

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, February 27, 2023 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, Alan Hemphill, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Alan Hemphill, Nancy Towry

Members absent: Grant Gutierrez

Others present: Jean Ann McCarthy, Whitney Brown, Lindsey Saunders, Amanda Gommert, Raylynne Fillman, Barbara Caldwell, Dwight Stockton, Alice Schwanke, Lacey Schwanke, Jerry Fleck, Bethany Logan, Sarah Vinklarek, Debra Carter, Michael Caudill, Margarita Igoe, Mary Alice Casetello, Stephanie Foster, Rebecca Hamilton, Irene, Yolanda Hernandez, R.G. Watson, Mary Ann Watson, Zack Harris, Candy Biehle, Erin Seale, Cheryl Burns, Denise Behrens

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

Roll Call – Mr. Hinnant called the roll of members. Mr. Gutierrez was absent. Mr. Hemphill arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance – Students representing the House System’s House of Virtue at Smithville Elementary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those students were Alice Schwanke, Alistar Hollingshead and Ariana Praditbatuga.

Recognition of Outstanding Student for the Nine-Weeks – Each nine-weeks the middle school and high school faculties select an outstanding student from their respective campus. Students are rated on a scale of 1 to 10 on such criteria as grades, honesty, enthusiasm, cooperation with teachers and their peers, class participation and leadership. Kaitlyn Berryann, 12th grade daughter of Doug and Ana Berryann, was chosen as an outstanding student from Smithville High School. Kaitlyn was unable to attend the board meeting in January to receive recognition with the other recipients, and had an athletic participation conflict for this meeting. She will be recognized in March.

Public Communications – Dwight Stockton shared his views regarding the current status of the athletic department. The Board heard from Margarita Igoe regarding the School Health Advisory Program and Aim for Success in particular. R.G. Watson expressed his agreement with Mr. Stockton’s opinion of the athletic program.

Consent Agenda – Michael Hancock moved to approve consent agenda items 1 through 7 as presented. With a second from Josh Magden, the motion carried 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
7. Donation to Establish Martha Ann Vacek Nursing Scholarship

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:

- Smithville HS has been granted a STEM grant in the amount of \$10,000 from Lockheed Martin. There were 79 Lockheed Martin grants awarded across the nation – and only 4 in Texas! The grant will allow students to participate in an Engineering Pathway. The grant will fund staff training and supplies. Our first course offering will be Engineering Essentials.
- Smithville Elementary has been granted a STEM grant from Project Lead the Way in the amount of \$6,950. This grant will allow us to bring STEM to the lower grades through 10 hour modules that support hands-on, experiential learning in the areas of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. The modules will support the science TEKS directly. The grant will fund staff training and supplies.
- The Child Nutrition Department will be highlighted at an open house sponsored by the No Kid Hungry Program for the innovative work that the director and the district have been involved in with school gardens and cooking demonstrations on a community and state level.
- Mrs. Burns and Mr. Magden attended the “Day at the Capitol” hosted by TAMS/TARS.
- Smithville ISD students participated in the “I Voted” and “Future Voter” sticker design contest sponsored by Bastrop County Elections. Winners were recognized at Commissioner’s Court in Bastrop on Feb 27, 2023 and one of our Juniors (Sophia Royster) took first place.
- Next Friday, March 10th, is a student holiday and staff workday. We do not have to use this Bad Weather Day for students, so they will start Spring Break a day early.
- Playground construction continues.
- Spring sports are in full swing. Please come out and support your Tigers and Lady Tigers!
- The Tiger Insider is at your seats.
- Please refer to the Smithville ISD website for the latest news and resources.

Discipline Data Presentation – Dr. Michael Caudill, Assistant Superintendent, presented information regarding student discipline data to include 2017 through 2022.

Review of 2023-2024 High School Course Catalog – Administrators from the high school review and edit the course catalog on an annual basis for the upcoming school year. Mr. Copeland, high school principal, presented the proposed 2023-2024 High School Course Catalog and noted any updates or changes

Scope of Work and Proposal for Facility Planning Membership – The Board has expressed the need to begin discussion about possibly adding facilities due to impending growth in the district. The superintendent visited with Karen O'Grady, Services Manager of the Texas Association of School Boards, about a contract for Scope of Work and Proposal for Facility Planning Membership, and shared her takeaway from the discussion with the Board.

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

- a. Recognition of Students - "I Voted" and "Future Voter" sticker design contest winners
- b. Financial Report
- c. Superintendent's Report
- d. Safety and Security Update
- e. Resignations and Employment of Certified Personnel
- f. Consider and Take Action Regarding Certified Staff Contract Renewal

Consideration and Possible Approval of 2023-2024 School Calendar – Administrators designed three potential school calendars that complied with standard state requirements and incorporated suggestions from campus principals and other district staff. A sub-committee was formed from the district site-based committee to perform an initial review of the calendars. That committee met twice, tweaked the calendars according to staff, parent and community input, then presented them to the district site-based committee for review, discussion and final selection. The DSBDMC met twice to discuss and analyze the calendars presented. A vote was taken by the committee and the calendar before the board is the calendar that won by majority vote. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the 2023-2024 school calendar as presented. Nancy Towry seconded and the motion carried 4-2 with Chris Hinnant and Michael Hancock opposing.

