

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, May 16, 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., Alan Hemphill, Mike Davis, Jr., Grant Gutierrez, Chris Hinnant, Candice Parsons, Nancy Towry, Michael Hancock, Josh Magden
Others present: Stephanie Foster, Jean Ann McCarthy, Noe McCarthy, Whitney Brown, Ana Murray, Christie Otto, Addison Otto, Mary Burns, Wayne Otto, Liz Magden, Molly Cox, Henrietta Lopez, Amanda Gommert, Stacy Tiner, Zack Harris, Clinton Tiner, Kylie Tiner, Laynee Tiner, Jennifer Peterson, Raven Behrens, Dustin Behrens, Kynzie Behrens, Dawsyn Behrens, Penney Behrens, Tucker Copeland, Jenny Espinoza, Paul Espinoza, Mary Alice Castello, Robert Campos, David White, Hattie Campion, Ashley Cooper, Michael Caudill, David Edwards, Crystal Saffel, Margarita Igoe, Kayla Herschap, Cyril Adkins, Charles Hodge, Wayne King, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

Call to Order - The Board President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students from Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The third grade has earned more points than any other grade level this year. The following top earning students in third grade were at the meeting to lead the group in the pledge: Ben Metcalf, Cason Herschap, Aldre Borjas, Dawsyn Behrens, Ruth Haney, Hannah Flores and Eli Cox.

Administer Statement of Officer to Elected Trustees – Article XVI, section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires all elected or appointed state and local officers to take the official oath of office and to subscribe to the anti-bribery statement (Form 2201-Statement of Officer) before entering upon the duties of their office. Local officers must retain the signed statement with the official records of the office. The Statement of Officer was administered as required.

Oath of Office for New Board Members – Denise Behrens, acting in her capacity as a public notary, administered the oath of office for the newly elected School Board Trustees

Reorganization of the Board of Trustees – Board policies BDAA [Legal] and BDAA [Local] specify that the Board will elect a president, vice-president, and secretary at the first meeting

after each election and qualification of Trustees. Chris Hinnant nominated Grant Gutierrez as president. With no more nominations, Mr. Gutierrez was voted in as president 7-0. Candice Parsons nominated Chris Hinnant as vice-president. There were no additional nominations and Mr. Hinnant was voted vice-president 7-0. Chris Hinnant nominated Candice Parsons as secretary. With no additional nominations, Mrs. Parsons was elected secretary with a 7-0 vote.

Recognition of Student Achievements – Once again, our hats are off to the outstanding achievements of the students at Smithville I.S.D., as well as their instructors.

