

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 19, 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: Grant Gutierrez, Michael Hancock, Alan Hemphill, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons

Members absent: Nancy Towry

Others present: Stephanie Foster, Tucker Copeland, Zack Harris, Raven Behrens, Cory Williams, Chris Allen, Michael Caudill, Jean Ann McCarthy, Lee Hartsell, Candy Biehle, Lindsey Saunders, Bethany Logan, Margarita Igoe, Kristin Mann, B. Loeb, Manfred Hill, Johnnie Thomas, Sr., Falon Reiss, Rebecca Hamilton, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Mr. Gutierrez called the roll of members. Mrs. Towry was absent.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students from the House of Courage at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were: Collins Lawrence, Hazel Wells, Bailey Goertz, Keller Awthrey, Dakota Hammon, and Naomi Helsley.

Character Education Speakers – Student guest speakers will be present at each board meeting to conduct a short presentation on the Character Trait of the Month. For the September Board meeting, the Board heard from elementary students Emmanuel Muniz-Torres, a second grader in Ms. Goertz's class, Naomi Helsley, a fifth grader in Ms. Jones' class and Hazel Wells, a fifth grader in Ms. Lowery's class on the character trait courage.

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

Consent Agenda – Alan Hemphill moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion carried 6-0. 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 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:

- Enrollment numbers as of September 16th are 1879 students with an average daily attendance of 93.56%
Smithville ISD celebrated Homecoming last week with lots of fun events and festivities for students and staff.
- An SISD bus was involved in a minor accident in front of the high school on Friday. There was little damage and no one was injured.
- Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Towry and Mrs. Parsons will be attending the TASA/TASB Convention in San Antonio on Thursday and Friday this week.
- Mrs. McCarthy will attend finance training in San Antonio on Thursday.
- The Lady Tigers volleyball team will play Austin Achieve at home on Tuesday and Taylor at home on Friday.
- The Tigers JV/Freshmen football game will be in Lago Vista on Thursday and the varsity will play at home on Friday.
- A Safety and Security FAQ is now available on the website answering many of the questions that were covered during the public forum. It will be a “living page” that continues to be updated as new information/questions arise.
- Tiger Insider is at your seats.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

Update on Current Bond Finances – Chris Allen, from RBC Capital Markets, LLC, was at the board meeting to give an update on the current bond environment and tax rate impact analysis for Smithville ISD. This item was included on the agenda to keep the Board of Trustees updated on bond finances and to seek their input/questions.

Possible Strategic Plan for Future Projects and Goals – Strategic Planning empowers stakeholders - families, community members, staff, and students - to collaboratively shape the future of their school district. This process forges strong partnerships and builds a collective sense of responsibility among stakeholders as they work to create a 3 to 5-year plan. The strategic planning process galvanizes the community around a common purpose, expanding the district's capacity to provide resources and overcome obstacles in order to discover new possibilities for students.

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. Three employees have either not met ACP requirements or are teaching outside his/her certification area and will be reported as required by TEA. There is an additional unfilled position at Smithville Elementary, currently being filled by a substitute or paraprofessional, that will also have to be reported to TEA.

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

- a. F.I.R.S.T. Ratings Public Hearing
- b. Financial Report
- c. Superintendent's Report
- d. Bond Finance Review
- e. Child Nutrition Report
- f. Bilingual Report
- g. Personnel

Consider Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance

Objectives – Board Policy BQ [Legal] requires the Board to annually approve district and campus performance objectives and ensure that the district and campus improvement plans are mutually supportive to accomplish identified objectives and, at a minimum, support the state goals and objectives. Dr. Bethany Logan, Director of Curriculum, along with the assistance of campus administrators, presented the improvement plans and performance objectives. Josh Magden moved to approve the 2022–2023 and campus improvement plans and performance objectives as presented. With a second from Candice Parsons, the motion carried 6-0.

Consider Approval of Smithville Junior High Targeted Improvement Plan – Because Smithville Junior High was named a campus targeted for improvement by the Texas Education Agency, this item requires separate approval by the Board of Trustees. Candice Parsons moved to approve the Smithville Junior High Targeted Improvement Plan as presented. Josh Magden seconded and the vote passed 6-0.

Consider Approval of Resolution to Adopt Bastrop County, Texas Multi-Jurisdiction

Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) – Natural hazards in Bastrop County historically have caused significant disasters with losses of life and property and natural resources damage. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) require communities to adopt a hazard mitigation action plan to be eligible for the full range of pre-

disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes. FEMA requires that communities update Hazard Mitigation Action Plans every five years in order to be eligible for the full range of pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes. Smithville I.S.D. has assessed the community's potential risks and hazards and is committed to planning for a sustainable community and reducing the long-term consequences of natural and man-caused hazards. The Bastrop County Hazard Mitigation Plan outline a mitigation vision, goals and objectives; assesses risk from a range of hazards; and identifies risk reduction strategies and actions for hazards that threaten the community. Candice Parsons moved to approve the Bastrop County Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. Josh Magden seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent would like to inform the Board of the resignation of John Montgomery, fourth grade teacher at Smithville Elementary. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – There are no recommendations at this time.

Adjournment – The board meeting adjourned at 7:50.