

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 16, 2020 beginning at 6:00 PM at the ZOOM Webinar

[https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H0S9ICMTRbaUfUGLqps_uq,Smithville, TX 78957](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H0S9ICMTRbaUfUGLqps_uq,Smithville,TX78957).

Members present: Howard Burns, Jr., Alan Hemphill, Mike Davis, Jr., Grant Gutierrez, Chris Hinnant, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry

Others present: Jean Ann McCarthy, David Edwards, Kim Hemphill, Shari Bang, Lelia Joy, Jenny Davis, Tessa Otten, Kristal Webster, Ryan Fowler, Rachel Hurst, Natalia Stagner, Catherine Chagra, Rachel White, Hannah Bales, Katie Fehlker, Liliana Garcia, Alexis Peck, Wayne King, Whitney Brown, Steffani Motyka, Spring Lively, Dianna King, Dave Fehlker, Steven Gibson, Michele Rutherford, Kayla Herschap, Mike Fettes, John Riley, Holly Brockman, Jennifer Berry, Madelyn Trautmann, Crystal Vinklerek, Molly Cox, Jessica Hinnant, Lisa Gonzales, Candy Biehle, Jenny Espinoza, Dusti Goertz, Kelly Brueggman, Stacy Hippler, Nichole Garner, Kay Chiappetti, Belinda Waters, Michael Caudill, Jonathan Leon, Trish Hawkins, James Fauver, Kelly Brown, Sandy Sepulveda, Chasity Robinson, Brenda Fehlker, Erin O'Rourke, Erik McCowan, Cyril Adkins, Suzanne Hinnant, Claire McMillin-Albin, Zachary Harris, Connie McMillin, Leona Jones, Amanda Gommert, Nidia Rodriguez, Lacey Schwanke, Ana Murray, Chris Kelly, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6pm.

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

Canvass the Results of the November 3, 2020 Board of Trustees Election – The election returns certified by the election officials were given to the Board of Trustees. The Board canvassed the returns and Vice-President Alan Hemphill declared the results of the November 3, 2020 as follows: Mr. Chris Hinnant, winner of Place 1 and Mr. Grant Gutierrez, winner of Place 2.

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. Mr. Hinnant and Mr. Gutierrez signed the Statement of Officer.

Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected or Newly Re-elected Board Members – Denise Behrens, acting in her capacity as a public notary, administered the oath of office for the newly elected School Board Trustees.

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 Alan Hemphill as president. No more nominations were received, and nominations ceased. Mr. Hemphill was elected president with a 7-0 vote. Nancy Towry nominated Candice Parsons as vice-president. No more nominations were received, and nominations ceased. Mrs. Parsons was elected vice-president with a unanimous 7-0 vote. Alan Hemphill nominated Nancy Towry as secretary. No more nominations were received, and nominations ceased. Mrs. Towry was elected secretary with a 7-0 vote.

Public Communications – The Board heard from Erik McCowan regarding the solar energy project proposed by Big Star Solar, LLC. They also heard from Dave Fehlker, Brenda Fehlker, Katie Fehlker, Lelia Joy, Kelly Wakely-Brown and Claire McMillin-Albin regarding their concerns about returning to face-to-face learning. The Board heard from Leona Jones, a teacher at Smithville High School, who expressed her support of in-person learning. In addition, the Board heard from Michele Rutherford supporting the use of face coverings with strict monitoring of their use, and delaying the start of school until two weeks after January 1, 2021.

Consent Agenda – Howard Burns, Jr. moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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. Investment Policy Review
8. Review Approved Providers of Investment Training

Information Items

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 shared the following information with the Board of Trustees:

- The Smithville Tigers played Wimberley in a bi-district playoff game on Friday, November 13. The Tigers came up a little short, but we would like to congratulate the players and coaches for their dedication and enthusiasm.
- Smithville ISD hosted a playoff game at Tiger Stadium on November 12th between Giddings ISD and Manor New Tech, and will host another game on Friday between Poth ISD and Rogers ISD.
- Congratulations to the SHS Tiger Band for earning a 1st division rating at the Edna Marching Invitational on Saturday, November 7th.
- Please mark your calendars for a special Board workshop on Monday, December 7th to address goal setting.

2016 Bond Renovation Update by PBK and Drymalla Construction – Mrs. Burns reported that the renovation process at Smithville Elementary is nearing completion.

COVID-19 Update – David Edwards, Federal Programs Director, along with Smithville ISD administrators presented an update on COVID-19 as it pertains to instruction and mitigation plans for the district.

Review Three-Year Security Audit – Smithville ISD performed an audit of its safety and security measures as per Texas Education Code 37.108(c). The audit results have been submitted to the Texas School Safety Center. Mr. Edwards, Director of Federal Programs, shared the results of the survey with the Board.

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

- a. F.I.R.S.T. Ratings Public Hearing
- b. Recognition of Outstanding Students for the First Semester
- c. Financial Report
- d. Superintendent's Report
- e. 2019-2020 District Audit
- f. Personnel
- g. Superintendent's Self-Evaluation Submission to the Board
- h. Distribution of Superintendent Evaluation Materials

Action Items

Approval to Amend Signatures on Bank Depository – As a result of the reorganization of the Board of Trustees there will be 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. Grant Gutierrez moved to remove former Board Secretary, if applicable, to approve the addition of the new Board Secretary Nancy Towry as selected by the Board, to remove former Board President and approve the addition of the new Board President Alan Hemphill, Cheryl Burns, Superintendent, and Jean Ann McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer, as representatives of the district authorized to sign on the following district accounts with First National Bank, the school district depository: Activity Fund, Payroll Clearing, General Fund: MMA, General Fund and Interest and Sinking and all persons listed, with the addition of Denise Behrens, Superintendent's Secretary, as authorized signors for the safe deposit box. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Personnel

Resignations of Certified Personnel – Mrs. Burns received the resignation of Maygan Washington at the high school and Jamie Burns at Brown Primary. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – There is no employment recommended at this time.

The Board ended its meeting at 7:45 p.m.