

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 23, 2023 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, Whitney Brown, Lindsey Saunders, Anna Goertz, Tucker Copeland, Michele Rutherford, Ed Randle, Crystal Vinklarek, Lyla Vinklarek, Kevin Vinklarek, Alicia Vera, Brande Natal, Amanda Gommert, Chelsea Chaloupka, Noemi Agustin, Jessica Hodges, Rebecca Hamilton, Deborahday Hensley, David Hensley, Talon Hensley, Chris Behrens, Devon Behrens, Preston Behrens, Connor Behrens, Ronald Behrens, Caitlin Wyatt, Vicki Vinklarek, Dwan Yougone, Daniel Yougone, Evelyn Pease, Yolanda Hernandez, Margarita Igoe, Jean Ann McCarthy, Candy Biehle, Brenda Hughes, Zayna Williams, Adirana Agustin, Kinslee Wyatt, Asher Vinegas, Bailey Goertz, Owen Chaloupka, Zamyah Williams, Kendrick Fisher, Harper Hodges, Dawsyn Behrens, Raven Behrens, Penney Behrens, Cory Williams, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – The Board President called the roll of members. Mr. Hemphill and Mrs. Towry were absent for roll call, but arrived later.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students representing the House System at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Connor Behrens, Adirana Agustin, Kinslee Wyatt, Asher Vinegas, Bailey Goertz, Owen Chaloupka, Zamyah Williams, and Kendrick Fisher.

Character Education Speakers – Student guest speakers are invited to each board meeting to read a short essay on the Character Trait of the Month. The Board heard from Dawsyn Behrens, a fourth grader in Mrs. Kaatz's class, and Harper Hodges, a second grader in Mrs. Heimann's class on the character trait “Confidence”.

Recognition of Outstanding Students for the 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. Lyla Vinklarek and Daniel Yougone were chosen as outstanding students for the second nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Lyla is in the 8th grade and is the daughter of Kevin and Crystal Vinklaek. Daniel is a 6th grader and is the son of Franck Yougone and Dwan Ervin. Outstanding students chosen from Smithville High School were Kaitlyn Berryann, 12th grade daughter of Doug and Ana Berryann, and Talon Hensley, 12th grade son of David and Deborahday Hensley.

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 9-weeks. The Board recognized the Tiger Award winners for the second nine-weeks: Brown Primary - Vicki Vinklarek (Teacher), Smithville Elementary - Brande Natal (Teacher), Smithville Junior High - Jenny Davis (Teacher), Smithville High School - Evelyn Pease (Paraprofessional), ISD - Jamie Porter/John Armstrong (Technology).

Public Hearing - Texas Academic Performance Report – 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. Dr. Bethany Logan presented the report to the Board of Trustees and meeting attendees.

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

Consent Agenda – Candice Parsons moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 7 as presented. With a second from Michael Hancock, the motion carried 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. Bond Payments Resolution

Financial Report – The Chief Financial Officer, Jean Ann McCarthy, will review 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:

- January is School Board Appreciation Month. The theme for 2023 is Forward Together. Smithville ISD would like to express sincere appreciation to our Board of Trustees for their time and dedication to the students and staff of our district.
- Enrollment numbers as of January 2023 are 1872 students overall, with an attendance of 93.70%.

- The first day to file for a seat on the school board was Wednesday, January 18, 2023. No applications have been received at this time. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 17, 2023.
- TARS Day at the Capitol, February 22-23, 2023 - for Superintendents and Trustees.
- The Tiger Insider is at your seats.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

Review of District and Campus Improvement Plans Status Reports – A format has been designed for an end of the year status report, which allows the Board to monitor the implementation of the District and Campus Improvement Plan. District and campus site-based committees have reviewed the progress of the implementation of each plan and staff members have prepared the status reports for the respective improvement plans. The principal, staff, and site base committee are responsible for evaluating each improvement plan. Dr. Bethany Logan, Director of Curriculum, reviewed the status reports with the Board.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. School Safety and Security Report
- d. SHAC Report
- e. ESSER III/Continuity of Services Update
- f. Review and Approve 2023-2024 District Calendar
- g. Consider Renewal of District of Innovation
- h. Review of Information Reported in the 2021-2022 TAPR
- i. Personnel
- j. Administrative Contract Review/Renewal

