

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, December 14, 2020 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Red Brick Building (Board In-Person, Public ZOOM)

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IeF83tcST0CZ8FHWOLFdqA

Red Brick Building, 901 N.E. 6th Street, Smithville, TX 78957.

Members present: Howard Burns, Jr., Alan Hemphill, Grant Gutierrez, Tay Campbell, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry

Members absent: Mike Davis, Jr.

Others present: Gabriela Calderon, Ma Igoe, Natalia Hannath, Molly Cox, Bridget Borja, Rebekah Hinnant, Beth Koch, Belinda Waters, Shari Bang, Steffani Motyka, Andy Sevier, Lisa Gonzales, Michael Caudill, Jean Ann McCarthy, Ana Murray, David Edwards, Chris Kelly, Tucker Copeland, Kevin Randolph, Stephanie Foster, Devon Behrens, Erik McCowan, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call – The Board President called the roll of members. Mike Davis, Jr. was absent. All other members were present.

Recognitions

Outstanding Students of the First 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. Samuel Praditbatuga, an eighth grader, has been selected as the outstanding student for the first nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Samuel is the son of Michael and Adrienne Praditbatuga. Two students have been selected as outstanding students from Smithville High School for the first nine-weeks. They are Amanda Vinklarek and Israel Barragan, Jr.. Amanda is in the twelfth grade and is the daughter of Gregory and Jennifer Vinklarek. Israel is also in the twelfth grade and is the son of Israel and Lara Barragan. Due to the current COVID restrictions, the outstanding students were interviewed, and a video presentation was made to the Board.

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

Consent Agenda – Candice Parsons moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

1. Minutes

2. Financial Statements
3. Investment Report
4. State Aid Comparison - Budgeted vs. Earned
5. Earned vs. TEA Payments
6. Tax Collection Report
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 shared the following information with the Board of Trustees:

- There will be a special called meeting in January to discuss the Chapter 313 agreements.
- Congratulations to the Tiger Band for their selection as Area Finalists at the Area Marching Contest at Hays High School on December 5th. There were 26 bands at Area prelims. Of the 26 bands, only the top 10 finishes from prelims were selected as Area Finalists. The Tiger Band was selected as an Area Finalist and placed 9th overall, only 4 spots from State! This is the 2nd time the Smithville Band has qualified as an Area Finalist (the previous time was in 2016). We are so proud of our Tiger Band for having such a fantastic season and keeping the streak alive with their 16th consecutive 1st division ratings in UIL Marching Contests!
- Santa will visit Brown Primary on Friday.
- Unfortunately, we will not be hosting our annual holiday social but will be providing treats to the staff in other special ways.
- 750 additional Chrome Books will arrive this Wednesday.
- We are in the process of checking out hotspots to those students who need them.
- Basketball has “tipped off” and other spring sports will begin very soon!

2016 Bond Renovation Update by PBK and Drymalla Construction – Mrs. Burns reported that the renovation process at Smithville Elementary is nearing completion and the move has begun.

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

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

- a. Public Hearing - Present F.I.R.S.T. Ratings
- b. Financial Report
- c. Superintendent's Report
- c. 2016 Bond Phase 3 Update from PBK and Drymalla Construction
- d. COVID-19 Report
- e. Call for Regular School Board Election, May 1, 2021
- f. Consider Approval of Election Services Contract with Bastrop County
- g. Consider Approval of Joint Election Agreement with the City of Smithville

- h. Personnel
- i. Superintendent's Evaluation/Contract Renewal

Action Items

Review and Approve 2019-2020 District Financial Audit – As required by the Texas Education Agency, an annual audit of financial information is conducted to assure that all legal requirements are being met and sound fiscal responsibility is maintained. The audit was conducted by Eide Bailly, LLP. Kevin Randolph, who is an Audit Senior Manager with Eide Bailly, reviewed the audit with the Board of Trustees. The audit was unable to be completed at this time due to an unforeseen delay of documentation from TEA, and no action was taken on this item.

Approve a Resolution to continue EPSL paid leave for the 2020-2021 school year as District EPSL – The Families First Coronavirus Response Act took effect on April 2, 2020 and is set to expire on December 31, 2020. The Emergency Paid Sick Leave allows up to 80 hours of leave for an employee who seeks a medical diagnosis for COVID-19, is diagnosed with COVID-19, or is caring for a child or individual due to COVID-19. Because leave benefits include paid leave, to avoid a gift of public funds issues, the Board is required to make findings in the form of a resolution that the extension of paid benefits is for a public purpose. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the resolution regarding extension of time to use emergency paid sick leave for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Candice Parsons seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Personnel

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignation of Teri-Dawn Tiroff. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommended employment of Sara Parks as a teacher at Brown Primary and Devon Behrens as a teacher at Smithville Elementary. Howard Burns, Jr. moved to employ Sara Parks and Devon Behrens as presented by the Superintendent. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Closed session – The Board entered closed session at 7:25 p.m. and returned at 8:35 p.m. with no official action taken.

Superintendent's Self-Evaluation Submission to the Board of Trustees and Distribution of Evaluation Materials – This item was conducted in closed session.

Adjournment – The Board ended its meeting at 8:35 p.m.