

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, August 25, 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, Bryan Jones

Members absent: Candice Parsons

Others present: Ashley Sanchez, Ryan Sanchez, Bethany Logan, Tucker Copeland, Erin O'Rourke, Tracy Johnson, Misty Vasquez, Chris Behrens, Devon Behrens, Connor Behrens, Preston Behrens, Sam Rodriguez, Valerie Rodriguez, Kayla Herschap, Hallie Herschap, Rosie Gutierrez, Elijah Heimann, Sarah Vinklarek, Matthew Vinklarek, Jacob Vinklarek, Brock Vinklarek, Jennifer Garza, Evelyn Garza, Natalia Hannath, Katherine Hannath, Cora Williams, Cory Williams, Nicholas Gil, Kasia Swank, Mary Buentello, Victoria Buentello, Denis McGiness, Matt Vinklarek, Angie Westerfield, Dianna King, Molly Cox, Chloe Cox, Harold Wessels, Donna Wessels, Molly Perry, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – Mr. Gutierrez then called the roll of members. Mrs. Parsons was absent.

Student-Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students from Smithville Elementary led the group in the pledge. Those students were Brock Vinklarek, Samuel Rodriguez, Preston Behrens, Elijah Heimann, Max "Julian" Jones, Benjamin Jones, Evelyn Garza, Nicholas Gil, Cora Williams, Cash Sweeney, Chloe Cox, Hallie Herschap, Molly Ornas, Ryan Sanchez, Leighton Davis and Katherine Hannath.

Public Hearing – The school is required by state laws and board policies CCG [Legal] and CE[Legal] to conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget. Any taxpayer of the District may be present and participate in the meeting. Mrs. Tiner, Business Manager, made a short presentation of the 2025-2026 proposed budget. There were no questions or comments from the public.

Public Comment – No citizens signed up to communicate to the Board.

Consent Agenda – Josh Magden moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Chelsa Vinklarek seconded and the motion passed 6-0. 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. Budget Amendments
8. Financial Report
9. Annual Approval of Self-Certification of the Micro-Purchase Threshold for FY 2025-2026
10. Approve a Resolution Regarding Extra-Curricular Status of the 4-H Organization and County Agents
11. Annual Approval of Required Training for School District Staff

Superintendent Update – The Superintendent updated the Board on important matters pertaining to the District including the following:

Enrollment Update

As of Friday, August 22:

- Total Enrollment: 1857
- Brown Primary - 192
- SES - 707
- SJHS- 425
- SHS - 533

Child Nutrition Update

As of Friday August 22nd and compared to this time last year:

- Breakfast Average Daily Participation is down 28%
- Lunch Average Daily Participation is down 10%
- District wide - 50.43% eligible for the Free/Reduced program

89th Legislative Session Update

- 133 Bills impacting public education were passed into law
- Board training was held with ESC 13 last Monday
- We are continuing to work on implementation and training related to new laws
- 2nd Special Session is in progress now, which could impact STAAR and a few other areas related to public education

Upcoming Events

- Volleyball (JV/V) in Flatonia Tomorrow and Del Valle on Friday (F/JV)
- Cross country in Temple on Friday
- First home varsity football game v. Rockdale on Friday at 7:30
- Fall tennis next match on September 10 in Yoakum
- Chamber Lunch, Wednesday, August 27 - State of the District
- Monday, September 1 - Labor Day Holiday
- TASA/TASB - September 12-14

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2024-2028 Update – Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bethany Logan, provided an overview of the District’s strategic plan, specific action steps, and areas of focus for implementation in the 2025-26 school year.

Receive a Report on State Assessment and Accountability Results – Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bethany Logan, provided an overview of the District’s performance on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STARR), an overview of the Texas A-F Accountability System, and the Smithville ISD’s performance within this system.

