

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 Tuesday, January 19, 2021 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Red Brick Building (Board In-Person, Public ZOOM)

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IeF83tcST0CZ8FHWOLFdqA

Red Brick Building, 901 N.E. 6th Street, Smithville, TX 78957.

Members present: Alan Hemphill, Mike Davis, Jr., Grant Gutierrez, Chris Hinnant, Nancy Towry

Members absent: Howard Burns, Jr., Candice Parsons

Others present: Mark Goulet, Kathy Mathias, Patricia Hawkins, Erik McCowan, Kurt Hammons, Lelia Joy, Crystal Mabery, Mary Alice Castello, Pam Cowan, Steven Gibson, Jonathan Duran, Hannah Bales, Steffani Motyka, Cameron Drummond, Amanda Gommert, Belinda Waters, Josh Magden, Natalia Hannath, Michael Caudill, Rebekah Hinnant, Zack Harris, Jenny Davis, Gabriela Calderon, Michael Hoffman, Lisa Gonzales, Shari Bang, Ma Igoe, Ana Murray, Jean Ann McCarthy, Cheryl Burns, David Edwards, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – Mr. Hemphill called the roll of members. Mr. Burns and Mrs. Parsons were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance – Brown Primary students led the group virtually in the Pledge of Allegiance,

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 FIRST rating standards. Chief Financial Officer Jean Ann McCarthy presented the F.I.R.S.T. ratings. Smithville I.S.D. was recognized for superior attendance.

Board Recognitions

School Board Recognition Activities – January is School Board Recognition Month. All campuses in our district plan activities to show appreciation to our School Board for what they do for our schools. The Superintendent presents each member with a certificate of appreciation for their dedication and service. This year's theme is "Navigating to Success". Smithville would like to express our appreciation to the Smithville ISD Board of Trustees for their selfless dedication and contributions to the students and staff of our district.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Julie Barron with the Bastrop County Young Republicans in regards to scholarship opportunities for S.I.S.D. students, and Kurt Hammons and Erik McCowan regarding their position on Big Star Solar, LLC and its possible impact on the Rosanky community.

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 5-0. The Consent Agenda included:

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 Resolutions

Information Items

Financial Report – The Chief Financial Officer, Jean Ann McCarthy, shared the financial disbursements for the previous month with the Board of Trustees. No action was required.

Superintendent's Report – The Superintendent shared the following information with the Board of Trustees:

- ResponsiveEd Charter School Statement of Impact
- All students returned to school for face-to-face instruction today. Medical exemptions will be honored.
- Tiger Insider, Advocacy Calendar and other articles were distributed to the Board.
- Covid vaccinations for SISD employees
- Both incumbents have filed for school board. We have had no other filings.
- Outstanding students for the second nine-weeks. Mrs. Burns shared a power point video honoring the outstanding students. Faith Silvey and Chrisian Osorio were chosen from the junior high, and Kiana Sapien and Blain Stockton were chosen from the high school.

Facility Renovation Update – Mrs. Burns reported that the renovation process at Smithville Elementary is almost complete. A powerpoint of photos showcased the end product.

COVID-19 Update – David Edwards, Federal Programs Director, presented an update on COVID-19 including current numbers and how it pertains to instruction and mitigation plans for the district.

Update on Application for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes by Big Star Solar, LLC, Application No. 1531.

At the regular board meeting in September 2020, the Board of Trustees reviewed an Appraised Value Limitation Application by Big Star Solar, LLC for Construction of a Solar Powered Electric Generating Facility Under Chapter 313, Tax Code. No action was taken at that meeting – Smithville ISD attorneys Mark Goulet and Kathy Mathias were present at the meeting to review the Letter of Completeness received from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and to present the financial impact of the project on Smithville I.S.D.

The Board recessed at 7:15 p.m. and returned at 7:27 p.m. due to technology issues.

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

- a. Public Hearing - TAPR
- b. Financial Report
- c. Superintendent's Report
- d. Facility Renovation Update
- e. COVID-19 Update
- f. District and Campus Improvement Plan Status Reports
- g. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel
- h. Administrative contracts

Action Items

Review and Approve 2019-2020 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 presented at the regular December meeting but no action was taken as the audit firm was waiting for final ESSER compliance. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the audit as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

UIL Eligibility for After-School Participation During Virtual Learning – Texas Education Agency guidance authorizes school districts to develop local policy that would exclude students who are receiving all-remote instruction from participating in extracurricular activities and elective courses open only to students in a particular University Interscholastic League (UIL) activity. A student or an interdistrict transfer who is voluntarily participating in an all-remote instructional method, whether synchronous or asynchronous, shall not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activity, practice, or performance for the grading period in which the student is receiving all-remote instruction. Nancy Towry moved to approve the Resolution of the Board Regarding Exclusion from Extracurricular Activities and Elective Courses as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded, and the motion carried 3-2 with Chris Hinnant and Grant Gutierrez opposed.

Review and Approve Board Operating Procedures - Following board elections and reorganization of the board each year, the board reviews their operating procedures to ensure that all board members have input into adopting the operating procedures and contact information is correct. Nancy Towry moved to approve the Board Operating Procedures as presented. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the vote passed 5-0. Mr. Gutierrez expressed a desire to review the length of officer terms at the next opportunity.

Order of Board of Trustees Election for May 1, 2021 – School Board members serve three-year staggered terms of office. Each year the Board must call an election to elect places whose three-year term is expiring. The next regular election of the Smithville ISD Board of Trustees will be held on May 1, 2021 with Places 3 and 4 up for election. Grant Gutierrez 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 Elections Administrator. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Consider Approval of Election Services Contract with Bastrop County and Joint Election Agreement with the City of Smithville

– 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 all elections ordered by the school district for a 10% administrative fee. The total cost of the May 2021 election for Smithville ISD including supplies, polling place personnel, administrative fee, etc. is estimated at \$16,340.16. In addition, according to Chapter 271 of the Election Code, school districts are required to hold their elections jointly with the municipality located within the district. Smithville I.S.D. would like to continue its practice of holding a joint election with the City of Smithville in compliance with election code. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the Election Services Contract with Bastrop County including the Joint Election Agreement with the City of Smithville as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Personnel

Resignations of Certified Personnel – There were no resignations to report.

Employment of Certified Personnel – No employment was recommended.

The Board moved to closed session at 8:20 p.m. and returned at 9:15 p.m. with no official action taken.

Superintendent's Annual Evaluation – Board Policy BJCD [Local] requires an annual evaluation of the superintendent. The Board received a self-evaluation of the superintendent at the December meeting. Board operating procedures call for the Board to complete the evaluation document and deliver the evaluation to the superintendent in closed session.

Superintendent's Employment Contract Renewal – Grant Gutierrez moved to extend the superintendent's contract by one year with the annual salary determination postponed until administrative salaries are reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.