

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, March 28, 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: Howard Burns, Jr., Mike Davis, Jr., Grant Gutierrez, Chris Hinnant, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry

Members absent: Alan Hemphill and Mike Davis, Jr.

Others present: Ana Murray, Noe McCarthy, Jean Ann McCarthy, Sophie Weinheimer, Tucker Copeland, Amanda Gommert, Michael Caudill, Whitney Brown, Margarita Igoe, Zack Harris, Stephanie Foster, Tyson Kristynik, Finley Welch, Cadence Morris, Naomi Helsley, Mason Fehlker, Madison Corbin, Audrey Vasquez, Kash Kellough, David Fehlker, Brenda Fehlker, Casey Hanchey, Josh Magden, Justin Schwanke, Candy Biehle, Kim Hemphill, Tessa Otten, Rebecca Hamilton, Joaquin Muna, Jennifer Bezner, Justin Bezner, Jharron Kellough, Cherthora Jarmon, Valerie Rodriguez, Sam Rodriguez, Chad Morris, Sophie Weinheimer, Crystal Saffel, Lacey Schwanke.

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

Roll Call – The Board President called the roll. Mr. Hemphill was absent.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students who are currently top point earners from the House of Curiosity at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Tyson Kristynik, Finley Welch, Cadence Morris, Naomi Helsley, Mason Fehlker, Madison Corbin, Audrey Vasquez and Kash Kellough.

Character Education Speakers – Student guest speakers will be present at each board meeting to read a short essay on the Character Trait of the Month. The character trait for March is Virtue. Diana Besonis, a 2nd grade student in Mrs. Garbe's class, and Samuel Rodriguez, a 1st grade student in Mrs. Hunsucker's class read their essays to the Board of Trustees.

Tiger Awards – Tiger Award recipients are members of the SISD staff and are nominated by peers and voted on by a select committee. Each campus and department will have an award winner that will be recognized at the board meeting every 9-weeks. The Board recognized the Tiger Award winners for the third 9-weeks: Brown Primary - Kaleigh Gibson (Teacher), Smithville Elementary - Crystal Saffel (Teacher), Smithville Junior High - Christie Mick (Office

Secretary/Receptionist), Smithville High School - Lacey Schwanke (Teacher), ISD - Joaquin Muna (Transportation).

Public Communications – There were no communications from the public.

Consent Agenda – Howard Burns, Jr. moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 6 as presented. With a second from Candice Parsons, 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 Chief Financial Officer, Jean Ann McCarthy, shared 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:

- Current district enrollment is 1797 students.
- Compass Rose Public Schools 8005 Outer Circle Rd., San Antonio, TX intends to submit an expansion amendment request for consideration by the commission of education to add a new campus and expand the geographic boundary. As part of the amendment consideration process, charter schools are required to notify any school districts that are likely to be affected by the new campus. Smithville ISD does not anticipate an impact to the district.
- We will report Board Continuing Credit hours at the April board meeting. If you have any questions about training, please contact Denise.
- March Tiger Insider...
- CX Debate advanced to State Competition
- One-Act Play won the District Meet
- Robotics won the FIRST competition.
- ES and JH UIL had many students placed in their events.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight - High School Health Sciences Program

– The Board heard from Sophie Weinheimer, School Nurse, about the health programs currently being offered at the high school.

COVID-19 Update – Mrs. Burns provided an update on COVID-19 as it pertains to instruction and mitigation plans for the district.

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

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent's Report

- c. COVID-19 Update
- d. Review 2022-2023 High School Course Catalog
- e. Approval of Instructional Materials Allotment and Textbook Adoption
- f. Call for Special Meeting to Canvass School Board Election
- g. Possible Renewal of District of Innovation Status
- h. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel
- i. Consider and Take Action Regarding Certified Staff Contract Renewals

Consider Approval of Resolution Regarding Wage Payments During Emergency School Closing for Bad Weather Event

– On February 3rd and February 4th, 2022, the state of Texas experienced an intense, damaging winter weather event. Snow and icing, combined with power and water outages, forced closure of the majority of school districts in Texas, including Smithville ISD. In the interest of safety for the students and staff, Smithville ISD closed school for students and staff on those two days. The District would like to request approval of the attached resolution. The resolution would allow Smithville ISD employees to continue receiving wage payments during the closure, February 3rd and February 4th, which is addressed in board policy DEA (Local).

SISD Administration recommends the passage of these payments to maintain morale and reduce turnover. Howard Burns, Jr. moved to approve the resolution as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

New Interlocal Participation Agreement Between SISD and TASB Risk Management Fund

– An amended Interlocal Participation Agreement (IPA) was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the TASB Risk Management Fund on 11/12/21 and is effective 5/1/22. The new IPA replaces the current IPA and must be authorized and approved by SISD's Board of Trustees to ensure continued coverage in Fund programs.

Smithville ISD currently utilizes TASB Risk Management for our Auto, Liability, Property, Privacy & Information Security, Unemployment and Worker's Compensation coverage. We have been with TASB Risk Management since 1980 and have received outstanding service through the years. TASB Risk Management is very competitive because of their familiarity with the school district's sovereign immunity parameters, setting them out in a different status than private/commercial entities. Since TASB Risk Management is a non-profit risk pool, any excess fund balance that is accrued in the pool must be refunded to the members. Chris Hinnant moved to approve the interlocal participation agreement between SISD and TASB Risk Management Fund as presented. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded, and the vote passed 6-0.

Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 6:32 p.m. and returned at 7:23 p.m. with no official action taken.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Mollie Gerus, Deanne Holloway, Amanda McDaniel, Brian Kinsler, and Jacqueline Alvey. No action is required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent recommended employment of Dr. Bethany Logan as Director of Curriculum. Howard Burns, Jr. moved to approve Dr. Bethany

Logan as Curriculum Director for the 2022-2023 school year. Nancy Towry seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Consider and Take Action Regarding Certified Staff Contract Renewals – The administrators of the district have submitted to the office of the superintendent their recommendations for contract renewal of existing certified staff members. The Board of Trustees is the final hiring authority for certified contract employees for Smithville I.S.D. and will act upon the recommendations for renewal of certified staff as presented by the Superintendent. Candice Parsons moved to approve the recommended renewal of staff as presented. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded and the vote carried 6-0.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.