MINUTES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SMITHVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Smithville Independent School District was held on Monday, July 20, 2026 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, Chelsa Vinklarek, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons
Members absent: Chris Hinnant, Bryan Jones
Others present: Dr. Bethany Logan, Tucker Copeland, Matea Floryance, Nick Cordray, Dr. Ashley Marquez, Page Bleakley, James Fauver, Roque Thompson, Misty Vasquez, Holly Brockman, Stacy Tiner, Whitney Brown, Angie Westerfield, Lindsey Saunders, Candy Biehle, Dr. Molley Ealy, and Liza Rios.

Call to Order - The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call - The Board President called the roll of members. Mr. Chris Hinnant and Mr. Bryan Jones were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance – The Board President led the pledge of allegiance.

Public Communications – There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda – Board members routinely approve items on the consent agenda as a group. These are routine agenda items. Board members have the option to ask questions regarding any of the items listed as part of the consent agenda.

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
2. Financial Statements
3. Investment Report
4. State Aid Comparison - Budgeted vs. Earned
5. Earned vs. TEA Payments
6. Tax Collection Report
7. Financial Report
8. Approval of Budget Amendments
9. Approval of a Bond Repayment Resolution

10. Call for a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget and Tax Rate for 2026-2027
11. Annual Approval of T-TESS Appraisers and the Appraisal Calendar
12. Annual Approval of Required Training for School District Staff

The business manager Stacy Tiner, reviewed the financial disbursements for the previous month with the Board of Trustees. Josh Magden moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Chelsa Vinklarek, and the vote passed 5-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent updated the Board on important issues pertaining to the District.

- Implementation of UIL Heat Stress & Athletic Participation Plan
- ACE After School and Summer Programming Grant
- Smithville Education Foundation Retreat

Upcoming Dates:

- July 21 - New Student Registration Day at Brown Primary
- July 29 to 31 - New Teacher Academy
- August 3 -Teachers Return, Convocation at 8 am
- August 6 - Meet the Tiger at 7 pm at SHS
- August 12 - First Day of School
- August 24 - August Regular Board Meeting
- August 26 - Quarterly Chamber Luncheon featuring SISD

Review Results and Recommendations from an Efficiency Study of District Facilities – As included in the SISD Strategic Plan, Strategic Action 4.2 calls for the District to conduct an Efficiency Study of Buildings through a third party vendor. This study was recently conducted by Schneider Electric, Matea Floryance and Page Bleakley, reviewed the results and recommendations from the study.

Review of the 2026-2027 SISD Volunteer Guidelines – The Smithville ISD volunteer program enriches the quality of education for our students by providing opportunities for parents and community members to become actively involved in our schools. The 2026-27 SISD Volunteer Guidelines, which help ensure clarity and consistency across the volunteer program, was reviewed and presented by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bethany Logan.

Review Progress Related to Priority 3 of the SISD Strategic Plan – Stakeholder Satisfaction and Engagement - This month's Strategic Plan update, presented by Dr. Logan, focused on efforts in the area of Priority 3 - Stakeholder Satisfaction and Engagement.

Review TASB Board Policy Update 127 - A first reading of proposed policy updates from TASB Policy Services was provided by superintendent, Dr. Molley Ealy. Update 127 includes revisions to legal framework documents based in large part on changes to Administrative Code rules after the 89th Legislative Session. Changes to local policies offered for consideration address the following:

- BJCF(LOCAL): SUPERINTENDENT - NONRENEWAL
- CAA(LOCAL): FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - FINANCIAL ETHICS
- DC(LOCAL): EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
- DH(LOCAL): EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
- DP(LOCAL): PERSONNEL POSITIONS
- DPA(LOCAL): PERSONNEL POSITIONS - PRINCIPALS
- DPB(LOCAL): PERSONNEL POSITIONS - OTHER PERSONNEL POSITIONS
- EHBB(LOCAL): SPECIAL PROGRAMS - GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS
- FFF(LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - STUDENT SAFETY

Review Requirements of Senate Bill 12 – Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, school systems must take action to ensure timely compliance with these new requirements as established in the 89th Texas Legislative Session. The Administration will review these requirements as related to TEC, §§11.005 (Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Duties) and 28.0022 (Certain Instructional Requirements and Prohibitions), as well as discuss next steps regarding Board Certification. Dr. Ashley Marquez provided the Board with an update on the compliance requirement steps in review of Senate Bill 12.

2026-2027 Budget Development Updates - An update on the development of the 2026-27 budget will be provided by Stacy Tiner, Business Manager. The budget and tax rate are expected to be adopted on August 24, 2026, which is in advance of the beginning of fiscal year 2027 on September 1, 2026.

Tentative Future Board Agenda Items

- Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget and Tax Rate for 2026-2027
- Adoption of the 2026-27 Budget and Tax Rate
- Approval of an Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit Related to Excess Local Revenue
- Approval of Self-Certification of the Micro-Purchase Threshold for FY 2026-2027
- Re-designation of Fund Balance

- Approval of TASB Policy Update 127
- District and Campus 2026 State Accountability Ratings
- Update on the SISD Strategic Plan Priority 4 - Financial & Operational Systems
- Approval of the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) Membership for 2026-27
- Certification of Compliance with SB 12 Requirements
- Review 3-Year Safety Audit Findings

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Purchases in Excess of $50,000 - In accordance with Board Policy CH(LOCAL), any single, budgeted purchase of goods or services that costs $50,000 or more, regardless of whether the goods or services are competitively purchased, shall require Board approval before a transaction may take place.

