

## Vaughn, Cody voted to SSISD board; NH bond issue passes

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor  
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Sulphur Springs Independent School District will have two new trustees on the school board, according to the unofficial election tallies.

Probation officer Robbin Vaughn and Grocery Supply Co. Corporate Controller Robert Cody defeated Tammy Glover Cooper in her bid for re-election to a second term on the school board.

Vaughn received 438 votes, Cody 427 votes and Cooper 392 votes in the May 10 election, SSISD Election Official Sandra Gibby reported Saturday night. The seats are at-large, so the two candidates receiving the most votes each win one of the two three-year, full term seats on the board.

All results are unofficial until canvassed. SSISD school board is slated to canvass the May 10 election results during a special called board meeting planned for noon Monday, May 19.

North Hopkins will also be constructing a new elementary wing on the existing district property, thanks to the \$5 million bond proposal which passed Saturday night. While only 124 votes were cast, nearly twice as many ballots were cast in favor of the bond. Voters cast 81 votes in favor of and 43 votes in opposition.

The district is expected to hold a meeting either Thursday or Friday, to canvass the election totals.

“We are excited. It was a big relief for community to vote in favor for the most part. We’re excited but a little nervous. I’ve never done a bond project before,” said NHISD Superintendent Donna George.

The \$5 million bond will raise the tax rate to \$1.2366 per \$100 of property value, an increase of about 8.5 cents, according to the order of election signed by NHISD Board President Lori Timko.

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NHISD officials called for the bond election due to increased enrollment which maxed out classroom space. Officials say the new wing to be built on the existing property will house 14 elementary classrooms plus offices for elementary. That will free up the space currently being used for elementary for other classes and class sections as needed.

If there are any funds left over after the new addition is completed, the district would use that money for upgrades such as painting and new carpeting at the older buildings.

The district will consult with the company who will sell the bonds, but expects that process will get under way soon.

Gallagher Construction will serve as contract manager for the construction project.

“They’ve been in business for a long time and have done work with a lot of small schools. They come highly recommended,” George said.

District officials don’t anticipate being able to break ground for the project before this fall.