Tentative September Agenda Items – Tentative items for the September meeting include:

- a. Student Recognitions
- b. Superintendent’s Report
- c. Approval of the 2025-26 District & Campus Improvement Plans
- d. Approval of SHAC Membership for 2025-26
- e. Purchase greater than \$50,000 for a school bus
- f. Personnel

Consider Authorizing a Defeasance of Debt in the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year – Debt defeasance is an early payment on outstanding bonds where the District calls bonds maturing in the future years and pays for those bonds in the upcoming year. Defeasance builds debt capacity while reducing total interest cost paid by the District on its outstanding bonds. Considered 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. Considered the Defeasance not to exceed \$790,000 in Outstanding District Unlimited Tax Bonds During the Upcoming Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in Order to Realize an Estimated \$652,800 in Interest Cost Savings and to Maintain the District's Property Tax Rate for the Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at the Same Tax Rate As the Current Fiscal Year 2024-2025 of \$0.1800 per \$100 of Taxable Assessed Valuation.

Josh Magden recommended approval of an order authorizing and providing for the defeasance and redemption of certain outstanding obligations of Smithville Independent School District in fiscal year 2026; authorizing the execution of an escrow agreement; and containing other provisions related thereto. Michael Hancock seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Consider Adoption of the 2025-2026 District Budget – The Board is required to adopt an operational budget before the beginning of each fiscal year, which begins September 1st. Drafts of the budget have been presented to the Board and discussion regarding expenditures, projected revenue and priorities were discussed at prior meetings. Michael Hancock moved to adopt the district budget as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Consider Adoption of the 2025-2026 District Tax Rate – The Board is required to set a tax rate within 60 days of receiving the certified tax roll but no later than September 30th. The Board is also required to conduct a public hearing on the budget and tax rate before setting the tax rate. The tax rate necessary to fund the proposed 2025-2026 budget is \$0.9425 per hundred dollars valuation. That rate includes an M&O rate of \$0.7625 and an I&S rate of \$0.1800, representing no change in the tax rate for both M&O and I&S from the 2024-2025 budget

year. Michael Hancock moved to adopt the district tax rate as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Accept donation from the Smithville Education Foundation for \$20,000 to support the Project Tiger initiative – In accordance with Board Policy CDC(LOCAL), gifts that a potential donor has expressly made conditional upon the District's use for a specified purpose shall require Board approval. An anonymous donor recently provided a direct donation in the amount of \$20,000 to the Smithville Education Foundation for support of the Project Tiger initiative, the district's "grow your own" teacher program to support staff in completing their degree and teacher certification. Specifically, the funds will support costs associated with obtaining teacher certification. Josh Magden moved to accept the donation from the Smithville Education Foundation for \$20,000 to support the Project Tiger Initiative as presented. Bryan Jones seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Memorandum of Understanding for the Bastrop County Juvenile Boot Camp – This Memorandum of Understanding ("Agreement") is an interlocal agreement entered into pursuant to Texas Education Code, Chapter 37 and the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 791, and is entered into to be effective between Bastrop County, the Bastrop County Juvenile Probation Department, (BCJPD) and the following educational and local government entities: Bastrop Independent School District, Elgin Independent School District, Smithville Independent School District, McDade Independent School District, and the Cities of Bastrop, Elgin, and Smithville. Chris Hinnant moved to approve the memorandum of understanding for the Bastrop County Juvenile Boot Camp as presented. Josh Magden seconded and the motion carried 6-0

Consider Adoption of Updated Board Operating Procedures – Board Operating Procedures provide a guide to administrative operations of the Board of Trustees, including the development of agendas, Trustee conduct, communication, selection and duties of Board officers, etc. The board previously discussed updates to their operating procedures on August 11, and revisions were presented as discussed. Chelsa Vinklerek moved to adopt the updated Board Operating Procedures as presented. After a second from Chris Hinnant the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 6:57 and returned at 7:35 p.m. with no official action taken.

Consideration and discussion regarding Personnel matters related to the Superintendent's annual evaluation instrument in accordance with Texas Government Code 551.074, – This was discussed in closed session.

Adjournment – Josh Magden moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. With a second from Bryan Jones and after a 6-0 vote, the board meeting ended.