

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, October 16, 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: Stephanie Foster, Tucker Copeland, Amanda Hudspeth, Tracy Johnson, Sarah Vinklarek, Whitney Brown, Noe McCarthy, Bethany Logan, Candy Biehle, Zack Harris, Gregory Vinklarek, Jennifer Vinklarek, Ariel Kunz, Margarita Igoe, Lisa Wood, Amanda Wood, Steve Wood, Holly Gigout, Brandon Gigout, Tyler Gigout, Jose Soto, Grace Hamilton, Natalia Hannath, Donna Wessels, Harold Wessels, Rebecca Hamilton, Jean Ann McCarthy, Holly Brockman, John Brockman, Ashlie Hamilton, Sunshine Pease, Evelyn Pease, Tim Sanders, Clara Beckett, Cyril Adkins, Jean Ann McCarthy, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call – The Board President called the roll of members. All were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students representing the House System at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were: Harley Matthews, Kyron Reyes, Silas Kresge, Kyra Price, and Jassmine Parker.

Outstanding Students for the First Nine-Weeks – Each nine-weeks the middle school and high school faculties select an outstanding student from their respective campus. Students are rated on a scale of 1 to 10 on such criteria as grades, honesty, enthusiasm, cooperation with teachers and their peers, class participation and leadership. Ani Jimenez and Tyler Gigout, both eighth graders, have been selected as the outstanding students for the first nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Ani is the daughter of Merly Torres and Marcelo Jimenez Torres, and Tyler is the son of Brandon and Holly Gigout. Two students have been selected as outstanding students from Smithville High School for the first nine-weeks. They are Grace Hamilton, a twelfth grader, and Jose Soto, a tenth grader. Grace is the daughter of Ashlie Hamilton, and Jose is the son of Homero and Olga Soto.

Tiger Award Recipient Recognition – Tiger Award recipients are nominated by peers. Each campus and department will nominate a representative. Final nominations are voted on by a

select committee. Each campus and department will have an award winner that will be recognized at the board meeting every 9-weeks. The Board recognized the following Tiger Award winners for the first nine-weeks: Brown Primary - Rachel Hurst (Teacher) Smithville Elementary - Natalia Hannath (Instructional Coach), Smithville Junior High - John Brockman (Teacher/Coach), Smithville High School - Lisa Wood (Teacher), Other Departments - Jennifer Vinklerek (Asst. Superintendent's Secretary)

Public Communications – There were no communications from the public.

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 7 as presented. With a second from Michael Hancock, the vote passed 7-0.

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. 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 the following important issues pertaining to the District.

- Enrollment numbers as of October 13th are 1827 students with an average daily attendance of 87.85%.
- The Smithville Tiger Band earned all 1st Division ratings at the UIL Region Marching Contest this past Saturday in Giddings. This is the 19th consecutive year for the Tiger Band to earn 1st divisions in marching at UIL and the 26th in the past 27 years. The band now advances to the UIL Area D Marching Contest to be held at the "Pfield" in Pflugerville next Saturday.
- The SISD After School Program will sponsor “Lights on After School Trick or Treat” for the community on Friday, October 27th beginning at 6:00 p.m. The event will be held in the Elementary Circle Drive and is open to the public.
- October is Principal’s Month. We would like to recognize our Smithville ISD principals and the remarkable job they do every day.
- We will be sending out an academic calendar survey to our parents, community and staff to gather input on the 2024-2025 academic calendar.

SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight - Accountability Ratings Update – The Board will be presented with curriculum and program area highlights on a regular basis. The purpose of each presentation is to keep the Board informed of the academic progress within the district and on campuses. The curriculum highlight for October was presented by Dr. Logan, which was an update on SISD accountability ratings.

Hungry Tiger Program – Candy Biehle, Child Nutrition Director, updated the Board of Trustees on new features of the Hungry Tiger Program. Mrs. Biehle is excited to announce that we now have the technology in place to accept donations online. She explained the process.

Bilingual Report – TEC 7.028 states: (b)The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school has primary responsibility for ensuring that the district or school complies with all applicable requirements of state educational programs. Whitney Brown, Special Programs Coordinator, provided a report to the Board as required by the Texas Education Code.

Intruder Detection Audit Report Finding for Smithville High School – Mrs. Burns presented audit findings, an action plan and information to the Board of Trustees.

Report on 2023 TASB Delegate Assembly – The Texas Association of School Boards Annual Convention was held on September 29 - October 1, 2023 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas, TX. Board member Grant Gutierrez served as our voting delegate to the TASB Delegate Assembly on September 30th. Mr. Gutierrez gave a summary report of the assembly at the board meeting.

Tentative November Agenda Items – Tentative items for the November board meeting are:

- a. Board Recognitions - Mentors
- b. Financial Report
- c. Superintendent’s Report
- d. Consider Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance Objectives
- e. Voting for Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors
- f. Personnel

Representatives of the Bastrop County, Texas and/or the City of Smithville, Texas, will present the background, plans, and goals for their proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Method of Distribution (CDBG-MIT-MOD) Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Bastrop County, Texas and the City of Smithville, Texas, to include the District as a party to the ILA for Community Development Block Grant Mitigation MOD funding for a proposed drainage project, as presented by the City and County, for the proposed drainage project to utilize the District property for the project. – Tim Sanders and Clara Becket presented information to the Board of Trustees about a grant received and the potential partnership with Smithville ISD to utilize the funds available. The grant would pay for upgrades and an additional retention pond for possible future growth. The detention pond will help with the continued need for drainage. This was an information and discussion item.

Closed Session-Trustees may convene in closed session to obtain legal advice from the District’s legal counsel regarding the City and County’s proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Method of Distribution (CDBG-MIT-MOD) Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Bastrop County, Texas and the City of

Smithville, Texas, to include the District as a party to the ILA for Community Development Block Grant Mitigation MOD funding for a proposed drainage project, as presented by the City and County, for the proposed drainage project to utilize the District property for the project. (Texas Government Code §§551.071 and 551.129). Trustees may convene in closed session to obtain legal advice from the District’s legal counsel regarding Complaint 06-20-1228, pending with the Office of Civil Rights. (Texas Government Code §§551.071 and 551.129) – The Board entered into closed session at 8:15 p.m. and returned at 9:43 with no official action taken.

Consideration and possible action on the City and County’s proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Method of Distribution (CDBG-MIT-MOD) Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Bastrop County, Texas and the City of Smithville, Texas, to include the District as a party to the ILA for Community Development Block Grant Mitigation MOD funding for a proposed drainage project, as presented by the City of Smithville, for the proposed drainage project to utilize the District property for the Project – Grant Gutierrez moved to decline the amendment presented and direct the superintendent and the district’s legal counsel to work with the City of Smithville, Bastrop County and their legal counsel or representatives regarding the requested real estate interests for the GLO project presented and bring the project back to the board at a future date, Josh Magden seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – There were no resignations to report.

Employment of Certified Personnel – No employment was recommended.

Adjournment – Alan Hemphill moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m. With a second from Grant Gutierrez, the vote passed 7-0.