

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, July 17, 2023 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, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons

Members absent: Chris Hinnant, Nancy Towry

Others present: Zack Harris, Lindsey Saunders, Jean Ann McCarthy, Jodi Duran, Bethany Logan, Tracy Johnson, Tucker Copeland, Margarita Igoe, Rebecca Hamilton, Joshua Moses, Nicholas Teague, Charles Wilson, Raylynnne Fillman, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – Mr. Gutierrez, Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Mr. Gutierrez called the roll of members. Mr. Hemphill, Mrs. Towry and Mr. Hinnant were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance – The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hemphill arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Public Hearing - ESSER III, ESSA, Perkins Grant – Dr. Bethany Logan, Director of Curriculum, conducted a public hearing on the ESSER III, ESSA, and Perkins grants to comply with grant requirements.

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

Consent Agenda – Josh Magden moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion passed 5-0. The Consent Agenda included:

1. Minutes
2. Financial Statements
3. State Aid Comparison - Budgeted vs. Earned
4. Investment Report
5. Earned vs. TEA Payments
6. Tax Collection Report
7. Bond Payments Resolution

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

- Administrators return to work on Monday, July 24th.
- Teachers return on Monday, August 7th.
- Students will return on Aug. 15th.
- The New Staff Orientation will begin on Tuesday, August 1st.
- The Beginning of Year Breakfast Convocation is Tuesday, August 8th at 8:00 a.m. The Board of Trustees are welcome to attend.
- The speaker for convocation is Kacy Benson.
- At this time, we still have 10 professional openings.
- Brown Primary Open House is on August 10th at 4:30pm.
- Smithville Elementary Open House is on August 10th at 5:30pm.
- Smithville Junior High Open House is on August 10th at 6:30pm.
- Meet the Tiger is on August 10th at 7:45pm.
- The regular school board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28th.
- Summer Feeding Update - The Child Nutrition Department served a total of 6,978 breakfast, lunches and snacks during the months of May and June. The locations were Smithville Elementary, Jr High, High School, Bluebonnet Circle, MLK Park, Public Library and the Community Gardens. They will serve one more event in July for the Public Library to end our summer feeding of 2023.
- There is a special board meeting scheduled for August 7th at 6pm to address Chapter 41 requirements.

School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) Report – As per Texas Education Code, Chapter 28, at least annually, the local school health advisory council (SHAC) shall submit a report to the board of trustees. Margarita Igoe, SHAC President, presented a report of activities from the 2022-2023 school year.

District and Campus State Accountability Ratings Report – Dr. Bethany Logan, Director of Curriculum, reviewed district and individual campus performance projections in comparison to the state.

Second Draft of the 2023-2024 District Budget – The school district staff is currently in the process of developing the proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year. The process began in January with budget planning at the campus level. The Board must adopt the final budget on or before August 31, 2023 in accordance with legal requirements. Jean Ann McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer, presented the second draft of the budget.

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

- a. Public Hearing on Proposed Budget
- b. Financial Report
- c. Superintendent's Report

- d. Preliminary STAAR Test Results
- e. Adoption of 2023-2024 District Budget and Tax Rate
- f. Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans
- g. Senate Bill 1267
- h. Personnel

Schedule a Date for Board Strategic Planning Meeting – The Board, along with the Superintendent, is required to participate in at least three hours of team building conducted by the Texas Association of School Boards, or another registered provider, on an annual basis. A strategic planning meeting would qualify as a team building session. Jodi Duran, with Moak-Casey, will conduct the meeting on the agreed-upon date. Josh Magden moved to set September 11, 2023 as a meeting date for a strategic planning team building meeting conducted by Moak Casey. Candice Parsons seconded, and the vote passed 5-0.

Consider Approval of Revised 2023-2024 Salary Schedules – District administrators have been working on an updated salary schedule for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and trades for the upcoming school year 2023-2024. Salary schedules are necessary to calculate the 2023-2024 budget, and it has been Smithville I.S.D.'s practice to inform staff as early as possible of any changes to the salary schedules. Salaries have to be set each year and have a major impact on the district budget, which must be adopted no later than August 31, 2023. The Board of Trustees adopted the salary schedule at its regular meeting on June 12th, 2023. However, there have been revisions to the adopted salary schedule that require board approval. Josh Magden moved to approve the revised salary schedule as presented by administration. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Consider Approval of Safety and Security Plan Based on HB3 Requirements – The Texas House has passed a bill, HB3, that would require at least one armed security officer at every campus and silent panic buttons in every classroom. At the board meeting last month, the Board of Trustees discussed options to address these requirements. The Superintendent will review the options available at tonight's meeting, including a plan that approves one additional school resource officer, in partnership with the Smithville Police Department, and contracted services with Texas Public Safety and Investigations for two additional officers. Josh Magden moved to approve the safety and security plan based on HB3 requirements as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize expenditures for contracted services for the 2023-2024 school year, including the previously approved safety and security plan based on HB3 requirements. In addition, during the 2023-2024 school year, Smithville ISD will be utilizing the services of contracted clinicians for our Special Education students. Josh Magden moved to approve expenditures for contracted safety and security and special education services as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