We would like to recognize the following Smithville ISD State Level Competition Qualifiers: Tyler Cyr, Craig Bryan, Justin Shackelford, and David Burch with SkillsUSA, Antonio Blasco, Philip Chiappetta, Kenneth Crawford, Pete Duran, Iain Ferrell, Matthew Ferrell (SJH) Ian Fettes, Elizabeth Holder, Michelle Holloway, Juan Johnson, Alice Steubing, and Ayla Witt with TIGER TRONS 5503 Robotics, Lane Hofferek, Blain Stockton, Braden Gaertner, and Konner Namken with Texas FFA Land Evaluation Career Development Team, Madi Kinsey, Brianna Johnson, Lesly Acevedo, Steeley Earp, Lauren Hanslik, Blain Stockton, Garret Kuhn, and Cash Webster with Texas FFA Senior Chapter Conducting Leadership Development Team, Lily Gardella, Emeline Gutierrez and Caleb Magden with Smithville Junior High Future Problem Solvers, Brooke Otto, Hadlee Ladewig, Kinsey Goertz, and Lauren Hanslik in Volleyball TGCA Academic All-State, Rachel Frerich, Cierra Adkins, Hadlee Ladewig in Academic All State Girls Basketball, Camden Hippler, Garrett Kuhn, Tyler Cyr, and Charles Hodge IV in Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All State, Charles Hodge for the Texas Sports Writers Association All State Football Team, Abigail Kennon, Brooke Otto, Nikolette Schmidt, Cierra Adkins, Gabriela Leal, and Hadlee Ladewig for Softball THSCA Academic All-State, Charles Hodge IV for Boys Track THSCA Academic All-State, Nikolette Schmidt for Girls Track THSCA Academic All-State, Paris O’Neal, Anyeli Jaramillo Romero, and Gabi Leal for competition at the state level in girls powerlifting, Nikolette Schmidt in Track and Field, Rachel Frerich, Camden Hippler, Moksh Patel, Blain Stockton, Chloe Callan, Evyan Parnell, and Carlee Edwards in UIL Academics, Abbey Frushay, Clare Johnson, Kylie Tiner, Carina Berryann, Annabella Bryan, Melvin Evans, Arabella Gutierrez, Chassity Navarrete, Alexa Obbale-Escareno, Aizik Trevino, Emma Burch, Cody Kennon, Crystal Lopez Digat, Alizay Maceo, Aiden Trevino, Iain Ferrell, Alyson Gray, Grace Hamilton, Michelle Holloway, Dylan Bowling, Damien Cazares, Devany Flores, Amy Frushay, Carlee Edwards, Alexis Olivas, Xavier Evans, Kaitlyn Turner, Achilles Brian, Kylie Brown, Amber Cox, Ian Fettes, Jace Gola, Elexis Lawhon, Matthew Maldonado, Lacy Copeland, Leslie Saldana-Garcia, Kyli Spencer, Samantha Gurley, Trevor Persinger, Micah Southwell, Antonio Blasco, Kaleb Bowling, Sylvio Cambell-Evans, Zachery Montgomery, Chandler Bone, Kati Curry-Russell, Luke Garner, Nicole Olivas, Ashton Snell, Brylee White, Tyneia Anerson-Lovings, Annabelle Enriquez, Alice Steubing, Damien Cazares, Claire Layfield, Trinity Campion, Silvey Fait, Rachell Barker, Anna Garner, and Giovana Jaimes in Band UIL State Solo and Ensemble.

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 May is perseverance. The Board heard from Bailey Goertz, a first grader in Mrs. Ellis' class.

Recognition of Outstanding Students for the Fourth Nine-Weeks –The Board recognized. Chidinma Meremikwu and Shelton Espinoza, outstanding students chosen from Smithville Junior High School for the fourth nine-weeks, and Rachel Frerich and Samuel Praditbatuga outstanding students chosen from the high school campus.

Tiger Award Recipient Recognition – 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 fourth 9-weeks: Brown Primary – Raven Behrens (Counselor), Smithville Elementary – Ashley Cooper (Teacher), Smithville Junior High – Jennifer Peterson (Librarian), Smithville High School – Megan Hancock (Teacher), ISD – Jim Dickson (Maintenance).

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

Consent Agenda – Candice Parsons moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Consent Agenda included:

1. Minutes
2. Financial Statements
3. State Aid Comparison - Budgeted vs. Earned
4. Earned vs. TEA Payments
5. 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:

- Current district enrollment is 1792 students.
- Each graduating senior had the opportunity to participate in an official signing today. It was a tremendous success. We will be continuing this tradition and the Board of Trustees will be invited each year.
- The Senior Walk took place on every campus today.
- The FFA Banquet, the High School Tiger Band Banquet and the Theater Awards ceremony were held last week.
- The Chamber of Commerce Honor Graduate Dinner is tomorrow, May 17, 2022 at 6pm at the UMC Fellowship Hall.
- The Athletic Banquet is Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 6pm at the Bastrop Convention Center.
- The Junior High Tiger Band will have a spring concert on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at the junior high cafetorium.
- The High School Awards Ceremony will be Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6pm in the Main Cafeteria.

- The presentation of the Lamar Awards will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Masonic Lodge. Winners of the awards are: Ryan Fowler, teacher at Brown Primary, Lora Jones, teacher at Smithville Elementary, Crystal Vinklerek, teacher at Smithville Junior High and Jason Peterson, teacher at Smithville High School.
- Please consider attending the 2022 Summer Leadership Institute hosted by TASB. There are two dates and locations, San Antonio and Fort Worth. You have received an email with specific information. Let Denise know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending so she can get you registered and secure lodging. It is an excellent opportunity for board training.
- The End of Year Breakfast is Tuesday, May 31, 2022 and all board members are invited to attend.

