

## 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, October 24, 2022 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:** Bethany Logan, Stephanie Foster, Zack Harris, Noe McCarthy, Tucker Copeland, Amanda Gommert, Raven Behrens, Cory Williams, Michael Caudill, Justin Bezner, Margarita Igoe, Candy Biehle, Jean Ann McCarthy, Joe Gonzales, Crystal Lopez Digat, Dennys Digat, Megan Wofford, Theresa Thomas, Rachel Castillo, Michael Castillo, Kerry Maxx, Megan Lowery, Andrew Lowery, Denise Miles, Kelly Ellington, Rebecca Hamilton, Tessa Otten, Michael Otten, Amber Gonzales, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

**Call to Order** – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Student Led Pledge of Allegiance** – Students from the House of Compassion at Smithville Elementary led the group virtually in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students are: Lynleigh Roberts, Reagan Gonzalez, Scarlett Knight, Carley O'Neil, and Aubree Luna.

**Character Education Speaker** – Student guest speakers will be present at each board meeting to read a short essay on the Character Trait of the Month. For the October Board meeting, the Board heard from Brookelyn Hardeman, a second grader in Mrs. Blackwell's class, and Savannah Marx, a fourth grader in Mr. Vasquez's class, on the character trait, compassion.

**Outstanding Students for 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. Konleigh Helgren and Marlon Ellington-Betancurth, both eighth graders, were selected as the outstanding students for the first nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Konleigh is the daughter of Clinton and Tara Helgren, and Marlon is the son of Kelly Ellington. Two students have been selected as outstanding students from Smithville High School for the first nine-weeks. They are Evyan Parnell, an eleventh grader, and Hector Gonzales, a senior. Evyan is the daughter of Lelia Joy and Joshua

Parnell. Hector is the son of Joe and Victoria Gonzales. All four students were present at the meeting to receive recognition from the Board.

**Recognition of High School Students (College Board)** – High School students excelled in College Board assessments and schoolwork to earn these awards, which colleges use to identify academically competitive underrepresented students Smithville, TX - Smithville High School students have earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs. These National Recognition Programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them meaningfully connect to colleges and stand out during the admissions process. Colleges and scholarship programs identify students awarded National African American, Hispanic, Indigenous and/or Rural/Small Town Recognition through College Board's Student Search Service. The five students recognized from Smithville High School are: Blain Stockton: NRSTA\*, Colton Towry: NRSTA\*, Crystal Lopez Digat: NHRA\*\*, NRSTA\*, Evyan Parnell: NRSTA\*, and Moksh Patel: NRSTA\*.

**Tiger Awards** – 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 9-weeks. The Board recognized the Tiger Award winners for the first nine-weeks: Brown Primary - Rachel Castillo, Smithville Elementary - Megan Lowery, Smithville Junior High - Denise Miles, Smithville High School - Tessa Otten.

**Public Communications** – There were no communications from the public.

**Consent Agenda** – Josh Magden moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 7 as presented. With a second from Candice Parsons, 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
7. Budget Amendments

**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:

- Enrollment numbers as of October 21st are 1881 students with an average daily attendance of 90.59%.
- There have been two safety visits from outside security contractors and campuses who were visited passed with flying colors.
- Mrs. Burns will be the guest speaker at the Chamber Luncheon on Wednesday.
- Mrs. Burns will be out of the office on Friday.

- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

**SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight: Curriculum Update** – The Board will be 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 progress within the district and on campuses. The program highlight for this month was a curriculum update. Dr. Logan was present at the meeting to highlight curriculum, including Close Like a Boss and CATCH.

**Security Update** – Dr. Michael Caudill, Assistant Superintendent, reported to the Board on measures being taken in the district to address safety and security for students and staff.

**Update on Current Bond Finances** – Chris Allen, with RBC Capital Markets, LLC, was present at the September meeting to give an update to the Board of Trustees on the current bond environment and tax rate impact analysis for Smithville ISD. After discussion, the Board made a request for additional information. Mr. Allen has gathered the information as requested and Jean Ann McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer for SISD, discussed the update with the Board.

**Child Nutrition Report** – Candy Biehle, Child Nutrition Director, reported to the Board on numerous activities that she and her staff are involved in throughout the year as well as last year’s highlights and programs.

**Bilingual Report** – TEC 7.028 states: (b)The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school has primary responsibility for ensuring that the district or school complies with all applicable requirements of state educational programs. Dr. Bethany Logan, Director of Curriculum, stood in for Whitney Brown, Special Programs Coordinator, and presented the report to the Board as required by the Texas Education Code.

**School Safety Training for Board of Trustees as Required Under HB 690** – Mrs. Burns shared updated board training requirements with the Board of Trustees.

**Tentative November Agenda Items** – Tentative agenda items for the November board agenda are:

FIRST Ratings Public Hearing

b. Financial Report

c. Superintendent’s Report

d. Review and Approve 2021-2022 School District Audit

e. Voting for Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors

f. Personnel

**Consider Approval of Certified Levy in Accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code 26.09(e)** – The district is in receipt of a request from Ellen Owens, Tax Assessor/Collector for the Smithville Independent School District, for approval of the attached document in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code 26.09(e). This document requires that the Board of Trustees approve the original certified tax levy. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the request as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

**Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000** – The purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the purchase of Elementary playground upgrades for our 3rd grade area. These upgrades include making our playground more available for wheelchair access. A budget amendment was presented in the consent agenda to utilize \$200,000 for the playground upgrades. If it is decided that Smithville ISD would like to proceed with Option 2, an additional budget amendment will be presented at the November Board Meeting. Candice Parsons moved to approve Option 1 as presented. Nancy Towry seconded the motion and discussion ensued. Candice Parsons moved to amend her motion in approval of Option 2. Nancy Towry rescinded her second for Option 1, and seconded the vote in approval of Option 2. The vote passed 7-0 for Option 2.

**Resignations of Certified Personnel** – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Leah Steinbrink, teacher at Smithville Junior High and Lacie Jeffrey, teacher at Smithville Elementary. No action was required.

**Employment of Certified Personnel** – The Superintendent recommended employment of: Jessica Pack as a teacher at Brown Primary School Nancy Towry moved to approve employment of Jessica Pack for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year as recommended. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Adjournment – the Board ended its meeting at 7:47 p.m.