

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, January 27, 2025 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, Chelsa Vinklarek, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Bryan Jones, Michael Hancock

Others present: Zack Harris, Sarah Vinklarek, Kristen Merriweather, Karen Williams, Rebecca Hamilton, Tracy Johnson, Lindsey Saunders, Tucker Copeland, Whitney Brown, Denis McGinness, Kerry Hayes, Tony Hayes, Linda Jackson, Teddrick Anderson, Aiyana Anderson, Katy Lyytinen, Emonnie Davis, Glenn Coble, Bethany Logan, Kaylee Dunlap, Lindsey Randall, Nick Randall, Krystel Gutierrez, Anne Seidel, Caleb Murrile, Amy Spahn, Leah Stinson, Molly Cox, Crystal Saffel, Jesse Marx, Zack Harris, Sean Sanchez, Bonny Lynn Joplin, Christine Badillo, Stacy White, Candy Biehle, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call – The Board President called the roll of members. Mr. Hancock was absent for roll call but arrived at 7:22 p.m.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students who have earned the most Tiger Tokens at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Makensie Dunlap, Adalynn Coble, Blayne Lyytinen, Hudson Zimmerhazel, Blake Hilbig, Kohl Cooper, Rosaleigh Saunders, Chloe Cox, Eli Bennett and Leo Hancock.

Recognition of Outstanding Students for the Second 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. Savanna Marx and Lawson Randall and have been chosen as outstanding students for the second nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Savanna is a sixth grader, and the daughter of Kerry Marx and Jesse Marx. Lawson is an eighth grader, and the son of Nicholas and Lindsey Randall. Outstanding students chosen from Smithville High School are Emeline Gutierrez and Bodie Goertz. Emeline is a ninth grader and the daughter of Grant and Krystel Gutierrez. Bodie is a tenth grader and the son of Chris and Alesha Goertz. Bodie was unable to attend the meeting. Congratulations to these students for their outstanding achievement!

Smithville Elementary School Tiger of the Month – This year, Smithville Elementary School is excited to celebrate outstanding students by introducing the "Tiger of the Month" recognition. Elementary staff will nominate students who exhibit characteristics such as kindness, strong character, and helpfulness. Each month, one exceptional student will be honored by the campus, recognized at the school board meeting, and will receive a special yard sign to proudly display at home. The Tiger of the Month for January is Destin Anderson, a fifth grader in Mrs. Polich's class. Congratulations to Destin!

Tiger Award Recipient Recognition – Tiger Award recipients are nominated by peers. Each campus and department will nominate a representative. Final nominations will be voted on by a select committee. Each campus and department will have an award winner that will be recognized at the board meeting every nine-weeks. The Board recognized the following Tiger Award winners for the first nine-weeks - Brown Primary - Caleb Murrile (PE Teacher), Smithville Elementary - Crystal Saffel (Teacher), Smithville Junior High - Arlene Davenport (Teacher), Smithville High School - Anne Seidel (Teacher), Central Office – Denise Miles (Technology).

Public Hearing - Texas Academic Performance Report and SES Targeted Improvement Plan – Texas Education Code 39 requires every school district's Board of Trustees to: (a) publish an annual report describing the district's educational performance on the TAPR or Texas Academic Performance Report indicators (and include the campus performance objectives); (b) hold a hearing for public discussion of the report; and (c) widely disseminate the report within the district. The district staff has prepared and published the 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report, and Dr. Bethany Logan, Assistant Superintendent, presented it to the group at the public hearing. A copy of the report has been provided to each board member, and copies of the report will be placed in libraries in the district, the city library, the chamber of commerce and the city hall. The report will also be placed on the district website. Dr. Bethany Logan also presented the Smithville Elementary School Targeted Improvement Plan at the public hearing.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Kristen Merriweather, with Smithville Texas News. She will be attending and reporting on school board meetings in the future.

