

**Minutes**  
**Monday, April 10, 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  
Glenn Menking  
Dr. Kimberly Strozier  
Gloria Torres  
Sandra Gorden

**Board Member Absent:**

**Item #1. Call to Order**

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, April 10, 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. Dr. Kimberly Strozier led the Pledge to the Flag, and Gloria Torres read the Mission Statement.

**Item #2: Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Item#3: Recognitions:**

Recognitions were presented by Veronica Johannsen, Chief of Communications, Marketing, Safety, and Security, and Joey Rivera, Athletic Director.

Ms. Johannsen presented the Student Recognitions and Staff Recognitions. Coach Rivera recognized the Athletes of the Month.

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

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

1. Budget Amendments
2. Minutes: March 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

Amanda Smith reviewed the budget amendments. There were two adjustments to the Budget Amendments that Ms. Smith presented to the board.

- General Fund- Recognize a donation from the Gonzales County Retired Teacher's Association. The request is to go to the GPA library.
- Food Service Fund- Utilize fund balance to proceed with Capitol Project updates
  - Replacing the dish machine at GJHS
  - Replacing the dish machine at GHS
  - Sink upgrade at GHS

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

B. **Discuss and Consider Action to Set the PreKindergarten Tuition Rate for the 2023-2024 School Year**

Amanda Smith presented to the board the tuition rate for the 2023-2024 school year. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year to offer the tuition based prekindergarten program to our community. We will advertise a monthly payment plan option versus the semester-based tuition, as done in the past, or pay by the year. Mrs. Smith presented to keep the tuition rate at \$5,150 per year, the same rate as the 2022-2023 school year. GISD is under the rate that TEA recommends.

Dr. A asked how many parents are paying for tuition rates at the moment.

Mr. Hendershot asked for clarification of what all the fee includes.

Mr. Menking asked how many months the fee would be extended.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to set the tuition rate for the tuition-based prekindergarten program at \$5,150 for the 2023-2024 school year pending approval from the Commissioner of Education, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

C. **Discuss and Consider Action on a Board Resolution Extending Depository Contract for Funds of Independent School Districts Under Texas Education Code, Chapter 45, Subchapter G, School District Depositories.**

Amanda Smith presented to the board a resolution to extend our Depository Contract with Sage Capital Bank through August 31, 2025.

There were no questions or comments.

Kimberly Strozier made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to approve and pass the resolution extending the contract with Sage Capital Bank, as presented.

The motion carried 5/0/2

Mr. Menking and Mr. Hendershot abstained.

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Date for the Public Meeting on the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget and Tax Rate.**

Amanda Smith presented for approval the date of August 28, 2023 for the Public Meeting of the 2023-2024 Budget and Tax Rate. Mrs. Smith proposed to combine the Budget Workshop along with the Regular Board Meeting in August to minimize number of meetings for August. Mrs. Smith also gave the option to separate the meetings thus making the Budget Workshop on August 21, 2023.

Mr. Hendershot, Ms. Smith-Wright and Mrs. Torres suggested that we have a separate meeting for the Budget Workshop. This workshop meeting will be held on August 21, 2023 as a separate meeting.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, that the board hold the public meeting for the 2023-2024 proposed budget and tax rate on August 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

E. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve Representatives for Lone Star Investment Pool.**

Dr. Kimberly Strozier moved that we table this item and the approved representative as presented on the agenda until a further meeting.

Dr. Kimberly Strozier made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to table this item until a later date. The motion carried 7/0.

F. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the 2023-2025 Interlocal Cooperative agreement with Nixon Smiley Consolidated Independent School District relating to the DAEP, DAEP Level III, Support Center, and the Pace Program.**

Wanda Fryer presented the 2023-2025 Interlocal Agreement with Nixon Smiley Consolidated ISD.

There were a few questions and comments which were addressed.

Dr. Kimberly Strozier made a motion, with a second from Glenn Menking, to approve the 2023-2025 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Nixon Smiley Consolidated School District relating to the DAEP, DAEP Level III, Support Center, and the Pace program as Presented.

