

MINUTES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SMITHVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Smithville Independent School District was held on Monday, June 8, 2026 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, Michael Hancock, Chelsa Vinklarek, Chris Hinnant, Josh Magden, Candice Parsons, Bryan Jones

Members absent: Chelsa Vinklarek

Others present: Dr. Tracy Johnson, Dr. Ashley Marquez, Whitney Brown, Holly Brockman, Shelly Naylor, Noe Reyes, Christian Merritt, Misty Vasquez, Mariajose Velez, Samuel Ortega, Roque Thompson, Stacy Tiner, Lindsey Saunders, Angie Westerfield, Zack Harris, Jim Dickson, Ann Rosecrance, Dr. Bethany Logan, Dr. Molley Ealy and Liza Rios

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

Roll Call - The Board President called the roll of members. Mrs. Chelsa Vinklarek was absent.

Student Led Pledge of Allegiance - Pre-K ESL Summer School student, Samuel Velez, led the pledge.

Public Hearing – Public Hearing on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Perkins Federal Grants. A public hearing on ESSA and Perkins Grant allocations and planned expenditures will be held in accordance with grant requirements.

Public Communications - There were no communications from the public at this meeting.

Consent Agenda - Board members routinely approve items on the consent agenda as a group. These are routine agenda items. Board members have the option to ask questions regarding any of the items listed as part of the consent agenda.

1. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes
2. Financial Statements
3. Investment Report
4. State Aid Comparison - Budgeted vs. Earned
5. Earned vs. TEA Payments
6. Tax Collection Report
7. Financial Report

The business manager Stacy Tiner, reviewed the financial disbursements for the previous month with the Board of Trustees. Josh Magden moved to approve the consent agenda as presented,

seconded by Candice Parsons, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea

BOARD

Annual Review of Board Operating Procedures - An annual review and discussion of Board Operating Procedures will be held. Any action on proposed changes will be taken at a future meeting.

Board Self Evaluation - The Board conducts a self-assessment once a year to accomplish the following:

1. Assess governance team effectiveness
2. Review roles and responsibilities in the decision-making process
3. Identify the continuing education needs of the governance team and team members
4. Initiate dialogue among team members to enhance communications
5. Establish goals for the governance team

The Board uses a survey instrument and process recommended and developed by the Texas Association of School Boards. The instrument is organized according to the Framework for School Board Development. Mr. Gutierrez reviewed the results of the self-assessment.

Board Training Requirements - The timeline for annual Board training requirement completion is May–April of each year. Trustees are required to annually complete training in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, parental rights, team building, and 5 additional hours. Every other year, Trustees are required to complete Child Abuse Prevention, Updates to the Texas Education Code following Legislative Sessions, Evaluating & Improving Student Outcomes, and School Safety. Dr. Ealy reviewed training requirements and will continue to share training opportunities as they become available.

Appoint a Delegate and Alternate for the TASA/TASB Assembly - The annual txEDCON convention will be held on October 8-11, 2026 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX, where the Delegate Assembly will be held on Friday, October 9. School districts around the state will nominate a Delegate and Alternate to discuss and vote on a variety of action items - from electing TASB directors and officers to approving the education issues included in the TASB Advocacy Agenda. The Board of Trustees did not vote on this item, it was tabled for further discussion and review at a later date.

Adoption of School Board Meeting Dates for 2026-2027 – Candice Parsons moved to approve the adoption of the proposed school board meeting dates, seconded by Michael Hancock and the

vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent updated the Board on important issues pertaining to the District.

- A reunification School Safety Exercise was held on Tuesday, June 2
- Summer Meal Program is every Tuesday & Thursday at 4 locations throughout the community
- Summer hours of operation began on June 1 and run through July 24

Upcoming Dates

- June 29 - Budget Workshop Meeting
- July 21 - New Student Registration at Brown Primary
- July 29 - 31 - New Teacher Academy
- August 3 - Convocation
- August 12 - First Day of School

Receive Results and Recommendations from the Texas Association of School Boards Pay System Review - The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) completed a pay system review in late spring 2026. Results were reviewed and recommendations provided by TASB representative Nicolle Guzman.

Strategic Plan Update : Priority 2 - Staff Satisfaction and Engagement - An update on progress of the SISD Strategic Plan Priority 2 was provided by Human Resources Director, Dr. Ashley Marquez.