- **Playground Resurfacing at Brown Primary School** - In order to improve safety and accessibility, it is recommended that the Brown Primary main playground receive upgrades, including installation of an ADA accessible ramp and replacement of mulch around the fall area with a rubber safety surface.
  Stacy Tiner, Business Manager, shared not all quotes are in at this time and recommended to table the action item for next month. This item was tabled for next month to allow time for all estimates to be received.

- **Educational Service Center Region 13 Contracted Services for 2026-2027** - ESC Region 13 provides a variety of services for the District annually, including the provision of our Student Information and Enterprise System, Ascender.

Product/Service 26-27 Pricing:

- Ascender Enterprise System $54,573.75

Cooperative Participation:

- Behavior Specialist $4,500
- Career & Technical Education* $2,800
- Homeless Education** $1,500
- School Finance $4,000
- State Comp Ed $1,000
- TEKS Resource System $11,074.20
- PEIMS $5,600
- TExGUIDE PK-12 $5,592
- TXED Support Service $20,000

** Carl Perkins grant funds*
*** Title I-A grant funds*

It is recommended that the Board authorize payment to ESC Region 13 for continuation of contracted services in the amount of $110,639.95 from a combination of grant and general funds. Motion to Approve ESC Region 13 Contracted Services in the amount of $110,639.95, was made by Candice Parsons and seconded by Michael Hancock, and the vote passed 5-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea

Child Nutrition Services and 2026-2027 Meal Prices - Candy Biehle, Director of Child Nutrition Services, provided an update on the Child Nutrition program and recommendations related to meal prices for the 2026-27 school year. A motion to approve the 2026-27 student meal prices, including a $0.15 increase for lunch and no increase for breakfast, was made by Josh Magden and seconded by Candice Parsons, and the vote passed 5-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea

Adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding with Ascension Seton for the SHS Health Science Program - The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) creates a formal partnership between Ascension Seton and Smithville ISD, designed to provide SHS Health Science students in the practicum phase of their Work-Based Learning pathway with hands-on clinical educational experiences at Ascension Seton facilities. A motion to approve the MOU with Seton was made by Candice Parsons and seconded by Chelsa Vinklarek, and the vote passed 5-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea

Approval of the 2026-2027 Student Code of Conduct - The Student Code of Conduct for the upcoming school year is reviewed, revised and approved by the Board prior to the beginning of each new school year. There are no substantive changes to this year's Code of Conduct. Motion made by Chelsa Vinklarek and seconded by Candice Parsons, and the vote passed 5-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea

Approval of the 2026-2027 Board Operating Procedures - At the June 2026 Regular meeting, the Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Board Operating Procedures for 2026-27. It is recommended that the Board finalize and adopt these updated procedures. Motion to approve the 2026-27 Board Operation Procedures. Motion made by Candice Parsons and seconded by Josh Magden, and the vote passed 5-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea

<u>Appoint a Delegate and Alternate for the 2026 TASB Delegate Assembly</u> - The annual TASB Delegate Assembly will be held on Friday, October 9 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX. School districts around the state will nominate a Delegate and Alternate to discuss and vote on a variety of action items - from electing TASB directors and officers to approving the education issues included in the TASB Advocacy Agenda. Motion to appoint Grant Gutierrez as delegate and Josh Magden as alternate for the 2026 TASB Delegate Assembly. Motion made by Grant Gutierrez and seconded by Candice Parsons, and the vote passed 5-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea

<u>Endorsement of a Candidate for the TASB Board of Directors</u> - The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Region 13, Position B Director position is currently open with a term of 2026-2029. These following individuals have been nominated by their local boards for the TASB Region 13, Position B.

- Ana Cortez, Manor ISD
- Stephen Mackey, Blanco ISD (Incumbent)
- Ed Navarette, Florence ISD

Between Friday, June 26, and Friday, August 21, 2026, Region 13 School Boards are invited to endorse a candidate for each position in our Region.

If a majority of the Active Members of the Region endorses a candidate, that individual will be elected to the TASB Board. If at least 25 percent, but not a majority, endorse the candidate, that individual will be included on the official ballot at the TASB Delegate Assembly. Motion to endorse a Mr. Mackey for the TASB Board of Directors made by Josh Magden and seconded by Michael Hancock, and the vote passed 5-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea

CLOSED SESSION – The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 8:21 p.m.

<u>Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, Consultation with an Attorney Regarding Legal Matters Related to Construction Issues at Smithville Junior High School</u>

OPEN SESSION – The Board of Trustees exited closed session at 9:06 p.m. with no official action taken during Closed Session.

Possible Action Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Session – I move the Board to approve a settlement agreement with Drymalla Construction Company, LLC related to construction issues at the Junior High campus. I further move the Board to delegate authority to the Superintendent to finalize the negotiations of the settlement agreement and related documents in a form approved by legal counsel. This motion, made by Candice Parsons and seconded by

Josh Magden, and the vote passed 5-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made by Josh Magden and seconded by Michael Hancock, and the vote passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea

The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act on Monday, July 13, 2026.