

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 27, 2023 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, Tucker Copeland, Lindsey Saunders, Stephanie Foster, Jean Ann McCarthy, Kirk McManus, Helen Weishuhn, Hannah Duty, Henley Duty, Adam Easty, Jennifer Berry, Leann Johnson, Kendi Stockton, Ricky Stockton, Blain Stockton, Pam Cowan, Kathryn Meuth, Rose Hudson, Robert Hansen, Jr., Dianna House, Charles Diltz, Anna Diltz, Amanda Gommert, Anna Hernandez, Gartman Family, Jennifer Lippert, Berryann Family, Margarita Igoe, Lucy Kirkby, Joel Kirkby, Zack Harris, Michael Caudill, Suzanne Copeland, Lacy Copeland, Tucker Copeland, 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. All were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students representing the House System at Smithville Elementary led the group virtually in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Kale Waneck, Norah Meuth, Wesley Harwood, Avery Johnson and Barret Barrientos.

Character Education Speakers – Student guest speakers are present at each board meeting to read a short essay on the Character Trait of the Month. The character trait for March is Virtue. Two students read their essays on the character trait Virtue; Avery Johnson, a first grader in Ms. Hunsucker's class, and Tay'Lynn Anderson-Lovings, a fourth grader in Mrs. Fillman's class.

Bastrop County Elections Contest Winners – Bastrop County Elections sponsored a contest for the "I Voted" and "Future Voter" sticker design. Twelve Smithville ISD students finished in the Top 10 between the two categories. Placing in the Top 10 for the "I Voted" Contest were Sophia Royster, Stihl Gartman, Grace Hamilton, Brityn Roberts, Madeline Moore, Khloe Pietsch and Kare Beakley. Students who placed in the Top 10 for the "Future Voter" Contest were Henley Duty, Caston Rector, Layne Supak, Aaron Owens, and Aubrey Gommert. Several of those students were at the meeting to receive recognition.

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.

Amelia House and Gideon Blaeuer were chosen as outstanding students for the 3rd nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Amelia is in the 7th grade and is the granddaughter of Rose Hudson and Robert Hansen, Jr., and Gideon is in the 6th grade and is the son of Miranda Blaeuer.

Outstanding students chosen from Smithville High School were Lacy Copeland, 10th grade daughter of Tucker and Suzanne Copeland, and Blain Stockton, 12th grade son of Ricky and Kendi Stockton. They attended the meeting and were recognized by the Board of Trustees. The Board also recognized Kaitlyn Berryann, daughter of Doug and Ana Berryann, who was an award recipient for the 2nd nine-weeks but was unable to attend the last board meeting, Congratulations to these students for their outstanding achievement!

Tiger Award Recipient Recognition – 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 third 9-weeks: Smithville Elementary - Pam Cowan (Teacher), Smithville Junior High - Anna Diltz (Paraprofessional), Smithville High School - Jennifer Berry (Teacher), and ISD - Lucy Kirkby (Transportation).

Communications from the Public – Margarita Igoe spoke to the Board of Trustees to encourage open communication with the community.

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

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

- ACC and Smithville ISD are in the final process of creating a teacher residency program in which individuals who are seeking certification will be employed as paraprofessionals while they work under an SISD Host Mentor and will complete their certification in one school year with two semesters of student teaching. Teacher residents will be in the classroom Monday thru Thursday and will attend ACC on Fridays. Information regarding

the teacher residency program and mentor program will go out as soon as the MOU is finalized.

- April 12, Educators Sean Cain and Dr. Mike Laird will be working with the administrative team to work on curriculum mapping and backwards design of assessments for the 23-24 school year. This is the first stage of curriculum work for next year, as their team will be coming to work with teachers and administrators in June. Both Mr. Cain and Dr. Laird are renowned in the field of education and school improvement and works with districts around the state and country.
- The Smithville ISD Child Nutrition program was selected by No Kid Hungry to participate in a media event where staff were interviewed and students were filmed participating in a cooking demonstration. The No Kid Hungry program selected only three districts in TX for their grant program, and SISD Child Nutrition received one of those for \$30,000. The purpose of the grant is to support critical work to end childhood hunger. The Grant money will be used to help in procuring fresh produce and fresh meats as well as saving money for the purchase of these items. This grant will also support nutrition and food safety education to our students as well as our staff in the 22-23 school year.
- Other than LD Debate, our UIL teams competed at district last week and we had 6 teams that received either 1st, 2nd or 3rd place. They will advance to regional competition, a total of 26 students.
- One Act Play concluded their season with their public performances of Cinderella Waltz this weekend.
- Our Girls Soccer Team advanced to bi-district playoffs and competed against Lorena last Friday night.
- Shoes that Fit - This program, sponsored by Rack Room Shoes, provides funds to purchase shoes for students who are in need. The nurses were able to provide shoes to ~20 students who they pre-identified as having a need, and each nurse's office has extra pairs on hand for future needs.
- The Department of Public Safety will be on campus in support of the district multiple times per week.
- Reminder - There is a board workshop scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2023.
- The Tiger Insider is at your seats.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight - Culinary Arts – The Board heard from Rebekah Herrick, a teacher at Smithville High School, about the culinary arts program currently being offered at the high school.

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

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report

- c. Report Board Member Continuing Education
- d. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel

Reschedule Date for Regular Board Meeting in June – The regular June board meeting falls on June 19th, 2023, which is a federal holiday in observance of Juneteen. Nancy Towry moved to reschedule the regular June meeting to Monday, June 26, 2023. Josh Magden seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the replacement of scoreboards at the softball/baseball facility and in the high school gym. Alan Hemphill moved to authorize the negotiation of services to replace the scoreboards as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded, and the motion 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. Candice Parsons moved to approve the recommendation as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Haylee Padilla and Haley Hancock, teachers at Brown Primary, Charles Hamrick, teacher at Smithville Junior High, Oscar Nunez, teacher/coach at Smithville Junior High, Bethany Cooper-Collins, and Mark Belford, teacher/coach at Smithville High School. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommended employment of Tracy Johnson as Director of Special Education, John Brockman as a teacher/coach at Smithville Junior High and Amanda Janssen as a teacher at Smithville Elementary School. Josh Magden moved to employ Tracy Johnson, John Brockman and Amanda Janssen as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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. Josh Magden moved to approve the recommended renewal of staff as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote carried 7-0.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.