

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 15, 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: Bethany Logan, Lindsey Saunders, Espinoza Family, Michelle Collums, Wayne King, Amanda Gommert, Jessica Sloan, Ryan Moerbe, Noe McCarthy, Mary Alice Castello, Doug Berryann, Jason Robertson, Raylynne Fillman, Liz Kahanek, Stephanie Williams, Suzanne Williams, Karla Burns, Jeff Burns, Megan Hancock, Crystal Saffel, Whitney Brown, Sarah Vinklarek, Blain Stockton, Jean Ann McCarthy, Ricky Stockton, Kendi Stockton, Ngim Family, Margarita Igoe, Evan Joy, Lelia Joy, Sheila Burch, Cyndee Johnson, Ashley Ladewing, Logan Navarro, Peggy Wells, Brian Wells, Trezser Lovings, Randy Anderson Chandler, Michael Caudill, Rebecca Hamilton, Cyril Adkins, Candy Biehle, Amanda Hudspeth, Kevin Hudspeth, Greg Maxwell, Chris Young, Charles Hodge, Raven Behrens, Cory Williams, Zack Harris, 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 – Students from Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following students were at the meeting: Dutchess Montgomery, Riley Navarro, Case Williams, Nina Guillory Whitehead, Kimberly Carrillo, Olive Wells, and Edith Guindon.

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 re-elected School Board Trustees, Chris Hinnant and Grant Gutierrez.

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. Candice Parsons nominated Chris Hinnant as president. With no more nominations, Mr. Hinnant was voted in as president 7-0. Nancy Towry nominated Grant Gutierrez as vice-president. There were no additional nominations and Mr. Gutierrez was voted vice-president 7-0. Josh Magden nominated Nancy Towry as secretary. With no additional nominations, Mrs. Towry was elected secretary with a 7-0 vote.

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. The Board recognized the following Smithville ISD State Level Competition Qualifiers: Grady Johnson with Skills USA, Gideon Blauer, Kenzie Jones and Lily Gardella with Smithville Junior High Future Problem Solvers, Brittney Anderson, Antonio Blasco, Lillith Castille, Philip Chiappetta, Paul Espinoza, Matthew Ferrell, Keori Grant, Anthony Hernandez, Elizabeth Holder, Juan Johnson, Robby McElroy, Kayden Nail, Chris Piriano, Samuel Praditbatuga, Donley Romo-Pargas, Lily Sabrsula, Alice Steubing, and Ayla Witt with Tiger Trons 5503 Robotics, Evyan Parnell, Arabella Gutierrez, Blain Stockton, Moksh Patel, Andrea Mondragon, and Victor Gaona with UIL Academics, Carina Berryann, Kendall Bezner, Antonio Blasco, Achilles Brian, Kylie Brown, Annabella Bryan, Sage Bryan, Emma Burch, Connor Burns, Sylvio Campbell-Evans, Trinity Campion, Damien Cazares, Lacy Copeland, Amber Cox, Kati Curry—Russell, Marlene Diaz-Perez, Adam Eastty, Shelton Expinoza, Matthew Ferrell, Devany Flores, Madison Fratus-Munoz, Amy Frushay, Arabella Gutierrez, Grace Hamilton, Hayden Helmer, Jasmin Huerta Jodi Jimenez, Brianna Knight, Elexis Lawhon, Matthew Maldonado, Lethe Martinez Sasko Chididnma Meremikwu, Chassity Navarrete, Trevor Persinger, Christopher Piraino, Callie Ruyle Kaia Saffel, Leslie Saldana-Garcia, Faith Silvey, Julia Sloan, Micah Southwell, Travis Steubing, Aiden Trevino, Kaitlyn Turner, Devon Utecht, Brylee White in Band UIL State Solo and Ensemble, Tyson Hancock names as the Coaches Padilla Poll All-State Selection for 2nd Team All-State Defensive Back and 2nd Team All-State Wide Receiver, the Smithville Tigers Football Team as National High School Academic Excellence Award Finalists, Cassady Galabeas, Trezser Anderson-Lovings in Powerlifting, and Steeley Earp as Academic All-State 1st Team.

