

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, January 24, 2022 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, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry

Members absent: Chris Hinnant

Others present: Kerry Marx, Kevin Mahoney, Noe McCarthy, Jean Ann McCarthy, Tucker Copeland, Casey Hauckey, Zack Harris, Kim Hendrix, Bridget Sampson, Cory Williams, Lora Rodriguez, Kayla Herschap, Elizabeth Jaimes, Kathy Perez, Michael Caudill, Amanda Gommert, Isaac Martinez II, Jessica Goertz, Cyril Adkins, Dustin Behrens, Raven Behrens, Ronnie Behrens, Kynzie Behrens, Dawsyn Behrens, Penney Behrens, Marissa Winegarner, Grace Silvey, Camora Coleman, Tyler Gigout, Jessica Dixon, Ashley Jasso, Ryan Malone, Savanna Marx, Cason Herschap, Brantley Hobbs, Jaycei Goertz, Mercedes St. Cyr, Lyla Loera, Eleah Romero, Ana Perez Jaimes, 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. Chris Hinnant was absent.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students who are currently top point earners from the House of Loyalty at Smithville Elementary will lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. They are: Savanna Marx, Cason Herschap, Brantley Hobbs, Jaycei Goertz, Mercedes St. Cyr, Lyla Loera, Eleah Romero, Ana Perez Jaimes, Marissa Winegarner, Dawsyn Behrens, Grace Silvey and Camora Coleman.

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 Camora Coleman, a second-grade student in Ms. Garbe's class, Marissa Winegarner, a third-grader in Mrs. Saffel's class, Dawsyn Behrens, a third-grader in Mrs. Peacock's class, and Grace Silvey, a fifth-grader in Ms. Curtis' class on the character trait "Confidence".

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.

Jessica Dixon and Tyler Gigout have been chosen as outstanding students for the second nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Jessica is in 7th grade and is the daughter of Tim Dixon and Heidi Erwin. Tyler is a 6th grader and is the son of Brandon and Holly Gigout. Outstanding students chosen from Smithville High School are Ashley Jasso, 10th grade daughter of Luis Jasso and Laura Rodriguez, and Ryan Malone, 12th grade son of Dylan Hart and April Baker.

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 second 9-weeks: Brown Primary – Bridget Sampson (Paraprofessional), Smithville Elementary – Cory Williams (Counselor), Smithville Junior High - Kim Hendrix (Nurse Assistant), Smithville High School - Kevin Mahoney (Special Education), and ISD - Isaac Martinez (Transportation).

Public Hearing - Texas Academic Performance Report – Texas Education Code 39 requires every school district's Board of Trustees to: (a) publish an annual report describing the district's educational performance on the TAPR or Texas Academic Performance Report indicators (and include the campus performance objectives); (b) hold a hearing for public discussion of the report; and (c) widely disseminate the report within the district. Dr. Michael Caudill presented the report to the Board of Trustees.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Margarita Igoe who requested a response to an email sent to the Board of Trustees.

Consent Agenda – Howard Burns, Jr. moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 8 as presented. With a second from Candice Parsons, the vote passed 6-0.

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. Bond Payments Resolution
8. Re-designation of Fund Balance Funds

Financial Report – The Chief Financial Officer, Jean Ann McCarthy, will review the financial disbursements for the previous month with the Board of Trustees. No action is required.

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

- January is School Board Appreciation Month. The theme for 2022 is Rising Above. Smithville ISD would like to express sincere appreciation to our Board of Trustees for their time and dedication to the students and staff of our district.
- District enrollment is currently at 1801 students.

- Applications for School Board Trustee have been received. Candice Parsons has filed for Place 5, Mike Davis, Jr. has filed for Place 6, and Michael Hancock has filed for Place 7. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 18, 2022.
- The Tiger Insider is at your seats.
- 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.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report
- c. Covid-19 Report
- d. ESSER III/Continuity of Services Update
- e. District and Campus Improvement Plan Status Reportsfe. Review and Approve 2022-2023
- f. District Calendar
- g. Personnel
- h. Administrative Contract Review/Renewal

Action Items

Consideration and Possible Action on Resolution to Approve/Disapprove Proposed Renovation of Bastrop Central Appraisal District Office of Facilities – The Bastrop CAD Board of Directors are seeking approval from the SISD Board of Trustees for a proposed renovation/remodel of the appraisal office facilities. In order for the appraisal district to proceed forward they will need approval of 8 of the 10 voting entities within 30 days of receipt of proposal. Chief Appraiser, Faun Cullens, was in attendance to answer questions from the Board of Trustees. Howard Burns, Jr. moved to approve the resolution to approve proposed renovation of the Bastrop Central Appraisal District Office of Facilities as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote passed 6-0.

