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, August 24, 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, Bryan Jones

Members absent: Candice Parsons

Others present: Molly Cox, Holly Brockman, Tucker Copeland, Whitney Brown, Dr. Ashley Marquez, Misty Vasquez, Caroline Noeja, Kathy David, Candy Biehle, Dr. Tracy Johnson, Ann Kunkel, Natalia Hannath, Todd Hannath, Rosie Gutierrez, Monica Villalobos, Jose Villalobos, Nick Cordray, Matt Lomberto, Matea Floryance, Kristin Racons, Nick Mendenhall, Crystal Haimann, Melany Villalobos, Stacy Tiner, Dr. Angie Westerfield, Cheryl Burns, Stewart Burns, Donna Duty, Stacey Duty, Nikki Peacock, Jason Peacock, Roque Thompson, Zack Harris, Cheryl Moore, Lindsey Saunders, Kristin Merriweather, Dr. Molley Ealy and Liza Rios.

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. Mrs. Candice Parsons was absent and Mr. Chris Hinnant was delayed, but arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance - Smithville Elementary students led the pledge, those students were:

- 2nd Grade - Blake Peacock, Katherine Hannath, Elijah Heimann
- 3rd Grade - Calleigh Kristynik
- 4th Grade - Adalyn Duty
- 5th Grade - Wesley Duty, Waylon Kunkel

BOARD RECOGNITIONS

Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce - The Smithville ISD is grateful for the ongoing partnership and support of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce. In recent months, they supported the Top 10% Banquet by sponsoring the meal and provided welcome totes for our new SISD staff.

<u>National College Board Student Recognitions</u> - Students earn these academic honors because of their GPA of 3.5 or higher and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and/or AP® Exams. The following students won the Rural & Small Town Recognition Award and School Recognition Award:

- Will Metcalf
- Aidan Cox
- Melany Villalobos

Additionally, Melany Villalobos received the First-Generation Recognition Award.

PUBLIC HEARING

<u>Public Hearing on the Smithville ISD Proposed Budget and Tax Rate for 2026-2027</u> - School districts are required by state law and board policies CCG [Legal] and CE[Legal] to conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget prior to adoption. Any taxpayer of the District may be present and participate in the public hearing.

Under board operating procedures, the Board decides at the beginning of the meeting whether the hearing will be to (1) gather input only or (2) dialog with the public. Unless the Board takes action to declare the meeting a dialogue with the public, all hearings will be for gathered input only.

According to law, the public notice of the hearing must be published at least 10 days but no longer than 30 days before the date of the public meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Elgin Courier on August 13, 2026, which is 11 days before the hearing. Notice of this hearing was also posted on the District website.

A presentation of the 2026-2027 proposed budget and tax rate was provided by the Business Manager, Stacy Tiner. The public was invited to provide comments. There were no questions or comments from the public.

<u>Public Communications</u> – There were no communications from the public at this meeting.

<u>Consent Agenda</u> - 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 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
8. Approval of Budget Amendments
9. Annual Approval of Self-Certification of the Micro-Purchase Threshold for FY 2026-2027
10. Ratification of the July 2026 Bond Repayment Resolution
11. Amend the 2026-27 Compensation Plan
12. Approval of a Resolution Regarding an Adjunct Faculty Request and Extra-Curricular Status of the 4-H Organization and County Extension Agent

Accept a Directed Donation from the Smithville Education Foundation in the Amount of $40,000 - In accordance with Board Policy CDC (Local), any gift that the potential donor has expressly made conditional upon the District's use for a specified purpose, or any gift of real property, shall require Board approval. These funds will be used as intended by the donor, with $34,000 to the Culinary Arts program for a new oven, materials to construct a BBQ pit, and other needed program supplies. $6,000 will be used to support the Health Science Program pathway with needs related to student's participation in internships at Ascension Seton Hospital.

