

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 21, 2025 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Smithville ISD Administrative Building, PO Box 479, 901 N.E. 6th Street, Smithville, Texas 78957.

Members present: Michael Hancock, Chelsa Vinklarek, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Bryan Jones

Members absent: Grant Gutierrez

Others present: Sarah Vinklarek, Bethany Logan, Jason Peterson, Stacy Tiner, Kristen Merriweather, Lindsey Saunders, Tracy Johnson, Clara Beckett, Robert Tamble, Dana Tovar, Tim Sanders, Francesca Skaggs, Bridger Birdwell, Sandy Kreider, Jeff Kreider, Rachel Vickers, Tessa Otten, Misty Vasquez, Zack Harris, Jean Ann McCarthy, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – Mr. Hinnant called the roll of members. All were present.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students from Smithville Elementary who have received the most Tiger Tokens for the month will lead the group in the pledge. Those students are: Bridger Birdwell, Cedar Nowell, and Andreee Lattouf. Our Tiger of the Month, Ja’Niyah Parker also joined in.

Public Hearing - Smithville ISD Internet Safety Guidelines – The school is required by state laws and board policy CQ [Legal] to conduct a public hearing on Smithville ISD Internet Safety Guidelines. Dr. Logan made the presentation. The public was invited to participate in the presentation.

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 will be honored by the campus, recognized at the school board meeting, and will receive a special yard sign to proudly display at home. The Tiger of the Month for April is Ja’Niyah Parker, a 1st grade student in Mrs. Halter's class. Good job, Ja’Niyah!

Smithville Education Foundation Innovative Teaching Grants Check Presentation – Members of the Smithville Education Foundation were at the meeting to present this year’s grant recipients with their checks. Teachers must submit an application to SEF which is then reviewed

by the group. This year's winners were Brenda McEntire, Crystal Saffel, Tessa Otten, Debra Blackwell, Jessica Pack and Lisa Prihoda.

Public Communications – There were no citizens signed up to address the Board of Trustees.

Consent Agenda –Josh Magden moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 6 as presented. With a second from Candice Parsons, the motion carried 6-0.

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 business manager, Stacy Tiner, 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:

- District enrollment as of Friday, April 11, 2025 is 1835 students.
- Clear bag policy to be implemented for Tiger Stadium and gyms
- We received notification from Commissioner Sid Miller with the Texas Department of Agriculture that Smithville ISD's Child Nutrition Program has successfully completed the 2024 Farm Fresh Challenge, helping to ensure Texas leads the way in introducing students to local foods. Congratulations to Candy Biehle and the Child Nutrition Program!
- The Smithville Lady Tigers softball team has clinched first place in District and will move on to bi-district competition. They will play LaMarque in Sweeney on Thursday. Please come support them if you can.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

Representatives of the Bastrop County, Texas and/or the City of Smithville, Texas, will present the background, plans, and goals for their proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Method of Distribution (CDBG-MIT-MOD) Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Bastrop County, Texas and the City of Smithville, Texas, to include the District as a party to the ILA for Community Development Block Grant Mitigation MOD funding for a proposed drainage project, as presented by the City and County, for the proposed drainage project to utilize the District property for the project – Robert Tamble, with the City of Smithville, Tim Sanders, with BEFCO Engineering, and Clara Becket, with Bastrop County, presented information about a grant received and the potential partnership with Smithville ISD to utilize the funds available. The grant would pay for upgrades and an additional retention pond for possible future growth. The detention pond will help with the continued need for drainage.

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan 2023-2027 Update – Dr. Logan, Assistant Superintendent, gave her regular update on the Smithville I.S.D. Strategic Plan, including instructional materials to be voted on later in the meeting.

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. Hinnant read the required script and notified the staff and community that all board members have exceeded the hours of continuing education required.

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

1. Issue Oath of Office for New Board Members
2. Reorganization of the Board of Trustees
3. Recognition of State Qualifiers
4. Recognition of Outstanding Students for the 4th-9-Weeks
5. Recognition of Tiger Award Winners
6. Financial Report
7. Superintendent's Report
8. Graduation Procedures
9. 2025-2026 Dress Code
10. Consider Amendment of Signatures on Bank Depository
11. Consider Approval of Proposed Drainage Project
12. Superintendent Search Update
13. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel

Consider Custodial Contract Renewal – Our current agreement with IQS, Inc. became effective June 15, 2019. The agreement was for one year with four possible renewals each year thereafter by amendment upon approval of the Board of Trustees. Since IQS is a member of the Buy Board purchasing coop, we are requesting to extend our services for an additional year. The agreed renewal amount is the CPI rate of 2.0%, which amounts to an increase of \$12,777 on our current fees. Per the terms of the custodial service agreement, it is the recommendation of the administrative staff that the Board of Trustees extend the custodial contract with IQS, Inc. for an additional year through the purchasing coop procurement method. Candice Parsosns moved to extend the contract with IQS, Inc for an additional year as requested. Josh Magden seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the purchase of one special education school bus to be delivered before August 31, 2025. This request was not included in the current 2024-2025 budget. However, due to the special requirements to transport our students with special needs and experiencing an increase in our special education population, Smithville ISD is in desperate need of a new special education bus. Administrators are requesting to utilize \$159,114 from fund balance to make this purchase

during the 2024-2025 school year. Michael Hancock made a motion to approve the expenditure as requested. Candice Parsons seconded and the vote was 6-0.

Consider Approval of Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials Survey 2025-

2026 – In accordance with Texas Education Code 31.1011, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools are required to certify annually to the State Board of Education and the commissioner that, for each subject in the required curriculum other than physical education, students have access to instructional materials that cover all the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the coming school year. Additionally, in accordance with Texas Administrative Code 19 TAC 66.105, school districts or charter schools are required to certify that they protect against access to obscene or harmful content in compliance with the requirements for certification under the Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC 254(h)(5)(B) and (C). These certifications must be ratified by local school boards of trustees or governing bodies in public, noticed meetings. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools will be unable to order instructional materials through EMAT until the certifications have been received by the Texas Education Agency. Candice Parsons moved to approve certification of provision of instructional materials survey 2025-2026 as presented. Chelsa Vinklerek seconded and the motion passed 5-1 with Michael Hancock opposed.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – Mrs. Burns notified the Board of the resignation of Amber Garcia, a teacher at Smithville Elementary.

Employment of Certified Personnel – According to Board Policy DC [Local], the Superintendent has the authority to make recommendations to the Board regarding the selection of all personnel. The superintendent recommended employment of Raylynne Fillman as a teacher at Brown Primary, Holly Van Hoozer as a teacher at Smithville Elementary, and Cameron Greene and Shawna Randall as teacher/coaches at Smithville High School. She also recommended renewal of current contracts for Molly Armstrong, teacher at Smithville Elementary and Keaton Upshaw, teacher/coach at Smithville Junior High. Josh Magden moved to approve employment as recommended by the Superintendent. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 8:08 p.m. and returned at 10:36 p.m. with no official action taken.

Adjournment – The Board President declared the meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.