

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, October 21, 2024 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 Vinklerek, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Bryan Jones, Candice Parsons

Others present: Candy Biehle, Renee Segurea, Brande Natal, Lindsey Saunders, Sean Sanchez, Tucker Copeland, Whitney Brown, Bethany Logan, Terri Jones, Valerie Rodriguez, Margaret Hamilton, Zack Harris, Jason Peterson, Sara Peterson, Amanda Hudspeth, Sarah Vinklerek, Holly Brockman, Margarita Igoe, Elizabeth Magden, Melissa Vladyka, Randy Fritz, Holly Fritz, Sarah Andrus, Cody Andrus, Gina Muniz, Tomey Perez, Adrienne Praditbatuga, Michael Praditbatuga, Jesse Guerra, Yaire Torres, Christian Osorio, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call – The Board President called the roll of members. Mrs. Parsons was not present at roll call, but arrived at 6:25 p.m. At that time, all 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 Sawyer Badders, Brooke Andrus, Landon Harper, Blake Hilbig, Olivia Abreo, Sara Cordova, Josselyn Jaimes Perez, and Kinslee Taylor.

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. The Tiger of the Month for October is Blake Hilbig, a third grader in Mrs. Natal's class.

Recognition of Outstanding Students for the First 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. Ariana Praditbatuga and Efrain Barron, Jr., have been chosen for the first nine-weeks from the junior high. Ariana is

a seventh grader and the daughter of Michael and Adrienne Praditbatuga. Efrain is a sixth grader and the son of Jesenia Guerra and William Aparicio. Arabella Gutierrez and Christian Osorio are the selections for the nine-weeks from Smithville High School. Arabella is a senior, and the daughter of Grant and Krystel Gutierrez, and Christian is also a senior and the son of Maria Jaramillo.

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 nine-weeks. The Board recognized the following Tiger Award winners for the first nine-weeks - Brown Primary - Renee Segura (Educational Aide), Smithville Elementary - Melissa Vladyka (Teacher), Smithville Junior High - Valerie Rodriguez (Teacher), Smithville High School - Jason Peterson (Teacher), Central Office – Dr. Bethany Logan (Assistant Superintendent).

Public Hearing – Present F.I.R.S.T. Ratings – As a mandate of the 77th Legislative session, districts must hold a public hearing to report the rating received by the district based upon financial performance in relation to the F.I.R.S.T. rating standards. Sean Sanchez, Smithville I.S.D. Business Manager, presented the F.I.R.S.T. ratings to the Board of Trustees and the community.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Dr. Elizabeth Magden. Dr. Magden is a new member of the School Health Advisory Committee and asked that the Board consider that persons serving on the committee be a parent or grandparent with a student currently enrolled in the school district.

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 6 as presented. With a second from Josh Magden, 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

Financial Report – The business manager, Sean Sanchez, reviewed 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 the following important issues pertaining to the District.

- The enrollment numbers as of October 15th are 1825 students with an average daily attendance of 94.41%.
- The Smithville Tiger Band earned all 1st Division ratings at the UIL Region Marching Contest this past Saturday in Giddings. This is the 20th consecutive year for the Tiger Band to earn 1st division in marching at UIL. Go Tiger Band!
- Congratulations to our athletic program for achieving a 99.86% academic passing rate.

- The Smithville ISD will sponsor "Lights on Afterschool Roarin' Red Brick Trunk or Treat" for the community on Saturday, October 26th beginning at 5:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Red Brick Building and is open to the public.
- October is Principal's Month. We would like to recognize our Smithville ISD principals and the remarkable job they do every day.
- Possible Board of Trustees Resolution of Priorities for the legislative year
- The cross country team competed in Huntsville at regionals today. We are proud of the efforts of all our athletes.
- Mental Health survey was sent to students in response to Texas Education Code 37.0832 requirements which address bullying and "feeling safe" at school.
- Dr. Bethany Logan and Candy Biehle will represent SISD at the SHAC Summit on October 22nd and 23rd.
- A very successful farmers market was hosted at Smithville Elementary by our Child Nutrition Department last week.

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Update – Dr. Logan, Assistant Superintendent, gave a progress report/update on the Smithville I.S.D. Strategic Plan. The update this month was incorporated into the approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans under Action Items and was presented with that item.

Bilingual Report – TEC 7.028 states: (b)The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school has primary responsibility for ensuring that the district or school complies with all applicable requirements of state educational programs. Whitney Brown, Special Programs Coordinator, provided the report to the Board as required by the Texas Education Code.

Report on 2024 TASB Delegate Assembly – The Texas Association of School Boards Annual Convention was held on September 27-29, 2024 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, TX. Board member Michael Hancock served as our voting delegate to the TASB Delegate Assembly on September 28th. Mr. Hancock gave a summary report of the assembly at the board meeting.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Strategic Plan Update
- d. Voting for Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors
- e. Personnel
- f. Plan for possible improvements to baseball/softball facilities

Consider Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance

Objectives – Board Policy BQ [Legal] requires the Board to annually approve district and campus performance objectives and ensure that the district and campus improvement plans are mutually supportive to accomplish identified objectives and at a minimum, support the state goals and objectives. Smithville ISD presents these plans and objectives to the Board of Trustees in order to meet legal requirements for approving campus performance objectives and to improve

student achievement. Dr. Bethany Logan, along with the campus principals, presented the improvement plans for the Board's approval. Josh Magden moved to approve the 2024-2025 district and campus improvement plans as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Review Membership of School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) – As per Texas Education Code, Chapter 28, at least annually, the local school health advisory council (SHAC) shall review possible changes to current bylaws. Dr. Bethany Logan, Assistant Superintendent, reported to the Board of Trustees regarding possible changes to SHAC. The Board of Trustees reviewed the agenda item as presented and requested that administration work with the Texas Association of School Boards for a potential local policy to address specifics of implementation of SHAC in accordance with Board Policy BDF (Legal). Grant Gutierrez moved that the revisions to requirements for officers and membership of SHAC be approved as presented, the bylaws be reviewed by the superintendent prior to being presented to the Board of Trustees, and to grant a waiver of the 2023-2024 SHAC report as requested. The motion was seconded by Chelsa Vinklerek and the vote passed 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignation of Rachel Mahaffey, a prekindergarten teacher at Brown Primary, effective the end of the semester. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent is recommending hire of Lauren Copeland and Kaytlyn Stewart as teachers at Smithville High School, and Sarah Justus as a teacher at Brown Primary School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year Grant Gutierrez moved to approve employment of personnel as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Adjournment – Josh Magden moved the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. With a second from Grant Gutierrez and a vote of 7-0, the meeting was declared adjourned.