

Minutes
Monday, June 9, 2025
Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.
Location of Meeting: GISD Administrative Board Room, 1615 St Lawrence St.
Gonzales, Texas 78629

Board Members Present: Justin Schwausch- President
Ross Hendershot, III, Vice President
D'Anna Robinson
Ashley Molina-Secretary
Gloria Torres
Naomi Brown
Josie Smith-Wright

Board Member Absent:

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Administrative Office Board Room, Gonzales, Texas. President, Justin Schwausch called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

A quorum was declared with 7 members present.

Invocation, Pledge, Mission Statement

Josie Smith-Wright lead the invocation, Ashley Molina lead the Pledge, and D'Anna Robinson lead the Mission Statement

Item #2: Public Comments:

Kyle Wundt went before the board to discuss current curriculum at GISD

Item #3: New Business/Action Items:

A. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Consent Agenda

1. Minutes: May 12, 2025- Regular Board Meeting
2. Budget Amendments- Increase revenue and expenditures by \$50,000 each: Summer School Program Meal Service

Naomi Brown made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

B. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Date for the Public Meeting on the 2025-26 Proposed Budget and Tax Rate

Amanda Smith went before the board seeking approval of the date for the public meeting on the 2025-26 Proposed Budget and Tax Rate.

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Naomi Brown to hold the public meeting for the 2025-26 proposed budget and tax rate on August 25, 2025 at 5:30p.m., as presented

The motion carried 7/0

C. **Discuss and Consider Action on Bid for Resale Property: Suite 6792 R13814 (Parcel 13409)**

Amanda Smith went before the board recommending and seeking approval, and acceptance of the bid for the property located at 211 N. Patrick which is one block south and about 3 blocks east of the Memorial Museum. The bid received from the County on this foreclosed property has been on the counties bid list. Taxes are currently owed on this property from 2005-2024. The bid received by the county is in the amount of \$6,100.00. It was approved by the Commissioners Court on May 12, 2025, pending the approval of the other taxing entities.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres accept the bid as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve Water Easement to City of Gonzales at New CTE & Ag Barn Project**

Casey Sledge, Program Manager, Region XIII/Sledge Engineering went before the board seeking approval to approve the Water Easement to City of Gonzales at the new CTE & Ag Barn project. The City of Gonzales is providing water supply to the project. The project design included a new 12 inch water main that would be installed in the existing road right-of-way, but site conflicts with fiber optic lines and city wastewater lines caused staff to consider alternate alignments.

There are 2 new options:

1. Put the water main in the middle of the pavement and have to repair the road.
2. Move the line just outside of the right-of-way and that would require the city of giving an easement

The proposal is to move the line just to the east out of the current city right-of-way, onto two tracks of school property already owned by GISD. The easement would only be for city water use no other use or other entity. The proposed alignment has minimal cost impacts, avoids the conflicts, and requires the Water Easements. The City will maintain all lines in this easement.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to approve the Wastewater Easement as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

E. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve Wastewater Easement to City of Gonzales at new CTE & Ag Barn project**

Casey Sledge, Program Manager, Region XIII/Sledge Engineering presented this item to the board.

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Naomi Brown to table this action item.

The motion carried 7/0

F. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve Commissioning Services for the CTE Building and Ag Barn as part of the 2023 Bond Program**

Casey Sledge, Program Manager, Region XIII/Sledge Engineering went before the board seeking approval for Commissioning Services for the CTE Building and Ag Barn as part of the 2023 Bond Program.

Energy Code requires 3rd-party Building Commissioning services verify proper operations and efficiencies of installed HVAC, electrical, and other systems Commissioning not only allows GISD to comply with Energy Codes

but also provides assurance that the building systems as designed and constructed are operable, maintainable, and functioning according to design. The Commissioning service ensures the new building systems are operating at prime efficiencies to save operational costs and ensure optimal life of equipment.

Commissioning Services are a professional engineering service; therefore, firm selection is based on qualifications without price or fee consideration. Staff has selected EMA Engineering & Consulting as the most qualified professional engineering firm for this work.

The received proposal from EMA is for Testing & Balance for mechanical systems in the amount of \$63,000.

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson to approve the Commissioning Services proposal from EMA Engineering & Consulting in the amount of \$63,000 for the CTE Building and Ag Barn as part of the 2023 Bond Program, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate the final terms of the contract. The motion carried 7/0

G. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve LED Lighting Energy Conservation Proposal for all existing campuses as part of the 2023 Bond Program**

Casey Sledge with Sledge Engineering/ESC Region 13 went before the board seeking approval for the proposal from Aquila Environmental for the LED Lighting Energy Conservation for all existing campuses as part of the 2023 Bond Program.

This proposal includes converting all district lighting in LED and to add timer switches where applicable. This scope includes over 6,000 light fixtures and over 250 timer switches. Apache Stadium and the Baseball and Softball Field are not included in this proposal.

The expected annual energy and maintenance cost savings from this project is \$142,215 per year, meaning this project will pay for itself in just over 4 years.

This would include all lights in the buildings and outside of the building in the district.

The entire project is expected to be complete within 6 weeks of commencement and can be completed this summer with little to no educational disruption. This contract has been procured via the TIPS Purchasing Cooperative.

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Naomi Brown to approve the LED Lighting Energy Conservation Proposal from Aquila Environmental in the amount of \$586,118.90 for all existing campuses as part of the 2023 Bond Program, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate the final terms of the contract.

