was created and all staff members were invited to meet and categorize the items. Gallagher Construction Services was contacted to perform a facilities assessment of all school buildings. Gallagher is a company that works strictly with Texas K-12 schools and provides the assessment at no cost. The facility assessment was performed during the 2023 fall semester and the findings were reported at the November 1st board meeting.

Staff members and board members were then asked to nominate Sonora community members to participate in the discussions. Nominations were made and those were contacted to participate. The first community member meeting took place in the high school auditorium at 5:30 p.m. November 27th. The meeting was well-attended with fifty-plus committee members. Robb Sidebottom of Gallagher Construction Services presented the facilities assessment to the group, and entertained open dialogue on the findings. Afterward, the group toured the high school building to view the recommended upgrades. The main upgrades on the campus include keyless card access to all interior doors, electrical capacity, HVAC, flooring, restroom upgrades, parking lot paving, interior painting, auditorium upgrades. The upgrades focus is a combination of the facilities assessment and the Sonora ISD staff members' list.

Student transportation needs are also at the forefront of discussions. Administration and transportation staff are working on activity bus needs, as well as necessary upgrades to the underground fuel tanks located on the bus barn property.

The next meeting will be December 12th in the elementary auditorium at 5:30 p.m.. The meeting will begin with a tour the elementary facilities, followed by continued dialogue of facilities improvements needs and priorities. Community members are invited to attend and participate in the discussion.