

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, April 19, 2021 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Smithville ISD Administrative Building, PO Box 479, 901 N.E. 6th Street Smithville, Texas 78957.

Members present: Alan Hemphill, Mike Davis, Jr., Grant Gutierrez, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry
Members absent: Howard Burns, Jr., Chris Hinnant
Others present: David Edwards, Ana Murray, Tucker Copeland, Michael Caudill, Mark Goulet, Jennifer Bezner, Jean Ann McCarthy, Jesse Lopez, Paula Freeman, Spencer Mann, Josh Castille, Tina Castille, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call – Mr. Hemphill called the roll. Mr. Burns and Mr. Hinnant were absent.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Brown Primary students led the group virtually in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Outstanding Students of the Third Nine-Weeks – Each nine-weeks the middle school and high school faculties select an outstanding student from their respective campus. Students are rated on a scale of 1 to 10 on such criteria as grades, honesty, enthusiasm, cooperation with teachers and their peers, class participation and leadership. Daucie Davis, an eighth grader, and Devon Utecht, a seventh grader, have been selected as outstanding students for the third nine-weeks from Smithville Junior High. Two students have been selected as outstanding students from Smithville High School for the third nine-weeks. They are Gabriela Leal, a junior, and Terrell Henderson, a senior. The outstanding students were interviewed, and a video presentation was made to the Board.
Our congratulations to all of these students!

Public Communications – The Board heard from Tina Castille regarding her childrens educational experience.

Consent Agenda – Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 5-0. 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

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 updated the Board on important issues pertaining to the District, including the following items:

- Early voting for the general election of the Board of Trustees began today. Early voting is held at Smithville City Hall.
- TASB will be hosting its Summer Leadership Institute on June 16-19 at the Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio. You have the opportunity to attend in person or virtually. However, the in-person attendance is limited. The SLI is an excellent opportunity for board members to receive high quality training and learning.
- We would like to invite each of our members of the SISD Board of Trustees to attend the Chamber Banquet on May 15th where our Child Nutrition Department is being recognized as the 2020 Organization of the Year.
- Congratulations to the baseball and softball teams who are both vying for first place in district, boys golf and boys and girls track will be competing at regionals. This past weekend, the band earned UIL Sweepstakes, UIL Academic competitors qualified for regional competition and FFA Floral Design qualified for state.

COVID-19 Update – Mr. David Edwards, Director of Federal Programs, presented an update on COVID-19 as it pertains to instruction and mitigation plans for the district.

Review of 2021-2022 High School Course Catalog – Administrators from the high school review and edit the course catalog on an annual basis for the upcoming school year. Mr. Tucker Copeland, High School Principal, reviewed the 2021-2022 course catalog with the Board of Trustees.

Report Board Member Continuing Education Hours – Board Policy BBD [Legal] and 19 TAC 61.61 requires the Board President to announce the name of each Board member who has completed the required continuing education, who has exceeded the required hours of continuing education, and who is deficient in the required continuing education. This announcement is required annually. The Board President must announce Board members' continuing education hours at the last regular meeting prior to the next board election, shall cause the minutes to reflect the information, and shall make this information available to the local media. Mr. Hemphill announced that Mr. Burns, Mr. Gutierrez, Mr. Davis, Mr. Hemphill, Mrs. Towry, and Mrs. Parsons have all exceeded the required training hours. Our newest board member, Chris Hinnant, who was elected in November, has one calendar year from the date of election to complete continuing education requirements so it is important to state that he is not considered deficient. All other members have exceeded requirements.

Tentative May Agenda Items – Tentative items for the May agenda include:

1. Issue Oath of Office for New Board Members
2. Reorganization of the Board of Trustees
3. Financial Report
4. Superintendent's Report
5. Covid 19 Report
6. IQS Custodial Contract Renewal
7. 2021-2022 Dress Code
8. Bank Depository Bids
9. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel

Closed Session: Discuss/Review Region 13 Audit of student grading and ranking policies and procedures. Texas Gov't. Code, Section 551.0821 – The Board entered closed session at 6:35 p.m. and returned at 8:45 p.m. with no official action taken.

Discuss Possible Amendments to Student Grading and Ranking Policies and Procedures – No action was taken on this item.

Consideration/Action on Resolution Regarding Extension of Time for Consideration of Tax Limitation Application on Qualified Property from Big Star Solar, LLC, No. 1531

Extension Request and Resolution. – The requested extension is required to make sure that the application review period does not expire. The extension allows both parties to further their due diligence and present a final agreement to the Board when completed. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the resolution regarding extension of time for consideration of tax limitation application as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Call for Special Meeting to Canvass Results of May 1, 2021 Regular Election – The election for board of trustees is Saturday, May 1, 2021. Chapter 67, subchapter 67.003 of the election code requires the Board of Trustees to canvass the results no earlier than the third day after the election and no later than the eleventh day after the election. Bastrop County Elections has suggested that we schedule our canvass for Tuesday, May 11th to allow for "cure" of any provisional ballots. Grant Gutierrez moved to call for a special election to canvass the results of the election of Board of Trustees for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 8 a.m. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent would like to inform the Board of the resignations of: Susan Schobel, Stewart Burns, Leona Jones, and David Leist. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – Mrs. Burns recommended contract renewal for the 2021-2022 school year for Jordan Davis, a teacher at Brown Primary School. Candice Parsons moved to approve Jordan Davis as a teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. With a second from Nancy Towry, the motion carried 5-0.

Consider Proposed Contract Non-renewal of Certified Teacher/Coach – No action was taken.

Adjournment – The Board ended its meeting at 8:48 p.m.