

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 26, 2024 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Smithville ISD Administrative Building, PO Box 479, 901 N.E. 6th Street, Smithville, Texas 78957.

Members present: Michael Hancock, Chelsa Vinklerek, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Bryan Jones
Members absent: Grant Gutierrez, Candice Parsons
Others present: Tucker Copeland, Sean Sanchez, Amanda Hudspeth, Whitney Brown, Candy Biehle, Misty Vasquez, Sarah Vinklerek, Zack Harris, Lindsey Saunders, Tracy Johnson, Bethany Logan, Rebecca Hamilton, Margarita Igoe, Holly Brockman, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – The Board President called the roll of members. Mr. Gutierrez and Mrs. Parsons were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance – The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. Mr. Sanchez, Business Manager, made a short presentation of the 2024-2025 proposed budget.

Public Communications – There were no citizens signed up to communicate with the Board.

Consent Agenda – Josh Magden moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Michael Hancock 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. Budget Amendments

Financial Report – The business manager, Sean Sanchez, reviewed the financial disbursements for the previous month with the Board of Trustees. No action was required.

Superintendent's Report – The Superintendent updates the Board on important issues pertaining to the District including:

- Enrollment numbers as of August 16th are: Brown Primary 184, Smithville Elementary 682, Smithville Junior High 411, and Smithville High School 550 for a total of 1827. This is an increased enrollment of 30 students from the end of last school year.
- Our Lady Tigers volleyball teams play Flatonia here tomorrow evening beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- Our first home varsity football game is Friday, September 6th at 7:30 p.m. against Giddings. Our Lady Tigers will play at home the same evening against Cedar Creek beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- Reserved seats for the 2024 football season have been assigned to the Board. Please pay for any extra seats you may have reserved. Your district passes are at your seats. We look forward to seeing you at the games. Go Tigers!
- Homecoming is next week. The Homecoming Parade begins at 6:30 followed by a pep rally at the stadium. Homecoming Queen and King will be crowned on Friday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. and kickoff is at 7:30 p.m.
- We are continuing our Lunch & Learn series this year, and our first one is this Wednesday, August 28th at Noon. These will be monthly online events for parents and community members to hear about various topics.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

SISD Curriculum Corner - STAAR Results – Dr. Bethany Logan, Assistant Superintendent, will present the Board 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. This month she updated the Board on accountability and projections of results on the recent STAAR test.

School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) Update – Dr. Logan presented a discussion of roles, responsibilities and guidelines for SHAC in the 2024-2025 school year.

Safety and Security Update – Dr. Logan reported to the Board on measures being taken in the district to address safety and security for students and staff.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Review and Approve District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance Objectives
- d. Nominations for the Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors
- e. Personnel

Closed Session – Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, consultation with attorney regarding the agreements with the contractor for the construction of the Junior High School – The Board entered closed session at 7:28 p.m. and returned at 8:32 p.m. with no official action taken. Josh Magden moved to authorize the Superintendent to proceed as discussed in executive session and

