

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, April 15, 2024 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, Layne Neumann, Tucker Copeland, Maragaria Igoe, Rebecca Hamilton, Lindsey Saunders, Sharon Welch, Chelsa Vinklarek, Bethany Logan, Whitney Brown, Sarah Vinklarek, Michael Caudill, Candy Biehle, Zack Harris, Noe McCarthy, Ryan Fowler, Sean Sanchez, Casey Hanchey, John Welch, Matt Jones, Jeff Blanda, Megan Huggins, Jason Huggins, Gary Luther, Lyzander Luther, Misty Luther, Lynn Johns, Victoria Igoe, Amanda Hudspeth, Mackenzie Kruez, Tim Sanders, Nirian Beitez, Christine Badillo, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students from Smithville Elementary who have won the most Tiger Tokens for the month led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Rebecca Huggins, Dalton Gartman, Keatyn Becker, Tyler Jones, Almaguer Ledezma, Luke Fowler, and Lyzander Luther.

Character Education Speakers – Student guest speakers are present at each board meeting to read a short essay on the Character Trait of the Month. The character trait for April is curiosity. This month the Board heard from Cameron Gaither, a fourth grade student in Ms. Rogers class, and Anthony Fajardo, a fifth grade student in Ms. Hall's class.

Communications from the Public – The Board heard from Sharon Welch regarding the current student dress code, and from Margarita Igoe regarding establishing communication with Smithville ISD,

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 6 as presented. With a second from Josh Magden 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

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, including:

- District enrollment as of Friday, April 12, 2024 is 1795 students.
- Reminder: according to Board Policy DC (Local), the Board retains final authority for employment of contractual personnel; however, from June 1 to August 31, the Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to employ contract personnel. The Superintendent shall inform the Board of any persons hired under this authority.
- Please add June 6, 2024 to your calendar for a budget workshop.
- Also, we have confirmed that Mrs. Kay Douglas, with TASB, is available to conduct a Team of Eight training session for the Board on Monday, August 12th. Please plan to attend.
- State Testing starts this week, and will continue through the second week of May.
- Many students participated with projects and records were broken for sales at the Smithville FFA Livestock Show.
- In the last week, we have had students participating in softball, baseball, track, band, theater, Texas Problem Solvers and Destination Imagination.
- Students who advanced to regional track and field will be competing this weekend.
- We hosted our first Pre-K and Kindergarten registration on Friday and had about 30 students register. The next registration will be held May 10th.
- Early voting for the regular May 4, 2024 school board election begins on April 22, 2024 and ends on April 30, 2024.
- The Tiger Insider-Spring Edition is at your seats.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight - College Career and Military Readiness Update – The Board is 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 and/or program progress within the district and on campuses. Dr. Bethany Logan shared information about College Career and Military Readiness.

Review 2024-2025 High School Course Catalog – Administrators from the high school review and edit the course catalog on an annual basis for the upcoming school year. A report will be given to the Board of Trustees and updates or changes will be noted. Most changes are typically due to legislative mandate and the course catalog provides information for students and parents to select required courses as well as elective courses. The information is also used to determine staff and budget. The Board of Trustees reviewed the course catalog at its regular meeting in March. Staff made edits and additions, and the final draft was presented for review.

Report Board Member Continuing Education Hours – Board Policy BBD [Legal] and 19 TAC 61.61 requires the Board President to announce the name of each Board member who has completed the required continuing education, who has exceeded the required hours of continuing education, and who is deficient in the required continuing education. This announcement is required annually. The Board President must announce Board members’ continuing education hours at the last regular meeting prior to the next board election, shall cause the minutes to reflect the information, and shall make this information available to the local media. The Board President announced that Mr. Gutierrez, Mr. Hemphill, and Mrs. Towry were deficient in continuing education hours, Mr. Hinnant, Mrs. Parsons, Mr. Hancock and Mr. Magden exceeded requirements.

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

1. Issue Oath of Office for New Board Members
2. Reorganization of the Board of Trustees
3. Recognition of State Qualifiers
4. Recognition of Outstanding Students for the 4th-9-Weeks
5. Recognition of Tiger Award Winners
6. Financial Report
7. Superintendent's Report
8. Graduation Procedures
9. 2023-2024 Dress Code
10. Consider Amendment of Signatures on Bank Depository
11. Revised 2023-2024 Salary Schedules
12. High School Security Fence RFP
13. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel

Closed Session – Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding OCR Complaint Ref. No. 06-20-1228 – The Board entered closed session at 6:47 p.m. and returned at 7:09 p.m. with no official action taken.

Consideration and Possible Action Regarding OCR Complaint Ref. No. 06-20-1228 – No action was taken.

Consider Request by the Texas Department of Transportation for Potential Sale of State-Owned Property – Smithville ISD is in receipt of the following communication from the Texas Department of Transportation: Potential Sale of State-Owned Property +/- 0.8813 acres: D14-011-512 SL 230@Faulkner Road, Smithville, Bastrop Co, TX 78957. The Austin District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that the above-described property is no longer needed for state highway purposes. In accordance with Texas Transportation Code 202.01, governmental entities with the authority to condemn the real property have a priority right to purchase TxDOT real property that is sold. The City of Smithville has expressed interest in purchasing the property. Mr. Tim Sanders with BEFCO Engineering was present at the meeting to answer any questions. After discussion, it was determined that Smithville I.S.D. was not interested in purchasing the property, as it was not in an area or a size that was useful to the district. Grant Gutierrez moved to authorize the superintendent to sign a waiver initiated by

TxDOT that indicates Smithville I.S.D.'s disinterest in purchasing the property in question. Josh Magden seconded the motion and the vote passed 7-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the purchase of a new marquee at the high school. This request is currently not budgeted and would require the use of fund balance to get the project completed. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Harris was available for discussion on this project. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the expenditure as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Call for Special Meeting to Canvass Results of May 4, 2024 Regular Election – The election for board trustees is Saturday, May 4, 2024. Chapter 67, subchapter 67.003 of the election code requires the Board of Trustees to canvass the results no earlier than the third day after the election and no later than the eleventh day after the election. Bastrop County Elections has suggested that we schedule our canvass for Tuesday, May 14th to allow for "cure" of any provisional ballots. Candice Parsons moved to call a special meeting to canvass the May 4, 2024 election results for Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Michael Hancock seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Karley Snyder, Stephanie Foster, Amaris White, Charles Hodge, Jordan Trahan, Sergio Gacia and Michael Shane Savoie. No action was required.

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. Mrs. Burns recommended the hire of Cydney Marlow, Shannon Munson, Lenard Mayo, Paul Jason Quinters, and Lance Neumann as teacher/coaches at the high school, Caralisa Mayo as a teacher at the junior high, and Courtenay Gulley, Nicole Cartledge and Jacqueline Tucker as teachers at the elementary school. Candice Parsons moved to approve the employment as presented. With a second from Nancy Towry, the vote passed 7-0.

Consider and Take Action Regarding Staff Contract Renewals – The administrators of the district have submitted to the office of the superintendent their recommendations for contract renewal of existing certified staff members. The Board of Trustees is the final hiring authority for certified contract employees for Smithville I.S.D. and will act upon the recommendations for renewal of certified staff as presented by the Superintendent. The Superintendent recommends renewal of current contracts, including addendums, for the 2024-2025 school year for the following personnel: Arnold Cavazos, Jennifer Holmes, Andrew Lowery, Bethany Collins, Leah Stinson, and Jenny Martinez. Josh Magden moved to approve the recommended renewal of staff as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote carried 7-0.

Adjournment – Alan Hemphill moved the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 7-0.