Consider Action to Join an Interlocal Agreement for DIR Shared Technology Services – The Texas Department of Information Resources is the leading resource for school districts in all aspects of technology. By entering into the interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of

Information Resources (DIR), Smithville ISD has the opportunity to work with vendors for different technology needs, especially with cybersecurity, ransomware and disaster recovery. Candice Parsons moved to join an interlocal agreement for DIR shared technology services as presented. Michael Hancock seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Call for Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Tax Rate – The goal of the District is to adopt a budget and set the tax rate for the 2023-2024 school year. State Truth in Taxation laws require the school district to publish a public notice of public hearing to discuss the proposed budget and proposed tax rate for the new fiscal year. Legally the budget must be developed on or before August 20th, 2023 and adopted by August 31st, 2023. The school district will publish the notice of the public hearing in the local newspapers to comply with state laws and timelines for budget adoption and setting of the tax rate. Alan Hemphill moved to set the public hearing on the proposed budget and tax rate for August 28, 2023 as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) SB9 Resolution – The Smithville ISD School Health Committee (SHAC) plans to convene for the purposes of recommending course materials for the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence and human trafficking. The SHAC is requested that the Board of Trustees adopt a resolution that supports them in their efforts. Josh Magden moved to approve the SHAC SB 9 resolution as presented. Michael Hancock seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Consider Approval of 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct – It is a requirement that the Student Code of Conduct for the upcoming school year is reviewed, revised and ultimately approved by the Board prior to the commencement of the new school year. Administrators have reviewed the current Code of Conduct. Mr. Copeland, high school principal, presented the proposed 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct, including revisions, for the Board's approval. Josh Magden moved to approve the 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

McMurray College Dual Credit Introduction and Change to the 2023-2024 High School Course Catalog – The Board of Trustees approved the Smithville High School Course Catalog for 2023-2024 at a previous meeting. However, there have been edits and editions to the catalog, including an agreement with McMurray Junior College. Smithville ISD is revising the course catalog to include dual credit options for students in grades 9-12 in partnership with McMurray University in Abilene, Texas. Courses offered will transfer to Texas colleges and universities. Courses that will be offered will begin at the fall of the 2023-2024 school year. This edit required board approval. Candice Parsons made a motion to approve the revised course catalog as presented. With a second from Josh Magden, the motion carried 5-0.

Consider Approval of 2023-2024 TTESS Appraisers and Appraisal Calendar – The Board must approve the district appraisal calendar and the list of administrators trained to evaluate teachers. Teachers must be evaluated annually by trained and board-approved appraisers. For the 2023-2024 school year, the District plans to continue to use the state-adopted appraisal system, Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS). All appraisers will be trained before they conduct classroom observations. Teachers are evaluated on performance in the classroom, staff development activities, and performance of students on the campus. A list of appraisers and the appraisal calendar was included in the board packet. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the TTESS

Appraisers and Appraisal Calendar for 2023-2024 as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Justin Benvegnu and Rebecca Walla, teachers at Smithville High School, Raylynne Fillman and Sara Parks, teachers at Smithville Elementary, and Katie Pena and Sue Borel, educational diagnosticians. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – According to Board Policy DC [Local], the Superintendent has the authority to approve hire of certified personnel between June 1st and August 31st each year. The Superintendent informed the Board of the hire of the following personnel: Leanne Vinklerek as a teacher at Brown Primary, Ava Zapalac and Deborah Thorp as teachers at Smithville Elementary, Wendy Carroll, Doug Simms, and Judy Supak as teachers at Smithville High School, Jordan Trahan as a teacher/coach at Smithville High School and Susan Schultz as a speech language pathologist assistant for the district. No action was required.

Closed session – The Board entered closed session at 8:23 p.m. and returned at 9:45 p.m. with no official action taken.

Superintendent's Mid-Point Review – This was conducted in closed session and did not require Board action.

Ajournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.