

## MINUTES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### SMITHVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Smithville Independent School District was held on Monday, May 18, 2026 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:** Tracy Johnson, Holly Brockman, Amanda Hudspeth, Shannon Munson, Jason Pack, B. Sampson, A. Goertz, Misty Vazquez, Amber Quinley, Ava Bryant, Jeremy Davis, Megan Lowery, Jennifer Bradshaw, Valerie Rodriguez, Alica Sexton, Kevin Mahoney, Christie Otto, Brooke Otto, L. Vinklarek, Wayne Otto, Jessi Davis, Jenna Carroll, Darby House, LR Magden, Ashley Gunter, Aubrey Trevino, Brittney Collins, Colbi Davis, Lindsey Bell, Kenzly White, Whitney White, Julie Bishop, Jessica Pack, Kaleigh Murrile, Caleb Murrile, Matthew Ferrell, Wade Davidson, Tammy Davis, Danny Davis, Holli Delsoe, Kylee Friend, Janet Perkins, Brenda Ricketts, Evelyn Pease, Trish Hawkins, Raven Behrens, Marlene Davis, Angie Westerfield, Tessa Ottea, Jeffrey Hayden, Christie Drret, Stewart Burns, Tamra Helsley, Whitney Brown, Denis McGinnis, Justin Hurien, Naylor, Ronald McKeown, Roberts Family, Denise Behrens, Ronald Behrens, Sophie Vinklarek, Cory Mikohn, Kelly Mikulin, Christopher Rios, Vicky Rios, Kasia Swank, Nathen Armstrong, San Juana Armstrong, Michele Broadway, Courtney Bazer, Ryan Bazer, Crystal Heiman, Sarah Young, Josh Young, S, Katy Vazquez, JD Young, Kayla Sundeman, Shelley Sunderman, Gracie Agustin, Summer Breslig, Lindsey Saunders, Kimberly Brockenbush Covey, Courtney Hibbens-Turner, Zacaria Hibbens, Candy Biehle, Zack Harris, Stacy Tiner, Dr. Bethany Logan, Jennifer Vinklarek, Dr. Molley Ealy and Liza Rios

**Call to Order** - The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**Roll Call** - The Board President called the roll of members. All members were present.

**Student Led Pledge of Allegiance** - Students from Smithville Elementary who have received the most Tiger Tokens for the month led the group in the pledge. Those students were:

- 1st Grade: Levi Armstrong, Makenzie Arpero
- 3rd Grade: Penney Behrens, Rylan Blackwell
- 5th Grade: Liberty Alloy Bailey

## BOARD RECOGNITIONS

**Teacher Incentive Allotment Designated Teachers** - A total allotment amount of \$271,106 is being generated this year as a result of 25 SISD teachers receiving either a Recognized, Exemplary, or Masters designation based upon teacher and student performance data in the 2024-2025 school year. Designated teachers were recognized by the Board.

### Brown Primary:

- Devon Behrens
- Leanne Vinklarek
- Shelly Naylor
- Jessica Pack
- Hailey Sherrill

### Smithville Junior High:

- Travis Butler
- Kylie Friend
- Trish Hawkins
- Valerie Rodriguez
- Jenny Davis

### Smithville Elementary:

- Julie Bishop
- Anna Goertz
- Crystal Heimann
- Ariel Kunz
- Brande Natal
- Nikki Peacock
- Crystal Saffel
- Kimberly Covey
- Megan Lowery

### Smithville High School:

- Lacey Schwanke
- Tessa Otten
- Kevin Mahoney
- Michele Broadway
- Katarzyna Swank
- Shannon Munson

**Tiger Award Staff Recognitions** - The TIGER award is a quarterly recognition program for staff who go above and beyond and demonstrate service to others. Tiger Award Recipients for this quarter include:

- BP - Nickolas Mendenhall
- SES - Maddison Stafford
- JH - Amanda Hudspeth
- SHS - Alica Sexton
- Central Office - Christopher Rios

**Recognition of Outstanding Students of the Fourth 9-Weeks** - Each nine-weeks the middle school and high school faculties select an outstanding student from their respective campus. Students are rated on criteria including grades, honesty, enthusiasm, cooperation with teachers and their peers, class participation and leadership.

