

Minutes
Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Special Board Meeting at 5:00 P.M.
Location of Meeting: GISD Administrative Board Room, 1615 St Lawrence St.
Gonzales, Texas 78629

Board Members Present: Ross Hendershot, III, President
Justin Schwausch, Vice President
Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
Ashley Molina
Gloria Torres
Sandra Gorden

Board Member Absent: D'Anna Joined through Team's meeting at 5:04PM

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, April 10, 2023, at the Administrative Office Board Room, Gonzales, Texas. President, Ross Hendershot, III called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

A quorum was declared with 7 members present.

Invocation, Pledge, Mission Statement

Justin Schwausch gave the Invocation, Sandra Gorden led the Pledge to the Flag, and Josie Smith-Wright read the Mission Statement.

Item #2: Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Item #3: New Business/Action Items:

A. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Gonzales ISD District of Innovation Plan Amendment

Due to the illness of other administration, Amanda Smith, CFO, presented to the board the Amendment to the District Innovation Plan. She began by recapping what had been shared by Dr. A, Superintendent, and Amanda Fullilove, Executive Director of Innovation, School Improvement, and Strategic Initiatives, at the prior meeting. This amendment would remove the sentence stating that teachers on a local certification would receive state base pay. The recap continued when she shared that changing this portion of the plan would impact approximately 10 teachers who have their bachelor's degrees but who are not fully certified. This would not affect the teachers in the Grow Your Own program. Also, that this agenda item was created at the board's request during the prior meeting due to the lack of action on the removal of the sentence entirely.

Two options were taken to the board for consideration during this meeting. The first was to pay the bachelor degreed, non-certified teachers, \$5,000 above state base; the second option would be to pay them \$7,000 above state base. The difference between the two is \$16,340. The \$5,000 is just over 30% of that number and the \$7,000 is almost 43% of that number.

Josie Smith-Wright had some questions about where this change would be written in the DOI because it was not made clear in the document presented.

Dr. A stated that 33,600 has been the state base pay for 3 years and we would need to make the change to our comp plan.

Ms. Gorden requested clarification as to these individuals getting their certification and where that is documented and how long they would have to do this. Dr. A responded that HR would let the individuals know that they had 1 year to take care of this.

Mrs. Torres asked what would happen if these individuals did not have their certification in the year allotted. Dr. A stated that they would be offered a non-teaching position to continue their service to the district.

This plan would go into effect during the 2023-2024 school year if the board decides to increase the pay.

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to approve Option 2 and the amendment to the District Innovation Plan.

The motion carried 6/1.

B. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve an Order Authorizing the Defeasance and Redemption of a Portion of the District's Outstanding Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2015A, Approving an Escrow Agreement and Providing for Other Matters and Procedures Related Thereto.**

Amanda Smith, CFO, came before the board recommending and seeking approval of a Defeasance and Redemption order (consider paying off our debt). An overview was presented to the board supporting this action item. This would save on interest costs for the life of the loan. We would have additional benefits moving forward with this option. The added benefit for doing the bond defeasance, or an early call, is tax rate stability as well as creating capacity for any potential future needs. Ms. Smith clarified that this resolution pertained to the Debt Service Fund not the General Fund. She explained that GISD had three outstanding bond issues, 2014, 2015A and the 2016 refunding. If approved GISD would not pay off the entire debt, but only a portion of the 2015A series. Mrs. Smith gave 3 options to the board. Option A being a \$180,000 defeasance (no Increase projected to the I&S tax rate), Option B being a \$425,000 defeasance (projected 1 cent increase to the I&S tax rate) and Option C being a \$705,000 defeasance and an estimated 2.18 Cent Increase to the I&S tax rate. Mrs. Smith recommended Option C.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to approve the order authorizing the defeasance and redemption of a portion of the district's outstanding bonds and approve an escrow agreement and other related matters, as presented. Option C

The motion carried 7/0

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve an Order Authorizing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of Gonzales Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2023; Authorizing a Pricing Officer to Approve the Amount, the Interest Rates, Price, Redemption Provisions and Terms Therof; and Containing Matters Related Therto**

Amanda Smith, CFO, came before the board recommending and seeking approval of a bond refunding. The district has an opportunity to refund a portion of its 2014 bonds at a lower interest rate to save on interest costs over the life of the bond. The district's financial advisors with BOK Financial Securities, Inc. recommended we refund \$6.25 million dollars in total from the 2014 Series. GISD would not move forward with this action until November 2023 and only if the market was still favorable. A minimum of 3% savings (approximately \$220,000 would be required to move forward with execution). This alone would save taxpayers over \$222,000. When combined with the defeasance resolution, taxpayers would save over \$666,000 in total.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, that the board approve the order authorizing the issuance, sale, and delivery of the refunding bonds, authorize a pricing officer to approve the interest rates, price, redemption provisions, terms related matters as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

Item#5 Reports:

A. **TASB Facility Recommendations.**

Gene Kridler presented the Long Range Facility Planning projects that TASB and the Long Range Facilities Committee recommended to the board in December 2021. He also presented the accomplishments made by the recommendations.

Item #7 Adjourn to Closed Session:

Under Texas Government Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), Code Section 551.072 (Deliberation Regarding Real Property), 551.73 Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift, Texas Government Code Section 551.074, (Personnel, to deliberate regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee), Texas Government Code Section 551.076 (Deliberation regarding implementation of Security, personnel or devices) and Section 551.082: School Children; School District Employees; Disciplinary Matter or Complaint, Section 551.083: Certain School Boards; Meeting Regarding Consultation with Representative of Employee Group, Section 551.084: Investigation; Exclusion of witnesses from a hearing.

The board went into a closed session at 5:57 P.M.

Item #8 Reconvene to Open Meeting:

The Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in the Closed Session. The board returned to an open session at 6:57 P.M.

Item #9 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 6:57 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
Board of Trustees