

**Minutes**  
**Monday, August 14, 2023**  
**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:** Ross Hendershot, III, President  
Justin Schwausch, Vice President  
Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary  
D'Anna Robinson  
Ashley Molina  
Gloria Torres  
Sandra Gorden

**Board Member Absent:**

**Item #1. Call to Order**

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, August 14, 2023, at the Administrative Office Board Room, Gonzales, Texas. President, Ross Hendershot, III 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 gave the Invocation. Sandra Gorden led the Pledge to the Flag, and Gloria Torres read the Mission Statement.

**Item #2: Public Comments:** There were 2 individuals who had public comments. Mr. Hendershot read the summary as to how much time will be allowed for each individual and a reminder to keep comments or criticisms civil and courteous. Mr. Schwausch was the time keeper.

Carney Zambrano spoke about the bond. He was there representing other individuals who couldn't make it to the meeting. Mr. Zambrano is in full support for the bond but stated that he thought a new high school would be more beneficial than a new athletic complex.

Kyle Wundt spoke about the need for better communication from the school district rather than just posting on Social Media and making sure all district webpages are updated. Facebook is not the proper way of communication for the district.

**Item #4: New Business/Action Items:**

A. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes: July 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting  
July 26, 2023 Special Board Meeting

Dr. A presented the minutes to the board for approval.

Justin Schwausch 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 Construction/Renovation associated with the current lease agreement of the Pace building located on N. Fair Street.**

Marcia Lambert, Representative from the Master Gardener's program presented a slide show to the board and explained the need to add a planting shed to the property located on N. Fair Street. The shed will be bought with grant money received from GVEC.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to approve the Construction/Renovation associated with the current lease agreement of the Pace Building located on N. Fair Street.  
The motion carried 7/0.

C. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve a Resolution Establishing Shared Services with the GISD Education Foundation.**

Dr. A provided information to the board in regard to this resolution. The purpose of this resolution is to establish an agreement between GISD and GISD Education Foundation to compensate a district employee through an MOU for the purpose of having a better partnership. This employee would help the foundation by achieving its goals and mission.

Mr. Josh Gray, President of the GISD Education Foundation presented to the board the shared services agreement with GISD and GISD Education Foundation. He stated that this is a continuation of an MOU started in 2012. This agreement will allow the Foundation to commit certain money to the district while taking a load off of the volunteers and improve the communication with the school district. They will raise money for the same purpose as before: Teacher grants, campus grants and the ultimate goal is to have a scholarship fund. The focus of the Education Foundation Board and Mr. Gray is to continue to invest in the community.

The motion carried 7/0

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson to approve the resolution, as presented.

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Authorize the Superintendent to Sign the Legal Services Retainer Agreement with Walsh Gallegos Trevino Russo & Kyle P.C.**

Dr. A presented this item to the board stating that this is our annual renewal. He stated that we have been with the law firm for 19 yrs and that the retainer is \$1,000. Board Policy BDD(Local) authorizes the Board to retain an attorney or attorneys, as necessary, to serve as the District's legal counsel and representative in matters requiring legal services.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, that the board authorize the superintendent to sign the legal Services Retainer Agreement with Walsh Gallegos Trevino Russo & Kyle P.C., for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

E. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the List of Teacher Appraisers and Appraisal Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.**

Brandi Bell, presented the Appraisers and Appraisal Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year to the board. Mrs. Robinson asked if Ms. Bell being head of HR if this is new to the position and if Haley was in charge of this when she was the HR director. The appraisers on the list will appraise teachers on the campus level. The central appraisers will appraise the principals this year. If a teacher does not like their appraisal they are allowed to request a second one and that would allow Ms. Bell and or Ms. Cox to do the second one.

D'Anna Robinson made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to approve the List of Teacher Appraisers and the Teacher Appraisal Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented.  
The motion carried 7/0.

F. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the revisions to the 2023-2024 District Compensation Plan.**

Brandi Bell, presented to the board the additions to the supplemental pay section to the 2023-2024 District Compensation Plan. The additions have been highlighted in yellow, stipends were left off in May and there were additional stipends added.

Josie Smith-Wright had questions about the Comp. plan. Ms. Smith Wright questioned how someone would know where they would fall in the comp plan and how they would go forward to the next plan. Ms. Bell stated that this comp plan is a review from TASB and that GISD has another review scheduled for October. TASB will be looking at the different pay areas, review the plan and to review the calendar days in the plan. This plan is a guide and recommendation from TASB based on years of experience. Ms. Gorden also questioned how employees were getting paid. Ms. Bell stated there have been concerns brought to her and that's why she felt the need for TASB to come back in to review.

