

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 23, 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: Alan Hemphill, Grant Gutierrez, Chris Hinnant, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry, Howard Burns, Jr. (virtual) and Mike Davis, Jr. (virtual)

Others present: Michelle Rutherford, Bill Glass, Judith Bergeron, Jim Horton, Andy Smith, Noe McCarthy, Jean Ann McCarthy, Justin Bezner, Casey Hanchey, Steve Schroeder, Sophie Weinheimer, Ana Murray, Stephanie Foster, Amanda Gommert, Danne Absher, Calvin Frank, Amy Frank, Ashley Ward, Heidi Michalec, Farrah Cook, Justin Bezner, Amy Brown, David Edwards, Nicole Curry Deshongh, Jon Deshongh, Michael Caudill, Stephanie Phelps, Susan LeVieux, Gary Synatschk, Emily Synatschk, Margarit Igoe, Maria Adkins, Todd Mueller, Josh Magden, Mark Goulet, 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. Mr. Burns and Mr. Davis participated virtually.

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 2021-2022 proposed budget.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Michelle Rutherford, Bill Glass, Judy Bergeron, Andy Smith, Jill Strube, Steve Schroeder, Amy Frank, Ashley Ward, Holly Willie, Danne Absher, Amy Brown, Justin Bezner, Craig Vinklerek, Jennifer Bezner, Stephanie Phelps and Casey Hanchey regarding the current Covid 19 pandemic including requirements for mitigation by the school district, and possible changes in current procedures.

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. 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, will include the August financial report in the September agenda.

Superintendent's Report – The Superintendent updated the Board on important issues pertaining to the District, including:

- Enrollment numbers as of August 20th: Brown Primary 188, elementary 619, junior high 392 and high school 558 for a total enrollment of 1757
- Our first home varsity football game is this Friday, August 27, against Cedar Creek. We have a home volleyball game on Tuesday, August 31.
- Reserved seats for the 2021 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!
- Belinda Waters, a technician in the Technology Department, will be retiring on Friday after 21 years of service in Smithville ISD.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

The Board President moved to the following order:

Course Selection Clarification – Our high school students are encouraged to pursue their areas of interest and special talents to enrich their academic experience. In an effort to enhance these pursuits Smithville HS seniors may request courses and class periods that are GPA-exempt. Cari Ulrich, High School Counselor, reviewed the Smithville ISD GPA Exempt Options Policy for 2021-2022 with the Board of Trustees.

Technology Report – In an effort to keep the Board of Trustees updated on the status of technology in the district, Dr. Michael Caudill, Assistant Superintendent, gave a short report on the status of technology in the district.

Tentative September Agenda Items – Tentative items for the September agenda are:

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. COVID-19 Update
- d. Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans
- e. Personnel

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

Safe Return to School Plan – Included in the board packet was the Safe Return to School Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Edwards presented the plan and addressed questions from the Board of Trustees.

Closed Session

Consultation with Attorney Regarding Public Health Directives and Protective

Measures. Tex. Gov't Code, Sec. 551.071 – The Board entered closed session at 8:22 p.m. and returned at 9:01 p.m. with no official action taken.

Action Items

Discussion/Action Regarding Public Health Directives and Protective Measures – Chris Hinnant moved to implement universal masking once an individual campus reached 5% Covid positivity. The motion died for lack of a second. No action was taken.

Discussion/Action Regarding Program of Additional COVID Leave Days for Employees – Alan Hemphill moved to allow a one-time eight day leave with pay for a staff member with a documented positive Covid test. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 6-1 with Chris Hinnant opposed.

Consider Adoption of the 2021-2022 District Budget – The Board is required to adopt an operational budget before the beginning of the fiscal year, which begins September 1st. Alan Hemphill moved to adopt the 2021-2022 district budget as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Adoption of the 2021-2022 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 tax rate necessary to fund the proposed 2021-2022 budget is \$1.2003 per hundred. That includes an M&O rate of \$0.9603 and an I&S rate of \$0.24 representing a combined decreased rate of \$0.11 for M&O and I&S from the 2020-2021 budget year. The M&O rate is the maximum rate approved by voters in the tax ratification election held May 14, 2011. The I&S rate is the necessary rate to pay for bonded indebtedness. Alan Hemphill moved to adopt a resolution to set the tax rate as presented. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Regulation Approving Self-Certification of Increased Micro-Purchase Threshold for FY 2021-2022 – 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 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 accept the recommendation of the Administration to approve the Self-Certification of Increased Micro-Purchase Threshold for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Board Goals – The Board is responsible for adopting a vision statement and comprehensive goals for the district and the superintendent and monitoring the progress toward those goals. Chris Hinnant moved to approve the board goals as presented. With a second from Candice Parsons, the motion carried 7-0.

Schedule Board Meeting Dates for 2021-2022 – The Smithville I.S.D. Board of Trustees traditionally meets on the third Monday of each month. There are several months throughout the year that those regular meeting dates conflict with school holidays, etc. At this time, we would like to recommend the following dates for regular board meetings during the 2021-2022 school year:

Monday, September 20, 2021 (third Monday), Monday, October 18, 2021 (third Monday), Monday, November 15, 2021 (third Monday), Monday, December 13, 2021 (second Monday due to conflict with winter break school closure), Monday, January 24, 2022 (fourth Monday due to conflict with Martin L. King holiday), Monday, February 28, 2022 (fourth Monday due to conflict with student/staff holiday scheduled for Monday, February 21, 2022), Monday, March 28, 2022 (fourth Monday due to conflict with Spring Break), Monday, April 18, 2022 (third Monday), Monday, May 16, 2022 (third Monday), Monday, June 20, 2022 (third Monday), Monday, July 18, 2022 (third Monday). Nancy Towry moved to approve the dates for future board meetings as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent would like to inform the Board of the resignation of Nancy Allen, teacher at Smithville Junior High. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – There is no employment recommended at this time.

Adjournment – The board ended its meeting at 10:17 p.m.