

## 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, November 13, 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, Nancy Towry

**Members absent:** Chris Hinnant

**Others present:** Erin Seale, Kevi Duty, Chelsey Goding, Crystal Vinklarek, Shelly Naylor, Julie Bishop, Crystal Heimann, Migul Ibarra, Ginny Marek, Crystl Saffel, Dianna King, Debra Carter, Renee Segura, Arlene Davenport, Daymona Hunsucker, Anna Goertz, Vicki Vinklarek, Cyril Adkins, Caryl Ayda, Lacey Schwanke, Stephanie Foster, Tucker Copeland, Amanda Hudspeth, Sarah Vinklarek, Noe McCarthy, Bethany Logan, Zack Harris, Rebecca Hamilton, Jean Ann McCarthy, Lindsey Saunders, Jim Dixon, Cory Williams, Cyril Adkins, Margarita Igoe, Justin Bezner, Jean Ann McCarthy, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

**Call to Order** – Vice-President Grant Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Roll Call** – Mr. Gutierrez called the roll of members. Chris Hinnant was absent.

**Student Led Pledge of Allegiance** – Students representing the House System at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Nolan Ortiz, Elle Browning, Tyler Ibarra, Jasmin Ketola, Bexley Berger, and Carmen Goding.

**Character Education Speakers** – Student guest speakers are present at each board meeting to read a short essay on the Character Trait of the Month. Nolan Ortiz, a first grader in Mrs. Bishop's class, and Riley Navarro, a third grade student in Ms. Saffel's class, read their essays about "service".

**Recognition of Mentors** – We would like to express our appreciation to the individuals who are assisting as mentors to the newer educators in the district. Those mentors are Shelly Naylor and Vicki Vinklarek at Brown Primary, Julie Bishop, Jamie Bain, Sarah Curtis, Amber Garcia, Anna Goertz, Crystal Heimann, Julie Humke, Daymona Hunsucker, Jesse Margolis, Kevin Mahoney, and Crystal Saffel from Smithville Elementary, Arlene Davenport, Patricia Hawkins, Dianna King, Valerie Rodriguez and Crystal Vinklarek from Smithville Junior High, and Jennifer Berry, Mary Castello, Virginia Marek, Tessa Otten, Lacey Schwanke and Lisa Wood from Smithville High School. A special thank you to Dr. Bethany Logan for overseeing the

mentor program.

**Public Communications** – There were no communications from the public.

**Consent Agenda** – Josh Magden moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 6 as presented. With a second from Nancy Towry, the vote passed 6-0.

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 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 the following important issues pertaining to the District.

- Enrollment numbers as of November 9, 2023 are 1826 students with an attendance rate of 93.04%.
- Reminder, ESC 13 is offering a Legislative Update in LaGrange on November 27th. Please let Denise know no later than Friday if you would like to attend. This update is available online as well.
- Smithville ISD is putting up a fence to secure Barry Field during school hours. This is to address the safety of students and staff. The field will continue to be available for use by the community outside of school hours.
- Kudos to Wayne King and his assistants for their kind support of the McDade ISD band. The McDade Bulldog band advanced to state competition this past weekend, where they placed 6th. They extended their gratitude to Mr. King for his guidance and support of the band and its directors as this relatively new organization made its first trip to state competition.
- Superintendent submission to UIL – There are currently 555 high school students enrolled as of October 27, 2023.
- Senate Bill 763 - School chaplains
- Child Nutrition would like to invite you to celebrate Thanksgiving with them by attending one of the following lunchtime meals: Junior High on Wednesday, November 15th, Smithville Elementary on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> or Brown Primary on Friday, November 17th.
- The Central Office Christmas Social will be held on Wednesday, December 6th from 2pm to 4:30pm. You are cordially invited to attend.
- Academic Calendar Surveys have been received. Copies are at your seats.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

**SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight** - Instructional Technology

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. The curriculum highlight for November was presented by Dr. Logan, which was an update on instructional technology.

**Update on the Proposed Drainage Project Pursued by Bastrop County, Texas and City of Smithville** – Superintendent Burns provided an update on the proposed drainage project pursued by Bastrop County, Texas and City of Smithville, Texas, for which the County and the City propose use and inclusion of school district property.

**Intruder Detection Audit Findings and Training Plan** – Dr. Michael Caudill, Assistant Superintendent in charge of safety and security, presented audit findings, a staff training plan and information to the Board of Trustees.

**Tentative December Agenda Items** – Tentative items for the December meeting include:

- a. Superintendent’s Self-Evaluation Submission to the Board
- b. Distribution of Superintendent Evaluation Materials

**Review and Approve 2022-2023 District Financial Audit** – As required by the Texas Education Agency, an annual audit of financial information is conducted 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, who is a Principal with Armstrong, presented the audit. Alan Hemphill moved to accept the 2022-2023 audit as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**Consider Approval of SHAC Recommended Curriculum** – Erin Seale, School Nurse and Co-President of the School Health Advisory Committee, shared a current committee list and requested approval of the recommended SB9 curriculum. Josh Magden moved to approve the curriculum as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

**Consider Approval of Certified Levy in Accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code 26.09(e)** – The district is in receipt of a request from Ellen Owens, Tax Assessor/Collector for the Smithville Independent School District, for approval of the attached document in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code 26.09(e). This document requires that the Board of Trustees approve the original certified tax levy. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the certified tax levy as presented. Candice Parsons seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

**Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000** – The purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the processing and scanning of the District's permanent documents to a cloud management system. Alan Hemphill made a motion to approve the expenditure as presented. After a second from Michael Hancock, the motion passed 6-0.

**Consider Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Tax Collection Services** – No action was taken on this item.

**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 2023-2025 district and campus improvement plans as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote passed 6-0.

**Voting for Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors** – The Bastrop County Appraisal District is governed by a five-member board of directors which is elected by the governing bodies of the taxing entities in Bastrop County. Board members serve two-year at-large terms, which begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> of even numbered years. Chapter 6 of the Property Tax Code allows each tax unit to cast votes for the Board of Directors of the Bastrop Central Appraisal District in proportion to their tax levy. The Smithville Independent School District is allocated 384 votes, and the goal is to elect a Smithville representative to the Bastrop County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Josh Magden moved to cast the total 384 votes for Justin Bezner. Michael Hancock seconded the motion and it carried with a 6-0 vote.

**Resignations of Certified Personnel** – Mrs. Burns reported the resignation of Desiree Sorber as fourth grade teacher at Smithville Elementary School. No action was required.

**Employment of Certified Personnel** – There are no recommendations for employment at this time.

**Closed Session: Discussion regarding assignment/reassignment of administrative positions. Tex. Gov't Code sec. 551.071** – The Board adjourned to closed session at 7:37 p.m. and returned at 9:00 p.m. With no action taken.

Adjournment – Nancy Towry moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. With a second from Michael Hancock and a 6-0 vote, the meeting adjourned.