

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, February 24, 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, Michael Hancock, Chelsa Vinklarek, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Bryan Jones

Others present: Sarah Vinklarek, Bethany Logan, Jason Peterson, Stacy Tiner, Kristen Merriweather, Lindsey Saunders, Tracy Johnson, Crystal Vinklarek, Sara Peterson, Candy Biehle, Kim Hemphill, Jill Strube, Natalia Hannath, Zack Harris, Rebecca Hamilton, Willy Culberson, KaLeigh Behrens, Blaize Behrens, Angela Maldonado, Rene Maldonado, Victoria Buentello, Dale Weaver, German Borja, Bridget Borja, Misty Vasquez, Tucker Copeland, Alta Yevett Alexander, Fanny Sotto, Marlise Sampson, Haylee Padilla, Rylan Blackwell, Blackwell Family, Gerardo Andrade Reyes, Michelle Silves, Marc Alloy, Adrian Beard, Debby Prince, Gustavo Guerro, Jim Horton, Judith Bergeron, Amy Prince, Ronald Behrens, Jose Rivera, Brooke Ferguson, Mary Buentello, Rose Gutierrez, Marques Alvarado, Zack Harris, Jean Ann McCarthy, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – Mr. Hinnant called the roll of members. All were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students from Smithville Elementary who have won the most Tiger Tokens for the month led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students are: Renata Andrade-Soto, Jaydah Bledsoe, Rylan Blackwell, Emilee Alvarado, Blaize Behrens, Liberty Alloy-Bailey, Serenity Blakeley Stewart, and Destin Anderson.

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. We have two Tigers of the Month for February. They are Genevive Guerra in 1st grade and Nico Borja, in 2nd grade. Good job little Tigers!

Public Communications – The Board of Trustees heard from Alta Yevette Alexander and Willy Culberson in support of the Southside History Project. They also heard from Jason Peterson,

who presented data that was non-supportive of a four-day academic calendar for Smithville I.S.D.

The Board postponed the Consent Agenda pending the arrival of Jean Ann McCarthy.

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

- District enrollment as of Friday, February 21, 2025 is 1842 students with a daily attendance rate of 91.3%.
- Thursday, February 27th is Open House at Brown Primary from 5pm to 6pm.
- Stacy Tiner will be joining our staff on Monday, March 3rd as the business manager.
- Congratulations to the elementary students who participated in the Greater Austin Regional Science and Engineering Fair this past weekend. We had 3 first place winners, 10 second place winners and 1 third place winner. A wonderful showing!
- Spring sports are in full swing. Please come out and support your Tigers and Lady Tigers!
- Board member continuing education hours will be reported at the regular April meeting. You have access to your continuing education progress report on your mytasb account. Training is available online through Region 13, Vector Solutions (SafeSchools) and various other websites.
- The BP/SES Booster Club is hosting their Rafflemania event again this year on Thursday, March 13th at the Elementary cafeteria.
- Mrs. Burns and Dr. Logan will be attending the TARS Convention on Tuesday and Wednesday. Region 13 requested that Smithville ISD and Fredricksburg ISD do presentations on their CTE programs and we are honored to be asked. Mrs. Burns and Dr. Logan will also be presenting the mentor program that Smithville ISD has at this time.
- The Tiger Insider-Winter Edition is at your seats.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Update – Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bethany Logan updated the Board of Trustees on the progress of the Smithville I.S.D. Strategic Plan, which included the implementation of Teachworthy, a TEA approved program that supports paraprofessionals invested in the district to pursue their college degree and teaching certification.

Child Nutrition Calendar Input – Mrs. Biehle, Child Nutrition Director, addressed the Board about the possible negative impact a four-day calendar will have on her staff and students who receive child nutrition services.

