



Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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G-PISD School Board reorganizes, appoints former Trustee Dean Atkinson to fill vacant board seat through May 2023

This week during a regular meeting of the Gregory-Portland ISD School Board, former Trustee Dean Atkinson was sworn in to fill a vacant seat following the recent resignation of Victor Hernandez. Vice President Carrie Gregory presided over the meeting, and stated that the board decided to make this temporary appointment rather than hold a special election. “The reasons for this decision include the board’s desire not to incur the cost of holding an election,” she said.

Gregory opened the floor for discussion from fellow Trustees, who also provided insight as to reasons for this decision. “I’m proud of the work of the board for coming to this decision,” said Trustee Zach Simmons. “I think (Atkinson) lends a lot of stability considering that we’re a new team – that will be a big asset to have him join us (through) next year.” Simmons comments referenced the fact that four of six Trustees participating in the vote of appointment were elected in May of 2021, each having served one year on the board as of this month.

Trustee Mark Roach said, “I think, for the most part, we know Dean would serve the remaining term and not run (for election) again in May.” Atkinson will fill the vacant seat through May of 2023, which is the time Hernandez’s term was set to expire.

Atkinson previously served on the G-PISD School Board for 23 years, and resigned from the board in May of 2021. He is the current President of the Gregory-Portland Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to fundraise and provide grants for innovative education programs, scholarships for students, and recognition for teaching excellence.

“I would do anything for this district, anything to help,” Atkinson said. “When given the opportunity, I was glad to step in and serve the board. I believe in this school district and this community.”

Following the appointment of Atkinson and scheduled business items, the board also decided to re-organize with a new slate of officers: Tim Flinn, President; Carrie Gregory, Vice President; and Melissa Gonzales, Secretary.

After the meeting, Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos stated that the board followed established policy and state law to determine possible options for both the appointment and the re-organization. “We are thankful to have a School Board who is not only passionate about serving our students, families, staff, and community, yet also ensuring they handle any situation with care and utmost consideration for following set procedures,” she said.

“I’m looking forward to working with (Atkinson) again on the board while he assists us through the next year, and with our slate of officers and entire team. As one of our former Trustees, Randy Eulenfeld, once said: ‘The strength of a school district depends on the strength of the school board,’ and he could not have been more right. We are grateful to have a strong, dedicated Board of Trustees in G-PISD.”

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