

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, September 20, 2021 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Smithville ISD Administrative Building, PO Box 479, 901 N.E. 6th Street, Smithville, Texas 78957.

Members present: Howard Burns, Jr., Alan Hemphill, Mike Davis, Jr., Grant Gutierrez, Chris Hinnant, Candice Parsons

Members absent: Nancy Towry

Others present: Ana Murray, Noe McCarthy, Jean Ann McCarthy, David Henderson, Martha Henderson, Kristyna Harris, Kelly Ellington, Zack Harris, Leanne Vinklarek, Bridgette Moore, Chris Moore, David Edwards, Stephanie Foster, Michael Caudill, Tucker Copeland, Jen Bezner, Justin Bezner, Whitney Brown, Justin Goertz, Anna Goertz, Steffani Motyka, Candy Biehle, Dezirae Litton, Colleen DeGuzman, Erik McCowan, Molly Cox, Trish Hawkins, Rebecca Hamilton, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – Mr. Gutierrez called the roll of members. Mrs. Towry was absent.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students who are currently top point earners from the House of Service at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. They are: Harper Koi, Hayden Powell, Niko Ellington, Kiersa Henderson, Sariah Villegas, and Curtis Vinklarek.

Board Recognitions

Character Education Speaker – Student guest speakers will be present at each board meeting to conduct a short presentation on the Character Trait of the Month. For the September Board meeting, the Board heard from elementary student Madison Moore, a second grade student in Ms. Villasana's class, and Saylor Armenta-Shealy, a third grade student in Mrs. Kunz's class, on the character trait "courage".

Public Communications

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

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda – Candice Parsons moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded and the motion carried 6-0. 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. Budget Amendment

Information Items

Financial Report – Mrs. McCarthy presented the financial report.

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

- Enrollment numbers as of September 17th: Total enrollment of 1786. At this time last year, our total enrollment was 1731. Attendance is at 92%. Last year at this time it was 88%.
- The varsity Tigers football team won homecoming last Friday against Austin Crockett. The Lady Tigers lost their volleyball game against La Grange
- Summer projects - purchased band instruments, replaced the elementary gym roof, insulated the bus barn, replaced lights on the baseball/softball fields, replaced the weight room floor and upgraded equipment, upgraded district servers, purchased new concession commercial freezer and tables, upgraded auditorium with new blinds, a new stage curtain, and are piloting a new sound system.
- Work on a security fence will begin soon. It will include Building 2 and the main campus. We will be reviewing future plans for use of Building 1.
- Smithville Junior High and Smithville Elementary have received Effective Schools grants which include a significant amount of staff development for administrators and the superintendent.
- The Tiger Insider was distributed to the Board of Trustees.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

COVID-19 Update – David Edwards, Director of Federal Programs, presented an update on COVID-19 as it pertains to instruction and mitigation plans for the district.

Presentation on 2021-2022 ESSA and Perkins Grant Budgets – David Edwards, Director of Federal Programs, presented budgets for both the ESSA and Perkins grants to the Board of Trustees.

Review High School Air Quality and HVAC – The Texas Association of School Boards conducted an air quality evaluation on the high school campus. Zack Harris, Director of Maintenance, was available to address concerns about air quality, including current mitigation, at the campus with the Board of Trustees.

Teacher Certification Status Report – Educators in Smithville ISD who are currently enrolled in alternative certification programs, are certified under the District of Innovation, or teaching classes outside their certification area were reported to the Board. There are currently ten employees who are enrolled in alternative certification or are under a one-year certificate. Two employees are certified under the District of Innovation. All are considered certified for the 2021-2022 school year as per the Texas Education Agency requirements. Two employees have either not met ACP requirements or are teaching outside his/her certification area and will be reported as required by TEA. There is an additional unfilled position at junior high, currently being filled by substitute teachers, that will also have to be reported to TEA.

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

- a. F.I.R.S.T. Ratings Public Hearing
- b. Financial Report
- c. Superintendent's Report
- d. COVID-19 Update
- e. Child Nutrition Report
- f. District and Campus Improvement Plans
- g. Personnel

Action Items

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – Mrs. McCarthy requested that the Board of Trustees authorize the purchase of one school bus and the purchase and installation of forty-one elementary cameras. Howard Burns, Jr. moved to authorize the expenditure as requested. With a second from Mike Davis, Jr. the vote passed 6-0.

Personnel

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignation of Jody Contreras, math interventionist at the elementary school. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – There was no employment recommended at this time.

Adjournment – The Board ended its meeting at 7:00 p.m.