

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SMITHVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Smithville Independent School District was held on Monday, March 1, 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: Grant Gutierrez, Alan Hemphill, Chris Hinnant, Candice Parsons, Mike Davis, Jr., Howard Burns, Jr.

Members Absent: Nancy Towry

Others Present: Ana Murray, Michele Rutherford, Melissa Slepekis, Chris Kelly, Tucker Copeland, Cheryl Burns, Jean Ann McCarthy, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call – The Board President called the roll. Nancy Towry was absent.

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

Consider Approval of Application for Missed School Day Waiver from TEA – The Texas Education Agency has notified school districts of the availability of a Missed School Day Waiver that would allow for exemption of makeup for days missed during the week of February 15, 2021 through February 19, 2021, when Texas experienced a devastating winter storm. Smithville ISD had a scheduled holiday on February 15th, but did close school from February 16th through February 19th due to weather issues and concern for staff and student safety. The district intends to request a Missed School Day Waiver from TEA for the four days of school closure, which requires approval by the Board of Trustees. Howard Burns, Jr. moved to apply for the Missed School Day Waiver from TEA as requested. Grant Gutierrez seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Consider Approval of Resolution Regarding Wage Payments During Emergency School Closing for Bad Weather Event – During the week of February 15, 2021 through February 19, 2021, 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. Smithville ISD had a school holiday on Monday, February 15th and was scheduled to return on Tuesday, February 16th. In the interest of safety for the students and staff, Smithville ISD remained closed. 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 16th through February 19th, which is addressed in board policy DEA (Local). It would also allow provisions for premium pay for employees who were required to work during the emergency closure. Grant Gutierrez moved to approve the resolution authorizing employee pay as recommended. Howard Burns, Jr. seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Consider Approval of 2021-2022 District Calendar – Administrators designed four potential 2021-2022 school calendars that complied with standard state requirements and incorporated suggestions from campus principals and other district staff. The calendars were presented to the district-site based committee for review, input and discussion. District staff were allowed to vote on the calendar of their choice, and the calendar that received the majority vote is being presented to the Board for approval. Candice Parsons moved to approve the 2021-2022 school district calendar as presented. Mike Davis, Jr. seconded and the vote passed 6-0.

The Board ended its meeting at 6:15 p.m.