



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS:

Tim Flinn, Carrie Gregory, and Lora DeLuna elected to serve as members of the Gregory-Portland ISD Board of Trustees

With unofficial election results reported this evening, Gregory-Portland ISD can make the preliminary announcement of a reasonable indication that Tim Flinn, Carrie Gregory, and Lora DeLuna have been elected to serve from among a total of 8 school board candidates. Flinn and Gregory were running for re-election as incumbents, and DeLuna will serve as a new member on the school board. All board positions are at-large in G-PISD.

Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos stated the following in response to these results, with particular regard for all of the candidates: “The fact that 8 individuals were ready and willing to serve as volunteer leaders—yes, these are unpaid positions that include many hours of service every week—is a testament to the fact that people are engaged and excited about what is happening at Gregory-Portland ISD. It’s also a great credit to our current board members whose leadership has been noticed and admired in our community, and who have served with such passion in their respective roles.

“Unity is vital when serving as part of a school board, and since the day I arrived in G-PISD I’ve heard and seen that this board is not only an exceptional ‘Team of 8’ together with the Superintendent, yet also in many ways it is like a family. Even when there may be a difference of opinion or a split vote, I’ve seen our leaders come together to support the final decisions of the whole while providing outstanding examples of teamwork and collaboration for our young Wildcats. They lift each other up, and they respect one another. They operate as a united governing body for the good of all, and they have one unwavering goal: To put students first, always.

“I look forward to watching as the board continues to provide exceptional leadership in G-PISD, and trust that those elected will carry forward the great work that has been done; is planned for the future; and has afforded this board to operate as individuals not uniform in thought, action, and perspective ... yet still united as a team. The history and practice of this board lends great hope for the future. That is no doubt what will carry G-PISD into the future with great vision, clarity, and purpose. I want to sincerely congratulate and commend not only those who were elected tonight, yet all 8 of the candidates who ran their campaigns and invested their efforts through this process. We are grateful that so many want to be a part of what is happening in G-PISD.”

Following these election results, Cavazos said the district anticipates the departure of Trustee Dean Atkinson from the current board. Atkinson was appointed to fill a vacancy in 2022, after previously “retiring” from 15 years of school board service in 2021. He has stated that in agreeing to fulfill the term, he had been planned to “retire a second time” this May. With the additional time on his hands Atkinson said he plans to enjoy moments with his wife Kay, their children, and grandchildren – all of whom have been part of the G-P community for decades and are “devoted Wildcats.”

Cavazos expressed her appreciation for Atkinson and his family, and indicated that the board intends to honor him appropriately at the next meeting when new members are sworn in and he is relieved from appointment. “Mr. Atkinson has a heart of gold, and his presence in our community and on our board has been instrumental in many key decisions,” she said. “While his insight has been invaluable on our team, it must first be said that he is a giant of a human being in terms of community leadership, service, and pride. When we needed his expertise, he did not hesitate to provide it. He is a treasure in G-PISD, and we are thankful for him.”

In addition to serving on the school board, Atkinson is the current President of the Gregory-Portland Education Foundation. This month, he will “retire” from both positions. Elected board members are set to be sworn in at a regular board meeting currently slated for Monday, May 15, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of the G-PISD Administration Building at 1200 Broadway Boulevard in Portland, TX. ##