

Minutes
Monday, February 12, 2024
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
D'Anna Robinson
Ashley Molina-Attended Via Zoom
Gloria Torres
Sandra Gorden

Board Member Absent:

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, February 12, 2024, 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, Gloria Torres led the Pledge to the Flag, and D'Anna Robinson read the Mission Statement.

Item #2: Public Comments: There were 2 public comment speakers.

- 1) Mary Torres spoke on behalf of a Facebook post that went around on January 30, 2024. She stressed the need to have more support at all sporting events.
- 2) Lisa Blackwell spoke on behalf of the food service department pay raises that were originally brought up at the December board meeting.

Item#3: Recognitions:

Recognitions were presented by Veronica Johannsen, Chief of Communications, Marketing, Safety, and Security.

Item #4: New Business/Action Items:

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

1. Budget Amendments- No budget amendments were presented.
2. Minutes: January 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting
January 22, 2024 Special Board Meeting

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

B. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Order and Notice of Election for Gonzales ISD School Board, Districts 4 & 7**

Dr. Elmer Avellaneda, GISD Superintendent of Schools, presented to the board the Order and Notice of Election for the May 2024 election for Districts 4 & 7. The board approved to use the Elections Administrator of Gonzales County therefore the May 4, 2024 election will be a County Wide Election due to the Constitutional Amendments so there for all Entities holding an election have to use the County Polling Locations.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson to approve the the Order and Notice of Election for GISD Single Member District 4 &7 as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

C. **Discuss and Consider Action to Adopt a Policy that Would Authorize a Chaplain to be Employed and/or be Allowed to Volunteer to Perform the Duties of a School Counselor**

Erin Lindemann-LaBuhn, GISD Executive Director of State and Federal Programs, presented to the board that Senate Bill 763, passed during the 88th Legislative Session, requires each School Board to take a record vote within six months of September 1, 2023 on whether to adopt a policy that would authorize a campus of the District to either:

- 1)Employ or
- 2) accept as a volunteer,

A Chaplain to provide support, services, and/or programs for students as assigned by the Board of Trustees under Texas Education Code, Section 23.001 in order to perform the duties of a school counselor,

OR,

- 3) vote that no policy will be adopted at this time.

Josie Smith-Wright stated that some of her discussions with other board members in the West districts have found it hard to provide counselors therefore they are using Chaplains. GISD is not having that concern finding counselors.

Mrs. Torres asked if the voted on no policy at this time would they be able to change it later is the need arises. Mrs. Labuhn replied that yes and that is what her recommendation was – to adopt no policy at this time.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to adopt no policy regarding Chaplains at this time.

The motion carried 7/0

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the purchase of additional Chromebooks to complete the 1:1 replacement cycle process**

Chema Chavez, GISD Director of Technology, came to the board to seek approval to purchase the yearly chromebooks for the replacement cycle. 600 Chromebooks will be utilized to complete the inventory required for the replacement cycle process. This will ensure that 3rd, 6th and 9th grades will receive a new Chromebook. Chromebooks remain in circulation for the district with a warranty for four years. This purchase is already budgeted but needs approval from the board.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson, that the board approve the purchase of the additional Chromebooks for the replacement cycle process as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

E. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the E-Rate Category 1 and Category 2 Proposed Bids and Budget Amendment**

Chema Chavez came to the board to seek approval to complete E-Rate purchases and general fund budget amendment necessary to support them. Category 1 is the maintenance and operations on GISD's existing fiber. Budget needs are to increase federal revenue by \$177,557 (federally funded portion) and increase expenditures \$208,890 (total project cost). Category 2 will have 3 projects involved. Switches will be replaced at 2 campuses, fiber will be increased at Apache Field, and re-cable the entire Gonzales Elementary campus. Category 2 leaves the district responsible for 15% \$31,333.47 the total project is \$208,890. The scoring matrix was provided to all board members.

Dr. A asked Mr. Chavez to speak on what him and his team are doing to make sure we do not loose internet connectivity. stated that we currently use Fiber light and now we use GVTC as well so if we loose one connectivity from a provider the other will pick up.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to approve these purchases and budget amendment, as presented, contingent upon USAC approval and E-Rate funding.
The motion carried 7/0.

F. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Interlocal Agreement with Education Service Center Region 20, Texas 20 Purchasing Cooperative**

Amanda Smith, GISD CFO, presented to the board the approval of an updated interlocal agreement with Region 20 ESC for the utilization of their purchasing cooperative.

The food service department has utilized this Purchasing Cooperative since at least May 2013. Texas 20 offers a streamlined method of purchasing that supports our district's food service program, of particular note is their support with our commodities/USDA foods. The purpose of the updated agreement is to make sure the language is current.

The Texas Department of Agriculture is shifting the electronic system utilized to track the entitlement allocated to districts for commodities from TX-UNPS to WBSCM (Web Based Supply Chain Management). Because the electronic system utilized by TDA is connected to TEXAS 20's service, the interlocal agreement needs to be updated to reflect associated changes.

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the the interlocal agreement as presented.

The motion carried 7/0,

G. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar**

Dr. A presented the revised 2024-2025 Calendar (revised since voting). The reason for the revision is due to the redistricting for UIL and the need to release early due to the distance of travel.

The voting of the district calendar options were offered to all employees at all campus and district offices to allow all campus and district personnel to vote. Voting was also extended to the community. The calendars were examined to ensure they were within the TEA yearly guidelines for CTE and instructional minutes, had banked minutes for unexpected closures, and took into consideration the new redistricting for UIL.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson, to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented.

The motion was incorrect on the rationale however Mr. Schwausch corrected it
The motion carried 7/0.

Item#5 Reports:

A. **Financial Report**

The Financial with Bond Defeasance Results was presented by Amanda Smith, CFO.

B. **Superintendent Reports**

Presented by Superintendent, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda
Enrollment has increased by 40 students over the last 3 months. ADA is at 90.5% for the year.

Item#6 Board Business:

Board Correspondence: No Correspondence

Dates of Interest:

February 16, 2024	CTE Design/Advisory Committee to visit Debakey High School for Health Professions
February 19, 2024	Special Board Meeting Board Workshop
February 22, 2024	Chamber Banquet
February 22-24, 2024	TCBSBM Conference
February 24, 2024	Education Foundation Casino Night
February 28-March 2, 2024	TASB Governance Camp

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 6:17 P.M.

Item #8 Reconvene to Open Meeting:

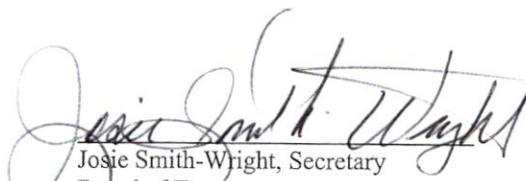
The Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in the Closed Session. The board returned to an open session at 7:03 P.M.

Item #9 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 7:04 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
Board of Trustees