The motion carried 6/1
Josie Smith-Wright opposed

H. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Gonzales ISD EIC (Local) policy**

Dr. Rachelle Ysquierdo presented to the board the changes needed to EIC (Local) policy.

Recent Legislative developments necessitate a review and potential update of our EIC (Local) policy concerning academic achievement and class ranking. These changes may influence how we calculate grade point averages (GPA) and determine class rankings, particularly regarding the inclusion and weighing of various courses such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual credit, and correspondence courses. Clarifying these aspects in our policy will ensure transparency and fairness for all students.

Examples:

- The class rank calculation shall not include semester grades from a course that is retaken after a passing grade has been earned, and the new grade shall not be recorded on the transcript.
- The calculation shall include failing grades.
- A grade 60-69 in a dual credit course shall receive high school credit, and the grade shall be converted to a 70 for purposes of calculating class rank.

Grading Guidelines

The proposed revisions of the grading guidelines aims to enhance clarity, equity and alignment for best practice and legal requirements.

- Provide clarity of when grades will be placed in the gradebook
- Formative assessments have changed from 40-60
- Summative assessments have changed from 60-40

The shift emphasizes the importance of daily assignments and ongoing learning processes reflecting a more accurate picture of student's progress. The change also accounts for the extended grading period, allowing a daily work and more significant impact of the overall grades.

Homework Guidelines

- Accelerate Course/Honors
- Inform teachers of when they need to make parent contact when students are failing.
- Clarity on the timeline of when students make up work should be completed

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Ashley Molina to approve the Gonzales ISD EIC (Local) policy on academic achievement and class ranking.

The motion carried 7/0

I. **Discuss and Consider Action on a Memorandum of Understanding with Texas A&M University for Clinical Teaching/Educator Placements (Student Teaching or Internship)**

Mary Lynn Ramirez went before the board seeking approval on a Memorandum of Understanding with Texas A&M University. This is a partnership that the district would like to implement as a pipeline to support Goal Area 3 of the District's 5-Year Strategic Vision.

Gloria Torres made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the MOU and authorize the superintendent to finalize and execute the agreement, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

J. **Discuss and Consider Action on a Agreement with The University of Houston-Victoria for a Student Teacher Internship for Education Students**

MaryLynn Ramirez presented to the board the Agreement with the University of Houston-Victoria for a Student Teacher Internship for Education Students.

This is a partnership that the district would like to implement as a teacher pipeline in support of Goal Area 3 of the District's 5-Year Strategic Vision.

D'Anna Robinson made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the MOU and authorize the superintendent to finalize and execute the agreement, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

Item#4 Reports:

A. **2025 GISD Ballet Folklorico Proposal**

Presented by Brandi Bell, Executive Director of Recruitment

B. **Academic Update**

Dr. Rachelle Ysquierdo, Executive Director of C&I, presented the Curriculum Report

C. **2023 Bond Program Monthly Update**

Presented by Casey Sledge, Sledge Engineering/Region 13

CTE/AG Barn

- Earthwork/grading continue
- Building pad subgrade underway
- Off-site Water Man installation underway
- 3rd-party Materials Testing underway

UPCOMING:

- Off-site Wastewater line
- Foundation prep
- On site utilities

Maintenance Projects-Weaver & Jacobs

- GMP#1: Safety/Security Package(Cameras)
 - Site walks complete
 - Installations underway
- GMP #2: Doors/Vestibules Package
 - GMP#2: Doors/Vestibules
 - Doors/hardware/vestibules/P.A.
 - Board Award moved to July 2025 to better coordinate sequencing
- GMP#3 HVAC
 - HVAC replacement and improvements
 - Separated for ordering times and focused bidders
 - Board Award August 2025
 - Installations to through Summer 2026
- GMP#4 Remodel Package
 - Remodels, HS Cafeteria, Primary restrooms, sewer, replacements, Transportation Addition
 - Construction to Fall 2026

Maintenance Projects-ISD Direct Roofing

- Repairs at JHS underway using cost savings; still under budget
- Completion June 2025 Playgrounds
 - GNA & GES playground Awarded April
 - Deliveries underway
 - Installation July 2025

D. **Grounds Services**

Presented by Gene Kridler, Executive Director of Operations

Administration will be moving forward with bringing the service in-house, beginning September 1st, for the foreseeable future.

E. **Financial Report**

Presented by Amanda Smith, Chief Financial Officer

F. **Superintendent's Report**

Presented by Dr. Dana Arreola, Superintendent of Schools

Item#5 Board Business:

Board Correspondence:

Dates of Interest:

June 11-14	Summer Leadership-San Antonio
July 14	Regular Board Meeting

Item #6 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 7:19 P.M.

Item #7 Reconvene to Open Meeting:

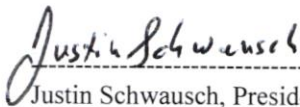
The Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in the Closed Session. The board returned to an open session at 8:20 P.M.

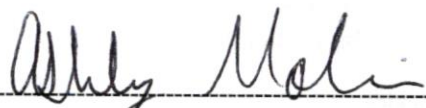
Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to approve the Admin. 12month contract for Brandi Bell as presented.

The motion carried 7-0

Item #8 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Schwausch adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M.


Justin Schwausch, President
Board of Trustees


Ashley Molina, Secretary
Board of Trustees