

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, August 29, 2022 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: Tucker Copeland, Michael Caudill, Bethany Logan, Justin Bezner, Jean Ann McCarthy, Lindsey Saunders, Zack Harris, Jim Dickson, Noe McCarthy, Margarita Igoe, Stephanie Foster, Whitney Brown, 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 members were present.

Pledge of Allegiance – The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing – The school is required by state laws and board policies CCG [Legal] and CE[Legal] to conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget. Any taxpayer of the District may be present and participate in the meeting. Mrs. McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer, made a short presentation of the 2022-2023 proposed budget.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Justin Bezner regarding the proposed 2022-2023 tax rate.

Consent Agenda – Alan Hemphill moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 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. Budget Amendments
8. Approve a Resolution regarding Extra-Curricular Status of the 4-H Organization and County Extension Agents

Information Items

Financial Report – The Chief Financial Officer, Jean Ann McCarthy, reviewed the financial report 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 August 26th are 1876 overall. This is an increased enrollment of 119 students from August 2021.
- Our first home varsity football game is this Friday, September 2nd, against Sealy. We have a home volleyball game on Friday, September 2nd as well.
- Reserved seats for the 2022 football season have been assigned to the Board. Your district passes are at your seats. We look forward to seeing you at the games. Go Tigers!
- The ACE program received a used refrigerator from Milton's as a donation. Thank you!
- The Tiger Band and Tiger Cheerleaders received a \$1000 donation (each group) for performing at the Bastrop Walmart grand re-opening last week.
- The Tiger Band received a \$3000 donation for their performance in a recent movie production.
- We are continuing to evaluate school safety as more information continues to be released. We will put together a timeline of potential projects and keep the board updated as we determine our priorities.
- Reminder - Team of Eight team building session is scheduled for September 12, 2022 at 6pm.
- Tiger Insider is coming soon!
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

District and Campus State Accountability Ratings Report - In order to inform the Board and the public of Smithville I.S.D.'s accountability ratings, Dr. Bethany Logan, Director of Curriculum, reviewed district and individual campus performance and the accountability rating system.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Review and Approve District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance Objectives
- d. Personnel

Consider Adoption of the 2022-2023 District Budget – The Board is required to adopt an operational budget before the beginning of the fiscal year, which begins September 1st. Candice Parsons moved to adopt the 2022-2023 district budget as presented. Nancy Towry seconded the motion and the vote passed 7-0.

Consider Adoption of the 2022-2023 District Tax Rate – The Board is required to set a tax rate within 60 days of receiving the certified tax roll but no later than September 30th. The Board is also required to conduct a public hearing on the budget and tax rate before setting the tax rate. The tax rate necessary to fund the proposed 2022-2023 budget is \$1.1029 per hundred. That

includes an M&O rate of \$0.9429 and an I&S rate of \$0.16 representing a combined decreased rate of \$0.0974 for M&O and I&S from the 2022-2023 budget year. Josh Magden moved to approve the 2022-2023 tax rate as presented. With a second by Chris Hinnant, the motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the purchase of one school bus after September 1, 2022. However, the 2022-2023 budget currently has \$210,000 budgeted for the purchase of one new school bus, one maintenance truck and two school vans. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the purchase of vehicles as listed after September 1st as requested. Michael Hancock seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Consider Approval of Regulation Approving Self-Certification of Increased Micro-Purchase Threshold for FY 2022-2023 – The Federal Office of Management and Budget issued revised Uniform Grant Guidance updates that allow school districts to increase their micro-purchase threshold, for federal expenditures, from \$10,000 to \$49,999 if the LEA is a low-risk auditee for its most recent federal audit. This item must be reviewed and approved on an annual basis. This increase will allow Smithville ISD to make annual purchases up to \$49,999 without soliciting competitive price or rate quotations if the District considers the price to be reasonably based. Alan Hemphill moved to allow Smithville I.S.D. to increase its micro-purchase threshold, for federal expenditures, as requested. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Required Trainings for School District Staff – In accordance with the requirements of Senate Bill 1267, the Superintendent shall recommend the District's professional development plan for all District employees. The Board shall annually review the professional development clearinghouse published by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and annually approve the District's professional development plan. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the District's professional development plan, as required by Senate Bill 1267, as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Approval of Resolution to Delegate Authority Regarding Colorado River Cooperative Agreements – The Board of Trustees of the Smithville Independent School District has previously authorized and executed the Interlocal Agreement for the Colorado River Cooperative to operate certain aspects of their special education program for students with disabilities under the authority of Texas Education Code Sections 11.157 and 11.151(c)(4) and Section 791.002 *et seq* of the Texas Government Code. This resolution grants approval by the Board of Trustees to delegate and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

- a. Serve and represent the District on the Colorado River Cooperative Management Board, with delegated authority to take all necessary program action with the exception of withdrawing the District from membership and anticipated or potential litigation, which is reserved for board action;
- b. Negotiate and approve revisions to the current Cooperative Agreement so that it is fully compliant with current law, policies, and procedures;
- c. Negotiate and approve future revisions to the Cooperative Agreement as needed;
- d. Execute the Cooperative Agreement and future amended Cooperative Agreements without need for action by the Board of Trustees; and
- e. Provide future written consent to the law firm of Walsh Gallegos for continued or future joint

representation on revisions to the Cooperative Agreement; and agrees and approves to retain the law firm Walsh Gallegos Treviño Kyle & Robinsono P.C. for joint representation of all Member Districts, except for Member Districts represented by other counsel, for legal counsel and service in current and future drafting an Interlocal Agreement. Alan Hemphill moved to delegate authority to the superintendent to allow for negotiations concerning the Colorado River Cooperative as requested. Josh Magden seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel - There are no resignations to report.

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. The Superintendent approved employment of Charles Hamrick at the junior high. This is an information only. No action was required.

The board meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.