

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 15, 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, Chris Hinnant, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry
Members absent: Howard Burns, Jr., Alan Hemphill, Mike Davis, Jr.
Others present: Ashley Gartman, David Edwards, Jean Ann McCarthy, Margarita Igoe, Noe McCarthy, Stephanie Foster, Ana Murray, Amanda Gommert, Tucker Copeland, Raven Behrens, Kynzie Behrens, Dawsyn Behrens, Penney Behrens, Michael Caudill, Dezirae Litton, Colleen DeGuzman, Daniel Hrna, Candy Biehler, Heather Metzler, Emily Rydin, Harper Rydin, David Henderson, Martha Henderson, Leanne Vinklerek, Debbie Barnard, Roy Barnard, Misti Powell, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order – The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

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

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students who are currently top point earners from the House of Service at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Stormie Ladewig, Hayden Powell, Sariah Villegas, Ja’Kara McLaurin, Kiersa Henderson, Claire Vinklerek, Harper Koi, Peyton Eaton, Olivia Trevino, Luke Oates, and Harper Rydin.

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 Board will heard from Nalaya Evans, a second grader in Mrs. Heimann's class, and Josiah Navarro, a fourth grader in Ms. Watson's class, on the character trait "Service".

Public Communications – The Board heard from Margarita Igoe regarding her concerns about the “House” program, the reward system at Smithville Elementary.

Consent Agenda – Candice Parsons moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 7 as presented. With a second from Nancy Towry, the vote passed 4-0.

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. Budget Amendments

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:

- District enrollment is currently at 1777 students.
- There will be a vaccine clinic held at Brown Primary on Thursday, November 18th from 4pm to 7pm. The Covid-19 vaccine will be offered to individuals ages 5 and up.
- Congratulations to our cross country team, who advanced to regionals, and both the volleyball team and the football team who advanced to district playoffs.
- The high school theater program has a performance on November 19th and 20th.
- Peace poster contest winners were recognized at the Lions Club meeting.
- Beginning December 1st, Central Office will be enjoying wassail and hot chocolate to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. Please come by and share in the fellowship.
- Reminder - there will be a special workshop for the Board of Trustees on Monday, December 6th at 6pm.
- Board Training Requirements
- The Tiger Insider was distributed.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight – Ashley Gartman, After-School Program Coordinator, shared highlights from the After-School Program.

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

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

- a. F.I.R.S.T. Ratings Public Hearing
- b. Consent Agenda - Investment Policy Review
- c. Consent Agenda - Review Approved Providers of Investment Training
- d. Financial Report
- e. Superintendent's Report
- f. Instruction and Curriculum Highlights
- g. Review and Approve 2020-2021 District Financial Audit
- h. Personnel
- i. Superintendent's Self-Evaluation Submission to the Board
- j. Distribution of Superintendent Evaluation Materials

Consider Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans and Performance

Objectives – Board Policy BQ [Legal] requires the Board to annually approve district and

campus performance objectives and ensure that the district and campus improvement plans are mutually supportive to accomplish identified objectives and, at a minimum, support the state goals and objectives. David Edwards, State and Federal Programs Director, with the assistance of each campus principal, presented the improvement plans and performance objectives. Chris Hinnant moved to approve the 2021-2022 and campus improvement plans and performance objectives as presented. With a second from Candice Parsons, the motion carried 4-0.

Consider Approval of Certified Levy in Accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code

26.09(e) – The district is in receipt of a request from Ellen Owens, Tax Assessor/Collector for the Smithville Independent School District, for approval of the attached document in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code 26.09(e). This document requires that the Board of Trustees approve the original certified tax levy. Nancy Towry moved to approve the certified tax levy as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Review and Approve Local Board Policy Update 118 and Affected Policies – The District must update and maintain its local policies with the most recent legislation and educational regulation changes. In your packet of information, you have been provided the Update 118 Local Policy Overview. The attachments provide you with information concerning the policy changes found in the update. The information included in the board packet is a summary of each of the policy changes. The update includes changes to the following local board policies: CFD (Local): Accounting - Activity Funds Management, CQB (Local): Technology Resources – Cybersecurity, DFE (Local): Termination Of Employment – Resignation, DP (Local): Personnel Positions, EHAA (Local): Basic Instructional Program - Required Instruction (All Levels), EHBC (Local): Special Programs - Compensatory/Accelerated Services, EIE (Local): Academic Achievement - Retention And Promotion, FDE (Local): Admissions - School Safety Transfers, FEA (Local): Attendance - Compulsory Attendance, FEC (Local): Attendance - Attendance for Credit, FFG (Local): Student Welfare - Child Abuse And Neglect, FL (Local): Student Records. Candice Parsons moved to approve Update 118 as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Voting for Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors – The Bastrop County Appraisal District is governed by a five-member board of directors which is elected by the governing bodies of the taxing entities in Bastrop County. Board members serve two-year at-large terms, which begin on January 1st of even numbered years. Chapter 6 of the Property Tax Code allows each tax unit to cast votes for the Board of Directors of the Bastrop Central Appraisal District in proportion to their tax levy. The Smithville Independent School District is allocated 435 votes, and the goal is to elect a Smithville representative to the Bastrop County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Nancy Towry 217 for Bill Hecton and 218 for Ellen Owens. Chris Hinnant seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – There are no resignations to report at this time.

Employment of Certified Personnel – Candice Parsons moved to approve employment of Steven Fobert as a teacher at Smithville High School. Chris Hinnant seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment – The Board adjourned its meeting at 7:43 p.m.