The outstanding students for the fourth nine-weeks from SHS were:

- Ava Korin Bryant - 9th Grade
- Tyler Keith Gigout - 10th Grade

The outstanding students for the fourth nine-weeks from SJHS were:

- Molly Ann Gunter - 6th Grade
- Oscar Jhamaury Uribe Vera - 8th Grade

**Smithville Elementary Tiger of the Month** - 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 is honored by the campus, recognized at the school board meeting, and receives a special yard sign to proudly display at home.

May 2026 Tiger of the Month was Riley Navarro, 5th grader in Mrs. Armstrong's class. Congratulations Riley!

**Future Problem Solvers State Bowl** - Audrey Chapin, 6th Grade Student at SHS placed 4th in State for her Scenario Writing story "Sprout," addressing invasive species 20 years in the future. Future Problem Solvers. Sponsor is Ronald McKeown.

**FFA Area XII Career Development Horse Judging Contest** - The SHS Horse Judging Team placed 5th overall and qualified for the state competition. Team members include:

- Ace Ahlbrandt, Ava Bryant, Tanner Watson, and Justin Young
- Ava Bryant also tied for 1st place individually.

Tori Gest, FFA Sponsor

**Tiger Tron Robotics Team State Qualifiers** - The SHS Tiger Tron Robotics team advanced to and participated in state competition. Team members include:

- Jimmie Bradshaw
- Matthew Ferrell
- Stephen Colosky
- Bobby Galabeas (absent)
- Naxeiah Owens
- Jasper Regier
- Damien Sturgeon (absent)
- Paulino Dominguez-Aguilar
- Felix Mondragon-Castro (absent)
- Chesney Horsley
- Emily Stark
- Ryan Helsley
- Jouleena Ketola

Sponsor, Mary Alice Castello

**Academic All-State** - The Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Teams recognize senior high school athletes, trainers and managers who excel in the following categories: GPA, class rank and ACT/SAT score. SISD is proud to recognize the following students for achieving this prestigious honor.

Girls Basketball:

- Kenna Tiner
- Sophie Vinklerek
- Briyanna Sampson

Softball:

- Addison Otto

- Jessi Davis
- Kenna Tiner
- Dakota Young

Baseball:

- Luke Wagoner

Boys Basketball:

- Caleb Magden

Boys Soccer:

- Devon Utecht

### **Golf Regional Qualifiers**

The following golfers advanced to the Regional tournament:

- Carter Nutt, individual
- Kayla Sunderman, Lily Gardella, Audrey Vasquez, Maddie Bell, and Avery Hayden, Girls Team

Head Golf Coach, Trey Vondenstein

### **Track & Field Regional Qualifiers** - The following athletes competed at the Regional level in

Track and Field:

- Ava Bryant
- Brianna Sampson
- Zane Perkins
- Baylor Watson
- Zacaria Hibbens

Head Coach, Steven Fobert

### **Lady Tiger Softball, Bi-District Champions** - Congratulations to the Lady Tiger Softball team on an outstanding season!

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • Addison Otto   | • Kenzly White     |
| • Kenna Tiner    | • Brittney Collins |
| • Jessi Davis    | • Alystar Ramos    |
| • Kayden Wilde   | • Jessica Hinnant  |
| • Dakota Young   | • Kayde Tiner      |
| • Jenna Carroll  | • Payton Quinley   |
| • Brityn Roberts | • Aubrey Trevino   |
| • Cory Mikulin   | • Colbi Davis      |
| • Emery Bayer    |                    |

Head Coach, Wayne Otto

**Public Communications** - Citizens wishing to address the Board of Trustees have so indicated by listing their name on the Communications from the Public sign-in sheet located on the table at the entrance to the boardroom. Those signing have given a brief indication of the topics to be addressed. Comments to the Board of Trustees under this provision will be in accordance with SISD Board Policy BED (LEGAL & LOCAL) and Board Operating Procedures. There were no public comments.

