

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, January 22, 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, Alan Hemphill, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry

Others present: Whitney Brown, Jean Ann McCarthy, Lindsey Saunders, Bethany Logan, Olivia Taylor, Amanda Hudspeth, Sarah Vinklarek, Noel McCarthy, Jennifer Peterson, Tucker Copeland, Zack Harris, Demo Odoms, Chelsa Vinklarek, Shayne Strange, Johnny Stark, Sr., Emily Stark, Angela Zoch, Ricky Zoch, Kyle Zoch, Nate Zoch, Scott Altman, Melissa Altman, Jace Jones, Julie Jones, Emorie Jones, Bryan Jones, Kenzie Jones, Brenda Ricketts, Ashley Cooper, Jenny Espinoza, Devon Behrens, Chris Behrens, Connor Behrens, Preston Behrens, Mitchell Jameson, Ashley Cook, Logan Cook, Lacey Schwanke, Margarita Igoe, Rebecca Hamilton, Charlesetta Duncan, Maria Adkins, Casey Hanchey, Michael Caudill, Wayne King, Paul Espinoza, Raven Behrens, Cory Williams, Shane Taylor, Catherine Bohot, Bridget Sampson, Cheryl Burns, 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 were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students receiving awards through PBIS at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were 1st Grade: Logan Altman, Johnney Start, Julian Juarez, Preston Behrens, Beau Hudspeth, and Daje Lewis.

Character Education Speakers – Student guest speakers are invited to each board meeting to read a short essay on the Character Trait of the Month. The Board heard from Zyvannah Reed, a fourth grader in Ms. Cox's class, and Zelda Perez, a second grader in Ms. Hunsucker's class, about the character trait "Confidence".

Recognition of Outstanding Students for the 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. Emily Stark and Jackson Bryant have been chosen as outstanding students for the second nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Emily is in 8th grade and is the daughter of Shayne Strange and Johnny

Stark, Jr. Jackson is a 6th grader and is the son Becky Bryant and Jason Bryant. Outstanding students chosen from Smithville High School are Emorie Jones and Nathan Zoch. Emorie is a 9th grader and the daughter of Jace and Julie Jones. Nathan is a 10th grader and the son of Ricky and Angela Zoch.

Tiger Award Recipient Recognition – Tiger Award recipients are nominated by peers. Each campus and department will nominate a representative. Final nominations are voted on by a select committee. Each campus and department has an award winner that is recognized at the board meeting every 9-weeks. The Board recognized the award winners for the second nine-weeks: Brown Primary - Ashley Cooper (Teacher), Smithville Elementary - Becky Bryant (Paraprofessional), Smithville Junior High - Jennifer Peterson (Librarian), Smithville High School - Brenda Ricketts (Assistant Principal), ISD - Denis McGinness (Technology).

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. Bethany Logan presented the report to the Board of Trustees and meeting attendees.

Communications from the Public – The Board heard from Demo Odoms, Noah Baxter, Amanda Hewitt, and Monique Lewis in support of Cyril Adkins. The also heard from Courtney Kellogg regarding her displeasure with the elementary student pick up line, and Margarita Igoe about safety and communication within the district.

Consent Agenda –Alan Hemphill moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 7 as presented. With a second from Grant Gutierrez 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. Bond Payments Resolution

Financial Report – The Chief Financial Officer, Jean Ann McCarthy, will review 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 important issues pertaining to the District including:

- January is Board Appreciation Month. We would like to express our gratitude for the Smithville ISD Board of Trustees for the selfless gift of their time and service to the students and staff of Smithville ISD.
- Enrollment numbers as of Friday, January 19, 2024 is 1821 students.

- Administrative and campus staff are currently working to present the 2024-2025 school calendar at the regular board meeting in February.
 - The calendar survey has been issued
 - The campus site-based committees are meeting
 - The district site-based committee will meet on February 5th to review
 - and decide on a draft to submit to the Board of Trustees
 - Submission to the Board for approval
- Today we had Fox 7 News filming an “Educational Feature” on our Computer Science and Robotics programs. Thanks to Mary Alice Castello for all her work with those students. It will be airing later this week. We will share when we know a firm date/time.
- January 16, 2024 - Bad Weather Make-up - Due to the bad weather day on January 16, 2024, students and staff will need to attend work/school on March 8, 2024. The day was previously set up to be a staff development day/bad weather make-up day. The staff will also need to attend on May 31, 2024 to make-up for staff development (March 8, 2024). The 23-24 school calendar was not designed with enough minutes in the year to cover a full day off for bad weather.
- The Athletic Director position for the 2024-2025 school year has been posted. As of 4:00 p.m. we have received more than 35 applications.
- We are continuing to review applicants for the Chief Financial Officer position.
- There was a water main break at Brown Primary today. All students and staff were accommodated with water and restroom facilities. It has now been
 - repaired.
 - The new Brown Primary sign and marquee will be installed on February 9th.
 - Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight - CTE Video – The Board is presented with curriculum and program area highlights on a regular basis. The purpose of each presentation is to keep the Board informed of the academic progress within the district and on campuses. This month the focus of the highlight was career and technology education.