Recognition of Outstanding Students for the Fourth Nine-Weeks –The Board recognized. Emeline Gutierrez and Michael Campos, outstanding students chosen from Smithville Junior High School for the fourth nine-weeks, and Joanna Ngim and Moksh Patel, outstanding students chosen from the high school campus.

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 Zoey Kahanek, a first grader in Mrs. Ellis' class and Ella Doane, a fourth grader in Ms. Barlow's class on the character trait perseverance.

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 9-weeks were Ashley Ladewig, a paraprofessional at Brown Primary, Sandra Kadlecek, a paraprofessional at Smithville Elementary, and Allison Dredla, Amanda Adams, and Noe McCarthy, teachers at DAEP.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Ashley Ward who voiced her concerns about a perceived lack of communication in the district. The Board also heard from Margarita Igoe. Ms. Igoe submitted a request that Smithville ISD hire a Spanish interpreter for all district meetings.

Consent Agenda – Alan Hemphill moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Grant Gutierrez 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

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 Friday, May 12th was 1826 students, with a daily attendance rate of 93%.
- There is no change to the Student Dress Code for 2023-2024, pending legislation.
- The scholarship awards ceremony is Tuesday, May 16th beginning at 9am at the high school. The Grad Walk will start at 1:25pm beginning at Brown Primary, progressing to the elementary, then junior high, ending at the high school.
- The Smithville ISD Seal and LT logos have been patented. We're still waiting for patenting on the Tiger T.
- Meet the Junior High Principal and Assistant Principal on June 20th at 9am in the JH Library.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

After-School (ACE) Program Report – This item was postponed for the June meeting.

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 2023-2024 District Budget

- d. Technology Report
- e. Safety and Security Report
- f. After-School (ACE) Program Report
- g. Schedule Board Meeting Dates for 2023-2024
- h. Board Self Evaluation
- i. Personnel

Consider Custodial Contract Renewal – Our current agreement with IQS, Inc became effective June 15, 2019. The agreement was for one year with four possible renewals each year thereafter by amendment upon approval of the Board of Trustees. This request is the 4th renewal request for this contract. The agreed renewal amount is the CPI rate of 3.5%, which amounts to an increase of \$21,139.83 on our current fees. Per the terms of the custodial service agreement, it is the recommendation of administrative staff that the Board of Trustees renew the custodial contract with IQS, Inc for an additional year. Alan Hemphill moved to renew the custodial contract with IQS, Inc. as recommended. Michael Hancock 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. Alan Hemphill moved to remove Grant Gutierrez as signator for President and add Chris Hinnant, and to remove Candice Parsons as signator for Board Secretary and add Nancy Towry. Candice Parsons seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the HVAC replacement project (which will include the Red Brick Auditorium and Brown Primary). The Red Brick Auditorium HVAC is two 15 ton units from 1994. The Brown Primary system is a 40 ton pre-treat unit from 1996. The cost of the project is \$152,469. Josh Magden moved to grant approval to proceed with the replacement project as presented. Candice Parsons seconded, and the vote passed 7-0.

Consider Appointment of Delegate to Represent Smithville ISD at the 2023 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 29-October 1, 2023 and will be held at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center in Dallas, Texas. The 2023 Delegate Assembly will meet on Saturday, September 29th. Grant Gutierrez moved to appoint himself as delegate, and Alan Hemphill volunteered as alternate. Mr. Hemphill seconded the motion and it carried 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 Jenny Davis, teacher at Smithville Junior High, Megan Hancock, teacher at Smithville High School, Shannon Flores, athletic trainer at the high school, Travis Carruthers, teacher/coach at the high school and Lee Hartsell, assistant principal at the high school. No action is required.

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: Amanda Hudspeth as junior high principal, Greg Maxwell as junior high assistant principal, Travis Kearns, Leah Stinson and Mark Broadway as teachers at the high school, Chris Young as a teacher/coach at the high school, and John Jones as instructional coach at the junior high. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve employment of personnel as recommended by the superintendent. Candice Parsosn seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

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