

MINUTES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SMITHVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Smithville Independent School District was held on Monday, September 18, 2023 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Smithville ISD Administrative Building, PO Box 479, 901 N.E. 6th Street, Smithville, Texas 78957.

Members present: Grant Gutierrez, Michael Hancock, Alan Hemphill, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry

Others present: Tracy Johnson, Ryan Fowler, Stephanie Foster, Sarah Vinklarek, Tucker Copeland, Lindsey Saunders, Zack Harris, Rebecca Hamilton, Cory Williams, Whitney Brown, Noe McCarthy, Bethany Logan, Candy Biehle, Peggy Wells, Jen Bezner, Justin Bezner, Margarita Igoe, Rebecca Hamilton, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Mr. Hinnant called the roll of members. All were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Smithville Elementary students who have earned the most Tiger Tokens in their grade level led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were: Austin Andrus, Avery Doane, Laneton Bisland, Nathaniel Garcia, Leighna Roberson, Mason Fowler and Lily Garza.

Public Hearing – As a mandate of the 77th Legislative session, districts must hold a public hearing to report the rating received by the district based upon financial performance in relation to the FIRST rating standards. Chief Financial Officer Jean Ann McCarthy presented the F.I.R.S.T. ratings. There were no questions or comments from the public.

Character Education Speakers – Student guest speakers will be present at each board meeting to conduct a short presentation on the Character Trait of the Month. For the September Board meeting, the Board heard from elementary students Elle Browning, a second grade student in Ms. Martinez's class, Chloe Cox, a third grader in Ms. Natal's class, and Olive Wells in Ms. Brockenbush's fourth grade class read their essays about courage.

Communications from the Public – There were no individuals signed up to address the Board.

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0. The Consent Agenda included:

1. Minutes
2. Financial Statements
3. Investment Report

4. State Aid Comparison - Budgeted vs. Earned
5. Earned vs. TEA Payments
6. Tax Collection Report
7. Investment Policy Review
8. Review Approved Providers of Investment Training
9. Budget Amendments

Financial Report – The Chief Financial Officer, Jean Ann McCarthy, reviewed the financial disbursements for the previous month with the Board of Trustees. No action was required.

Superintendent's Report – The Superintendent updated the Board on important issues pertaining to the District including:

- Enrollment numbers as of Friday, September 15, 2023 is 1834 students.
- Reminder of the special strategic planning community meeting that is scheduled for September 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Smithville Junior High Library.
- Mr. Gutierrez will be attending the TASA/TASB Convention in Dallas on Saturday, September 30th.
- The Lady Tigers volleyball team will play Giddings at home on Tuesday.
- The Tigers JV/Freshmen football game will play Lago Vista at home on Thursday and the varsity will play in Lago Vista on Friday.
- Brown Primary has their first Pre-K Parent Engagement event coming up on Wednesday - “Eating the Alphabet”.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website or the Smithville ISD App for the latest news and resources.

Child Nutrition Report – Candy Biehle, Child Nutrition Director, reported to the Board on numerous activities that she and her staff are involved in throughout the year as well as last year’s highlights and programs.

Safety and Security Update – Dr. Michael Caudill, Assistant Superintendent, reported to the Board on measures being taken in the district to address safety and security for students and staff.

Teacher Certification Status Report – Texas Education Code §21.057 and Board Policy DBA [Legal] require the superintendent to notify the parents or guardian of each student in a classroom that is staffed by a teacher who is inappropriately certified or uncertified for their classroom instruction assignment. Furthermore, the school district is required to make teacher certification information available to the public upon request. No parent notification is required for teachers currently enrolled in alternative certification programs, serving under a one-year certificate, or who are certified under the District of Innovation. Twelve members of our staff are employed under non-certified contracts as allowed by the District of Innovation. Eight employees are either enrolled in alternative certification programs and have not yet met ACP requirements or are teaching outside his/her certification area. Reports will be made as mandated by TEA.

Tentative October Agenda Items – Tentative items to be included on the October agenda are:
a. Board Recognitions

- b. Financial Report
- c. Superintendent's Report
- d. Board Recognitions
- e. Curriculum Highlight
- f. Consider Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance Objectives
- g. Personnel

Nominations for Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Trustees – The membership of the Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors is a position appointed by the participating taxing jurisdictions, the County, the Cities, the School Districts, and the Community College. The term for the current Board of Directors will expire on December 31, 2023. Smithville ISD is interested in nominating individuals from the community to serve as our representatives on the Bastrop County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Alan Hemphill moved to nominate Justin Bezner for the Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Nancy Towry seconded and the vote passed 7-0. Nancy Towry moved to nominate Stacy Tiner and Jeannie Ralph for the Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Grant Gutierrez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent reported the resignations of Jean Ann McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer, and Noel McCarthy, Tiger Academy instructor. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy will be retiring from education on June 30, 2024.

Employment of Certified Personnel – According to Board Policy DC [Local], the Superintendent has the authority to make recommendations to the Board regarding the selection of all personnel. Rae Danette Perez was hired as ACE Coordinator and Shelbie Page was hired as Occupational Therapist Assistant. No action was required.

Adjournment – Grant Gutierrez moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. With a second from Alan Hemphill, the vote passed 7-0.