Review of District and Campus Improvement Plans Status Reports – A format has been designed for an end of the year status report, which allows the Board to monitor the implementation of the District and Campus Improvement Plan. District and campus site-based committees have reviewed the progress of the implementation of each plan and staff members have prepared the status reports for the respective improvement plans. The principal, staff, and site base committee are responsible for evaluating each improvement plan. Dr. Bethany Logan, Director of Curriculum, reviewed the status reports with the Board.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent’s Report
- c. Curriculum Highlight
- d. School Safety and Security Report
- e. Review and Approve 2024-2025 District Calendar

- f. Personnel
- g. Administrative Contract Review/Renewal

Consider Approval of Audit Engagement Letter – In accordance with Texas Education Agency requirements and law the district is required to have an annual financial audit performed. Since 2021, the Board of Trustees has voted to approve the firm of Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, PC. Once again, administration recommended approval for the 2023-2024 school year. Josh Magden moved to approve the audit engagement letter as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Consider Resolution Regarding Senate Bill 763 - School Chaplains – Senate Bill 763, enacted in September 2023, allows school officials to hire unlicensed chaplains, either as staff members or volunteers. As per current Board Policy DP (Legal), a district may employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain to provide support, services, and programs for students as assigned by the board. A chaplain employed or volunteering is not required to be certified by SBEC. A district that employs or accepts as a volunteer a chaplain shall ensure that the chaplain complies with the applicable requirements under Education Code Chapter 22, Subchapter C, before the chaplain begins employment or volunteering at the district. A district may not employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain who has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense for which a defendant is required to register as a sex offender under Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 62. Josh Magden moved to approve the resolution as presented. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion carried 7-0. No change in policy is being made.

Consider Approval of Membership and Participation in the Region 10 ESC Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative for School Year 2024-2025 – 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 2024-2025 as recommended. Alan Hemphill seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Order of Board of Trustees Election for May 4, 2024 – State statute requires that annually each governing body call for an election to be held in accordance with existing election law. The Smithville Independent School District Board of Trustees, being a governing body and electing representatives by place, must call for the election. The Smithville Independent School District Board of Trustees has established the first Saturday in May as its regular election date. This year, the election falls on Saturday, May 4, 2024. The two places up for election are Place 3, currently held by Nancy Towry, and Place 4 currently held by Alan Hemphill. Alan Hemphill moved to call for election of Places 3 and 4, and to approve the Judges, Alternates, Early Voting Ballot Board, Early Voting Clerk, and polling locations as provided by the Bastrop County and

Fayette County Elections Administrators. Nancy Towry seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Election Services Contract with Bastrop County – As of January 2006, Smithville ISD has been contracting election services with the County of Bastrop. Since that time, the Bastrop County Elections Administrator has overseen elections ordered by the school district in Bastrop County for a 10% administrative fee. The total cost of the May election for Smithville ISD including supplies, polling place personnel, administrative fee, etc. is estimated at \$9,146.07. The district would like to continue to contract elections services from Bastrop County. Alan Hemphill made a motion to approve the contract for election services with Bastrop County Elections as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the voted passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Election Services Contract with Fayette County – Currently, Smithville ISD has approximately 169 voters who reside in Fayette County. Fayette County Elections has kindly agreed to contract services for SISD constituents who reside in Fayette County for an estimated \$750 plus cost of election officials. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the election services contract with Fayette County as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 8:13 p.m. and returned at 10:46 p.m. with no official action taken.

Superintendent's Annual Evaluation – This was conducted in closed session.

Superintendent's Employment Contract Renewal – The superintendent is currently in the first year of a three-year contract continuing through June 30, 2026. According to state law, the Board employs a superintendent by contract to serve the school district for a term not to exceed five years. Michael Hancock moved to grant a one-year extension to the superintendent's current contract, with salary to be determined at a later meeting. Josh Magden seconded the motion and the vote passed 7-0.

Adjournment – Candice Parsons moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 p.m. Michael Hancock seconded, the vote was 7-0, and the meeting was ended.