

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, May 17, 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: Mark Goulet, Shari Bang, Wayne King, Mary Bowen, Jean Ann McCarthy, Erin O'Rourke, Brittny Stanley, Ana Murray, Amy Frank, Tim Royster, Raven Stanley, Raini Stanley, Jenna Cardwell, Jodi Segel, Brandy Royster, RJ Cardwell, Trinity Turnipseed, Cassi Barrientos, Michelle Collums, Xavier, Peighton Willie, Hayden Willie, Holly Willie, Heidi Michalec, Stephanie Phelps, Wendy Hodge, Charles Hodge, Charles Hodge III, Jennifer Bezner, Margarita Igoe, Ashley Ward, Heath Ward, Paisley Ward, Corben Ward, Tristan Wilson-Ward, Shane Owen, Garry Synatschk, Steffani Motyka, Tommy Motyka, Cathy Witherspoon, Cindy Streamer, Mandy Witherspoon, Macey Witherspoon, TJ Witherspoon, Christina Witherspoon, Calvin Frank, Kim Hemphill, Shane Savage, Elisa Savage, Trinity Ibarra, Daniel Ibarra, Candy Biehle, Sophie Weinheimer, Michele Rutherford, Erik McCowan, David Edwards, Irene Heineke, Amanda Gommert, Richard Ferrell, Beatrice Cappas, Elizabeth Koch, R.D. Watson, Mickey Summers, Megan Voigt, Michael Caudill, Jennifer Vinklarek, Gregory Vinklarek, Dwight Stockton, Chelsey Goding, Hunter Goding, Carmen Goding, Christine Colosky, Jad Hubbard, Deanna Hubbard, Trayce Johnson, April Winder, Bobby Kellar, Linda Kellar, Lorre Mueller, Todd Mueller, Glenn Boatright, Ashlei, Whitney Brown, Cindy Cogdell, Ashley Gunter, Jason Segel, Jason Royster, Ron Cardwell, Charles Cleveland, Hillary Earp, Lili Hildman, Dianna King, Molly Cox, Jessie Margolis, James Horton, Shirley Bartsch, Christina Whited, Dale Guettler, Bailey Mathison, Ashley Ladewig, Julie Humke, Jennifer Ferrell, Charick Morris, Anita Schwartz, Farrah Cook, Jane Navarro, Brittney Ross, Jessica Goertz, Lisa Gonzales, Angela Zoch, Luke Segura, Melissa Slepekis, Crystal Vinklarek, Cortni Kana, Anna Goertz, Sarah Jones, Misty Vasquez, Casey Hanchey, Justin Bezner, Kevi Duty, Rachel Castillo, Kierstin Bitterly, Megan Hancock, Guillermina Jaimes, Nora McKeown, Natalia Stagner, Tricia Morrow, Karley wren, Ylonda Duncan, Brande Natal, Nancy Allen, Cameron Drummond, Courtney Haney, Sara Browning, Nicole H, James Dickson, Laurie Rector McCowan, Jenny Fulcher, Rene Maldonado, Kimberly Streuer, Trish Hawkins, Christin Hodges, David Fehlker, Kim Hendrix, Doug Berryman, Allison Mouser, whitney White, Macy Harwood, Jennifer Edwards, Matthey Jones, Daymona Hunsucker, Jamie Damon, Robert Evans, Sheila Namken, April Campos, Peggy Campion, Brandon Lippert, Amy Kennon, Ashley Cook, Martha Cardenas, Serena Segel, Donna Waters, Devon Behrens, Chloe Martin, Kacee Taylor, Stewart Burns, Jessica Sloan, Cindy Davis, Frank Trevino, Jennifer Bradshaw, Lisa Wood, Lacey Schwanke, Michelle Mullen, Natalia Hannath, Melissa Morrell, Dowell Garrison, Jason Hewitt, Charlynn Farris, Barbara Evanicky, Cammy Burns, Rachel Hurst, Leona Jones, Hannah Bales,