Mr. Hendershot asked Ms. Bell who prepared the Comp plan or recommended it and asked if we should get another company other than TASB to audit this plan since they are the ones that created this problem

Several other questions were asked and they were addressed.

Mr. Hendershot tabled this action item to a later board meeting to allow for corrections to the Comp Plan

The motion carried 7/0,

G. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve Meal Prices for the 2023-24 School Year.**

Ed Wayner, Director of Food Service presented for approval of the Meal Prices for the 2023-24 School Year.

We will only have to update our adult meal prices since students receive Free breakfast and lunch under the Community Eligibility Provision. In order to stay compliant with minimal adult meal pricing, for 2023-2024 the recommended price for breakfast will go from \$2.95 to \$3.10 and lunch price from \$4.45 to \$4.75.

Gloria Torres made a motion, with a second from Ms. Smith-Wright to set the 2023-2024 Gonzales ISD adult breakfast meal price at \$3.10 and adult lunch meal price at \$4.75 as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

H. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the TEA Staff Development Waiver Minutes Application and Additional Campus Operational Minutes.**

Jennifer Molnoskey, Director of PEIMS came to the board seeking approval to apply for 2,100 TEA staff development waiver minutes and an amendment to the number of campus operational minutes for the 2023-2024 school year. The increase in minutes, along with the approval of 2,100 waiver minutes for staff development by TEA, brings the operational minutes to at least 75,600 for each campus and puts the district in compliance with TEA. This also allows for two and a half days of inclement weather without using the Bad Weather Days that are slated for the Tuesday and Wednesday after Memorial Day.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Ashley Molina to approve the application for 2,100 staff development waiver minutes to TEA and the additional operational minutes to the daily schedules for the 2023-24 school year as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

I. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve an Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credits (Option 3 Agreement) and to Delegate Contractual Authority to the Superintendent.**

Amanda Smith, CFO, recommended and sought approval of an agreement that will allow the district to comply with Chapter 49 of the Texas Education Code. This was previously referred to as a "Chapter 41 district". She explained that school funding is primarily derived from two sources, State Sources and Local Sources. The Texas Education Code is where we find the mathematical formula telling us how much of the funding the school district is set to receive, which is a set amount that is going to come from the state and local sources. Chapter 48 of the Texas Education Code is what drives the State Funding, Chapter 49 of the Texas Education Code is what tells us what we have to do with local revenue that we receive an excess of what we are allowed to collect. We are operating a state school system so the state tells us how much of that money we are allowed to keep. When too much local funding is generated we are labeled as having excess local revenue and the excess money is recaptured by the state and distributed to other school districts.

Due to the district's Chapter 48 state funding (currently estimated at \$5.5M) significantly exceeding its Chapter 49 recapture costs (currently estimated at \$314k), the administration recommended offsetting/reducing state aid by the amount owed for recapture in lieu of making payments to the state. The state gives 5 options available to school districts. The netting agreement is the most efficient option for our district to pursue.

The contract submission process is now completed electronically through a module on TEA's website. Therefore, contractual authority must be granted to the superintendent so that he can submit the data through the TEA module on behalf of the district.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Ashley Molina to approve the agreement, as presented.

For the 2023–2024 school year, we delegated 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 included approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding).

The motion carried 7/0

J. **Discuss and Consider Action on Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate**

Mrs. Smith presented to the board the recommendation and approval of the data that will be published in the Gonzales Inquirer Thursday, August 17, 2023 telling the public about our public hearing set for August 28, 2024 when GISD will adopt its budget and tax rate. This is an annual notice that is brought to the board every year for adoption. The format of this notice is created by the Texas Comptroller and the data comes from the Appraisal District, The County Tax Assessor Collector and GISD provides some of the financial information. The notice must be legally published no less than ten days and no greater than thirty days prior to the meeting.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden that the board approve the notice, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

K. **Discuss and Consider Action on an Order Calling School Building Bond Election.**

Dr. A proposed to support the district's strategic plan, long-range facilities plan, and safe and secure facilities, the administration recommends the board call a school building bond election in November 2023. The proposal is for two propositions,

Proposition A: Safety and Security enhancements, general renovation and improvements to address aging buildings and infrastructure at all of our campuses, maintenance and admin bldg., Construction on a new CTE bldg. and a agricultural barn.

