

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, March 31, 2025 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 Vinklarek, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Bryan Jones

Others present: Sarah Vinklarek, Bethany Logan, Jason Peterson, Stacy Tiner, Kristen Merriweather, Lindsey Saunders, Tracy Johnson, Crystal Vinklarek, Sara Peterson, Candy Biehle, Jill Strube, Natalia Hannath, Zack Harris, Rebecca Hamilton, Willy Culberson, Misty Vasquez, Tucker Copeland, Alta Yevett Alexander, Judith Bergeron, Rose Gutierrez, Crystal Heimann, Justin Heimann, Molly Armstrong, Karry Moore, Jim Horton, Amanda Hudspeth, Michele Broadway, Mark Broadway, Brandon Moore, Ashley Taylor, Adlee Taylor, Sheila Namken, Conner Namken, Anna Goertz, Erin O'Rourke, Deanne O'Rourke, Pamela Fallwell, Nicole Cartledge, Kayla Herschap, Toby Shuler, Tom Shuler, Indigo Shuler, Steve Wood, Lisa Wood, Amanda Wood, Brittanie Breggman, Kelly Warriner, Victor Trevino, Steve Neuhaus, Tye Williams, Doug Warriner, Lupe Luna, Jimmy Jenkins, Juan Andrade, Fanny Soto, Edee Denny, Tim Miller, Paula Miller, Pierce Dutil, Chris Allen, Steve Gibson, Dee James, Charles James, Jill Strube, Tilda Gibson, Jean Ann McCarthy, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call – Mr. Hinnant called the roll of members. All were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance

Students from Smithville Elementary who have received the most Tiger Tokens for the month led the group in the pledge. Those students are: Renata Andrade-Soto, Ian Rodriguez, Levi Williamson, Bridger Little-Nuehaus, Christian Brueggmann, Rhett Neumann, Victoria Flores Tamayo, and Novalie Tharp.

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. Poppy Shuler and Easton Moore, both sixth graders, were chosen as outstanding students for the 3rd nine-weeks

from Smithville Junior High. Poppy is the daughter of Thomas and Toby Shuler, and Easton is the son of Brandon and Karry Moore. Outstanding students chosen from Smithville High School are twelfth graders Amanda Wood and Konner Namken. Amanda is the daughter of Steve and Lisa Wood, and Konner is the son of Courtland and Sheila Namken. Congratulations to these students for their outstanding achievement!

Smithville Elementary Tigers of the Month – 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 or more exceptional students 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 Tigers of the Month for this month are Loretta Warriner, Erin Huggins and Liam Dutil. Amazing students!

Recognition of Science Fair Winners – Smithville I.S.D. had a terrific showing at the Greater Austin Regional Science Fair on February 22nd. We would like to recognize the students who placed as follows: **3rd Grade:** 2nd place-Nicholas Gil, Kale Waneck, Cody Haney (Soda Explosion), 2nd place-Barrett Barrientos, Kyndall Smith, Keely Garrison, (The Dissolving Bath Bombs), 2nd Place-Collins Lawrence, Cora Williams, Sawyer Robbins (What Frozen Dessert Melts Faster), 2nd Place-Blake Hilbig, Gwen Magden (Favorite Treats), 2nd Place-Weston Dominy (Rainbow Rubber Eggs), **4th Grade:** 1st Place-Case Williams (The Big Bubble), 1st Place-Adyn Pera (Potatoes and Light), 2nd Place-Bailey Goertz, Kallie Herschap, Adlee Taylor (Expanding Orbeez), 2nd-Braxton Staton (Raising Rye Grass), **5th Grade:** 1st Place-Alice Schwanke, Dakota Perez, Addison Wendel (Water Colors), 2nd Place-Zoey Clanton, Aubree Meadows, Mason Buckner (Apple, Lemon and Potato Circuit), 2nd Place-Aubrey Harper, Vincent Trevino, Kylie Gonzalez (Clear Liquid Evaporation), 2nd Place-Lucas Gibson, Camora Coleman, Caree Oertli (Penny Project), 3rd Place-Lyzander Lucher, Aiden Rogers, Zayver Hibbens-Terrases (How Far do Ballons Go).

Tiger Award Recipient Recognition – Tiger Award recipients are nominated by peers. Each campus and department nominate a representative. Final nominations are voted on by a select committee. Each campus and department will have an award winner that will be recognized at the board meeting every 9-weeks. The Board recognized the Tiger Award winners for the third 9-weeks: Brown Primary – Ashley Ladewig (Paraprofessional), Smithville Elementary – Crystal Heimann (Teacher), Smithville Junior High – Christie Mick (Paraprofessional) Smithville High School – Mark Broadway (Teacher) ISD – Guadalupe Barragan Luna (Child Nutrition).

Public Communications – The Board heard from Mr. Jimmy Jenkins, city councilman, in support of the Southside History Project.

