

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, May 20, 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, Bryan Jones, Chelsa Vinklarek
Others present Whitney Brown, Noe McCarthy, Jean Ann McCarthy, Natalie Frerich, Sarah Vinklarek, Amanda Hudspeth, Matt Jones, Bethany Logan, Tucker Copeland, Ariel Vinklarek, Jennifer Vinklarek, Anabel Ortiz, Cindy Davis, Kierstin Bitterly, Daucie Davis, Brigham Kelley, Rosie Gutierrez, Derek Kahanek, Jessica Pack, Courtney Jones, Chantay Burleson, Andrea Sambrano, Connor Burleson, Lindsey Saunders, Matthew Ferrell, Rick Ferrell, Susan Schultz, Michael David, Debra Hlavaty, Tracy Johnson, Leann John, Todd Hannath, Natalia Hannath, Ronnie McKeown, Reese McKeown, Zack Harris, Rebecca Hamilton, Margarita Igoe, Michael Caudill, Layne Neumann, Courtney Kellogg, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order - The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – The following students led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance: Nolen Ortiz, Jasmin Ketola, Avery Johnson and Emma Sloan.

Administer Statement of Officer to Elected Trustees – Article XVI, section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires all elected or appointed state and local officers to take the official oath of office and to subscribe to the anti-bribery statement (Form 2201-Statement of Officer) before entering upon the duties of their office. Local officers must retain the signed statement with the official records of the office. The Statement of Officer was administered as required.

Oath of Office for Newly Elected or Re-Elected Board Members – Denise Behrens, acting in her capacity as a public notary, administered the oath of office for the newly elected School Board Trustees, Bryan Jones and Chelsa Vinklarek.

Reorganization of the Board of Trustees – Board policies BDAA [Legal] and BDAA [Local] specify that the Board will elect a president, vice-president, and secretary at the first meeting after each election and qualification of Trustees. Josh Magden moved to nominate Chris Hinnant

as Board President and Grant Gutierrez as Board Vice-President. Candice Parsons seconded the motion and the vote passed 7-0. Grant Gutierrez nominated Josh Magden as Board Secretary. Candice Parsons seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

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. The Board heard from Avery Johnson, a second-grader in Ms. Hunsucker's class. Avery was chosen in March, but not able to attend the board meeting. She read her essay on virtue.

Recognition of Student Achievements – Once again, our hats are off to the outstanding achievements of the students at Smithville I.S.D., as well as their instructors. e following Smithville ISD State Level Competition Accomplishments: Payton Schultz, Lucas Gibson Emma Saunders; Gideon Blauer, Kenzie Jones, Lily Gardella, Penelope Gutierrez, Rori Meuth and their instructors Ronnie McKeown and Trish Hawkins with Smithville Junior High Future Problem Solvers; Brittney Anderson, Antonio Blasco, Philip Chiappetta, Stephen Colosky Matthew Ferrell, Bobby Galabeas, Tyler Goertz, Keori Grant, Anthony Hernandez, Robby McElroy, Julio Mar-Medina, Kayden Nail, Trace Namken, Samuel Praditbatuga, Jesse Sanders Faith Silvey, Jimmie Starkey, Damien Sturgeon, Ayla Witt, with TIGER TRONS 5503 Robotics; Band - UIL State Solo and Ensemble Qualifiers Carina Berryann, Kendall Bezner, Kevin Bilbo, Antonio Blasco, Kylie Brown, Annabella Bryan, Emma Burch, Sylvio Campbell-Evans, Trinity Campion, Aundrez Cauich-Taylor, Lacy Copeland, Aidan Cox, Marlene Diaz-Perez, Adam Eastty, Shelton Espinoza, Devany Flores, Amy Frushay, Karah Goertz, Tyler Goertz, Adan Guerrero, Arabella Gutierrez, Grace Hamilton, Julieta Huerta, Brianna Johnson, Joshua McLauchin, Chidinma Meremikwu, George William Metcalf, Kayden Nail, Chassity Navarrete, Peyton Nuby, Nicole Olivas, Chris Pirano, Reagan Pruett, Jasper Regier, Elaynah Romero, Donley Romo-Pargas, Callie Ruyle, Leslie Saldana-Garcia, Lethe Sasko-Martinez, Mason Scaife, Faith Silvey, Julia Sloan, Wesley Summarell, Melany Villalobos, Lyla Vinklarek Brylee White, Aubrie Winegarner, Kayden Zinsmeyer, and their band directors Wayne King, Cathy Sherrill and Dianna King; Callie Ruyle – Poetry, Arabella Gutierrez - CX Debate, Evyan Parnell - CX Debate, Amelia Blaeuer - CX Debate, Will Metcalf - CX Debate and their instructors Kim Hemphill and Natalie Frerich; representing athletics Caden Stockdale – Powerlifting, Trezser Anderson-Lovings Powerlifting, Chris Borja – Powerlifting, Noah Baxter – Powerlifting; Academic All-State Honorable Mention Achilles Brian – Football, Noah Baxter – Football, Mitchell Holloway – Football, Caden Stockdale – Football, Sam Miner - Cross Country, Winter Mares - Cross Country, Raini Stanley – Softball, Claire Kennon - Softball Noah Baxter – Track, Saylor Strain – Track, Academic All-State 2nd Team, Marisela Dominguez – Track, Dylan Hippler – Football. Wow! We are proud of all of our students and the recognition they have earned for Smithville schools, and are pleased to take this opportunity to recognize them.