Tentative Future Board Agenda Items

- 2026-27 Budget Development and Fund Balance Designation
- Update on Child Nutrition Services and 2026-2027 Meal Prices
- Adoption of the 2026-27 Employee Compensation Plan
- Receive a Report on Priority 3 of the SISD Strategic Plan
- Approval of 2026-2027 Board Operating Procedures
- Call for Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Tax Rate in 2026-2027
- Approve Student Code of Conduct for 2026-2027
- Approval of T-TESS Appraisers for 2026-2027
- Approval of the Submission of a Staff Development Waiver for 2026-2027
- Annual Approval of a Resolution regarding Extra-Curricular Status of the 4-H Organization and County Extension Agent

- Annual Approval of Required Training for School District Staff
- TASB Policy Update 127
- Adoption of an Affiliation Agreement with Ascension Seton Related to the Health Science Program

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration, Discussion, and Possible Action Regarding a Refinancing of Debt from the 2017 Bond Series - Christian Merritt, with Live Oak Public Finance, LLC provided an overview and analysis related to debt management and the District's upcoming opportunity for a refunding of debt from the Series 2017 Bond.

Consider adoption of an order authorizing the issuance of Smithville Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, in one or more series; levying a tax and providing for the security and payment thereof; authorizing a pricing officer to approve the award of the sale thereof in accordance with specified parameters; authorizing the redemption prior to maturity of certain outstanding bonds; and enacting other provisions related thereto – Motion made by Josh Magden to adopt the order, seconded by Chris Hinnant and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea

Consideration, Discussion, and Possible Action Regarding Property Tax Collections - A Property Tax Collection Update and recommended updates to the existing contract was provided by Noe Reyes of MVBA Law.

Consider and approve the adoption/readoption of sections 33.07, 33.08, and 33.11 of the Texas Tax Code. – Motion to approve made by Josh Magden and seconded by Michael Hancock, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea

Discussion and approval of a contingent fee contract with the Law Firm of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. for the collection of delinquent taxes pursuant to Tex. Tax Code, sections 6.24(d) and 6.30. - Specifically, the Board of Trustees discussed and considered whether McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. is a well-qualified law firm based on demonstrated competence, qualifications, and experience in collecting delinquent taxes, and whether the contract negotiated between the Smithville Independent School District and McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. is for a fair and reasonable price as provided for in Texas Tax Code, section 6.30(c). Motion to approve made by Josh Magden and seconded by Michael Hancock, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea

Approve a Resolution to Approve an Updated Contract for the Collection of Delinquent Property Taxes Between Smithville ISD and McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. –

Motion to approve made by Candice Parsons and seconded by Michael Hancock, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea

Consideration, Discussion, and Possible Action Regarding 2026-27 Employee

Compensation – No action was proposed or taken on this item, and the topic will be discussed at a later date.

Approval of Recommended Curriculum for Health and Wellness - In May 2026, an annual report of the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) reviewed the process to develop curriculum recommendations for Health and Wellness in the areas of Hygiene and Human Sexuality. The SHAC followed a structured review process that included individual ratings using an evaluation rubric, two public community viewings, and a final committee vote to arrive at its recommendation.

All recommended materials comply with Texas House Bill 1525 (87th Legislature), which requires a separate opt-in consent from parents or guardians at least 14 days before instruction begins. Materials are fully aligned with the Health TEKS, present abstinence as the preferred behavior for unmarried persons, and include instruction on abuse prevention, dating violence, and sex trafficking as required by state law.

The recommended materials include: The Source for grades 6-9, a Title V-funded curriculum available to the district at no cost, and age-appropriate elementary resources : CATCH (3rd-4th grade), Meet the New You (4th grade), and Growing Up (5th grade). This item was presented by Dr. Bethany Logan. Motion, made by Candice Parsons and seconded by Michael Hancock, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea

CLOSED SESSION – The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 9:05 p.m.

In Accordance with Section 551.076 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board will Convene in Closed Session for Deliberations Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

OPEN SESSION - The Board of Trustees exited closed session at 9:38 p.m. with no official action taken during Closed Session.

Approval of a Resolution Regarding a Good Cause Exception Related to Armed Security Officers for 2026-27 - In accordance with HB 121 resulting from the 89th Legislative Session,

public school districts must annually evaluate for renewal a good cause exception to having armed guards at every campus when hiring a school safety officer who meets the alternative requirements under statute. This good cause exception will provide for the continued provision of utilizing a combination of School Resource Officers (SROs) and armed guards at campuses. Motion, made by Chris Hinnant and seconded by Bryan Jones, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea

Adjournment - Candice Parsons moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m., seconded by Michael Hancock, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Candice Parsons: Yea

The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act on June 1, 2026.