

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, November 18, 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, Chelsa Vinklarek, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Bryan Jones

Members absent: Candice Parsons, Michael Hancock

Others present: Rebecca Hamilton, Margarita Igoe, Holly Brockman, Misty Vasquez, Sarah Vinklarek, Tracy Johnson, Jean Ann McCarthy, Zack Harris, Dr. Bethany Logan, Lindsey Saunders, Whitney Brown, Amanda Hudspeth, Tucker Copeland, Lindsey Saunders, Dwight Stockton, Irene Hernandez, Jay McRee, Justin Bezner, Jean Ann McCarthy, Kimberly Roach, Thelia Calderon, Anna Goertz, Margarita Igoe, Candy Biehle, 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. Mr. Hancock, Mr. Gutierrez and Mrs. Parsons were absent for roll call, but Mr. Gutierrez arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students who have earned the most Tiger Tokens at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Camila Aguilar Castillo, Scarlett Goertz, Trenety Ibarra, Cooper Dominy, Peyton James and Madison Moore.

Smithville Elementary School Tiger of the Month – Elementary staff nominate students who exhibit characteristics such as kindness, strong character, and helpfulness for the “Tiger of the Month” award. 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 Tiger of the Month for November is Luna Diaz, a 2nd grader nominated by Mrs. Martinez. Great job, Luna!

Public Communications – The Board heard from Dwight Stockton regarding the building process for the athletic program. They also heard from Margarita Igoe about current health programs being used across the district.

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 6 as presented. With a second from Josh Magden, the vote passed 5-0.

1. Minutes
2. Financial Statements
3. Investment Report
4. State Aid Comparison - Budgeted vs. Earned
5. Earned vs. TEA Payments
6. Tax Collection Report

Financial Report – The business manager, Sean Sanchez, 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 the following important issues pertaining to the District.

- Enrollment numbers as of November 15th, there are 1837 students with an average daily attendance of 92.32%.
- At the last board meeting, there was a discussion about possibly developing a local policy involving the School Health Advisory Committee. After discussion with TASB, we were advised to utilize legal policy and not adopt a local policy.
- The SHS Tiger Theatre Troupe will be performing their fall play "The Game's Afoot" this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the Main Cafeteria. Tickets can be purchased through Hometown Ticketing.
- Turkey Trot to the Top was an instructional incentive to encourage teachers and instructional staff on all campuses to continue the use of HQIMs. Prizes include donated prizes including rounds of golf, Consuela, and free oil changes. Winners will be drawn on Friday.
- Thanksgiving lunches will be at the Elementary on Thursday and Brown Primary on Friday.
- Mrs. Perez, our ACE After School Program Site Coordinator, was one of 20 Site Coordinators, out of ~700 in the State, to be selected to do a program evaluation interview with TEA. These 20 were selected because of promising areas in our family engagement programs, and TEA felt other coordinators would benefit from learning more about them. Examples of some of the programs they will discuss are our Trunk or Treat event, the Winter Safety Event, and the ACE Cares Program, which focuses on giving back to the community.
- This spring Mrs. Burns and Mr. Harris will be investigating options to address the recent discussion concerning the high school baseball/softball field upgrades.
- We would like to invite the Board of Trustees to attend our annual Central Office Holiday Social on Wednesday, Dec 18, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Red Brick Building.

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Update – Dr. Logan, Assistant Superintendent, gives a regular progress report/update on the Smithville I.S.D. Strategic Plan. This month the focus was on improving school safety and well-being, teacher recruitment, and teacher retention.

Tentative December Agenda Items - Tentative items for the December meeting include:

- a. Consent Agenda - Investment Policy Review
- b. Consent Agenda - Review Approved Providers of Investment

- c. Superintendent's Self-Evaluation Submission to the Board
- d. Distribution of Superintendent Evaluation Materials

Review and Approve 2023-2024 District Financial Audit – As required by the Texas Education Agency, an annual audit of financial information is conducted to assure that all legal requirements are being met and sound fiscal responsibility is maintained. The audit was conducted by Armstrong, Vaughn and Assoc, P.C. Kim Roach, who is a Principal with Armstrong, presented the audit. Josh Magden moved to accept the 2023-2024 audit as presented. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Parsons arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Consider Approval of Certified Levy in Accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code 26.09(e) – The district is in receipt of a request from Ellen Owens, Tax Assessor/Collector for the Smithville Independent School District, for approval of the attached document in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code 26.09(e). This document requires that the Board of Trustees to approve the original certified tax levy. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the certified tax levy as presented. Candice Parsons seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Voting for Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors – The Bastrop County Appraisal District is governed by a five-member board of directors which is elected by the governing bodies of the taxing entities in Bastrop County. Board members serve two-year at-large terms, which begin on January 1st of even numbered years. Chapter 6 of the Property Tax Code allows each tax unit to cast votes for the Board of Directors of the Bastrop Central Appraisal District in proportion to their tax levy. At its regular meeting in September, the Board of Trustees nominated Justin Bezner to be placed on the ballot for BCAD Board of Directors. The Smithville Independent School District is allocated 338 votes out of a total of 5,000 to cast for the candidate of its choice. The vote must be conducted at an open meeting of the Board of Trustees. The deadline to return a signed resolution of votes cast is December 15th. The five candidates who receive the largest cumulative vote totals will become the five appointed board of directors. We will be notified of the results after December 15th. Our goal is to elect a Smithville representative to the Bastrop County Appraisal District Board of Directors. Included in the board information is a voting entitlement for each of the taxing entities in Bastrop County, and a voting resolution. Grant Gutierrez moved to cast all of the district's allotted votes to Justin Bezner. Bryan Jones seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Clayton Mayo and Jeffrey Neely, teacher/coaches at the high school, effective at the end of their current 2024-2025 contracts, and Krystal Brian, a teacher at the high school, effective December 20, 2024. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – There was no employment to recommend.

Adjournment – Josh Magden moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. With a second from Grant Gutierrez and a 6-0 vote, the meeting ended.