

**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, December 15, 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: Misty Vasquez, Bethany Logan, Holly Brockman, Tucker Copeland, Dwight Stockton, Jaimie Kadlecek, Wayne King, Stacy Tiner, John Schindler, Kristen Merriweather, Dustin Behrens, Raven Behrens, Kynzie Behrens, Dawsyn Behrens, Chris Behrens, Devon Behrens, Ronald Behrens, Connor Behrens, Preston Behrens, Kyle Behrens, KaLeigh Behrens, Blaize Behrens, Lindsey Saunders, Norma Mercado, Alicia Elam, Rylan Blackwell, Caleb Morgan, Zack Harris, Catherine Vasquez, Audrey Vasquez, Amanda Hudspeth, Kimberly Bartsch, Angie Westerfield, Stuart Burns, Vincent Bartsch, Wayne and Christie Otto, Tami Cooper, Angela Zoch, Nathan Zoch, Shirley Bartsch, Herbert Batsch Jr., Zack Harris, Liza Rios and 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. All members were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students who have earned the most Tiger Tokens at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Levi Armstrong, Rylan Blackwell, Preston Behrens, and Blaize Behrens.

Smithville Elementary School Tiger of the Month – Elementary staff nominate students who exhibit characteristics such as kindness, strong character, and helpfulness for the “Tiger of the Month” award. 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. The Tiger of the Month for December is Kohl Cooper, a fourth grader in Mrs. Roger’s class. Congratulations, Kohl!

Area Advancing FFA LDE Competitors - There were a number of students who advanced to area competition in FFA LDE, including Ava Bryant, 1st place Greenhand Creed, Corbin Kuhn,

2nd place Job Interview, Audrey Vasquez, Brooke Wilhelm, & Summer Garner, 1st place Radio Broadcasting, Whitney Young, Hayden Willie, Mandy Witherspoon, and Laynee Tiner, 2nd place Greenhand Skills Demo. Tori Guest and Brent Holmes are their sponsors.

FFA Blue & Gold Bash - Approximately \$15,000 was raised for Smithville FFA Blue & Gold Bash. Thank you to event coordinators Brooke Wilhelm, Adam Gonzales, Katy Vasquez, Audrey Vasquez, and Kennedy Pietsch and supporters Laynee Tiner, JD Young, Dakota Young, Connor Bartsch, and Summer Garner.

Academic All-State - The Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Teams recognize senior high school athletes, trainers and managers who excel in the following categories: GPA, class rank and ACT/SAT score. SISD is proud to recognize the following students for achieving this prestigious honor Addison Prior, 1st Team Volleyball, Addison Otto - Honorable Mention Volleyball, Julieta Huerta 2nd Team Cross Country, Caleb Magden, 2nd Team Football, Nathan Zoch, 2nd Team Football, and Justin Gurley Honorable Mention Football.

Area Jazz Band - We have two students who advanced to area competition in Jazz Band. Congratulations to Aundrez Cauich-Taylor, 2nd Chair Tenor Sax at region, and Will Metcalf, 1st chair Bari Sax at Region Jazz auditions.

Staff Recognition - Dr. Ealy and the Board of Trustees recognized Denise Behrens, Superintendent's Secretary, as she retires from the district after 33 years of service.

Community Partner Recognition - Smithville ISD extended their gratitude to Bastrop County Cares for the outstanding services they provide to students and the community.

Public Communications – Mr. Dwight Stockton addressed the Board regarding the athletic program.

Consent Agenda – Josh Magden moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 9 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. Financial Report
8. Amendment to the 2025-26 Compensation Plan

9. Update the First National Bank Safety Deposit Box Authorization

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

- Enrollment - 1847
- Attendance - 94% average year to date
- Upcoming events

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan Update: Priority 4 - Financial and Operational Systems - Dr. Logan, Assistant Superintendent, gave a regular progress report/update on the Smithville ISD Strategic Plan. This month's update focused on Priority 4 of the SISD Strategic Plan.

Update on the 2026-2027 Instructional Calendar Development Process - Dr. Ealy presented an update regarding development of the 2026-2027 instructional calendar. A feedback survey was open to the community from December 5-12, and 589 total responses were received. The survey results show that the Smithville ISD community overall approves of the draft 26-27 calendar, because it is consistent with the current year and provides well-spaced breaks for both staff and students. Several considerations were discussed, and a final recommendation will be presented to the Board in January for approval.

Superintendent's Self-Evaluation Submission to the Board of Trustees and Distribution of Evaluation Materials - The Superintendent provided her evaluation information to the Board of Trustees in advance of the annual evaluation in January.