Tentative March Agenda Items – Items to be included on the March agenda are tentatively:

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Board Recognitions
- d. Strategic Plan Update
- e. Smithville's Southside History Project
- f. Presentation of 2025-2026 High School Course Catalog
- g. Consider Extension of Audit Services

- h. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel
- i. Consider and Take Action Regarding Certified Staff Contract Renewal
- j. Resolution to Support Public School Finance

Consider Adoption of a Resolution Designating BOKF, NA as the Paying Agent/Registrar for Certain of the District's Outstanding Public Securities and Matters Related Thereto –

Chris Allen, with RBC Capital Markets, addressed the Board with a request for Smithville I.S.D. to move their paying agent from the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company to BOKF, NA. Josh Magden moved to approve the request and adopt the resolution as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

The Board President directed the meeting back to the original agenda order.

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

Financial Report – Mrs. Jean Ann McCarthy shared the financial disbursements for the previous month with the Board of Trustees. No action was required.

Remove Business Manager Currently Listed as User for TexPool, Lone Star Investments, First National Bank and all other Financial Accounts Associated with Smithville I.S.D., and

Add New Business Manager when Hired – Michael Hancock moved to remove the former business manager listed as the district representative for TexPool, Lone Star Investments, First National Bank and all other financial accounts associated with Smithville I.S.D. and to add the new S.I.S.D. business manager, Stacy Tiner, as a district representative. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Resolution to Waive Staff Make-up Day for Bad Weather Event –

Recently, Smithville ISD canceled and delayed school due to a freezing weather event on January 21, 2025. All schools in Bastrop County were closed, upon recommendation by the Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management. The 2024-2025 calendar had adequate minutes built in to negate make-up for students. It is being proposed that the day be waived for staff and requires no make-up or salary reduction for that day. This is a Board decision, requiring Board action. Candice Parsons moved to approve the resolution to waive the staff make-up day for the bad weather event as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Approval of Copier Lease Purchase Agreement with Premier Systems, Inc. –

In December 2011 Smithville I.S.D. entered into a lease purchase agreement with Premier Systems, Inc. to place copiers in the district. The agreement was renewed in 2018, and Smithville I.S.D. continues to be satisfied with the service. At this time, we would like to enter into another capital lease agreement with Premier Systems, Inc. to upgrade the copiers currently serving the district, with the addition of one color copier. Bryan Jones made a motion to approve renewal of the copier lease purchase agreement with Premier Systems, Inc. as presented. Chelsa Vinklarek seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Membership and Participation in the Region 10 ESC Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative for School Year 2025-2026 –

The Region 10 Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative organizes and administers the child nutrition cooperative purchasing and commodity processing program for RA's located in the state of Texas. Authority for such service is granted by Section 8.053 of the Texas Education Code, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, and Chapter 271, Subchapter F, of the Texas Local Government Code. The goal of the cooperative is to obtain substantial savings on food service items through volume purchasing. There is no fee to join. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve membership and participation in the Region 10 ESC Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative for the school year 2025-2026 as recommended. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Consideration and Possible Approval of 2025-2026 School Calendar –

Administrators designed potential school calendars that complied with standard state requirements and incorporated suggestions from campus principals and other district staff. Surveys were sent out to solicit input from staff, parents and community members. The campus site-based committees met to review the drafts. The district site-based committee then met to discuss and analyze the calendars presented. Chelsa Vinklarek moved to adopt the nine-week calendar as presented with the addition of a student holiday/teacher workday in May. Bryan Jones seconded the motion and it passed 6-1 with Michael Hancock opposing.

Designating School Holidays in Accordance with HB 3033 Public Information Act –

HB 3033 passed during the 88th Legislative Session, effective September 1, 2023, makes significant changes to the Texas Public Information Act (PIA), prompting a need for districts to update their procedures and for the board of trustees to take action.

Various provisions throughout the PIA require a governmental entity to act within a prescribed number of "business days." The statute previously did not define the term "business days," However, for years, the Attorney General's Office interpreted the term "business days" to not include days the governmental entity was closed for business or holidays the governmental entity chose to observe. For school districts, this meant that closures such as fall break, winter break, and spring break were not counted as business days when calculating applicable deadlines. This longstanding interpretation has now been changed by the legislature. Under HB 3033, the only days that do not count as business days are the following: Weekends - Saturday or Sunday; National Holidays - New Year's Day; Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; President's Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day; State Holidays - Confederate Heroes Day; Texas Independence Day; San Jacinto Day; Emancipation Day; Lyndon B. Johnson Day; Optional Holidays - Rosh Hashanah; Yom Kippur; and Good Friday (only if the governmental body observes the holiday); The Friday before or the