## BOARD

**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.

**Oath of Office for Newly Elected or Re-Elected Board Members** - "Before entering upon the duties of the office of Board of Trustee, the Trustee shall take the oath or affirmation of office and shall file it with the President of the Board." Education Code 11.061; Tex. Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 1

At the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees in January the Board called for its regular election to be held on May 2, 2026. The election was canceled due to lack of opposition to current incumbents. However, in accordance with the election code, the new (returning) Board members Chris Hinnant, Place 1, and Grant Gutierrez, Place 2, will be sworn in at the next regular meeting following the regular election date, which is May 18, 2026.

The Oath of Office was administered for School Board Trustees Gutierrez and Hinnant by Mrs. Jennifer Vinklarek.

**Consent Agenda** - Board members routinely approve items on the consent agenda as a group. These are routine agenda items. Board members have the option to ask questions regarding any of the items listed as part of the consent agenda.

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

The business manager, Stacy Tiner, reviewed the financial disbursements for the previous month with the Board of Trustees. Josh Magden moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Candice Parsons, and the vote passed 7-0. Yea – Candice Parsons, Chelsa Vinklarek, Bryan Jones, Josh Magden, Grant Gutierrez, Michael Hancock. Nay – none.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

**Distribution of Board Self Evaluation Materials** - The Board President set a date for the completed Board Self-Assessment Instrument to be returned for tabulation. The instrument is included as an attachment in the packet for the Board's convenience. The Board will address its self-evaluation at the regular June meeting.

**Superintendent's Update** - The Superintendent updated the Board on important issues pertaining to the District.

- UIL Academics and CX Debate Competitions
- Upcoming Senior Celebrations
- Graduation on May 22
- Employee Awards and Breakfast on May 26
- Reunification Training Exercise on June 2

**Receive the School Health Advisory Committee's (SHAC) Annual Report and**

**Recommendations** - The Texas Education Code §28.004 specifies that the local SHAC must submit an annual written report to the board regarding their recommendations related to health education curriculum and instruction, their activities during the year, and any recommendations made by the physical activity and fitness planning subcommittee of the SHAC. This recommendation was presented by the SHAC Committee's chair, Mrs. Magden.

**Receive an Update on the Smithville ISD Strategic Plan : Priority 1** – Student Success

Each month, the Board of Trustees received a report on progress of a portion of the SISD Strategic Plan. This month's focus will be on Priority 1 and its associated objectives. Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Bethany Logan presented the plan to the board.

**Upcoming June Agenda Items**

- Public Hearing on ESSA and Perkins Grants
- Strategic Plan Update : Priority 2 - Staff Satisfaction & Engagement
- Appoint a Delegate for the TASA/TASB Convention
- Set Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2026-27
- Board Self Evaluation
- Update on Tax Collection from MVBA
- Update on Debt Service and Refunding Opportunity
- Budget Development for 2026-27
- TASB Compensation Study Results
- Consider Compensation Plan for 2026-27
- School Safety & Security Updates
- Health & Wellness Curriculum Adoption

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approve the Hire of New Contractual Personnel** - According to Board Policy DC [Local], the Superintendent has the authority to make recommendations to the Board regarding the selection of all contractual personnel. It is recommended that the Board approve the hire of new contractual personnel as recommended. The discussion was tabled. Personnel matters discussed in closed session, and the Board took the item up after Closed Session. Motion to approve, made by Chris Hinnant and seconded by Michael Hancock, the vote passed 7-0. Yea – Gutierrez, Vinklarek, Parsons, Hinnant, Magden, Hancock, Jones. Nay – none.