SISD Instructional/Curriculum Program Highlight: Brown Primary/Smithville Elementary Physical Education Program – This item was tabled.

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

Graduation Ceremony Procedures – High School Graduation will be held on Friday, May 27, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. at Tiger Stadium in Smithville, Texas. Tucker Copeland, high school principal, reviewed the Board’s role in the upcoming graduation ceremony.

Tentative June Agenda Items – Tentative items to be included on the June regular agenda include:

- a. Financial Report
- b. Superintendent’s Report
- c. First Draft of the 2022-2023 District Budget
- d. Technology Report
- e. Schedule Board Meeting Dates for 2022-2023
- f. Board Self Evaluation
- g. Personnel

Action Items

Consider Approval of 2022-2023 Salary Schedules – District administrators have been working on an updated salary schedule for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and trades for the upcoming school year 2022-2023. Salary schedules are necessary to calculate the 2022-2023 budget, and it has been Smithville I.S.D.'s practice to inform staff as early as possible of any changes to the salary schedules. Salaries have to be set each year and have a major impact on the district budget, which must be adopted no later than August 31, 2022. Josh Magden moved to approve the salary schedule as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Expenditure in Excess of \$50,000 – The purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the purchase of needed technology upgrades and high school parking lot improvements. The expenditures would include upgrades to multiple desktop computers, adding chromebooks throughout the district, and district technology upgrades at the high school campus,

as well as maintenance improvements on the high school parking lot. The cost of these upgrades is \$171,600 and the intent is to utilize funds that were received by Smithville ISD for the Chapter 313 Supplemental Payment, anticipated excess tax collections and ESSER III ARP funds. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the expenditures as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Review and Approve 2022-2023 Student Dress Code – The student dress code is annually reviewed by the administration, campus site-based committees, and the district site-based committee. Candice Parsons moved to approve the 2022-2023 student dress code as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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. This request is the 3rd renewal request for this contract. Any renewal shall be an amount not to exceed the CPI rate of 2%, which amounts to an increase of \$11,843 on our current fees. Per the terms of the custodial service agreement, it is the recommendation of administrative staff that the Board of Trustees renew the custodial contract with IQS, Inc for an additional year. Alan Hemphill moved to renew the custodial contract with IQS, Inc. as presented. Chris Hinnant seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Consider Approval to Amend Signatures on Bank Depository - As a result of the reorganization of the Board of Trustees, there was a change in officers. The Board President and the Board Secretary must be authorized to sign on the District accounts at First National Bank, the District's depository. Alan Hemphill moved that President Grant Gutierrez remain as a signator on the account at First National Bank, and that Secretary Candice Parsons replace Nancy Towry. Josh Magden seconded and the vote passed 7-0.

Consider Appointment of Delegate to Represent Smithville ISD at the 2022 TASA/TASB Convention Delegate Assembly – The TASB Delegate Assembly is a crucial component of the Association's governance structure. Each active member (school board) of the Association is entitled to have a delegate and an alternate attend the Assembly and cast our district's vote on action items coming before the Assembly. The TASA/TASB Convention this year is September 22-25, 2022 and will be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The 2022 Delegate Assembly will meet on Saturday, September 24th. Grant Gutierrez moved to appoint Candice Parsons as the delegate and Nancy Towry as the alternate. Alan Hemphill seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Distribution of Board Self-Evaluation Materials – The Board President requested that a completed Board Self-Assessment Instrument be returned by each member of the Board for tabulation on the week prior to the regular June meeting.

Personnel

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignations of Stephanie Brant, Haley Nunn, and Sarah Carder-Gutierrez. No action was required.

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 recommends employment of the following employees: Gail Deeley as a teacher at Smithville Elementary, Gary Krause as a teacher/coach at Smithville Junior High School, Kylee Friend as a teacher at Smithville Junior High, Claude Bassett as a teacher/coach at Smithville High School, Justin Benvegna and Michelle Broadway as teachers at Smithville High School, Lee Hartsell as assistant principal at Smithville High School, Erin Seale as school nurse and Lindsey Saunders as District Communications Officer. Candice Parsons moved to approve employment as presented. Michael Hancock seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.