

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, April 17, 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

Members absent: Nancy Towry

Others present: Bethany Logan, Stephanie Foster, Amanda Gommert, Jean Ann McCarthy, Zack Harris, Michael Caudill, Cory Williams, Raven Behrens, Lindsey Saunders, Tucker Copeland, Jim Rose, Margarita Igoe, Kenzie Jones, Jill Jones, Kirk McManus, Helen Weishuhn, Ronald McKeown, Theresa Turner, Miranda Blauer, Rebecca Hamilton, Cyril Adkins, Noe McCarthy, 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 in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Whitley Ladewig, Jasmine Bernhard, Cora Williams, Corbin Williams,

Recognition of Accomplishments of the Texas Future Problem Solvers – Smithville Junior High Problem solvers, along with their sponsors Ronald McKeown and Trish Hawkins, were recognized by the Board of Trustees for their achievements at State competition in Waco, Texas. Gideon Blauer and Kenzie Jones competed and placed at the state level, and Lily Gardella not only placed first, but earned a trip to International competition this summer. Congratulations!

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 Board heard from Naomi Helsley, a fifth-grader in Ms. Jones' class. Her essay topic was curiosity.

Communications from the Public – The Board heard from Jim Rose regarding his displeasure with the Big Star Solar, LLC project in Rosanky, Texas.

Consent Agenda – Josh Magden moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 8 as presented. With a second from Michael Hancock, 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. Budget Amendments
8. Re-designation of Fund Balance

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:

- District enrollment as of April 13th is 1837 students for an overall attendance of 90.26%.
- Smithville ISD will be transitioning to a new website and new parent app. Completion is estimated for July 1st. The new site and app will feature parent to teacher communication opportunities, automatic translation for non-English speaking individuals, and mass notification capabilities. We believe it is going to enhance our overall communication with our families.
- Reminder: according to Board Policy DC (Local), the Board retains final authority for employment of contractual personnel; however, from June 1 to August 31, the Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to employ contract personnel. The Superintendent shall inform the Board of any persons hired under this authority.
- State Testing starts this week, and will continue through the second week of May
- The 4th grade will present their Spring program “How to Become a Pirate in Seven Easy Songs” next Thursday, April 27th at 2pm.
- The Lady Tigers junior high softball team had their first game in Seguin and came away with a win. Congratulations to the first of many victories!
- This past weekend, Smithville ISD was presented with a trophy from It’s Time Texas, for placing first in their community challenge.
- Winners of the youth banner project were also acknowledged.
- Many students participated with projects and records were broken for sales at the Smithville FFA Livestock Show.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight – TEKSBank –TEKS Bank is a clearinghouse of more than 60,000 STAAR related resources. Dr. Logan, Director of Curriculum, explained the benefits of this inventory of resources to the Board.

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, including an update on the recent safety audit.

Report Board Member Continuing Education Hours – Board Policy BBD [Legal] and 19 TAC 61.61 requires the Board President to announce the name of each Board member who has

completed the required continuing education, who has exceeded the required hours of continuing education, and who is deficient in the required continuing education. This announcement is required annually. The Board President must announce Board members' continuing education hours at the last regular meeting prior to the next board election, shall cause the minutes to reflect the information, and shall make this information available to the local media. The Board President announced that Mr. Gutierrez, Mr. Hemphill, and Mr. Hancock were deficient in continuing education hours, Mr. Hinnant met requirements, and Mrs. Towry, Mrs. Parsons and Mr. Magden exceeded requirements.

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

1. Issue Oath of Office for New Board Members
2. Reorganization of the Board of Trustees
3. Recognition of State Qualifiers
4. Recognition of Outstanding Students for the 4th-9-Weeks
5. Recognition of Tiger Award Winners
6. Financial Report
7. Superintendent's Report
8. Safety and Security Report
9. Graduation Procedures
10. 2023-2024 Dress Code
11. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item was to authorize three purchases that were discussed during the Board Meeting on April 3rd. Smithville ISD would like to proceed with the purchase of:

- 1) 350 Lenovo 100e Chromebooks for instruction and testing requirements. The quote that we have received is \$87,003.00
- 2) Upgrade 58 JH desktop computers to be utilized in the computer labs for instructional purposes. We have received a quote of \$56,730 for this purchase.
- 3) Purchase a 3-year subscription of our Meraki licenses for \$80,800. By purchasing a 3-year subscription, the school district will see a savings of \$36,750.

Also presented was a request for scoreboards at the high school gym and baseball/softball fields. All quotes were received from the Texas Department of Information Resources vendors. Josh Magden moved to approve expenditures in excess of \$50,000 including chrome books, desktop computers, Meraki licenses and scoreboards as presented by administration. Chris Hinnant seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Consider Approval of RFP for Two Compartment Walk-In Refrigerator and Freezer Installation at Elementary Campus – 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 two-compartment Walk-In Refrigerator and Freezer Installation at Elementary Campus. The expenditure will be purchased through Child Nutrition funds. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the RFP as presented. Michael Hancock seconded the motion and the vote passed 6-0.

Consider Approval of RFP for Multiple Security Door Installation – 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 Multiple Security Door Installation to improve the safety for our students and staff. The expenditure will be purchased through the School Safety Grant that has received in the amount of \$200,000. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the RFP as presented. After a second by Candice Parsons, the vote passed 6-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Stephanie Garbe, a teacher at Smithville Elementary, Joe Nix, a teacher at Smithville Junior High, and Madelynn Trautmann, a teacher at Smithville High School. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommended employment of Travis Carruthers as a teacher/coach at the high school. Josh Magden moved to employ Travis Carruthers as recommended by the Superintendent. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment – The Board ended its meeting at 7:11 p.m.