

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, October 18, 2021 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Smithville ISD Administrative Building, PO Box 479, 901 N.E. 6th Street, Smithville, Texas 78957.

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

Others present: David Edwards, Angela Maldonado, Gabriel Maldonado, Matthew Maldonado, Rene Maldonado, Frank Buentello, Mary Buentello, Michael Caudill, Noe McCarthy, Stephanie Foster, Tucker Copeland, Jennifer Bezner, Justin Bezner, Margarita Igoe, Candy Biehle, Sheila Wilson, Jaimie Kadlecsek, Cory Kadlecsek, Kristi Sandoval, Cyndee Johnson, Devon Utecht, Amanda Gommert, Whitney Brown, Jean Ann McCarthy, Brad Bass, Kendall Bezner, Crystal Vinklarek, Lyla Vinklarek, Kevin Vinklarek, Sarah Vinklarek, Sam Vinklarek, Jacob Vinklarek, Brock Vinklarek, Leanne Vinklarek, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call – The Board President called the roll of members. All were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students who are currently top point earners from the House of Loyalty at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. They were: Jase Geigenmiller, Avery Hayden, Raphael Diaz, Jordan Chatham, Zayden Byrd, Brandon Jones, and Jacob Vinklarek.

Character Education Speaker – Student guest speakers will be present at each board meeting to read a short essay on the Character Trait of the Month. For the October Board meeting, the Board heard from Mia McNeil, a second grader in Ms. Parks' class, and Justin Ngim, a fourth grader in Ms. Vinklarek's class, on the character trait "Compassion".

Outstanding Students for the First 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. Lyla Vinklarek, a seventh grader, and Devon Utecht, an eighth grader, were selected as the outstanding students for the first nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Lyla is the daughter of Kevin and Crystal Vinklarek, and Devon is the son of Scott and Jamie Utecht. Two students were selected as outstanding students from Smithville High School for the first nine-weeks. They are Hadlee Ladewig and Gabriel

Maldonado. Hadlee is a senior, and is the daughter of Josh and Ashley Ladewig. Gabriel is also a senior, and is the son of Rene and Angela Maldonado. All four students were present at the meeting to receive recognition from the Board.

Tiger Awards – Tiger Award recipients are members of the SISD staff and are nominated by peers and 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 first 9-weeks: Brown Primary - Jaimie Kadlecek, Smithville Elementary - Kristi Sandoval, Smithville Junior High - Cyndee Johnson, Smithville High School - Brad Bass, and ISD - Sheila Wilson.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Kendall Bezner regarding the possible addition of a choir program at Smithville ISD, and from Justin Bezner expressing his concerns with the online ticket purchasing process and requested that the Board consider waiving the cost of tickets for senior citizens.

Consent Agenda – Candice Parsons moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 7 as presented. With a second from Howard Burns, Jr., the vote passed 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
7. Budget Amendments

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 shared the following information with the Board of Trustees:

- District enrollment is currently 1786 students.
- Fencing material for the Brown Primary project will arrive on Wednesday, October 20th. Installation is scheduled to begin on November 8th.
- The Tiger Band earned all 1st division ratings this past Saturday at the UIL Regional Marching Contest in Giddings. This is the Tiger Band's 17th year in a row of 1st divisions in marching at UIL. The Area Marching Contest will be held at "The Pfield" stadium in Pflugerville on Saturday, October 30th.
- Thank you to Wayne King and Cathy Sherrill for assisting the McDade band during their very first competition. Their band director had been involved in a motor vehicle accident and our Tiger Band leaders stepped in to save the day. Our band directors also kindly assisted the Flatonia band program when they experienced the passing of their director.
- The Lady Tigers are in third place in volleyball, and the Tigers are 6-1.
- Both boys and girls cross country are regionals bound!
- Congratulations to Charles Hodge, IV for being named Ford Player of the Week.

- Due to a shortage of food supplies, there will be no guests invited to Thanksgiving Dinner with our students this year.
- The Food Service department is undergoing a very comprehensive audit.
- A copy of the Tiger Insider is at your place.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

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

Targeted Improvement Plan Review (TIP) – The intervention plan addresses the requirements under Texas Education Code (TEC) 39. Intervention requirements and resources are provided through the Texas Education Agency framework of the Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP), which includes the continuous improvement process of data analysis, needs assessment, improvement planning, and implementation and monitoring of a targeted improvement plan. The elementary and junior high principals presented the Smithville Elementary School and the Smithville Junior High School Targeted Improvement Plans.

Review High School Air Quality and HVAC – Zack Harris, Director of Maintenance, was available to discuss concerns about air quality at the high school campus and corrective measures being taken to address any issues.

Child Nutrition Report – Candy Biehle, Child Nutrition Director, reported to the Board on numerous activities that she and her staff are involved in throughout the year as well as last year's highlights and programs. She also expressed her concerns with availability of supplies throughout the course of this school year.

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

- FIRST Ratings Public Hearing
- Financial Report
- Superintendent's Report
- Covid-19 Report
- Review and Approve District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance Objectives
- Voting for Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors
- Personnel

Consider One-time Staff Retention Incentive – The strategic object, goal or need addressed by this agenda item was to authorize an amendment to the employee salary schedules to include a retention stipend to address morale and retention. Due to continued shortages of staff in multiple areas, SISD would like to offer a retention stipend to staff that complete their workday calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. The funding source for the stipend will be the ESSER III funds and the estimated total cost of the stipend amendment will be \$280,000. The public purpose served by this stipend is to address employee retention and morale. This stipend is an allowable expenditure for ESSER III funds based on the criteria "activities that are necessary to continue to employ existing staff of the LEA". This is a one-time stipend and will be paid on July 1st to all employees who complete their workday calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. This stipend

will be prorated for employees who are hired after the initial start date and complete their work day calendar. Nancy Towry moved that the Board of Trustees authorize an amendment to the employee salary schedule as outlined by the superintendent to include a one-time stipend to be paid on July 1, 2022 for all permanent employees (not including substitutes) that complete their workday calendar for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$1000. Those employees hired after the initial start date and complete their work day calendar will receive a prorated portion of the \$1000 stipend. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Consider Revision of 2021-2022 Salary Schedule – Due to critical shortage area needs that must be addressed, the Superintendent requested authorization to revise the 2021-2022 salary schedules. Howard Burns, Jr. moved that the Board of Trustees approved the 2021-2022 salary schedules as presented. Nancy Towry seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Approval of Resolution to Adopt the EVS 6110 Voting System as Requested by Bastrop County - Elections Section 123.035 of the Texas Election Code requires that use of new voting equipment must be approved by the Elections Division of the office of the Texas Secretary of State. The Bastrop County Elections Department, the entity that conducts all elections for the Smithville ISD Board of Trustees, has received approval from the State of Texas to purchase a new voting system, the EVS 6110 voting system, that is certified for use in Texas. The Bastrop County Elections Department plans to use the system for elections in 2022 and all subsequent elections. Smithville ISD is required to adopt by resolution the voting system that the county will use in its elections. Alan Hemphill moved to approved the resolution as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Call for Special Board Workshop to Discuss Designation of Fund Balance

Mrs. Burns and Mrs. McCarthy requested that the board meet in a special workshop to discuss options in regard to the designated fund balance. Grant Gutierrez moved to schedule the workshop for Monday, December 6, 2021. Alan Hemphill seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Linda Neville and Derek Crunk, teachers at Smithville High School. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – There was no employment recommended at this time.

Adjournment – The board meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.