

rabbit, and other shows. Other shows rose up, like the massive competitions held each year in San Antonio and Houston, and state fairs all across the land.

It warrants mentioning, though, that the roots of the livestock show are much older. Agricultural shows in England and Scotland date back to the 18th century and still exist today, as opportunities for a region's stockmen, farmers, and food makers to show their wares and compete for supremacy in everything from cattle breeding to cheese making to woodchopping.

The forerunner to the Tri Area Livestock Show was first held in 1955, when Stamford FFA students competed with their animal projects on the downtown square in Stamford. Over the years, students from Lueders-Avoca and Paint Creek were added to the show, and today, the show is open to 4-H and FFA members, whether attending public school or home school, in those school districts. In the 1970s, a barn

was built on land supplied by the Texas Cowboy Reunion and over the years, that barn has been greatly improved and expanded thanks to the hard work of the show's volunteers and the generosity of the local community.

Tri Area has an informal motto that we will give as many students as possible the opportunity to compete, which came from the show's founder, longtime Stamford vocational agriculture teacher Weldon Holbrooks. Over the years, Mr. Holbrooks opened up a variety of livestock classifications for his students. Today, we strive to do the same. Several years ago, we opened up an agricultural mechanics competition for students to display welding and carpentry projects, and this year's agricultural mechanics division was the biggest to date, with projects ranging from simple crosses made of horseshoes to flatbed trailers. This year, we opened up a photography contest to give another low-impact avenue for

children to enter into local competition and we received over 40 entries.

My first Tri Area show was January 1994. This past week, my five-year-old daughter Miriam had her first Tri Area show, competing in the photography contest some thirty years later. She also came home from the show with a rabbit, which marks the first time that I returned from a livestock show with more livestock than I left with. But it doesn't look like we'll be leaving the livestock show world anytime soon. Our adventure may look different than my show experience or my wife's show experience, but we are excited to see what the path holds.

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Brrrr! This was a familiar scene to Coke County farmers and ranchers earlier this week following an arctic cold front that came through the area beginning on Saturday evening. Temperatures quickly fell in to the teens with wind chill readings in the single digits and below zero.

Robert Lee ISD board meeting minutes told

The Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 5 pm.

Board members present included Wes Washam, Jeffie Roberts, Beverly Sinclair, Linda Burns, and Jose Morales. Board members Cole Bosworth and Erin Oleksiuk were absent.

The meeting was called to order by President Washam with a quorum of members present.

The invocation and pledge were led by Jose Morales.

Linda Burns made a motion to approve the November 16, 2023, minutes and was seconded by Jose Morales. All were for.

Supt. Hood gave the high school report, reporting 117 students enrolled and a 94.5%

ADA. He also gave the elementary report, reporting 134 students rolled and a 96.2% ADA for a total of 253 students for November 2023.

The 2022-2023 Audit was presented by Megan Solsberry. Jeffie Roberts made a motion to approve the audit was presented and was seconded by Beverly Sinclair. All were for.

Supt. Hood recommended to approve the acceptance of the following bids: Parcel 820 (7725), winning bidder of Mike Budde in the amount of \$2,600; Parcel 2439 (438), winning bidder of Matthew L. Grubbs and Traci J. Grubbs in the amount of \$2,000. Jeffie Roberts made the motion to approve the bids and was seconded by Beverly Sinclair. All were for.

Supt. Hood held a public meeting on the 2022-2023 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST).

Supt. Hood presented the Appraisal District Official Ballot. The board voted to give Cole Bosworth 766 votes, Erin Oleksiuk 766 votes, Josh Tennon 400 votes, and Michael Stephens 400 votes. Linda Burns made the motion to approve the distribution of votes and was seconded by Beverly Sinclair. All were for.

There was no action taken regarding fuel procurement.

Supt. Hood recommended to adopt GKC (regulation) and Jose Morales made a motion to approve the recommendation. He was seconded by Linda Burns. All were for.

Supt. Hood recommended to adopt the TASB Board Policy

Update 122. Beverly Sinclair made the motion to approve Update 122 as presented and was seconded by Linda Burns. All were for.

Supt. Hood gave his respective report regarding enrollment numbers, budget, thank you

notes, and Superintendent Evaluation Packets.

The next regular school board meeting will be January 17, 2024, at 5 pm. A meal will be provided for board appreciation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

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