**Consider Approval of a Purchase in Excess of \$50,000** - Approve the renewal of IReady Toolbox in the amount of \$55,498 using Title I funds in 2026-27. The IReady toolbox is the supplemental portion of IReady which includes screeners, supplemental practice for students, and resources for teachers for intervention and extension K-8.

For the 26-27 school year, students in K-5 mathematics will have a more balanced programming between hands-on experiences and technology. This is in direct alignment with guidance provided by both ESC Region 13 and the Texas Education Agency. A motion was made by Chris Hinnant, seconded by Candice Parsons and the vote passed 7-0. Yea – Gutierrez, Vinklarek, Parsons, Hinnant, Magden, Hancock, Jones. Nay – none.

**Approval of the Construction Delivery Method for Playground Resurfacing at Brown Primary** - In accordance with Board Policy CV: Prior to advertising, the Board shall determine the project delivery/contract award method to be used for each construction contract valued at or above the competitive purchasing threshold established in law. To assist the Board, the Superintendent shall recommend the project delivery/contract award method that he or she determines provides the best value to the District. Motion made by Josh Magden to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of Job Order Contracting, seconded by Chelsa Vinklarek, and the vote passed 7-0. Yea – Gutierrez, Vinklarek, Parsons, Hinnant, Magden, Hancock, Jones. Nay – none.

**CLOSED SESSION** - The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 7:51 p.m.

**Discussion Regarding Personnel Matters, including the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of public officers and/or employees, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Open Meetings Act**

**Discussion Regarding Approval to Hire New Contractual Personnel** - According to Board Policy DC [Local], the Superintendent has the authority to make recommendations to the Board regarding the selection of all contractual personnel. It is recommended that the Board approve the hire of new contractual personnel as recommended.

**OPEN SESSION** – The Board of Trustees exited closed session at 9:36 p.m. with no official action taken during Closed Session.

**Election of Board Officers** - 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. Board Operating Procedures specify the criteria for Board officers and the process for selecting Board officers.

Josh Magden made a motion to nominate Grant Gutierrez as president, and the vote passed 7-0. Yea – Gutierrez, Vinklarek, Parsons, Hinnant, Magden, Hancock, Jones. Nay – none.

Candice Parsons made a motion to nominate Chris Hinnant as vice president, and the vote passed 7-0. Yea – Gutierrez, Vinklarek, Parsons, Hinnant, Magden, Hancock, Jones. Nay – none.

Chris Hinnant made a motion to nominate Candice Parsons as secretary. Candice Parsons made a motion to nominate Chelsa Vinklarek as secretary. and the vote passed 7-0 for Mrs. Vinklarek. Yea – Gutierrez, Vinklarek, Parsons, Hinnant, Magden, Hancock, Jones. Nay – none.

**Approval to Amend Signatures on the SISD Bank Depository** - As a result of the reorganization of the Board of Trustees, there is a change in officers. The Board President and the Board Secretary must be authorized signers on the District accounts at First National Bank, the District's depository. Josh Magden has completed his term as Board Secretary and needs to be removed as an authorized signer on the District accounts at First National Bank. Chris Hinnant made a motion to appoint Chelsa Vinklarek as Board Secretary, seconded by Michael Hancock and the vote passed 7-0; Yea – Gutierrez, Vinklarek, Parsons, Hinnant, Magden, Hancock, Jones. Nay – none. The authorized signers on all deposit accounts and safe deposit box with First National Bank of Bastrop shall be Grant Gutierrez, Board President; Chelsa Vinklarek, Board Secretary; Dr. Molley Ealy, Superintendent; and Stacy Tiner Business Manager.

**Adjournment** – Candice Parsons moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. with a second from Michael Hancock the vote passed 7-0, Yea – Gutierrez, Vinklarek, Parsons, Hinnant, Magden, Hancock, Jones. Nay – none.

The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.