coordinate with legal counsel any legal action pursuant to the contracts for the construction of the Junior High School. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Consider Approval of Sheriff's Sale Lots 6, 7 and 8, Block 3, Eagleston Addition, Smithville, TX – In 1923, a landowner conveyed title to another individual on Lots 6, 7 & 8, Block 3, Eagleston Addition, Smithville, Texas. Then in 1927, there was a Delinquent Tax Suit in Cause #1636, filed against the original owner for all three lots. Next, a Sheriff's Deed conveying Lots 6, 7 & 8 out of the same individual to Smithville ISD was filed in V. 85, P. 13 in 1928. Apparently, there was a suit filed at some point because the landowner had paid the redemption premium and the taxes. However, the redemption certificate was lost and never recorded in Bastrop County (per the Deed in V. 1017 P. 523). Several other things happened, but no one ever got title policies along the way. In 1999, a Deed (Vol. 1017, Pg. 523) for Lot 8 from Smithville ISD to the heirs of the individual whom the title was conveyed to is filed by Surety Land & Title and it cleans up Lot 8 ONLY. In order to rectify the errors, there is a need for a Deed from Smithville I.S.D. to the current owner on Lots 6 and 7, Block 3, Eagleston Addition, Smithville, Texas. Mr. Noe Reyes, attorney with McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C., delinquent tax attorneys for Smithville ISD, was present at the meeting to explain this item with more clarity, and answer questions from the Board. Chelsa Vinklerek moved to approve the sherriff's sale and deed as requested. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Consider Adoption of the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 budget is \$0.9425 per hundred. That includes an M&O rate of \$0.7625 and an I&S rate of \$0.18 representing a combined decreased rate of \$0.0251 for M&O and I&S from the 2023-2024 budget year. The M&O rate is the maximum rate approved by voters in the tax ratification election held May 14, 2011. The I&S rate is a combined rate to pay for bonded indebtedness & additional debt. The tax rate must be set by passing a resolution from the Board. Josh Magden moved to approve the resolution adopting a tax rate of \$0.9425, which includes an M&O rate of \$0.7625 and \$0.1800 for interest and sinking. Michael Hancock seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Consider Adoption of the 2024-2025 District Budget – The Board is required to adopt an operational budget before the beginning of the fiscal year, which begins September 1st. Michael Hancock made a motion to adopt the 2024-2025 district budget as presented. With a second from Chelsa Vinklerek, the motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the purchase of 1 school bus after September 1, 2024. The 2024-2025 budget currently has \$175,000 budgeted for the purchase of one new school bus. The District would like to proceed with this purchase as budgeted and approved, after September 1st. Bryan Jones moved to approve the purchase of a school bus as requested. Michael Hancock seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

Consider Approval of Regulation Approving Self-Certification of Increased Micro-Purchase Threshold for FY 2024-2025 – The Federal Office of Management and Budget issued revised Uniform Grant Guidance updates that allow school districts to increase their micro-purchase threshold, for federal expenditures, from \$10,000 to \$49,999 if the LEA is a low-risk auditee for its most recent federal audit. This item must be reviewed and approved on an annual basis. This increase will allow Smithville ISD to make annual purchases up to \$49,999 without soliciting competitive price or rate quotations if

the District considers the price to be reasonably based. By increasing the micro-purchase threshold, Smithville ISD will be able to continue to work in a more efficient environment when reasonably priced items are obtained. Josh Magden made a motion to approve the Regulation Approving Self-Certification of Increased Micro-Purchase Threshold for FY 2024-2025 as presented. With a second from Chelsa Vinklarek, the motion carried 5-0. Josh Magden.

Review and Possibly Approve Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 – Josh Magden moved to approve the Smithville ISD Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 as presented. Bryan Jones seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Consider Approval of Required Trainings for School District Staff in Accordance with Senate Bill 1267 – In accordance with the requirements of Senate Bill 1267, the Superintendent shall recommend the District’s professional development plan for all District employees. The Board shall annually review the professional development clearinghouse published by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and annually approve the District’s professional development plan. The District’s professional development plan must be guided by the SBEC clearinghouse training recommendations, note any differences in the District’s plan from the clearinghouse recommendations, and include a schedule of the required professional development for all district employees. Dr. Logan presented the plan to the Board of Trustees. Josh Magden moved to approve the required trainings for school district staff in accordance with Senate Bill 1267. Bryan Jones seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Consider Appointment of Delegate to Represent Smithville ISD at the 2024 TASA/TASB Convention Delegate Assembly – The TASB Delegate Assembly is a crucial component of the Association’s governance structure. Each active member (school board) of the Association is entitled to have a delegate and an alternate attend the Assembly and cast our district’s vote on action items coming before the Assembly. The TASA/TASB Convention this year is September 27-29, 2024 and will be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. Grant Gutierrez and Josh Magden were voted in as delegate and alternate at the regular meeting in May. However, both have commitments that restrict them from attending. Chelsa Vinklarek moved to appoint Michael Hancock as the voting delegate. Bryan Jones seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

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

Employment of Certified Personnel – According to Board Policy DC [Local], the Superintendent has the authority to make recommendations to the Board regarding the selection of all personnel. During the summer months, the Board authorized the superintendent to approve hires and sign professional contracts. The superintendent hired the following individuals since the last regular meeting: Richard King and Mark Wolf, teachers at Smithville Junior High, and Diego Salinas, teacher at Smithville High School. No action was required.

Adjournment – Michael Hancock moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Josh Magden seconded and the vote carried 5-0.