

Minutes
Monday, March 29, 2021
Special Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
Location of Meeting: North Ave Intermediate Campus, Cafeteria, Gonzales Texas 78629

Board Members Present: Glenn Menking, President
Gloria Torres, Vice President
Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary,
Sandra Gorden
Sue Gottwald
Ross Hendershot, III
Justin Schwausch

Board Member Absent:

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, March 29, 2021, at the North Ave. Intermediate Campus, Cafeteria, Gonzales, Texas. President, Glenn Menking called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

A quorum was declared with seven members present

Invocation, Pledge, Mission Statement

Ross Hendershot, III gave the Invocation, Sandra Gorden led the Pledge to the Flag, and Josie Smith-Wright read the Mission Statement.

Item #2 Public Comments: No Public Comments

Item#3 Reports:

A. **Chrome Books and Chrome Tablets Report**

Dr. Fairchild informed the board of the need for Chrome tablets for Pre-K students and Chrome Books for grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade. It is believed that the Chrome tablets would be more age developmentally appropriate for the Pre-K students. The difference between the chrome tablet and the chrome book would be the keyboard. They would be the same size and have the same functions.

There was a question on what the cost difference would be and the answer was that the cost would be 90 dollars less per tablet. There were no other questions or comments.

B. **Facilities Report**

Mr. Kridler presented Amber Menardis, the TASB Representative, to speak to the board about the Facility Planning Process. She explained that the board needed to approve the committee members and then schedule a committee meeting. She also outlined some of the responsibilities of the board during the Facility Planning Process. Mr. Kridler distributed a shorter version of the outline for the process. Once the TASB representative gave her a brief report of the facility planning process, Melissa Skinner led the presentation of information for the facilities. Also, participating in the facilities report were Erin LaBuhn from the Special Services Department, Amanda Fullilove and Tessa Cain from the Curriculum Department and CTE Department, and Dr. Renee Fairchild for the Technology Department. All departments shared information with the board regarding the facilities assessment. A very broad general overview was given. Ms. Amanda Smith, CFO, explained the financial portion of the report.

There were no questions or comments.

C. Starling Solar Project

Mr. Schumacher introduced Mr. Terry Smith from Sara Leon & Associates. Mr. Robert Pena from Texas Energy Consultants and Courtney McReynolds with Apex Clean Energy was unable to attend the meeting as scheduled. Mr. Terry Smith explained the process of the 313 agreements for the project to get started. Mr. Kridler introduced Ms. Michelle Ocalla, an attorney from Sara Leon & Associates. Ms. Ocalla explained the beginning steps of the process for the project and directed the board members to the attachment include, as it showed the steps that would be taken to start the process.

There were some questions regarding the downside of the project and the positive impact of project. What does the tax base do to the landowner? Is there a rollback? All questions and concerns were addressed. There were no other comments.

Item #4: New Business/Action Items

A. Discuss and Consider Action to Appoint & Charge Members to the Long Range Facilities Committee

Mr. Schumacher explained to the board that with this new facilities project it would be necessary for the board to appoint a Long-Range Facilities committee. The board received information from TASB about the steps needed to start the process including approving a list of committee members. The superintendent provided a list for the board that included all the members invited to participate although not all have responded to the invitation. The final list will be provided at the next regular board meeting.

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second by Justin Schwausch, to appoint the recommended members to the facilities committee and charge them with reviewing the educational facility assessment, financial assessment, educational program, and demographic data prioritizing projects and their options or alternatives into a long-range facility plan presenting and recommending that plan to the board for adoption, and making a recommendation of financial options for the district to pursue to fund the recommended plan, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

B. Discuss and Consider Action to the Endorsement of a Candidate to TASB Board of Directors Region 13, Place 7

Mr. Schumacher, the Superintendent, explained to the board that TASB provided the board with written notice that there was one contested position on the Board of Directors at Region 13 for position 7. The board was provided with ballots, and information on the Incumbent, Erwin A Sladek, and the opponent, J. Frank Smith, III. Resumes were provided for both candidates. Each member had one vote.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion with a second from Ross Hendershot, III to endorse Erwin A Sladek to serve on the Board of Directors, Region 13, Place 7 for the Texas Association of School Boards as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

Item #5 Personnel Matters, Section 551.074, and Property Matters: Section 551.072, Security Matters: Section 551.076 & Texas Government Code 551.002 – Consultation with legal counsel regarding an Application for Value Limitation Agreement from APEX Clean Energy under Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code.

The Board adjourned into a closed session at 6:15 P.M. for personnel matters and returned to the open session at 7:05 P.M.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to approve the FTE Coordinator of Academics and Behavior Intervention Services as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

Action Items after closed Session

6. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve Budget Amendments

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion with a second from Ross Hendershot, III to approve the Budget Amendments as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

7. Discuss and Consider possible Action to retain the law firm of Sara Leon & Associates, PLLC and financial consultant, Jigsaw School Finance Solutions, LLC to assist the district in the review and processing of the Application for Value Limitation Agreement from APEX Clean Energy under Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion with a second from Ross Hendershot, III to retain the law firm of Sara Leon & Associates, PLLC and financial consultant, Jigsaw School Finance Solutions, LLC to assist the district in the review and processing of the Application for Value Limitation Agreement from APEX Clean Energy under Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

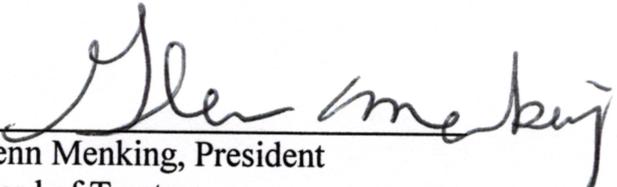
Item #8 Adjourn

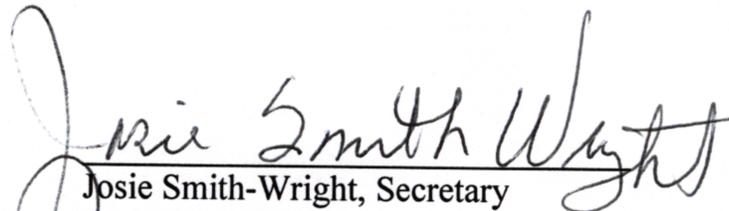
Ross Hendershot, III made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to adjourn. The motion carried 7/0. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

Reopen Meeting at 7:09 pm (by Board President)

Mr. Menking made a motion with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to amend the previous motion made (by omitting APEX Clean Energy) and retain the law firm of Sara Leon & Associates, PLLC and financial consultant, Jigsaw School Finance Solutions, LLC to assist the district in the review and processing of applications for Value Limitation Agreement under Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

Ross Hendershot, III made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to adjourn. The motion carried 7/0. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.


Glenn Menking, President
Board of Trustees


Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
Board of Trustees