Recognition of Outstanding Students for the Fourth Nine-Weeks – The Board recognized. Monica Walker and Stone Kahanek, outstanding students chosen from Smithville Junior High School for the fourth nine-weeks, and Daucie Davis and Conor Burleson, outstanding students chosen from the high school campus.

Tiger Award Recipient Recognition - Tiger Award recipients are nominated by peers. Each campus and department will nominate a representative. Final nominations will be 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 Tiger Award winners for the fourth nine-weeks are Jessica Pack, a teacher at Brown Primary, Ariel Kunz, a teacher at Smithville Elementary, Dianna King, a teacher/band director at Smithville Junior High, Rosie Gutierrez, truant officer for the district, and Denise Behrens, secretary to the superintendent.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Matt Jones regarding current traffic flow and signage at the elementary school.

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Consent Agenda included:

1. Minutes
2. Financial Statements
3. State Aid Comparison – Budgeted vs. Earned
4. Earned vs. TEA Payments
5. Tax Collection Report
6. Re-designation of Fund Balance Funds
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 updated the Board on important issues pertaining to the District including:

- Current district enrollment is 1797 students.
- Each graduating senior had the opportunity to participate in a scholarship banquet and an official signing morning. It was a tremendous success. We will be continuing this tradition and the Board of Trustees will be invited each year.
- The Senior Walk took place on every campus today.
- The Athletic Banquet, FFA Banquet, the Honors Banquet and the Theater Awards ceremony were held last week. The Tiger Band Banquet was held the week before.
- The presentation of the Lamar Awards will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 and the annual staff end of year banquet. Representatives from the Masonic Lodge will be there to present the honors. You are all invited to attend the breakfast.
- Please consider attending the 2024 Summer Leadership Institute hosted by TASB. There are two dates and locations. SLI will be held on June 12, 2024 in San Antonio, and June 19, 2024 in Fort Worth. TASB has more information on their website. Please let Denise know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending so she can get you registered and secure lodging. It is an excellent opportunity for board training.
- There will be a budget workshop for the Board of Trustees on June 6, 2024.
- Congratulations to Ms. Holly Brockman, our new Smithville Elementary principal!

Graduation Ceremony Procedures – High School Graduation will be held on Friday, May 26, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. at Tiger Stadium in Smithville, Texas. The Board is invited as a group to

participate in the ceremony. Mr. Tucker Copeland, high school principal, was present at the board meeting to go over the events of graduation night.

Tentative June Agenda Items – Tentative items to be included on the June regular agenda:

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. First Draft of the 2024-2025 District Budget
- d. Technology Report
- e. Safety and Security Report
- f. Schedule Board Meeting Dates for 2024-2025
- g. Consider Approval of Student Dress Code
- h. Consider Approval of 2024-2025 Salary Schedules
- i. Board Self Evaluation
- j. Personnel

Consultation with District's lawyer regarding Level III Parent Complaint – The Board entered closed session at 7:11 p.m. and returned at 7:44 p.m. with no official action taken.