Consent Agenda – Josh Magden moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 8, including the bond payments resolution and budget amendments, as presented. With a second from Candice Parsons, the vote 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. Bond Payments Resolution
8. Budget Amendments

Financial Report – The business manager, Sean Sanchez, 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 in the District, including:

- January is Board Appreciation Month. We would like to express our gratitude for the Smithville ISD Board of Trustees for the selfless gift of their time and service to the students and staff of Smithville ISD.
- Enrollment numbers as of Friday, January 24, 2025 is 1849 students, with an average attendance of 89.89%.
- Holocaust Remembrance Week - Activities
- Administrative and campus staff are currently working to present the 2025-2026 school calendar at the regular board meeting in February.
 - * The calendar survey has been issued
 - * The campus site-based committees are meeting
 - * The district site-based committee will meet on February to review and decide on a draft to submit to the Board of Trustees
 - * Submission to the Board for approval
- Please submit nominations for parent members of the School Health Advisory Committee.
- Reminder - we have a special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 29 2025 at 6pm to interview search firms for the superintendent search process. School board members are asked to please submit any questions you may have for the firms who will be attending the meeting to Mrs. Burns by 5pm tomorrow.
- On February 14 we will be conducting CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) training for SISD staff. The Bastrop County Sheriff's Office will be leading the training
- The last day to file for the Board of Trustees is Friday, February 14th at 5:00 p.m. Places 5, 6 and 7 are up for election. At this time, all three incumbents have filed.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Update – Lindsey Saunders, District Communications Officer, gave a progress report/update on the Smithville I.S.D. Strategic Plan, focusing on how the plan is communicated in the district.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Smithville ISD Strategic Plan Update
- d. School Safety and Security Report
- e. Bond Discussion
- f. Review and Approve 2025-2026 District Calendar
- g. Personnel
- h. Administrative Contract Review/Renewal

Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 7:22 p.m. and returned at 8:24 p.m. with no official action taken.

Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding OCR Complaint Ref. No. 06-20-1228

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 consultation with attorney regarding the construction contracts with Drymalla and subcontractor Alliance regarding the roof repairs at the Junior High School – This was discussed in closed session.

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

Consider Approval of the Smithville Elementary Targeted Improvement Plan – Candice Parsons moved to approve the Smithville Elementary Targeted Improvement Plan as presented. Chelsa Vinklarek seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Order of Board of Trustees Election for May 3, 2025 – State statute requires that annually each governing body call for an election to be held in accordance with existing election law. The Smithville Independent School District Board of Trustees, being a governing body and electing representatives by place, must call for the election. The Smithville Independent School District Board of Trustees has established the first Saturday in May as its regular election date. This year, the election falls on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Three places are up for election. They are: Place 5 - Candice Parsons, Place 6 - Joshua Magden, Place 7 - Michael Hancock. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the Order of Election as presented. Bryan Jones seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Approval of Election Services Contract with Bastrop County – As of January 2006, Smithville ISD has been contracting election services with the County of Bastrop. Since that time, the Bastrop County Elections Administrator has overseen all elections ordered by the school district for a 10% administrative fee. The total cost of the May election for Smithville ISD including supplies, polling place personnel, administrative fee, etc. is estimated at \$14,410.32. The district would like to continue to contract elections services from Bastrop County. The proposed contract was presented for approval. Josh Magden moved to approve the contract for election services with Bastrop County as requested. Grant Gutierrez seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Election Services Contract with Fayette County – As of January 2006, Smithville ISD has been contracting election services with the County of Bastrop. Since that time, the Bastrop County Elections Administrator has overseen all elections ordered by the school district and will continue to do so for voters who reside within the county. However, Bastrop County Elections is now a county-wide polling program, which means that any voter of any jurisdiction located in Bastrop County is allowed to cast a vote in any polling place in that county. Currently, Smithville ISD has 169 voters who reside in Fayette County. Fayette County Elections has kindly agreed to contract services for SISD constituents who reside in Fayette County for an estimated \$825. The proposed contract was presented for approval. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the contract for election services with Fayette County as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Caitlyn Wyatt, Gregory Maxwell, Arlene Davenport and Mark Wolf. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommends the employment of Brandi Bauerle as a teacher at Smithville Elementary. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the employment of Ms. Bauerle as requested. Josh Magden seconded the motion and the vote passed 7-0.

Adjournment – Candice Parsons moved the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. Michael Hancock seconded and the Board President adjourned the meeting after a 7-0 vote.