

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, February 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: Grant Gutierrez, Michael Hancock, Alan Hemphill, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry

Others present: Whitney Brown, Jean Ann McCarthy, Bethany Logan, Amanda Hudspeth, Sarah Vinklarek, Zack Harris, Chelsa Vinklarek, Margarita Igoe, Michael Caudill, Wayne King, Candy Biehle, Christopher Titcombe, Dustin Lane, Caire Whitehead, Kelley Guillory, Christine Colosky, Stephen Colosky, Amanda Brantley, Fernando Guerrero, Stacy White, Eric Bennett, Audrianna Esser, Cory Williams, Jim Dixon, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 won the most Tiger Tokens for the month led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students are: Collin Bennett, Brycen Esser, Kinley Powell, Gwendolyn Magden, Joshua Colosky Sullivan Brantley, Case Kristynik, Alexis Kuenzi, Mavis Guillory-Whited, and Corbin Williams.

Character Education Speakers – Student guest speakers will be present at each board meeting to read a short essay on the Character Trait of the Month. This month's speaker is Mavis Guillory-Whitehead, a 5th grade student in Mrs. Armstrong's class. The character trait is loyalty.

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

Consent Agenda – Grant Guterrez moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 7 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
7. Donation

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 updated the Board on important issues pertaining to the District, including:

- District enrollment as of Friday, February 23, 2024 is 1804 students with a daily attendance rate of 91.7%.
- Interviews for Athletic Director are wrapping up and we hope to have a recommendation for a special meeting in the next week.
- We also hope to recommend a Chief Financial Officer at the same meeting.
- Congratulations to the elementary students who participated in the Greater Austin Regional Science and Engineering Fair this past weekend. Smithville ISD is proud of our four first place, 4 second place and two third place winners!
- Congratulations to our Smithville High School UIL debate champions. Two students won 1st place for the second year in a row!
- Congratulations to the Smithville Elementary and Junior High Destination Imagination teams for their participation in the Capital Area Regional Event.
- Next Friday, March 8th is a regular attendance day for students and staff. This is a makeup day for the recent bad weather event.
- 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.
- The Tiger Insider is at your seats.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

Safety and Security Update – Dr. Michael Caudill, Assistant Superintendent, reported to the Board on measures being taken in the district to continue to address safety and security for students and staff.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Board Recognitions
- d. Curriculum Highlight
- e. Presentation of 2024-2025 High School Course Catalog
- f. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel
- g. Consider and Take Action Regarding Certified Staff Contract Renewal

Consider Approval of Additional School District Legal Counsel – Mr. Mark Goulet, formerly an attorney with Walsh Gallegos Trevino Kyle & Robinson, PC, the school district's legal counsel, has now moved to private practice and has approached Smithville ISD to allow him to continue serving the district in a legal capacity. Smithville ISD has enjoyed a professional working relationship with Mr. Goulet in excess of 25 years, and we are comfortable that Mr. Goulet has broad knowledge of the legal needs and history of SISD. While it is the intent of the district to continue the services of Walsh Gallegos Trevino Kyle & Robinson, P.C. as its primary legal counsel, we would like to request authorization by the Board of Trustees to use Mr. Goulet as an attorney as needed. Josh Magden moved to add Mark Goulet to our list of approved legal advisors. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Consider Custodial Contract Renewal – Our current agreement with IQS, Inc became effective June 15, 2019. The agreement was for one year with four possible renewals each year

thereafter by amendment upon approval of the Board of Trustees. Since IQS is a member of the Buyboard purchasing coop, we are able to extend our services for an additional year. The agreed renewal amount is the CPI rate of 4.0%, which amounts to an increase of \$25,005 on our current fees. Per the terms of the custodial service agreement, it is the recommendation of administrative staff that the Board of Trustees extend the custodial contract with IQS, Inc for an additional year through the purchasing coop procurement method. Josh Magden moved to extend the custodial contract with IQS, Inc. for an additional year as recommended. With a second from Michael Hancock, the motion passed 7-0..

