

Minutes
Monday, March 6, 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, March 6, 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

Justin Schwausch gave the Invocation. Glenn Menking led the Pledge to the Flag, and Sandra Gorden 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 Administer Certificate of Election and Statement of Election Officer

During the February 20, 2023, Special Board Meeting an option to fill a board member vacancy was presented to the board. The board decided to fill the position by appointment. The person appointed by the board will serve the remainder of the term until the General Election on May 6. This election which will determine who will serve the next full term.

Dr. A recommended that the Certificate of Election be presented to the appointed officer, Dr. Kimberly Strozier, District 6.

Maggie Holub, Notary Public, read the official statement, and Dr. Kimberly Strozier signed the Statement of Officer form.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to approve the recommendation that the Certificate of Election is presented to Kimberly Strozier (District 6) and that she sign the Statement of Officer form as presented.

The motion carried 6/0.

B. Discuss and Consider Action to Administer the Oath of Office

Dr. A recommended that the Oath of Office be administered to Dr. Kimberly Strozier (District 6) by a notary public. Maggie Holub, Notary Public, administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Kimberly Strozier.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, that the Oath of Office is administered to Dr. Kimberly Strozier (District 6), by a Notary Public, as presented.

The motion carried 6/0.

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

1. Budget Amendments
2. Minutes: February 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and February 20th Special Meeting

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

Josie Smith-Wright asked what the amount was for the copier lease amendment that was presented. Amanda Smith explained that the amount was for Phase 1 of the copier lease agreement.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the District Compensation Plan and Raises**

Dr. Avellaneda gave the board kudos for the pay increases last year and for increasing custodial pay during this academic year. He explained that every position is up to par in comparison with the region and state-level for districts our size. Dr. Avellaneda stated “We need to keep the main thing the main thing” and focus on our teachers and instructional aides. He recommended that we increase to pay for our teachers and instructional aides. Dr. Avellaneda explained that every position is important and interrelated, and that every position has a part to play. Research shows that the most impactful position in any school district is the teacher.

Haley Ratliff presented the Compensation Plan to the board. The 23-24 Compensation Plan includes a 2% increase and a step for Teachers and Nurses and a 10% increase for Instructional Aides.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the 2023-2024 District Compensation Plan and raises as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

E. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the addition of the Certified Retire Teacher Substitute Rate of Pay to the Compensation Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year**

Haley Ratliff presented to the board the need for substitute teachers and why this additional daily rate will help with the shortage. The proposed daily minimum rate of \$130 per day for certified retired teaches, with no minimum daily requirement, was presented.

There were no questions or comments.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the additional 2022-2023 Retired Certified Teacher Substitute Pay Rate of \$130 a day, effective immediately, and any necessary budget amendment, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

F. **Discuss and Consider Possible Actions to Approve Term Life Insurance for all full-time employees starting in the 2023-2024 School Year.**

Haley Ratliff presented for approval from the board to provide all GISD full-time employees Term Life Insurance up to \$10,000 and \$10,000 in AD&D Insurance. A brochure was included in the board packet.

There were no questions or comments.

Gloria Torres made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to provide Term Life Insurance up to \$10,000 for full-time employees starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

The motion carried 7/0.

G. **Discuss and Consider Action on approval of the 2023-2024 GISD District Improvement Plan Goals**

Amanda Fullilove presented to the board the 6 District Goals for the 2023-2024 School Year.

There were a few questions and comments, which were addressed.

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to approve the 2023-2024 GISD District Improvement Plan Goals.

The motion carried 6/1, with Ms. Smith-Wright casting the dissenting vote.

H. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the contract with the University of Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio**

Dr. Avellaneda commented on how this will benefit our students at GISD.

Amanda Fullilove explained that the purpose of this contract is to engage in the services through the Texas Child Health Access through telehealth services (TCHAT). This project is to support Mental Health Counseling for students and families, at no charge to the district.

There were a few questions and comments which were addressed.

Gloria Torres made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Texas Health and Science Center of San Antonio.

The motion carried 7/0,

I. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Teacher Incentive Allotment Application Spending Plan**

House Bill 3 was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature in June of 2019.

Dr. Avellaneda explained that the teachers would need to meet certain requirements, which the district would set, to receive the extra funding pay from the state.

Amanda Fullilove presented and explained to the board how the Allotment would work.

Amanda Smith explained how in-depth the application is and how the money would be disbursed. The stipends would be disbursed in August in one lump sum through a special payroll run, and we will not receive the funds from TEA until September.

There were no questions or comments.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Dr. Kimberly Strozier, to approve the GISD Teacher Incentive Allotment Spending Plan.

The motion carried 7/0.

J. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar**

Sarah Gottwald presented Draft B for approval of the 2023-2024 School Calendar.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the Draft 2023-2024 School Calendar.

There were no questions or comments.

The motion carried 7/0.

K. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve a Lease Agreement for Copiers and Associated Budget Amendment**

Chema Chavez presented to the board for approval of our 2nd lease agreement with Office Systems. Mr. Chavez explained that we have currently expired all of our Xerox contract requirements, and we need to replace 3 machines (High School, Junior High, and North Avenue). We would need a budget amendment if these are approved.

There was one question for clarification of the campuses.

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to approve the lease agreement as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

L. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the purchase of Chromebooks to complete the yearly 1:1 replacement cycle**

Chema Chavez asked the board for approval to purchase Chromebooks, that are already budgeted for the 2022-2023 school year, to complete the 1:1 replacement cycle.

There were no questions or comments.

Dr. Kimberly Strozier made the motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to purchase the additional Chromebooks for the replacement cycle process.

The motion carried 7/0.

M. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria College**

Wendy Cox and Dwayne Malley (from Victoria College) explained that they would be offering Plumbing and Pipe Fitting and Electrical. This would fall under the Endorsement of Business and Industry. They are hoping to offer HVAC soon. Ms. Cox explained the certifications that would be received upon completion.

Mr. Malley explained how the program is run at VC.

There were a few questions that were addressed.

Dr. Kimberly Strozier made the motion, with a second from Glenn Menking, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria College.

The motion carried 7/0.

N. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Order of Cancellation for May 6, 2023, Trustee Election, District 5**

Dr. Avellaneda explained that per Texas Election Code 2.053 if we do not have an opposed candidate we may cancel the election and declare the unopposed candidate elected into office.

There were no questions or comments.

Sandra Gorden made the motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to approve the Order of Cancellation as presented, thereby, canceling the election scheduled to be held on May 6, 2023, and declaring the unopposed candidate William Ross Hendershot III, District 5, elected as a school board trustee.

The motion carried 6 approved, 0 against, and 1 abstained (Mr. Hendershot).

O. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Certification of Unopposed Candidate, District 5 for May 6, 2023, Trustee Election**

Dr. Avellaneda read the Texas Election Code 2.051-2.052 and recommended that the board approve the certification of the unopposed candidate to William Ross Hendershot III, District 5.

There were no questions or comments.

Glenn Menking made the motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the Certification of Unopposed Candidate, to William Ross Hendershot III for District 5, for the election of Officer for School Board Trustee.

The motion carried 6 approved, 0 against, and 1 abstained (Mr. Hendershot).

Item#5 Reports:

A. **YMCA Report**

Connie Kacir presented to the board information on the YMCA.

B. **Financial Report**

The Financial Report was presented by Amanda Smith, CFO.

C. **Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR)**

The TAPR Report was presented by Amanda Fullilove.

D. **Superintendent Reports**

Presented by Superintendent, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda

The attendance for the year has been very impressive, as it is over 92.8%, compared to 90% last year at this time.

Item#6 Board Business:

Board Correspondence: No Correspondence

Dates of Interest:

The month of February	
March 3, 2023	Bad Weather Day/Stock Show
March 6, 2023	Regular Board Meeting
March 9-12, 2023	TCBSBM Summit-Kalahari Resorts & Conventions Round Rock Texas
March 13-March 17, 2023	Spring Break
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 10, 2023	Board Meeting/Student Holiday/Staff PL
April 26, 2023	National Administrative Professionals' Day

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 7:35 P.M.

Item #8 Reconvene to Open Meeting:

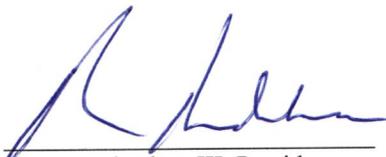
The Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in the Closed Session. The board returned to an open session at 8:14 P.M.

A motion was made by Josie Smith-Wright, with a second from Glenn Menking, to approve Administrator Contracts, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

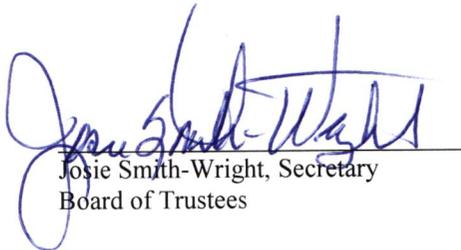
A motion was made by Dr. Kimberly Strozier, with a second from Glenn Menking, to approve the contract for Jennifer Molnoskey. The motion carried 6/0/1 with Ross Hendershot abstaining from voting.

Item #9 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 8:18 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
Board of Trustees