

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 21, 2020 beginning at 6:00 PM via ZOOM in Smithville, Texas.

Members present: Howard Burns, Jr., Alan Hemphill, Mike Davis, Jr., Grant Gutierrez, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry
Members absent: Tay Campbell
Others present: Ana Murray, Jean Ann McCarthy, David Edwards, Candy Biehle, Belinda Waters, Chris Kelly, Erik McCowan, Josiah Cook, Michael Caudill, Micheal Fry, Sean Pattee, Shari Bang, Stephanie Foster, Steve Schroeder, Tucker Copeland, Whitney Brown, Zack Harris, Jordan Christman, Chris Hinnant, Chuck Goertz, Gabriela Calderon, Margarita Igoe, Kathy Mathias, Steffani Motyka, Oscar Trevino, Mark Goulet, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

- A. Call to Order
Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Roll Call
Roll Call – The Board President called the roll of members. Tay Campbell was absent.
- C. Communications from the Public
Communications from the Public – The Board heard from Erik McCowan, who supported a return to face-to-face board meetings in addition to virtual, expressed his concerns about possible lack of resources at the elementary library and stated his views regarding Big Star Solar, LLC.
- D. Consent Agenda
Consent Agenda – Nancy Towry moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Candi Parsons seconded and the motion carried 6-0. 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. Approve a Resolution regarding Extra-Curricular Status of the 4-H Organization and County Extension Agents

E. Information Items

1. **Financial Report** – Mrs. McCarthy presented the financial report.
2. **Superintendent's Report** – The superintendent shared the following information with the Board of Trustees:
 - District enrollment as of Wednesday, September 16th, 2020 was 1730 students with an average daily attendance of 93.87%.
 - The TASA/TASB Convention will be held virtually this year. The dates are September 30 - October 2, 2020. Please let Denise know if you would like to register. Grant Gutierrez is our delegate, and Candi Parsons is our alternate. The Delegate Assembly will be held virtually as well.
 - Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Davis, Sr. for their generous donation of a refrigerator for Building 2.
 - First National Bank donated tiger face masks to all staff. Thank you!
 - Ticket sales for all sports are now exclusively online through the website.
 - SISD has received a waiver from USDA to allow all students to receive free breakfast and lunch until December 31st at a minimum.
 - COVID Dashboard on Smithville ISD website
 - The SISD Child Nutrition Department was recently recognized with the GOLD Excellence in Summer Meals Award from Summer 2019, presented by the Texas Hunger Initiative.
 - Gabriel Maldonado was selected to serve as an Ambassador with the Health Ambassadors for Ready Texas Initiative. HART was created to encourage high school students to champion healthy eating and wellness within their school communities.
3. **2016 Bond Renovation Update by PBK and Drymalla Construction** – James Fauver with PBK Architects was available to the Board to answer questions. Mrs. Burns expressed her opinion that project was progressing very well.
4. **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. She updated the Board on the district's participation in the Summer Feeding Program and its successes with feeding children and adults in our community this past summer.
5. **Teacher Certification Status Report** – Educators in Smithville ISD who are currently enrolled in alternative certification programs, are certified under the District of Innovation, or teaching classes outside their certification area was reported to the Board. The district currently has eight educators who are currently enrolled in an alternative certification program, one who is certified under the District of Innovation, and one teacher who is teaching outside his/her certification area.
6. **Tentative October Agenda Items** – Tentative Items to be included on the October agenda are:

- a. Financial Report
 - b. Superintendent's Report
 - c. Bond Renovation Update by PBK and Drymalla Construction
 - d. TIP - Turn-around Improvement Plan
 - e. Personnel
- E. Closed Session
Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 6:32 p.m. and returned at 8:05 p.m. with no official action taken.
1. **Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Appraised Value Limitation by Big Star Solar, LLC for Construction of a Solar Powered Electric Generating Facility Under Chapter 313, and Related Matters. Tex. Gov't Code Section 551.071 and 551.087** – This item was conducted in closed session.
- F. Action Items
1. **Possible Action to Consider Appraised Value Limitation Application by Big Star Solar, LLC for Construction of a Solar Powered Electric Generating Facility Under Chapter 313, Tax Code, Including Request for Waiver of New Qualifying Job Creation Equipment** – Representative from RWE, Sean Pattee, shared a presentation about Big Star Solar, LLC a renewable energy project. Alan Hemphill moved to approve consideration of Big Star Solar, LLC's Appraised Value Limitation Application with job creation waiver requirement subject to and dependent upon receipt of contingent fee and authorizing the superintendent to take appropriate action to process the application with the Controller of Public Accounts. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 5-1 with Howard Burns, Jr. opposed.
2. **Possible Action to Approve Financial Consulting Agreement with Moak Casey Related to Appraised Value Limitation Application by Big Star Solar, LLC** – Alan Hemphill moved to approve a financial consulting agreement with Moak Casey related to the Appraised Value Limitation by Big Star Solar, LLC. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 5-0 with Howard Burns, Jr. abstaining.
3. **Possible Action to Approve Engagement of Walsh Gallegos Trevino Kyle and Russo as Legal Counsel Related to Appraised Value Limitation Application by Big Star Solar, LLC** – Alan Hemphill moved to approve engagement of Walsh Gallegos Trevino Kyle and Russo as legal counsel related to an Appraised Value Limitation Application by Big Star Solar, LLC. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 5-0 with Howard Burns, Jr. abstaining.
4. **Consider Approval of Change Proposal #77** – Change Proposal #77 was being requested in order to revise the northwest property corner from grass to a concrete driveway as per the renovations proposed at Building 2 of Smithville Elementary School. The Superintendent requested that this item be removed from the agenda, as the decision was made for the area to remain natural turf. No action was taken on this item.

5. **Consider Action to Authorize Expenditures in Accordance with Board Policy CH (Local)** – The 2020-2021 general operating budget included the purchase of one school bus in the amount of \$99,000 and property insurance coverage in the amount of \$123,200. As per Board Policy CH (Local) the District is requesting authorization to proceed with these purchases. Candice Parsons moved to authorize the requested expenditures in accordance with Board Policy CH (Local). Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

6. **Consider Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance Objectives** – Board Policy BQ [Legal] requires the Board to annually approve district and campus performance objectives and ensure that the district and campus improvement plans are mutually supportive to accomplish identified objectives and, at a minimum, support the state goals and objectives. David Edwards, State and Federal Programs Director, with the assistance of each campus principal, presented the improvement plans and performance objectives. Candice Parsons moved to approve the 2020-2021 district and campus improvement plans and performance objectives as presented. With a second from Nancy Towry, the motion carried 6-0.

- G. Personnel
 1. **Resignations of Certified Personnel** – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignation of Elena Schroeder as school librarian at Smithville Elementary. No action was required.

 2. **Employment of Certified Personnel** – The Superintendent recommended employment of Megan Gajkowski Lowery as a teacher at Smithville Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year. Candice Parsons moved to employ Megan Lowery as a teacher for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment – The Board adjourned its meeting at 8:52 p.m.