Consider Renewal of District of Innovation – At the regular board meeting in January 2018, Smithville ISD began the process to become a District of Innovation. The district was granted approval, effective April 2018, and has been a DOI since that time. The process must be renewed every five years, and it has been determined by district administrators and the District Site-Based Committee that it would be in Smithville ISD's best interest to apply to continue the District of Innovation status. The plan was reviewed and no changes were deemed necessary. Posting requirements were met, as the intent to renew the plan was posted on the district website in November 2022. The District Site-Based Committee voted for its approval on February 6, 2023 and the Commissioner of Education was notified on February 10, 2023 of the District's intent to renew the plan. The Board of Trustees must vote on the final plan before its submission to TEA. Upon board approval, the District of Innovation plan will be presented to the Commissioner of Education for renewal. Josh Magden moved to approve the District of Innovation plan as presented. Candice Parsons seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

School Health Advisory Committee Annual Report and Recommendations – As per Texas Education Code, Chapter 28, at least annually, the local school health advisory council (SHAC) shall submit a report to the board of trustees. The board packet included a report of activities from the 2022-2023 school year, as well as a recommendation on a sexual health and safety awareness presentation. Alan Hemphill moved to approve the recommendations of the School Health Advisory Committee as presented. Josh Magden seconded and the vote carried 6-0.

Consider Bank Depository Contract Extension – The District is required to bid for depository services every two years. However, if the district is eligible and elects to extend the current contract, Board action is required. The Board approved First National Bank as its depository in May 2021. The District has received outstanding service from them and it is our recommendation for the Board of Trustees to extend the depository contract with First National Bank of Bastrop for the period September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2025. Candice Parsons moved to approve extension of the depository contract with First National Bank of Bastrop as recommended by administrators. Nancy Towry seconded and the vote passed 6-0.

Certification of Unopposed Status for the May 6, 2023 School Board Election – Sec. 2.052 of the election code states that the authority responsible for having the official ballot prepared shall certify in writing that a candidate is unopposed for election to an office (in other words, the outcome is already known due to the lack of opposition). The certification shall be delivered to the governing body of the political subdivision as soon as possible after the filing deadlines for placement on the ballot and on the list of write-in candidates. The write-in deadline was Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Denise Behrens, the authority responsible for having the official ballot prepared, certified Christian Hinnant, Place 1 and Grant Gutierrez, Place 2, as unopposed candidates for the May 6, 2023 election. Michael Hancock moved to approve the certification of unopposed status for the May 6, 2023 School Board election as presented. Alan Hemphill seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.

Take Action to Cancel the May 6, 2023 Regular School Board Election Due to Unopposed Candidates – The regular board election is scheduled for May 6, 2023. Positions up for election are Place 1, currently held by Chris Hinnant, and Place 2, currently held by Grant Gutierrez. Both incumbents have refiled. The deadline to file for a place on the ballot was Friday, February 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Section 2.051-2.053 of the Texas Election Code states that an election may be cancelled for one of the following three reasons; 1) Each candidate (for full or un-expired terms) whose name is to appear on the ballot is unopposed; 2) The election is one in which a declaration of write-in candidacy is required; and 3) No proposition is on the ballot. Due to the fact that Board of Trustee Place 1, Chris Hinnant and Place 2, Grant Gutierrez are unopposed candidates, we are within Election Code requirements to request cancellation of our regular May election. Alan Hemphill made a motion to cancel the May 6, 2023 regular school board election due to unopposed candidates. With a second from Michael Hancock, the vote carried 6-0.

Resignations of Certified Personnel – The Superintendent informed the Board of the resignation of Tammy Mayberry, Goldie Sunshine, Jennifer Ferrell, Teresa Ellis and Rachel Tannreuther. No action was required.

Employment of Certified Personnel – There was no employment to be recommended.

Closed Session - The Board entered closed session at 7:54 p.m. and returned at 10:28 p.m. with no action taken.

Consideration/Action Regarding Administrator Employment Contract

Renewals/Extensions – Michael Hancock moved to approve administrative contract recommendations for Stephanie Foster, Jean Ann McCarthy, Michael Caudill, Tucker Copeland, Amanda Gommert, Bethany Logan, Holly Brockman, Erin O'Rourke, Sarah Vinklerek, Whitney Brown, Lee Hartsell, and Misty Vasquez as recommended by the Superintendent. Josh Magden seconded and the vote passed unanimously 4-2 with Nancy Towry and Michael Hancock opposing.

The Board ended its meeting at 10:30 p.m.