Monday after a holiday described above if the holiday occurs on a Saturday or Sunday and the governmental body observes the holiday on that Friday or Monday; and up to 10 additional days each calendar year when the district's administrative offices are closed or operating with minimal staff. To take advantage of the 10 additional "non-business days" each calendar year, the board of trustees must officially designate these days. Josh Magden moved to approve designated holidays as determined by the Superintendent. Candice Parsons seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of TASB Board Policy Update 124 and Edits or Additions to the Following Local Policies: CAA(LOCAL): FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - FINANCIAL ETHICS, CDA(LOCAL): OTHER REVENUES - INVESTMENTS, CY(LOCAL): INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, DH(LOCAL): EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, EHB(LOCAL): CURRICULUM DESIGN - SPECIAL

PROGRAMS, EHBB(LOCAL): SPECIAL PROGRAMS - GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS, FFG(LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, GKA(LOCAL): COMMUNITY RELATIONS - CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES –

The District must update and maintain its policies with the most recent legislation and educational regulation changes. Update 124 includes changes to the following local board policies: CAA(LOCAL): FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - FINANCIAL ETHICS, CDA(LOCAL): OTHER REVENUES – INVESTMENTS, CY(LOCAL): INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, DH(LOCAL): EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, EHB(LOCAL): CURRICULUM DESIGN - SPECIAL PROGRAMS, EHBB(LOCAL): SPECIAL PROGRAMS - GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS, FFG(LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, GKA(LOCAL): COMMUNITY RELATIONS - CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES. Grant Gutierrez made a motion to approve Board Policy Update 124 as recommended by the Texas Association of School Boards. Josh Magden seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Certification of Unopposed Status for the May 3, 2025 School Board Election

Sec. 2.052 – The authority responsible for having the official ballot prepared shall certify in writing that a candidate is unopposed for election to an office (in other words, the outcome is already known due to the lack of opposition). The certification shall be delivered to the governing body of the political subdivision as soon as possible after the filing deadlines for placement on the ballot and on the list of write-in candidates. The write-in deadline was Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Place 5, Candice Parsons, Place 6, Josh Magden and Place 7, Michael Hancock, all incumbents, were unopposed. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the certification of unopposed candidates as presented. Bryan Jones seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Take Action to Cancel the May 3, 2025 Regular School Board Election Due to Unopposed Candidates – The regular board election is scheduled for May 3, 2025. Positions up for election are Place 5, currently held by Candice Parsons, Place 6, currently held by Josh Magden, and Place 7, currently held by Michael Hancock. All incumbents refiled, with no opposition. The deadline to file for a place on the ballot was Friday, February 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.. Section 2.051-2.053 of the Texas Election Code states that an election may be cancelled for one of the

following three reasons; 1) Each candidate (for full or un-expired terms) whose name is to appear on the ballot is unopposed; 2) The election is one in which a declaration of write-in candidacy is required; and 3) No proposition is on the ballot. Due to the fact that Board of Trustee Place 5, Candice Parsons, Place 6, Josh Magden and Place 7, Michael Hancock are unopposed candidates, we are within Election Code requirements to request cancelation of our regular May election. Bryan Jones moved to cancel the May 3, 2025 regular school board election as requested. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote carried 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of: Cydney Marlow, teacher/coach at Smithville High School, Leah Stinson, teacher at Smithville High School, Michael Trost, teacher at the Junior High, and Gail Deeley, teacher at Brown Primary. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommended the hire of Christopher Sexton as a teacher/coach at Smithville High School for the 2025-2026 school year. Candice Parsons moved to approve the employment of Rachel Mahaffey as presented. With a second from Grant Gutierrez the motion passed 7-0.

Consideration/Action Regarding Administrator Employment Contract

Renewals/Extensions – Grant Gutierrez moved to approve administrative contract recommendations as recommended by the Superintendent. Josh Magden seconded and the motion carried 6-1 with Michael Hancock opposing.

Adjournment – Candice Parsons moved the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the vote passed 7-0.