Consideration and possible action regarding Level III parent complaint – The Board heard from Courtney Kellogg regarding a grievance filed addressing the current drop off and pick up procedures and traffic flow at Smithville Elementary. Grant Gutierrez moved to uphold the administrations decision on the Level III grievance. Josh Magden seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Action on High School Security Fence RFP – This Request for Proposals (RFP) will be used by the District as a tool in the decision making process in the best interest of the District. This RFP is issued for the purpose of negotiating a contract for a High School Security Fence to improve the safety for our students and staff. The expenditure will be purchased through the School Safety Standard Grant and SAFE Grant 1. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the RFP for security fence installation at the high school as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Consider Approval of 2023-2024 Salary Schedules – Smithville ISD will be utilizing the balance of our ESSER funds to pay a retention stipend to our employees for completing their 23-24 job assignment. The stipend has been on a "to be determined" status due to monitoring the balance of the ESSER funds. Mrs. McCarthy presented options at the meeting for the board's approval. Also included in this agenda item was a change in the salary schedules for Summer Special Education clinicians. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the 2023-2024 salary schedule, including a \$1,500 retention stipend for staff, as presented. Josh Magden seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Central Texas Purchasing Alliance – Central Texas Purchasing Alliance is an organization of over 40 school districts in Central Texas and throughout the state, representing 1 million students. CTPA's purpose is to support and provide information and services to the purchasing departments within these districts. By entering into the interlocal agreement with the Central Texas Purchasing Alliance, Smithville

ISD has the opportunity to work with vendors that can provide goods and services under this contract that will be based on better contract pricing and purchasing terms. The membership fee is \$150/year. Bryan Jones moved to approve the interlocal agreement with Cenral Texas Purchasing Alliance as presented. With a second from Candice Parsons, the motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item was to authorize facility improvements of high school parking lot upgrades and high school gym HVAC replacement. Included in the request was authorization to proceed with the purchase of a school van that was totaled earlier in the year. Grant Gutierrez made a motion to approve the expenditure in excess of \$50,000 as presented. Chelsa Vinklarek seconded the motin and it passed 7-0.

Designate Investment Officers – With the resignation of Jean Ann McCarthy (Chief Financial Officer), we would like to ensure that Smithville ISD meets Section 2256.005(f) of the Public Funds Investment Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 2256) in regard to designating investment officers for the district. Historically, the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer have been designated as the investment officers. For the 2023-2024 school year, we are adding Sean Sanchez (Business Manager) as an additional investment officer to complete the year. Josh Magden moved to designate investment officers as presented. Bryan Jones seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Approval to Amend Signatures on Bank Depository – As a result of the reorganization of the Board of Trustees there was a change in officers. The Board President and the Board Secretary must be authorized to sign on the District accounts at First National Bank, the District’s depository. Also, with the resignation of Jean Ann McCarthy it is necessary to add Sean Sanchez as an authorized signer on the District accounts at First National Bank and to remove Jean Ann McCarthy. Grant Gutierrez moved to remove Nancy Towry, former Board Secretary, and Jean Ann McCarthy, CFO, as signators and to authorize Josh Magden, newly appointed Board Secretary, and Sean Sanchez, Business Manager, to be added as signators to the bank depository account. Bryan Jones seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

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. The 2024 Delegate Assembly will meet on Saturday, September 28th. Bryan Jones nominated Grant Gutierrez as delegate for the 2024 TASA/TASB Delegate Assembly and Josh Magden as alternate. Chelsa Vinklarek seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Distribution of Board Self-Evaluation Materials – The Board Self-Evaluation Instrument was included in the board packet. The Board will address its self-evaluation at the regular June meeting.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Pam Cowan, teacher at the elementary, William Nicks, Christopher Humphries and Yvonne Besetzny, teachers/coaches at the junior high, and Travis Kearns, and Amanda Lowden, teachers at the high school, and Arnoldo Cavazos as a teacher/coach at the high school. No action was necessary.

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. The Superintendent recommends employment of the following employees: Caleb Murrile as teacher/coach at Brown Primary, Kristen Polich as teacher at Smithville Elementary, Trey Vondenstein, Juan Rodriguez and Keaton Upshaw as teachers/coaches at Smithville Junior High, Katarzyna Swank as a teacher at Smithville High School and Sydney Rodriguez Bray as athletic trainer for Smithville Junior High and Smithville High School. Bryan Jones moved to accept the employment for the 2024-2025 school year as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment – Candice Parsons moved to adjourn the board meeting at 7:40 p.m. Josh Magden seconded and the motion passed 7-0.