Sarah Gutierrez, Jessica Hodges, Walker Hancock, Carissa Bick, Amber Crawford, Shannon Alamillo, Ryan Fowler, Courtney N., Tess Otten, Andi Oates, Miranda Blaeuer, Mychele Reed, Belinda Waters, Mariah Segel, Craig Vinklerek, Garret Gutierrez, Shannon Bowling, Crystal Roberts, Lelia Joy, Dana Goertz, Stephanie Doradea, Cathy Sherrill, Jenny Davis, Valerie Breeden, Judith Bergeron, Amy Dallas, Kayla Herschap, Lora Hones, Deborah Rose, Lindsay King, Samantha Kommer, Lucy Slepekis, Kay Masters-Rinehart, Netanya McKeown, Cortess Anzaldua, Chris Roberts, Jaimie Kadlecek, Joanna Reynolds, Debra Blackwell, Abigail Barich, Raven Behrens, Tracie Dzenowski, Travis Gunter, Stephen Colosky, Dustin Behrens, Adena Lewis, LouAnn Peavy, Claire McMillin-Albin, Kaila Smith, Brenda Hughes, Stephanie Foster, Kiley Leiferman, Cassandra Parnell, Crystal Saffel, Ashley Cooper, Alicia Elam, Jenny Espinoza, Erin Zabel, Haley Pearcy, Kyli Spencer, Becky Bryant, Mike Fettis, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – Mr. Hemphill called the roll. All members were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Castillo’s class from Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Administer Statement of Officer to Elected Trustees – Article XVI, section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires all elected or appointed state and local officers to take the official oath of office and to subscribe to the anti-bribery statement (Form 2201-Statement of Officer) before entering upon the duties of their office. The Statement of Officer was issued to Mrs. Towry and Mr. Hemphill as required.

Oath of Office for New Board Members – Denise Behrens, acting in her capacity as a public notary, administered the oath of office for the newly elected School Board Trustees Nancy Towry, Place 3 and Alan Hemphill, Place 4.

Reorganization of the Board of Trustees – Board policies BDAA [Legal] and BDAA [Local] specify that the Board will elect a president, vice-president, and secretary at the first meeting after each election and qualification of Trustees. Candice Parsons moved to nominate Grant Gutierrez as President. Chris Hinnant seconded the motion and it passed 7-0. Nancy Towry moved to nominate Candice Parsons to remain as Vice-President. The vote was 7-0. Candice Parsons moved to nominate Nancy Towry to remain as Secretary. The vote was 7-0.

Board Recognitions

Recognition of Student Achievements –The Board recognized students who qualified for competition at the state level. They are: Brooklyn Hemphill and Rachel Frerich in CX Debate, Lainie Hubbard in News Writing, Bradley Boatright as alternate in News Writing, Nikolette Schmidt who placed 5th in pole vault, Brice Chabot who placed 7th in the 100m Dash and in the 200m Dash, Charles Hodge IV who placed 7th in the 400m Dash, Emma Huerta, who placed 11th at the state powerlifting meet, Crystal Lopez Digat, Kaylee Winegarner and Steeley Earp, who qualified for state in Floriculture. They also recognized the following members of the SHS Tiger Band who qualified for state competition in UIL Solo and Ensemble: Devany Flores, Amy