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

Financial Report – Mrs. 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 updated the Board on important issues pertaining to the District including:

- District enrollment as of Friday, March 28, 2025 is 1840 students with a daily attendance rate of 92.72%.
- The 2025-2026 calendar approved by the Board at the February meeting will be distributed to the Board members, with the May 4th date added.
- Smithville ISD Welding students who are rising juniors, will have the opportunity for students to engage in work-based learning internships and the chance to connect with professionals in the welding field for the summer of 2025. Four students will work in a paid internship for six weeks full time and will have the opportunity to potentially work part time during the school year if they are successful in the internship. This collaboration will provide invaluable hands-on experience. Dr. Logan, Mr. Copeland, and Mr. Torrey are in process of collaborating with TCS on the student application process which will begin in mid April.
- The Tiger Band will be performing at the PAC in Bastrop at 1:30 on Thursday, April 3rd.
- PreK has a music program on Friday, April 4th at 10am.
- 3rd Grade has a music program on Friday, April 4th at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 18th is Good Friday and is a holiday for staff and students.
- Friday, April 24th is also a staff and student holiday.
- Spring sports are in full swing. Please come out and support your Tigers and Lady Tigers!
- Board member continuing education hours will be reported at the regular April meeting. You have access to your continuing education progress report on your mytasb account. Training is available online through Region 13, Vector Solutions (SafeSchools) and various other websites.
- Teachworthy Update - SISD received some federal funds that we were able to use to begin the 1st Cohort. The district reviewed application and administrative staff chose 4 candidates that had a significant number of college credit and would be able to complete the program in a timely manner. We will be exploring the timeline for Cohort 2.
- Statement from the Superintendent: Smithville, Texas - Smithville ISD's primary focus is to provide the highest quality education and support the needs of our students, staff, and families. While we respect and appreciate the work of our legislators in addressing community issues, we want to ensure that public statements accurately reflect the views and priorities of Smithville ISD. At this time, the District has no concerns related to students behaving as anything but typical children. Rep. Gerdes contacted Superintendent Cheryl Burns to ask if there were any litter boxes for students on District campuses. Burns informed Rep. Gerdes that there were not, but as a courtesy to Rep. Gerdes, Mrs. Burns made the extra effort to walk the campus to confirm that there were no litter boxes. We encourage open and transparent dialogue between all stakeholders and appreciate the opportunity to clarify our position. As always, we welcome conversations with policy makers to ensure that our schools' needs are accurately represented and effectively addressed.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Update – Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bethany Logan updated the Board of Trustees on the progress of the Smithville I.S.D. Strategic Plan, which included the efforts of Smithville ISD to recruit and retain teachers.

Smithville Southside History Project – Alta Yevett Alexander addressed the Board in public communications at the regular February board meeting regarding the Smithville Southside History Project. This project is being sponsored by the City of Smithville, and is an effort to recognize the contributions of the southside community of Smithville throughout the history of the town.

Review of 2025-2026 High School Course Catalog – Administrators from the high school review and edit the course catalog on an annual basis for the upcoming school year. A report was given to the Board of Trustees and updates or changes was noted. Most changes are typically due to legislative mandate and the course catalog provides information for students and parents to select required courses as well as elective courses. The information is also used to determine staff and budget.

Tentative April Agenda Items – Tentative items to be included in the April meeting are:

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Update
- d. Update from BEFCO Engineering about the SISD drainage project
- e. Superintendent Search Update
- f. Consider Custodial Contract Renewal
- g. Consider Approval of Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials Survey 2025-2026
- h.. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel

Consider Adoption of an Order Authorizing and Providing for the Defeasance and Redemption of Certain Outstanding Obligations of Smithville Independent School District; Authorizing the Execution of an Escrow Agreement; and Containing Other Provisions Related Thereto – This agenda item was to consider adoption of an order authorizing and providing for the defeasance and redemption of certain outstanding obligations of Smithville Independent School District; authorizing the execution of an escrow agreement; and containing other provisions related thereto. Josh Magden moved that the Board of Trustees adopt the order authorizing and providing for the defeasance and redemption of certain outstanding obligations, which is before the Board. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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. In 2021, the Board of Trustees voted to approve the firm of Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, PC. The Board voted to renew the contract in January 2023, and in January 2024. Grant Gutierrez moved approval of the audit engagement letter for the 2024-2025 financial audit. Michael Hancock seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Consider Bank Depository Contract Extension – The Board approved First National Bank as its depository in May 2021, after a duly held bidding process. The District is now eligible for a second two-year extension to end August 31, 2027. The District has received outstanding service from them and it is our recommendation for the Board of Trustees to extend the depository contract with First National Bank of Bastrop for the period September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2027. Michael Hancock moved approval of the contract extension as presented. Bryan Jones seconded and the vote carried 7-0.

Superintendent Search Update – This will be a recurring agenda item to keep the staff and community updated on the superintendent search process. Mr. Hinnant reported that 33 applications for the position has been received to date. No action is required at this time.

Consider Resolution Urging Support from Our Elected Legislators – Mr. Magden moved to pass a resolution urging our legislators to support public education funding and student needs in the State of Texas. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent would like to inform the Board of the resignation of Valerie Breeden, a teacher at the high school, effective the end of the school year. No action is required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – No employment is recommended at this time.

Consider and Take Action Regarding Certified Staff Contract Renewals – The administrators of the district have submitted to the office of the superintendent their recommendations for contract renewal of existing certified staff members. The Board of Trustees is the final hiring authority for certified contract employees for Smithville I.S.D. and will act upon the recommendations for renewal of certified staff as presented by the Superintendent. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the recommended renewal of staff as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the vote carried 7-0.

Adjournment – Josh Magden moved the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion passed 7-0.