



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Fontenot

Title: Director of Communications and Marketing

Phone: (409) 766-5146

Email: stephaniefontenot@gisd.org

GISD Board Approves Employee Salary Increase

GALVESTON, Texas – June 23, 2022 – Members of Galveston Independent School District’s Board of Trustees voted to approve a salary increase, among other actions, during a regular meeting Wednesday.

The adjustment includes a 2 percent pay increase for teachers and a 1 percent increase based on midpoint for all other district employees.

A .50 cent per hour increase for bus drivers, bus aides and auxiliary employees on pay grades 1 and 2 also was approved.

The 2 percent increase is for full-time teachers, librarians, nurses (RNs) and any other positions that are paid on the teacher salary schedule and will be based on their 2021-2022 annual salary amount.

With this adjustment, the starting teacher salary for the 2022-2023 school year will increase to \$56,000, up from \$55,000 the year prior.

Employees will also receive a retention supplement in an amount equal to 2.5 percent of their annual salary, to be paid with ESSER III funds during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The supplement will be paid in two payments; the first in December 2022 and the second in June 2023.

“We are thankful to our teachers for being in the trenches with our students and we are thankful to be able to provide these increases,” Dr. Jerry Gibson said, GISD Superintendent. “The work of our teachers is what allows us to put our students first, and that is something we continuously strive for.”

The retention supplement, approved in April, was originally proposed in an effort to retain staff after experiencing severe shortages and staff disruptions related to COVID-19 during the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

“The pandemic is still wreaking havoc on our budget and staffing,” Johnny Smecca said, GISD Board Vice President.

Multiple board members commented on the salary increase, highlighting a shared desire to increase salaries as much as possible in a manner that is fiscally responsible for the district.

“Everyone on this board’s number one priority is, ‘How much can we pay our teachers?’” Anthony Brown said, GISD Board President.

In addition to budget challenges created by the pandemic, board members also discussed how a significant amount of local tax dollars collected is not available for district use, contrary to local perception, as it is required to be paid back in recapture to the state.

The board expressed dedication to continuously working to do more for its teachers, staff members and students in the future. “In everything we are doing, we’re trying to push more money to our teachers and to our programs to make things better for all,” Smecca said. “We hear you, we are not giving up on you. We don’t want you to give up on us.”

To view or listen to a recording of the meeting in full, go to www.gisd.viebit.com.

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Galveston ISD is a public school district in Texas, established in 1884, that serves nearly 7,000 students. The district’s mission is to Educate, Engage and Empower EACH student for a life of Excellence. To learn more, visit www.gisd.org.

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