Consider Approval of Audit Engagement Letter – In accordance with Texas Education Agency requirements and law the district is required to have an annual financial audit performed. In 2021 and 2022, the Board of Trustees voted to approve the firm of Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, PC. Once again, administration recommended approval for the 2022-2023 school year. Josh Magden moved to approve the audit engagement letter as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Order of Board of Trustees Election for May 6, 2023 – 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 6, 2023. Two places are up for election. They are Place 1, currently held by Chris Hinnant and Place 2, currently held by Grant Gutierrez. Michael Hancock moved to call for election of Places 1 and 2, and to approve the Judges, Alternates, Early Voting Ballot Board, Early Voting Clerk, and polling locations as provided by the Bastrop County and Fayette County Elections Administrators. Nancy Towry seconded the

motion and it passed 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 \$16,098.63. The district would like to continue to contract elections services from Bastrop County. According to Chapter 271 of the Election Code, school districts are required to hold their elections jointly with the municipality located within the district. In the past, we conducted our elections jointly with the city of Smithville. However, Bastrop County now conducts countywide voting services, which allows all municipalities in the county to conduct a joint election, and will satisfy the Chapter 271 requirement. Josh Magden made a motion to approve the contract for election services with Bastrop County Elections as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the vote 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 has taken action to approve 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. The elections administrator for Bastrop County has notified us that they will no longer be able to provide services for SISD Fayette County voters, due to implementation of the county-wide polling program. The concern is that it would be difficult to monitor voter residence for multiple counties at such a large number of polling places. Fayette County Elections has kindly agreed to contract services for SISD constituents who reside in Fayette County for an estimated \$750 plus cost of election officials. Josh Magden moved to approve the contract for election services with Fayette County as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Approval of Membership and Participation in the Region 10 ESC Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative for School Year 2023-2024 – Candy Biehle, Child Nutrition Director, requested that the Board of Trustees consider membership in the Region 10 ESC Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative for the next school year. Studies prove that schools participating in a child nutrition purchasing cooperative receive better pricing and higher selection of products with higher fill rates. Additional benefits of participating in the R10MRPC include reduced costs associated with advertising, paperwork, reduced time, and worry spent on the bidding process, as well as Industry-specific workshops, trainings, and technical support for child nutrition programs. Michael Hancock moved to approve membership and participation in the Region 10 ESC Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative for the school year 2023-2024 as recommended. Nancy Towry seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Board Policy Update 120 and Local Policies as Follows: CKC(LOCAL): SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT - EMERGENCY

PLANS, FNG(LOCAL): STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES - STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES, FO(LOCAL): STUDENT DISCIPLINE –

The District must update and maintain its policies with the most recent legislation and educational regulation changes. The Update 120 Local Policy Overview was included in the board packet, which includes information concerning policy changes found in the update.. The attachments provide information concerning the policy changes found in the update. The information included in the board packet is a summary of each of the policy changes. The update includes changes to the following local board policies: CKC(LOCAL): SAFETY PROGRAM/RISK MANAGEMENT - EMERGENCY PLANS FNG(LOCAL): STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES - STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES, FO(LOCAL): STUDENT DISCIPLINE. Candice Parsons moved to approve Board Policy Update 120 as presented. With a second from Chris Hinnant, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Leanne Vinklerek, Veronica Donahue and Hanna McDorman, teachers at Smithville Elementary, and Deanna Seidel, teacher at Smithville High School. These teachers resigned effective immediately. Stacey Schmidt, a teacher/coach at Smithville Junior High also resigned effective the end of the school year. She will be retiring.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommended hire of Katarina Barlow as a teacher for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. The following individuals were recommended for hire for the 2023-2024 school year: Sara Peterson - ARD Facilitator, Theresa Ritchie - ARD Facilitator, Crystal Roberts - Speech Language Pathologist, Ryan Fowler - Support Specialist, Sue Borel - Educational Diagnostician, Katherine Pena - Educational Diagnostician. Josh Magden made a motion to approve the hires as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 7:38 p.m. and returned at 9:00 p.m. with no official action taken.

Superintendent's Annual Evaluation – This was conducted in closed session.

Superintendent's Employment Contract Renewal – The superintendent is currently in the first year of a three-year contract continuing through August 1, 2025. According to state law, the Board employs a superintendent by contract to serve the school district for a term not to exceed five years. Josh Magden moved to extend the superintendent's contract for an additional year. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

The Board ended its meeting at 9:00 p.m.