Proposition B: Construction of a new Athletic Complex which will include a new football/Soccer stadium, baseball field, softball field, track (field events, sand pits).

Josie Smith-Wright commented that she knows the need for a high school and the want from others for a stadium but fears for our bond to be maxed out at \$209 million dollars and then no funds would be available if we would have a Proposition C with a high school. She knows GISD needs to move forward with adding new to our district and agrees to move forward with these propositions and hopefully in a few years to move another bond for a new High School.

Mrs. Torres stated her desire for a new high school but will support the propositions that were called for.

Mrs. Robinson commented that she thought it was good to do the improvements to the high school so that eventually Jr. High could move up when we would possibly move forward with a future bond. She mentioned it was kind of like a phase1 and phase 2. She also agreed that it would not be good to max out our bond capacity and not have any extra funding.

Mr. Hendershot stated that he appreciated everyone's comment and that it has been many years in the working, a lot of hours and consideration. He also said that he supported to have all of the Propositions including the school but that we would follow up and move forward with the administrations recommendations but that its important that we continue forward and come up with a time line and a plan and actually follow through some of the architecture in planning to put a date on the time line and look forward to the additional campus in the future. We should put a date on the time line possibly 5yrs.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson to approve the order calling school building bond election, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

L. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the implementation of a student internship program within the Communications Department.**

Veronica Johannsen presented to the board the implementation of a student internship program within the Communications Department.

Josie Smith-Wright questioned the pay for only Seniors and not 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders. Mrs. Johannsens response was that students in the Senior level have already gone through Mrs. Lowes CTE program so they have some experience and she believes that those students would benefit from the internship. Ms. Smith-Wright asked when these students would be working. Mrs. Johannsen responded with this school year. The interest form would go out immediately if approved and applications would be due Tuesday, August 22. After acceptance, Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> the process would begin. Ms. Smith-Wright asked what hours they would work and would it be during school. Mrs. Johannsen stated it would possibly be during 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> periods. Mrs. Smith-Wright asked where they would be working at the admin office or High school. Mrs. Johannsen's response was that they would have Monday meetings and they would bring their information with them and it could be anything that happens across the district. It would be open to any one in the district. Ms. Smith-Wright also questioned the pay of \$14.00/hr when full time employees do not get that pay.

Dr. A asked what would be a good pay and Ms. Smith-Wright replied with minimum wage if we would pay them anything.

Mrs. Torres asked who would be teaching them and Mrs. Johannsen raised her hand and stated they would also be working with Ms. San Juan our new digital specialist.

A few other comments were made.

This Action item was tabled due to lack of motion.

**Item#5 Reports:**

A. **National Junior Honor Society**

Mrs. Karen Perez, Principal of GJHS presented to the board the possibility of having the National Junior Honor Society for grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> beginning this school year. Induction would take place in the fall of 2023 and the spring of 2024. To be eligible, candidates would have to meet the following criteria: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship.

B. **Financial Report**

The Financial Report was presented by Amanda Smith, CFO.

C. **Superintendent Reports**

Presented by Superintendent, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda

The enrollment this year is 2594 compared to last year's 2501.

Safety and Security: Police officer vacancies have been fulfilled, fencing added to GJHS and GHS, the implementation of the Guardian Program and added Navigate 360.

**Item#6 Board Business:**

**Board Correspondence:** No Correspondence



**Dates of Interest:**

August 14, 2023	Regular Board Meeting
August 15, 2023	First Day of School
August 17, 2023	Notice of Budget & Tax Rate Mtg. Published in the Paper
August 21, 2023	Special Board Meeting-Budget Workshop @5:30
August 28, 2023	Special Board Meeting-Budget & Tax Rate Adoption @5:30
September 5, 2023	Bond Committee Meeting #2
September 11, 2023	Regular Board Meeting

**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.

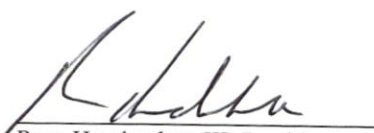
The board went into a closed session at 7:09 P.M.

**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 7:57 P.M.

**Item #9 Adjourn**

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 7:58 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President  
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary  
Board of Trustees