Frushay, Alexis Olivas; Mia Burns, Abbey Frushay, Joanna Ngim, Chloe Callan, Abbey Frushay, Chelsa Skotnicki, Bradley Boatright, Samatha Gurley, Charles King, Trevor Persinger, Trinity Campion, Tristan Campion, Bodie Hughes, Alexa Oballe-Escareno, Donley Romo-Pargas, Leah Segura, Micah Southwell, Kylie Tiner, Amanda Vinklerek, Kaitlyn Berryann, Sage Bryan, Rachel Frerich, Jasmin Huerta, Taylor Macedo, Chassity Navarette, Codie Segura, Kylie Spencer, Alondra Hernandez, Alexis Olivas, Annabella Bryan, Melvin Evans, Anna Garner, Clare Johnson, Aizik Trevino, Tristan Campion, Charles King, Iain Ferrell, Alyson Gray, Grace Hamilton, Michelle Holloway, Logan Motyka, Mason Southwell, Aiden Trevino, Damien Cazares, Crystal Lopez Digat, Mason Southwell, Carlee Edwards, Jesse Mayes, Braeden Smith, Nikki Turner, Dylan Bowling, Pedro Duran, Xavier Evans, Cody Kennon, Zachery Montgomery, Craig Bryan, Emma Burch, Brianna Knight, Mason Utecht, Sophie Prince, Samantha Dworaczyk, Ian Fettes, Brooklyn Hemphill, Lydia Johnson, and James Schuck. Congratulations to our students and staff for these wonderful accomplishments!

Recognition of Outstanding Students for the Fourth 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. The Board recognized Carina Berryann and Konner Namken, outstanding students chosen from Smithville Junior High School for the fourth nine-weeks, and Jasmin Huerta and Isaac Gonzales students chosen from the high school campus.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Mary Bowen, Brittny Stanley, Jodi Segel, Jason Royster, Ron Cardwell, Trinity Turnipseed, Cassie Barrientos, Jenna Cardwell, Megan Voit, Holly Willie, Heidi Michalec, Jennifer Bezner, Ashley Ward, Shane Owen, Garry Synatschk, Michele Rutherford, Charles Cleveland, Christine Colosky, Cindy Cogdell and Stephanie Phelps regarding their position on the current mask mandate. The Board also heard from Erik McCowan regarding Big Star Solar, LLC and Chapter 313, and from Dwight Stockton regarding teacher retention in the district.

The Board moved to the COVID-19 Update.

COVID-19 Update – Mr. David Edwards, Director of Federal Programs, presented an update on COVID-19 as it pertains to instruction and mitigation plans for the district.

The Board moved to the following agenda item:

Review and Possibly Revoke or Alter the Current Mask Policy at SISD – On March 2, 2021 Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-34 relating to the opening of Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster, which included the guidance that public schools may operate as provided by, and under the minimum standard health protocols found in, guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency. Alan Hemphill moved to revoke the mask mandate effective immediately. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded and the motion carried 6-1 with Grant Gutierrez opposing.

The Board of Trustees recessed at 8:07 p.m. and returned at 8:21 p.m.

Consent Agenda – Alan Hemphill moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Consent Agenda included:

1. Minutes
2. Financial Statements
3. State Aid Comparison - Budgeted vs. Earned
4. Earned vs. TEA Payments
5. Tax Collection Report
6. 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 including:

- The Board of Trustees canvassed its May 1, 2021 election on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. Mrs. Towry and Mr. Hemphill were declared winners of Places 3 and 4.
- Brookshire Brothers has donated 320 bottles of water for the SES and Brown Primary play days.
- Brown Primary and Smithville Elementary have had to reschedule their play days for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.
- The Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet last Saturday. The Child Nutrition department was recognized as the Organization of the Year and Smithville ISD was presented the Mayor's Award.
- The Theater department will have their awards ceremony tomorrow evening, National Junior Honor Society will have their induction ceremony tomorrow evening, the high school will have their scholarship award ceremony on Wednesday evening and the junior high band will have their spring concert on Thursday evening.
- Congratulations to the Lady Tiger softball team who made it to the quarter finals.
- Mrs. Burns and Mrs. McCarthy are working on cost estimates for playground equipment at the newly renovated elementary facilities.

Report on Status and Financial Impact of Value Limitation Application from Big Star Solar, LCC. - No. 1531 – School district attorneys were present at the meeting, in-person and virtually, to update the Board of Trustees on the timeline and the status of the Big Star Solar, LLC project as it relates to the district.