Consideration and Possible Approval of 2024-2025 School Calendar – Administrators designed three potential school calendars that complied with standard state requirements and incorporated suggestions from campus principals and other district staff. Surveys were sent out to solicit input from staff, parents and community members. The campus site-based committees met to review the drafts. The district site-based committee then met to discuss and analyze the calendars presented. Changes were made by the district site-based committee. The calendars with changes were then sent back to the campuses and a vote was taken. The calendar being recommended by the Superintendent reflects the results of the campus vote, Calendar A. Alan Hemphill made a motion to approve Calendar A as presented. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the vote was 5-2 with Michael Hancock and Chris Hinnant opposing.

Designating School Holidays in Accordance with HB 3033 Public Information Act – HB 3033 passed during the 88th Legislative Session, effective September 1, 2023, makes significant changes to the Texas Public Information Act (PIA), prompting a need for districts to update their procedures and for the board of trustees to take action. Various provisions throughout the PIA require a governmental entity to act within a prescribed number of "business days." The statute previously did not define the term "business days," However, for years, the Attorney General's Office interpreted the term "business days" to not include days the governmental entity was closed for business or holidays the governmental entity chose to observe. For school districts, this meant that closures such as fall break, winter break, and spring break were not counted as business days when calculating applicable deadlines. This longstanding interpretation has now been changed by the legislature. Under HB 3033, the only days that do not count as business days are the following: Weekends - Saturday or Sunday; National Holidays - New Year's Day; Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; President's Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day; State Holidays - Confederate Heroes Day; Texas Independence Day; San Jacinto Day; Emancipation Day; Lyndon B. Johnson Day. Optional Holidays - Rosh Hashanah; Yom Kippur; and Good Friday (only if the governmental body observes the holiday); The Friday before or the Monday after a holiday described above if the holiday occurs on a Saturday or Sunday and the governmental body observes the holiday on that Friday or Monday; and up to 10 additional days each calendar year when the district's administrative offices are closed or operating with minimal staff. To take advantage of the 10 additional "non-business days" each calendar year, the board of trustees must officially designate these days. Alan Hemphill moved to approve designated holidays as determined by the Superintendent. Candice Parsons seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Resolution to Waive Staff Make-up Day for Bad Weather Event – Recently, Smithville ISD canceled and delayed school due to a freezing weather event on January 16, 2024. Due to area flash floods, SISD delayed the start of school on Wednesday, January 24th by 2 hours. SISD has adjusted the school calendar and the number of minutes in the school day to make up for the missed time for students, and the majority of the missed time

for staff. We will use the March 8, 2024 professional development day/bad weather day for a make-up day for students and staff. It is being proposed by administrators that the original professional development day be waived for staff and require no make-up for that day only. This is a Board decision, requiring Board action. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the resolution amended to include the school year 2023-2024 with a maximum duration of closure of one day. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of Instructional Materials Allotment and Textbook Adoption – Board policies EFAA (legal) and EFAA (local) address the selection and adoption of instructional materials for the district. The instructional resource committee recommendation is to adopt all titles on the state approved list. From the list, each campus will determine the supplemental materials to be ordered based on instructional allotment funds and need assessments for each campus. In order to remain in compliance with board policy and state guidelines to enable the district to obtain state-funded instructional materials for the school district, the Board of Trustees must certify the use of Instructional Material Allotment Funds for instructional resources within the school district. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the recommendation as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote was 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignation of Dianna King, assistant band director. Mrs. King is retiring as of the end of the school year. Mrs. Burns is also reporting the resignation of Ava Zapalac, teacher at Smithville Elementary effective March 8th, and Ashley Cooper, teacher at Brown Primary effective the end of the school year. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommends the hire of Rachel Mahaffey as a teacher at Smithville Elementary for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and the 2024-2025 school year. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the employment of Rachel Mahaffey as presented. With a second from Josh Magden the motion passed 7-0.

Closed Session – The Board went into closed session at 8:09 p.m. and returned at 9:19 p.m. with no official action taken.

Consideration/Action Regarding Administrator Employment Contract Renewals/Extensions – Michael Hancock moved to approve administrative contract recommendations as recommended by the Superintendent. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion carried 6-1 with Michael Hancock opposing.

Alan Hemphill moved the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the vote passed 7-0.