The business manager Stacy Tiner, reviewed the financial disbursements for the previous month with the Board of Trustees. Michael Hancock moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Chris Hinnant, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form
- Required Board Training, including the new SB 12 Required Parents' Rights Training for Trustees
- Enrollment Update – 1,836 total student enrollment
- Tiger Ambassador Academy Applications are Open Through September 1, 2026
- Fall Sports
- Quarterly Smithville Area Chamber Lunch on August 26
- Labor Day Holiday - September 7

Smithville ISD Strategic Plan Update - Priority 4: Financial and Operational Systems - A regular progress report/update on the Smithville I.S.D. Strategic Plan was provided by the Administration.

Receive a Report on 2026 State Assessment and Accountability Results - A report on 2026 state assessment and accountability preliminary results was provided by Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Bethany Logan.

Upcoming Agenda Items

- Board Recognitions
- Review of Financials
- Annual Review of Investment Policy
- Receive a Teacher Certification Status Report
- Update on SISD Strategic Plan - Priority 1 : Student Success
- Approval of the 2026-2027 District & Campus Improvement Plans
- Approval of the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) Membership for 2026-27

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration, Discussion, and Possible Action Regarding a Partnership with TTU K-12 as a Virtual Education Provider - As part of the Priority 3 Strategic Plan update at the regular July meeting, information was provided regarding a potential partnership to provide virtual school opportunities for Smithville ISD students through Texas Tech University K-12. Dr. Robert Bayard, TTU K-12 Superintendent, provided information regarding the program and partnership opportunity. Motion to approve a MOU partnership with TTU K-12 was made by Chelsa Vinklarek, seconded by Chris Hinnant and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

Consider and Approve an Investment Grade Audit with Schneider Electric - As identified in the SISD Strategic Plan, Strategic Action 4.2 calls for the District to conduct an Efficiency Study of Buildings through a third party vendor. This study was recently conducted by Schneider Electric, and results were reviewed at the July 20, 2026 Board Meeting. The Board continued discussion and possible action with Matea Floryance, executive with Schneider Electric, regarding a partnership with Schneider Electric to support HVAC needs across the district. Motion to approve an Investment Grade Audit with Schneider Electric was made by Josh Magden and seconded by Chelsa Vinklarek, and the vote passed 5-1. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Nay, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

Approve the Re-Designation of Fund Balance - The strategic object, goal or need addressed by this agenda item is to continue to practice designating surplus (unassigned) fund balance to future Smithville ISD Capital Projects and improvements. Stacy Tiner presented the recommendation to the Board. Motion to approve the re-designation of fund balance as presented was made by Josh Magden, and seconded by Micheal Hancock, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

Adoption of the 2026-2027 Budget - The Board is required to adopt an operational budget before the beginning of each fiscal year, which begins September 1st. The Board and Administration have discussed the development of the 2026-27 budget over the course of the last several months, and all required posting and notices, including a Public Hearing, have been held prior to adoption. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget made by Michael Hancock, and seconded by Chelsa Vinklarek, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

Adoption of the 2026-2027 District Tax Rate - The Board is required to set a tax rate within 60 days of receiving the certified tax roll but no later than September 30th. The Board is also required to conduct a public hearing on the budget and tax rate before setting the tax rate.

The tax rate necessary to fund the proposed 2026-2027 budget as adopted is $0.9186 per hundred dollars valuation. This rate includes an M&O rate of $0.7386 and an I&S rate of $0.1800 - representing a total tax rate decline of $0.0239 in the 2026-27 budget year. Motion to adopt the 2026-2027 District Tax Rate was made by Chris Hinnant and seconded by Michael Hancock, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

Delegate Authority to the Superintendent to Execute an Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit - Smithville ISD is expected to be identified as a school district in Excess of Entitlement for School Year 2026-2027. To avoid any delays in the approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit or the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding), it is recommended that the school board delegate authority to obligate the school district under Texas Education Code (TEC) §11.1511(c)(4) to the superintendent, solely for the purpose of obligating the district under TEC, §48.257 and TEC, Chapter 49, Subchapters A and D, and the rules adopted by the commissioner of education as authorized under TEC, 49.006. This includes approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit, the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding) or the Agreement for Purchase of Attendance Credit and Netting Chapter 48 Funding.

