

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, June 21, 2021 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Smithville ISD Administrative Building
PO Box 479, 901 N.E. 6th Street
Smithville, Texas 78957.

Members present: Howard Burns, Jr., Alan Hemphill, Mike Davis, Jr., Grant Gutierrez, Chris Hinnant, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry

Others present: Ana Murray, Mark Goulet, Erik McCowan, Dennis Bender, Jimmy Rose, Kathy Mathias, Jean Ann McCarthy, Penny Scott, Patsy Holmes, Cristi Thomas, Sean Pattree, Mike Fry, Michael Caudill, Brenda Waneck, Donna Bartsch, Justin Bezner, Kurt Hammons, Pat Riley, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance – The group participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Proposed Findings and Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes with Big Star Solar, LLC, # 1531 – The Board heard from Rosanky community members Eric McCowan, Kurt Hammons, Pat Riley, Dennis Bender, Jim Rose, Donna Bartsch and Penny Scott, who voiced their opposition to the Big Star Solar, LLC renewable energy project currently underway in the Rosanky area. Also addressing was Board was Sean Pettree and Mike Fry, on behalf of Big Star Solar, LLC.

The Board recessed at 8:13 p.m. and returned at 8:26 p.m. The public hearing resumed.

Kathy Mathias, financial consultant with the firm of Moak Casey, an independent firm representing the district, gave a presentation regarding the financial implications for the district and constituents if the Board did or did not approve the Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes with Big Star Solar, LLC, # 1531.

Closed session began at 9:29 p.m. and ended at 10:45 p.m. with no official action taken.

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

The Board President changed the order of the meeting to address the two action items involving Big Star Solar, LLC.

Closed Session

Deliberation and consultation with legal counsel and financial consultant to discuss proposed findings and Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes with Big Star Solar, LLC, # 1531. Tex. Gov't Code §§ 551.071, 551.087, 551.129 – The Board consulted with district legal counsel in closed session.

Action Items

Consideration and possible action to approve findings related to the proposed Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes with Big Star Solar, LLC, #1531 – Chris Hinnant moved to approve the findings related to the proposed Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes with Big Star Solar, LLC, #1531 as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion carried 6-0 with Grant Gutierrez abstaining.

Consideration and possible action to approve proposed Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes with Big Star Solar, LLC, # 1531 – Chris Hinnant moved to approve the Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes with Big Star Solar, LLC, #1531 as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded the motion and it passed 3 to 1 with Alan Hemphill opposed and Grant Gutierrez, Howard Burns, Jr. and Nancy Towry abstaining.

The meeting then returned to its normal order.

Consent Agenda – Alan Hemphill moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Consent Agenda included:

1. Minutes
2. Financial Statements
3. State Aid Comparison - Budgeted vs. Earned
4. Investment Report
5. Earned vs. TEA Payments
6. Tax Collection Report
7. Budget Amendments

Information Items

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:

- The District hosted a COVID vaccination clinic at the junior high campus last Thursday.

- The Commissioner of Education is holding virtual meetings every Thursday to review legislation. HB 4545 mandates that students are no longer required to be retained for failure of the STAAR test in grades 3 through 8 and SB 1697 allows for parents to request retention for PK and K students.

School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) Annual Report – This item was postponed for a future meeting.

Technology Report – This item was postponed for a future meeting.

First Draft of the 2021-2022 District Budget – Jean Ann McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer, presented the first draft of the 2021-2022 district budget.

Tentative July Agenda Items – Tentative items to be included on the July agenda are:

- ESSER III Public Hearing
- Financial Report
- Superintendent’s Report
- Second Draft of the 2021-2022 District Budget
- Preliminary STAAR Test Scores
- Return to School Plan
- Approval of Bids for Security Fencing
- Call for Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Tax Rate
- Approve TTESS Appraisers and Appraisal Calendar
- Review 2021-2022 Student Dress Code
- Approval of 2021-2022 Student Code of Conduct
- Superintendent’s Mid-Year Evaluation
- Personnel

Consider Authorizing Superintendent to Approve the Possible Sale of Portable Buildings – In order to proceed with security fencing at the Brown Primary campus, SISD Brown Primary portables will be relocated and/or sold. We have advertised the sale of two portables. Sealed bids will be received and reviewed as required by state bidding regulations. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the sale of portable buildings as recommended. Nancy Towry seconded the motion and the vote passed 7-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – Jean Ann McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer, requested action to authorize the purchase of two networking servers that are vital to Smithville ISD's infrastructure which will exceed \$50,000. In accordance with Board Policy CH (Local), Alan Hemphill moved to approve the expenditures as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Schedule Board Meeting Dates for 2021-2022 – This item was tabled for a future meeting.

Board Self-Evaluation – This item was postponed for a future meeting.

Personnel

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Shari Bang, Kurt Gross, Patricia Morrow, Lauren Prine and Leanne Gray. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommended employment of Derek Crunk and Rebecca Walla as teachers at the high school, Tammy Mayberry as assistant principal at the junior high, Brian Kinsler as a teacher/coach at the junior high, and Goldie Sunshine and Erin Stephens as teachers at Brown Primary for the 2021-2022 school year. Alan Hemphill moved to approve employment for the 2021-2022 school year as presented by the Superintendent. Howard Burns seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m.