Graduation Ceremony Procedures – High School Graduation will be held on Friday, May 28, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. at Tiger Stadium in Smithville, Texas. Tucker Copeland, high school principal, reviewed the Board's role in the upcoming graduation ceremony.

Tentative June Agenda Items – Tentative items to be included on the June regular agenda:

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Covid-19 Update

- d. First Draft of the 2021-2022 District Budget
- e. Technology Report
- f. Schedule Board Meeting Dates for 2021-2022
- g. Board Self Evaluation
- h. Personnel

Closed Session

Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Value Limitation Application from Big Star Solar, LCC. - No. 1531. Tex. Gov't Code Sections 551.071, 551.087 and 551.129 – The Board did not adjourn to closed session.

Action Items

Possible action on matters discussed in closed session including value limitation agreement from Big Star Solar, LCC. - No. 1531 – No action was taken.

Consider Custodial Contract Renewal – Our current agreement with IQS, Inc became effective June 15, 2019. The agreement was for one year with four possible renewals each year thereafter by amendment upon approval of the Board of Trustees. This request was for the 2nd renewal request for this contract. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the custodial contract with IQS, Inc. as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Depository Bids and Award Depository Contract – The district is required to bid for depository services every two years (with the possibility of three additional two-year terms). Depository contracts must be awarded prior to the conclusion of our current contract on August 31, 2021. Bid documents were sent out to all banks located within the district boundaries as required by Texas Education Code 45.206. The bid was received and opened on April 28, 2021 in accordance with purchasing law. The depository bid was reviewed to determine the best offer for the services requested and a bid tabulation was prepared. Alan Hemphill moved to award the bid to First National Bank as presented. Nancy Towry seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Consider Approval to Amend Signatures on Bank Depository – As a result of the reorganization of the Board of Trustees there was a change in officers. The Board President and the Board Secretary must be authorized to sign on the District accounts at First National Bank, the District's depository. Alan Hemphill moved to remove himself as President on the account and add Grant Gutierrez in his place. Nancy Towry seconded and the vote passed 7-0. The Board Secretary remained unchanged.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – Jean Ann McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer, requested action to authorize the purchase of a special needs bus and a contract for roof repairs on the Elementary gym, which will exceed \$50,000. In accordance with Board Policy CH (Local), Candice Parsons moved to approve the expenditures as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Approval of Instructional Materials Allotment and Textbook Adoption –

Board policies EFAA (legal) and EFAA (local) address the selection and adoption of instructional materials for the district. The textbook adoption came to the Board in a previous meeting. However, this is a new template required by TEA that includes all materials currently used in the district and requires additional Board action for approval. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the Instructional Materials Allotment and Textbook Adoption as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Call for Board Workshop to Discuss 2021-2022 District Budget – No action was taken.

Call for Special Board Workshop to Review Board Goals – No action was taken.

Consider Appointment of Delegate to Represent Smithville ISD at the 2021 TASA/TASB Convention Delegate Assembly – Grant Gutierrez moved to appoint Candice Parsons as delegate for the TASB Delegate Assembly on September 25, 2021. Nancy Towry seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Distribution of Board Self-Evaluation Materials – The Board President requested that a completed Board Self-Assessment Instrument be returned by each member of the Board for tabulation on the week prior to the regular June meeting.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignation of Dawn Vinklerek, teacher at Smithville High School. 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. The Superintendent recommends employment of the following employees: Leanna Gray, teacher at the high school, Jacob Rigby, teacher/coach at the junior high and Brandi Lindquist, a teacher at the elementary. Mrs. Burns also recommended a contract renewal be issued to Cyndee Johnson, teacher at the junior high. Candice Parsons moved to approve employment of personnel for the 2021-2022 as recommended by the Superintendent. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded and the motion passes 7-0.

Adjournment – The Board of Trustees ended its meeting at 9:35 p.m.