

**Minutes**  
**Monday, February 13, 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  
Sue Gottwald, Secretary  
Glenn Menking  
Josie Smith-Wright  
Gloria Torres

**Board Member Absent:** Sandra Gorden

**Item #1. Call to Order**

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, February 13, 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 6 members present.

**Invocation, Pledge, Mission Statement**

Glenn Menking gave the Invocation. Justin Schwausch led the Pledge to the Flag, and Josie Smith-Wright read the Mission Statement.

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

**Item#3: Recognitions:** Observed a moment of silence in memory of Sergio Barajas, a student at GJHS.

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

Ms. Johannsen presented the Student Recognitions, Staff Recognitions, and Finance Team. 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: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and January 17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting

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

There were no questions or comments.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to adopt the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried 6/0.

B. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Order and Notice of Election for the Gonzales ISD School Board, Districts 3, 5, and 6.**

Dr. Avellaneda explained to the board that it is time for the May 2023 elections. Glenn Menking, District 3, Ross Hendershot, III, District 5, and Sue Gottwald, District 6 are up for election this year. The Superintendent informed the board that the terms of Glenn Menking, District 3, Ross Henderson III, District 5, and Sue Gottwald, District 6 would expire in May 2023. As a result, it was time to call for these elections. It was recommended that the board approve the Order and Notice of Election to the Gonzales ISD School Board, Districts 3,5, and 6.

There were no questions or comments.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to Approve the Order and Notice of Election for the Gonzales ISD School Board, Districts 3,5, and 6 for May 6, 2023, School Board Election as presented. The motion carried 6/0.

C. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the TASB Board Policy Update 120, affecting GISD local policies (see attached list)**

Dr. Avellaneda shared the TASB policy Update 120 with the board. An overview concerning these proposed policy revisions was included for the board review. Explanatory Notes, instruction Sheets, and other materials were also provided to the board. Dr. Avellaneda explained each local update that was provided by TASB.

There were no questions or comments.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Glenn Menking, to add, revise, or delete (Local) policies as recommended by TASB Policy Service for Update 120 as presented. The motion passed 6/0.

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Authorize the Superintendent to Finalize and Approve the Alliance Abroad Group J-1 Teacher Program Host School Terms and Conditions.**

Dr. Avellaneda shared information with the board regarding the Alliance Abroad Group J-1 Teacher Program host Schools and why this item is being brought to the board at this time. Amanda Smith, CFO, explained to the board the importance and benefit of the J-1 Teacher Program Host School Terms and Conditions. The administration recommended working with Alliance Abroad Group to recruit teachers through a TEA-approved J-1 Visa Visiting International Teachers program.

It was asked if any one of the board members had attended the meetings with the J-1 Teacher Program. Mr. Schwausch shared his positive opinion regarding this program which he was able to attend. Ms. Smith-Wright also shared her positive opinion regarding the district having teachers that are certified and qualified to help the students of the district to be part of the growing greatness in our district. It was asked how these teachers would be selected. This was addressed by the superintendent. It was asked what area these teachers are coming from, how will these teachers be interviewed, and is it possible to interview thru the zoom app. The response was yes. Three areas to consider were housing, transportation, and how the HR dept will handle these applicants. Three housing entities have said they would help, if housing is available, when needed. It was asked if the district would be involved with any other cultural exchange programs for students or faculty. The response was it is possible. Are there plans in place to visit any other countries? The response was that none are currently planned but opportunities may become available through these programs.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to Authorize the Superintendent to approve the Alliance Abroad Group J-1 Teacher Program Host School Terms and Conditions. The motion passed 6/0.

E. **Discuss and Consider Action on the Proposed Contract with TSG Architects Inc. to serve as the Engineering/Architectural Firm, select the Construction Delivery Method, and Authorize the Superintendent or his Designee to take all Action for Procurement for the Apache Field Press Box Project.**

Gene Kridler, Director of Operations, explained to the board that the administration had negotiated a contract with TSG Architects Inc. for engineering services on the Apache Field Press Box and was ready to enter into a contract. The board was asked to determine the project delivery/contract award method that would provide the best value for the district.

There were a few questions and comments which were addressed.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to approve the contract with TSG Architects, AIA as presented and to select Competitive Sealed Proposals as the best value for the Apache Field Press Box and authorize the Superintendent, or his designee, to take all actions necessary for procurement to statute, as presented. The motion carried 6/0.

**Item#5 Reports:**

**A. TASB Staffing Report**

The staffing report was presented by Jennifer Barton, HR and Compensation Consultant from TASB HR Services. Ms. Barton shared a PowerPoint with complete information regarding the staffing review recommendations. Dr. Avellaneda also explained his opinion regarding the needs of the district.

**B. Financial Report**

The Financial Report was presented by Amanda Smith, CFO. She also shared some legislative session updates.

**C. Campus Academic Achievement Report**

The Campus Academic Achievement Report was presented by Brandi Bell, Director of Elementary Education. Ms. Bell also shared a power-point with the board to explain the achievements of each campus.

**D. AVID Presentation**

The AVID presentation was made by Tyler Newlin, Academic Dean of Gonzales HS. A PowerPoint presentation was shared with the board.

**E. The Bible's Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament and Their Impact on The History and Literature of Western Civilization Report.**

The Bible's Hebrew Scripture and the New Testament and their Impact on the History and Literature of Western Civilization were also presented by Tyler Newlin, Academic Dean of Gonzales HS. There was a power-point shared with the board. There were a few questions and comments which were addressed.

**F. Intruder Detection, Badge Campaign, Report**

The Intruder Detection, Badge Campaign Report was presented by Veronica Johannsen, Chief of Communications, Marketing, Safety, and Security. There was a board presentation provided. There were no questions or comments.

**G. Superintendent Reports**

Presented by Superintendent, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda

Dr. Avellaneda wanted to express his thanks to all the teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, Principals, and staff for the hard work they have put into this district to improve their academic achievements.

The attendance for the year has been very impressive, as it is over 93%. In January 2022, it was 85%. This represents a 7% increase from the prior year.

**Item#6 Board Business:**

**Board Correspondence:** No Correspondence

**Dates of Interest:**

The month of February	
Feb. 13, 2023	Regular Board Meeting
Feb. 13, 2023	Education Foundation - Celebration
Feb. 17, 2023	Last day to apply for a place on the ballot (Dist. 3,5,&6)
Feb. 20th, 2023	BWD
March 3, 2023	Bad Weather Day (Stock Show)
March 13-17, 2023	Spring Break

**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 7:22 P.M.

**Item #8 Reconvene to Open Meeting:**

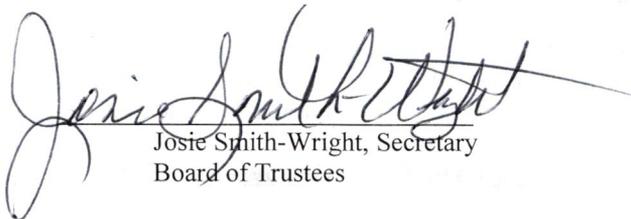
The Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in the Closed Session. The board returned to an open session at 9:17 P.M. No action was taken.

**Item #9 Adjourn**

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 9:18 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President  
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary  
Board of Trustees