Move that for the 2026-2027 school year, the Board of Trustees delegate contractual authority to obligate the school district under Texas Education Code(TEC) §11.1511(c)(4) to the superintendent, solely for the purpose of obligating the district under TEC, §48.257 and TEC, Chapter 49, Subchapters A and D, and the rules adopted by the commissioner of education as authorized under TEC, 49.006. This includes approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding) or the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit and Netting Chapter 48 Funding. This motion, made by Chelsa Vinklarek, and seconded by Bryan Jones, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

Annual Renewal of TASB Risk Management Insurance Policies - Approval of annual insurance coverage renewal for worker's comp, property, automobile liability, automobile physical damage, school liability, and cyber liability & security with TASB Risk Fund in the amount of $338,901, from the general operating budget. Motion to renew TASB insurance policy for the 2026-2027 year made by Josh Magden, seconded by Chris Hinnant, and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

Purchases in Excess of $50,000

a. Brown Primary Playground Resurfacing Improvements - Authorize the execution of a contract in the amount of $75,126 with Fun Abounds, via the BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative, for Brown Primary Playground resurfacing improvements using Toyota Way Forward TBI Prevention grant funds in the amount of $50,000 and the remainder ($25,126) from General Fund balance designated for capital projects. Motion to approve by Bryan Jones, seconded by Chris Hinnant and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

b. Purchase of a 77 Passenger School Bus - Purchase one 77-passenger bus from Longhorn Bus Sales from the FY 27 general fund in the amount of $156,882 via the BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative. Motion to approve by Michael Hancock, seconded by Chris Hinnant and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

Consider and Approve Certification of Compliance with Certain Laws under Texas Education Code 39.008, as Enacted by Senate Bill 12 of the 89th Texas Legislative Session - Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, school systems must take action to ensure timely compliance with new requirements as established in the 89th Texas Legislative Session. At the July 20, 2026 meeting, a presentation of these requirements as related to TEC, §§11.005 (Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Duties) and 28.0022 (Certain Instructional Requirements and Prohibitions) was provided. Dr. Ashley Marquez, Human Resources Director, asked the Board to consider approval. Motion by Chelsa Vinklarek, seconded by Michael Hancock and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

<u>Approval of TASB Policy Update 127</u> - At the July 20, 2026 meeting, a first reading of proposed policy updates from TASB Policy Services was provided. Update 127 includes revisions to legal framework documents based in large part on changes to Administrative Code rules after the 89th Legislative Session. Changes to local policies offered for consideration address the following:

- BJCF(LOCAL): SUPERINTENDENT - NONRENEWAL
- CAA(LOCAL): FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - FINANCIAL ETHICS
- DC(LOCAL): EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
- DH(LOCAL): EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
- DP(LOCAL): PERSONNEL POSITIONS
- DPA(LOCAL): PERSONNEL POSITIONS - PRINCIPALS
- DPB(LOCAL): PERSONNEL POSITIONS - OTHER PERSONNEL POSITIONS
- EHBB(LOCAL): SPECIAL PROGRAMS - GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS
- FFF(LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - STUDENT SAFETY

Motion to approve TASB Local Policy Update 127 made by Chelsa Vinklarek and seconded by Josh Magden and the vote passed 6-0. Grant Gutierrez: Yea, Michael Hancock: Yea, Josh Magden: Yea, Chelsa Vinklarek: Yea, Bryan Jones: Yea, Chris Hinnant: Yea.

CLOSED SESSION – The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 8:30 p.m.

<u>Pursuant to Section 551.076 of the Open Meetings Act, the Board Will Convene in Closed Session to Review Findings of the 2023-2026 Safety Audit Cycle</u>

OPEN SESSION - The Board of Trustees exited closed session at 8:53 p.m. with no official action taken during Closed Session.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act on Tuesday, August 18, 2026.