

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 22, 2021 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: Alan Hemphill, Mike Davis, Jr., Grant Gutierrez, Chris Hinnant, Howard Burns, Jr., Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry

Others present: Erika O’Neal, Lisa Gonzales, Candy Biehle, Scott Broder, Chris Kelly, Shari Bang, Belinda Waters, Stephanie Foster, Rebekah Hinnant, Tucker Copeland, Erin Zabel, Lisa Wood, Melissa Slepekis, Michael Caudill, Zack Harris, Shari Bang, Ma Igoe, Ana Murray, Michele Rutherford, Jean Ann McCarthy, Cheryl Burns, David Edwards, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – Mr. Hemphill called the roll of members. Nancy Towry was absent for the roll call but arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Brown Primary students led the group virtually in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. Michael Caudill presented the report to the Board of Trustees.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Melissa Slepekis and Erika O’Neal supporting virtual learning and their concerns about exclusion of virtual learners from UIL events,

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Consent Agenda included:

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. Redesignation of Fund Balance

Information Items

Financial Report – The Chief Financial Officer, Jean Ann McCarthy, shared 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:

- COVID-19 vaccinations continue for SISD employees.
- Both incumbents have opposition for the school board. Running for Place 3 are Nancy Towry and [Michele Rutherford](#), Place 4 are Alan Hemphill and Trenton Helmcamp. The election will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021.
- District passes will be allowed for entrance into home games for spring sports. Please notify Dr. Caudill 24 hours prior to the game so we can include you in the numbers. Entrance for out of town will be determined by the hosting district. Per UIL rules, 50% occupancy is still in effect for spring sports.
- A special board meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to address the 2021-2022 school calendar and a waiver of attendance from TEA for the week of school closure due to wintry weather.
- A film crew will be using the high school campus for filming the movie “Marisol” this coming weekend. All COVID precautions will be taken. The film crew will be COVID tested before entering any SISD building and the facilities will be sanitized prior to students returning.
- Both the girls and boys basketball teams competed in bi-district this past Saturday.
- Tiger Tennis junior singles player Blake Segel won 1st place at the Navarro HS Varsity Tennis tournament played on February 10th. Annie Schuck and Monica Lewis placed 4th in girl's doubles.

Update on School Cancellation Due to Recent Weather Event – Mrs. Burns updated the Board about damage to facilities as a result of the winter weather event. Smithville ISD will request an attendance waiver for days missed as a result of school closure due to snow, freezing temperatures and icy road conditions.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. COVID-19 Update
- d. District and Campus Improvement Plans Status Report
- e. Review and Approve High School Course Catalog for 2021-2022

- f. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel
- g. Consider and Take Action Regarding Certified Staff Contract Renewals

Action Items

Consider One-time Extra Duty Pay for Staff for COVID-19 – The strategic object, goal or need addressed by this agenda item is to authorize an amendment to the employee salary schedules to include an extra duty/retention stipend to address morale, retention and the enhanced duties and requirements needed as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Candice Parsons moved that the Board of Trustees authorize an amendment to the employee salary schedule as outlined by the superintendent to include a one-time stipend in March for all full-time employees hired by September 1, 2020 and still employed on February 19, 2021 in the amount of \$1000 and employees hired after September 1, 2020 but still employed on February 19, 2021 in the amount of \$500. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Consideration and Possible Approval of 2021-2022 School Calendar – This item was tabled for the Monday, March 1st special board meeting.

Review and Approve Local Board Policy Update 116 and Affected Policies – The District must update and maintain its local policies with the most recent legislation and educational regulation changes. Board Policy Update 116 includes updates to the following policies: CQB(LOCAL): TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES – CYBERSECURITY, DCD(LOCAL): EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES - AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT, FFAC(LOCAL): WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES - MEDICAL TREATMENT, GKA(LOCAL): COMMUNITY RELATIONS - CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES. Howard Burns, Jr. moved to approve Board Policy Update 116 as recommended. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Personnel

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignation (retirement) of Steven Schroeder. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – There was no employment to recommend.

Consider and Take Action Regarding Administrative Contract Renewals – The Superintendent recommended each of the following administrator for a one-year extensions of her existing contract, which will, in effect, give her a new two-year contract to expire June 30, 2023: Stephanie Foster. Mrs. Burns recommended that Jean Ann McCarthy be issued a two-year term contract to replace her one-year contract to expire on June 30, 2023. The following administrators are recommended for a one-year term contract to expire June 30, 2022: Shari Bang, David Edwards, Ana Murray, Cyril Adkins, Michael Caudill, Amanda Gommert, Erin O'Rourke, and Whitney Brown. The following administrators are currently on one-year probationary contracts and are being recommended for one-year term contracts, to expire June 30, 2022: Tucker Copeland, Christine Kelly, Sarah Vinklerek and Holly Brockman. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve administrative contracts as presented. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded and the motion carried 6-0. Alan Hemphill abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.