Consider Approval of Audit Engagement Letter – In accordance with Texas Education Agency requirements and law the district is required to have an annual financial audit performed. In 2021, the Board of Trustees voted to approve the firm of Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, PC. Nancy Towry moved to approve the audit engagement letter as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

Possible Action on High School HVAC – E&C Engineers & Consultants were hired by Smithville ISD to inspect the existing mechanical infrastructure and design at the high school to resolve the air conditioning issue. The life expectancy of an ERU is approximately 7 - 12 years. Our current ERU's are approaching 20 years. Mr. Harris presented at the December 6, 2021 Board Workshop that the estimated costs for the options would be between \$500,000 - \$1,000,000. Candice Parsons moved to proceed with soliciting RFP's for Option 2, with the addition of ductwork cleaning, as presented. Howard Burns, Jr. second the motion and it passed 6-0.

Order of Board of Trustees Election for May 7, 2022 – School Board members serve three-year staggered terms of office. Each year the Board must call an election to elect places whose three-year term is expiring. The next regular election of the Smithville ISD Board of Trustees will be held on May 7, 2022 with Places 5, 6 and 7 up for election. Nancy Towry moved to call for election of Places 5, 6 and 7, and to approve the Judges, Alternates, Early Voting Ballot Board, Early Voting Clerk, and polling locations as provided by the Bastrop County and Fayette County Elections Administrators. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

Consider Approval of Election Services Contract with Bastrop County and Joint Election Agreement with the City of Smithville – As of January 2006, Smithville ISD has been contracting election services with the County of Bastrop. Since that time, the Bastrop County Elections Administrator has overseen all elections ordered by the school district for a 10% administrative fee. The total cost of the May election for Smithville ISD including supplies, polling place personnel, administrative fee, etc. is estimated at \$8,924.72. The district would like to continue to contract elections services from Bastrop County.

According to Chapter 271 of the Election Code, school districts are required to hold their elections jointly with the municipality located within the district. Smithville I.S.D. would like to continue its practice of holding a joint election with the City of Smithville in compliance with election code. Candice Parsons made a motion to approve the contract for services with Bastrop County Elections including the joint election agreement with the City of Smithville as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Consider Approval of Election Services Contract with Fayette County – As of January 2006, Smithville ISD has been contracting election services with the County of Bastrop. Since that time, the Bastrop County Elections Administrator has overseen all elections ordered by the school district and will continue to do so for voters who reside within the county. However, Bastrop County Elections has taken action to approve a county-wide polling program, which means that any voter of any jurisdiction located in Bastrop County is allowed to cast a vote in any polling place in that county. Currently, Smithville ISD has 169 voters who reside in Fayette County. The elections administrator for Bastrop County has notified us that they will no longer be able to provide services for our Fayette County voters as of the May 2022 election, due to implementation of the county-wide polling program. The concern is that it would be difficult to monitor voter residence for multiple counties at such a large number of polling places. Fayette County Elections has kindly agreed to contract services for SISD constituents who reside in Fayette County for an estimated \$360. Howard Burns moved to approve the contract for election services with Fayette County as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent would like to inform the Board of the resignation of Shawna Randall, teacher/coach at the high school, effective the end of the current teaching contract. No action is required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommended employment of Andrew Lowery as a teacher at Smithville High School for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. Candice Parsons moved to accept the recommendation as presented. With a second from Nancy Towry, the motion passed 6-0.

Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 7:34 p.m. and returned at 9:10 p.m. with no official action taken.

Superintendent's Annual Evaluation – The evaluation of the Superintendent was conducted in closed session.

Superintendent's Employment Contract Renewal – The superintendent is currently in the first year of a three-year contract continuing through August 1, 2024. According to state law, the Board employs a superintendent by contract to serve the school district for a term not to exceed five years. The superintendent's current annual salary is \$141,360. Howard Burns, Jr. moved to extend the superintendent's contract for an additional year with the annual salary determination postponed until the district budget is reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

The Board adjourned its meeting at 9:13pm.