The motion carried 7/0,

G. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve GISD Growing Certified Teacher Program.**

Haley Ratliff presented for approval the GISD Growing Certified Teacher Program.

Mr. Hendershot asked Ms. Smith Wright to read the resolution in the board packet into the record for everyone to hear.

Dr. Strozier showed appreciation to the team for working to bring this motion to the district.

Several other comments were made.

Mr. Menking made a motion, with a second from Mr. Schwausch, to approve the proposed Collaboration Agreement with Indiana Wesleyan University.

The motion carried 7/0.

Ms. Gorden made a motion, with a second from Ms. Smith-Wright, to approve the proposed Education Preparation Program Memorandum of Understanding with Teachworthy.

The motion carried 7/0.

Dr. Strozier made a motion, with a second from Mrs. Torres, to adopt the Resolution of Public Purpose with regard to the Gonzales ISD Growing Certified Teacher Program.

The motion carried 7/0.

**Item#5 Reports:**

A. **Board Members Continuing Education Credits/SBOE Framework for School Board Development Report.**

Mr. Hendershot announced each board member that has completed, exceeded, or is deficient in the required continuing education.

B. **Financial Report**

The Financial and Quarterly Investment Report was presented by Amanda Smith, CFO.

C. **School Health Advisory Council Recommendation for Health Education Programs**

Jennifer Molnoskey, district liason to the Student Health Advisory Council, shared a few concerns the council would like the board to consider:

- Staffing concern at GPA - The need for these students to have a full time certified Physical Education Teacher, to help realign the campus to help meet our past and current goals which are outlined in the district wellness plan.

- Janelle Lester, Chairman of the SHAC program, and Mrs. Molnoskey will be attending a free vaping program provided by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service as soon as one is available. If it is age appropriate they will be recommending that the free program be implanted in the district for the 2023-2024 school year along with the continuation of the SHARE Program (taught in grades 5-12). In May, the Council will bring an updated Wellness Plan to address the nutrition and physical needs, as well as, the social and emotional health needs.

**D. Athletic Report**

Coach Rivera Presented information regarding the addition of Junior High Soccer.

- Uniforms and equipment
- 4 Coaching Stipends (already have the coaches)
- Practice Fields

**E. Racial Profiling**

GISD Interim Chief Jared Koonce submitted a report for Racial Profiling

**E. Superintendent Reports**

Presented by Superintendent, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda

**Item#6 Board Business:**

**Board Correspondence:** No Correspondence

**Dates of Interest:**

The month of February	
April 2, 2023	Palm Sunday
April 3-7, 2023	National Assistant Principal Week
April 4, 2023	School Librarian Appreciation Day
April 5, 2023	Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
April 7, 2023	Student/Staff Holiday-Good Friday
April 9, 2023	Easter
April 10, 2023	Board Meeting/Student Holiday/Staff PL
April 17-18, 2023	GPA Pre-K Early Registration
April 21, 2023	McAllen ISD Aviation CTE Tour
April 24, 2023 - May 2, 2023	Early Voting Begins-Randle Rather Bldg., 8am-5pm
April 26, 2023	National Administrative Professionals' Day
April 28, 2023	Band Banquet
May 1, 2023	Academic Top 10 Banquet
May 4, 2023	FFA Banquet
May 6, 2023	Election Day-Randle Rather Bldg-7am-7pm
May 15, 2023	Athletic Banquet
May 22, 2023	Senior Walk Through/Scholarship Night
May 26, 2023	Graduation

**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 6:42 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 7:52 P.M.

A motion was made by Josie Smith-Wright, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to approve teacher renewal contracts for the 2023-2024 as presented.

The motion carried 6/0/1. Mr. Menking abstained from 3 contracts (Mary Liz Menking, Rachel Menking Tobola and Steven Tobola).

**Item #9 Adjourn**

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 7:53 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President  
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary  
Board of Trustees