

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, September 16, 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, Chelsa Vinklarek, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Bryan Jones

Others present: Candy Biehle, Sean Sanchez, Rebecca Hamilton, Diana Steubing, Sheila Wilson, Tanya Navarro, Lindsey Saunders, Whitney Brown, Charlotte Seidel, Sharon Foerster, Whitney Brown, Bethany Logan, Zack Harris, Sarah Vinklarek, Amanda Hudspeth, Tucker Copeland, Holly Brockman, Margarita Igoe, Kevin Hudspeth, Cody McNeil, Cheryl McNeil, Ashley Swinney, Natalie Owen, Sean Owen, Valerie Rodriguez, Jayson Swartz, Katie Swartz, Richard Rubio, Homero Soto, Tammy Campion, Dareld Campion, Anthony Barrientos, John Foerster, Cassie Barrientos, Cayden Swartz, Bowen McNeil, Baylen Swinney, Beau Hudspeth, Samuel Rodriguez, Paige Owen, David Soto, Richard Rubio, Lakyn Barrientos, Shelton Espinoza, Vanessa Leyva, 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 – Smithville Elementary students who have earned the most Tiger Tokens in their grade level were invited to lead group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Not all of the students were able to attend. The students who led the pledge at the board meeting were: Cayden Swartz, Bowen McNeil, Baylen Swinney, Beau Hudspeth, Samuel Rodriguez, Paige Owen, David Soto, and Richard Rubio.

Smithville Elementary School Tiger of the Month – This year, Smithville Elementary School is excited to celebrate outstanding students by introducing the "Tiger of the Month" recognition. Elementary staff will nominate students who exhibit characteristics such as kindness, strong character, and helpfulness. Each month, one exceptional student will be honored by the campus, recognized at the school board meeting, and will receive a special yard sign to proudly display at home. The first Tiger of the Month is Lakyn Barrientos, a first-grader in Ms. Halter's class. Congratulations, Lakyn!

Recognition of Students Participating in Summer Feeding Program – Smithville I.S.D. had a number of students who participated in feeding the children of SISD this past summer as part of

the Child Nutrition Summer Feeding Program. We would like to recognize those students for giving their time and contributing to the needs of others. They are Travis Steubing, Devon Utecht, Daysha Brandyburg, Elijah Brandyburg, Vanessa Leyva, Shelton Espinoza, and Faith Silvey. Shelton and Vanessa were present at the meeting to receive recognition.

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

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

- Enrollment numbers as of September 13th is 1850 students.
- Thank you to Sharon Foerster and Sharlotte Seidel with Calibri Logistics, and our Smithville Athletic Booster Club for their support of our veterans and first responders, who were recognized at the varsity football game last Friday evening.
- Rumor has been circulating on social media that our Tiger T is trademarked. We would like to correct that misinformation. The LT has trademarked for the Lady Tigers, but the Tiger T has not.
- Invitations have gone out to high school Student Advisory Committee members. The first meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday.
- We will be posting campus activities celebrating Freedom Week and Constitution Day.

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0. 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. Investment Policy Review
8. Review Approved Providers of Investment Training

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

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Update – Dr. Logan, Assistant Superintendent, will give a regular progress report/update on the Smithville I.S.D. Strategic Plan. The update this month included strategic objectives 2.3, Improve Staff Safety and Well-Being; and 3.1, Expand Opportunities for Parent Family Engagement.

Child Nutrition Report – Candy Biehle, Child Nutrition Director, reported to the Board on numerous activities that she and her staff are involved in throughout the year. The Child Nutrition department is responsible for the meals programs for breakfast, lunch, the After School Program, and Summer Feeding. They also offer catering services for school activities on a fee basis. This department is funded through federal dollars and regularly operates in the black paying for all expenses including salaries and benefits of its employees.

Teacher Certification Status Report – Texas Education Code §21.057 and Board Policy DBA [Legal] require the superintendent to notify the parents or guardian of each student in a classroom that is staffed by a teacher who is inappropriately certified or uncertified for their classroom instruction assignment. Furthermore, the school district is required to make teacher certification information available to the public upon request. No parent notification is required for teachers currently enrolled in alternative certification programs, serving under a one-year certificate, or who are certified under the District of Innovation. Eleven members of our staff are employed under non-certified contracts as allowed by the District of Innovation. Ten employees are enrolled, or are being required to enroll, in alternative certification programs and have not yet met ACP requirements or are teaching outside his/her certification area. One employee has an out-of-state certificate and is working on meeting state certification requirements. Reports were made as mandated by TEA.

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

- a. Board Recognitions
- b. Financial Report
- c. Superintendent's Report
- d. Strategic Plan Update
- e. Public Hearing - F.I.R.S.T. Ratings Report
- f. Curriculum Highlight
- g. Consider Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance Objectives
- h. Personnel

Consider Ad Valorem Tax Assessment & Collection Contract Between Bastrop County and Smithville Independent School District – Section 6.24 of the Texas Property Tax Code and the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code, as amended, authorizes political subdivisions of the State of Texas to enter Interlocal contracts for the provision of tax assessing and collecting services. The County of Bastrop has agreed to provide tax assessing and collecting services for Smithville Independent School District and an interlocal agreement for services was included in the board packet. Grant Gutierrez moved to designate Superintendent Cheryl Burns as signatory on the interlocal agreement with Bastrop County. Josh Magden seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Nominations for Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Trustees – The membership of the Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors is a position appointed by the participating taxing jurisdictions, the County, the Cities, the School Districts, and the Community College. The term for the current Board of Directors will expire on December 31, 2024. Smithville ISD is interested in nominating individuals from the community to serve as our representatives on the Bastrop County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Josh Magden moved to nominate Justin Bezner for the Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Bryan Jones seconded the motion. After discussion, Josh Magden moved to amend his motion to amend his motion to include the nomination of Jeannie Ralph. Bryan Jones seconded. The Board of Trustees voted on the amended motion made by Josh Magden to nominate Justin Bezner and Jeannie Ralph for the Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Bryan Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously 7-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – There were 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. Mrs. Burns recommended employment of Philip Razor as a teacher at the DAEP. Bryan Jones moved to approve employment of Philip Razor as a teacher for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Adjournment – Grant Gutierrez moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. With a second from Michael Hancock, the vote passed 7-0.