Tentative January Agenda Items - Tentative items for the January agenda are:

- Recognition of Students and Staff
- Recognition of School Board Appreciation Month
- Public hearing regarding the 2025-26 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and At-Risk Report
- Report on the SISD Strategic Plan: Priority 1
- Discussion regarding HB 2 and Teacher Certification Requirements
- Discussion and possible approval of the 2026-27 Instructional Calendar
- Designation of School Holidays related to the Texas Public Information Act
- Bond Payment Resolution
- Personnel: Hiring of certified staff
- Order of Board of Trustees Election for May 2, 2026

Approval of TASB Policy Update 126 - The District must update and maintain its policies with the most recent legislation and educational regulation changes. The Board of Trustees had its first reading of TASB Policy Update 126 at its regular meeting in November. Update 126 includes 28 local policies, which are almost exclusively in response to new legislation.

The update includes changes to the following local board policies: BE (LOCAL): BOARD MEETINGS, BED (LOCAL): BOARD MEETINGS - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, CJ (LOCAL): CONTRACTED SERVICES, CJA (LOCAL): CONTRACTED SERVICES - BACKGROUND CHECKS AND REQUIRED REPORTING, CLE (LOCAL): BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT - REQUIRED DISPLAYS, CQB (LOCAL): TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES - CYBERSECURITY, CQD (LOCAL): TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, CSA (LOCAL): FACILITY STANDARDS - SAFETY AND SECURITY, CV (LOCAL): FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION, DBD (LOCAL): EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS - CONFLICT OF INTEREST, DEC (LOCAL): COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS - LEAVES AND ABSENCES, DFBB (LOCAL): TERM CONTRACTS - NONRENEWAL, DGBA (LOCAL): PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS - EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES, DH (LOCAL): EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, EEP (LOCAL): INSTRUCTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS - LESSON PLANS, EFA (LOCAL): INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES - INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, EHBAF (LOCAL): SPECIAL EDUCATION - VIDEO/AUDIO MONITORING, EIA (LOCAL): ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT - GRADING/PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS, FA (LOCAL): PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, FEF (LOCAL): ATTENDANCE - RELEASED TIME, FFAC (LOCAL): WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES - MEDICAL TREATMENT, FFB (LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - CRISIS INTERVENTION, FFF (LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - STUDENT SAFETY, FFG (LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, FNG (LOCAL): STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES - STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES, FO (LOCAL): STUDENT DISCIPLINE, GF (LOCAL): PUBLIC COMPLAINTS, GKA (LOCAL): COMMUNITY RELATIONS - CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Candice Parsons moved to approve Board Policy Update 126 as presented. With a second from Chris Hinnant, the motion carried 7-0.

Approval of the 2024-2025 Financial Audit - As required by the Texas Education Agency, an audit of financial information is conducted annually to assure that all legal requirements are being met, and sound fiscal responsibility is maintained. The audit was conducted by Armstrong, Vaughn and Assoc, P.C. Kim Roach, Principal with Armstrong, presented the audit results at the November 19, 2025 Board Meeting. Chris Hinnant moved to approve the 2024-2025 financial audit as presented. Josh Magden seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Approval of Library Materials Acquisition - In accordance with Senate Bill 13, SISD provided public notice of Library Materials that the District proposes to acquire, and a 30-day public review period from October 27, 2025, through December 14, 2025. During this time, community members were invited to review the library materials proposed for inclusion as

library materials. Dr. Bethany Logan shared the information with the Board of Trustees, and after discussion, Josh Magden made a motion to approve the acquisition of library materials as presented. Bryan Jones seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Resolution Related to the School Health Advisory Council - Section 28.004(e-1)(1) of the Texas Education Code requires the Board of Trustees to adopt a resolution convening the local school health advisory council (SHAC) for the purpose of making recommendations regarding curriculum materials for the school District's human sexuality instruction. The proposed resolution defines expectations for the SHAC to convene and develop recommendations in accordance with state law, and present any recommendations to the Board in a public meeting by June 2026.

In accordance with HB 1525, parents must provide written consent prior to any provision of instruction in a human sexuality curriculum. Josh Magden moved to approve the resolution as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Smithville Education Foundation - As part of the Smithville Education Foundation's work to enhance their organization in support of SISD, it is recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be established with SISD to clearly define the relationship and delineate roles and responsibilities. After a motion by Candice Parsons and a second from Chris Hinnant, the memorandum of understanding with Smithville Education Foundation was approved 7-0.

Closed Session - The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 7:08 p.m. and returned at 8:27 with no official action taken.

Deliberations Regarding Security Audits, including a report of intruder detection audit findings, in Accordance with Section 551.076 of the Texas Government Code - There was no action taken.

Personnel Matters: Deliberation Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee in Accordance with Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code - No action was taken.

Adjournment - Michael Hancock moved the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. With a second from Candice Parsons, the meeting was adjourned.