

**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 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  
D'Anna Robinson  
Ashley Molina  
Gloria Torres  
Sandra Gorden

**Board Member Absent:** Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary

**Item #1. Call to Order**

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, November 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**

Gloria Torres gave the Invocation, Ashley Molina led the Pledge to the Flag, and D'Anna Robinson read the Mission Statement.

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

**Item #3: New Business/Action Items:**

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

1. Budget Amendments-No budget amendments at this time.
2. Minutes: October 9, 2023, Regular Board Meeting  
October 13, 2023, Special Board Meeting  
October 30, 2023, Special Board Meeting

There was a mistake on the October 9, 2023 minutes with a date of April 10, 2023 that was corrected. The time on the October 13<sup>th</sup> minutes read 5:30 pm and should have been 12:00 pm. The October 30, 2023 board minutes also had the wrong date of August 28, 2023; that was corrected. The consent agenda was amended.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to approve the consent agenda, as amended.

The motion carried 6/0.

B. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve and Accept the Resale Bid for Suit 7236 Property R15946**

Amanda Smith, Chief Financial Officer, recommended to the board the notice of the resale bid for property R15946, Suit #7236 from the Gonzales County Tax Assessor-Collector. The Gonzales County Commissioner's Court accepted the bid on October 10, 2023 pending the approval of other entities. This property is located west of Hwy183 right across from the Masonic Cemetery. This property is a foreclosed property that was put up for bid for the first time in December 2022 at which time the county did not receive any bids. This property was then put on their resale list where they received one bid. Taxes are owed on the property beginning in 2017-2023.

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson to approve and accept the bid submitted for property R15946, as presented.

The motion carried 6/0.

C. **Discuss and Consider Action on a Proposed Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Gonzales Independent School District (the District) for DPS's lease of the District's property at 1711 Sarah Dewitt Dr., Gonzales, Tx. 78629, for ten (10) years, for \$3,438.00 a month, plus the cost of utilities and services, with an escalation clause for each year**

Amanda Smith recommended to the board to table this agenda item. While working with TXDPS, both entities have not worked out all of the details to be legally in requirements.

No action was taken and it will be brought back for further review.

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Amend EIC Local, Local Graduation Honors**

Dr. A, Superintendent of Schools, reminded the board members that this action item had been previously tabled for everyone to have time to process this decision that will be made. Two options were presented. The first, to calculate class rank using grades available at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year. The second was to use grades available at the end of the fall semester of the senior year.

Mr. Jon Basha, Gonzales High School principal, presented the two options.

Dr. A's recommendation, after talking to several administrators, was that the first option be selected – to calculate class rank based on grades available as of the end of the third nine-week grading period. The resulting rankings would also be used for the top 10% banquet hosted annually by the GISD Education Foundation. He recommended that Valedictorian and Salutatorian, however, be calculated at the last possible moment, when final grades had been submitted, to make sure a fair and accurate read was made.

Mr. Basha said the district would calculate Valedictorian and Salutatorian when grades were finalized the week before graduation. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian would be announced at graduation and receive their medals at that time. Mr. Basha said that, for the GHS Class of 2024, it was going to be a close race for Valedictorian and Salutatorian - going into the thousandths.

Graduation honors for Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be calculated when final grades are submitted.

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, that the board of trustees approve that the top 10% be chosen by the grades figured at the end of the third nine-weeks and the Valedictorian and Salutatorian be determined by the final grades.

The motion carried 6/0.

**Item#5 Reports:**

A. **Financial Report**

The Financial Report was presented by Amanda Smith, Chief Financial Officer. In her report, she noted that the district's energy savings initiative resulted in a savings of over \$16,000 for the month of September 2023 and that the total for the project as a whole, at the one year mark, had exceeded the district's target for year 3. Ms. Smith commended all involved with bringing those savings to fruition.

B. **Superintendent Reports**

The superintendent's report was presented by Superintendent, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda. In his report, he noted that the district enrollment as of 10/5/2023 was 2,566 with the average attendance percentage for the District at 93.45. He gave commendations to the principals who were pushing and managing attendance initiatives each day.

**Item#6 Board Business:**

**Board Correspondence:** No Correspondence

**Dates of Interest:**

The month of November	
November 17, 2023	Special Board Meeting (Canvass November 7 <sup>th</sup> Election)
November 20-24, 2023	Thanksgiving Break
December 11, 2023	Regular Board Meeting

**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 5:48 P.M.

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

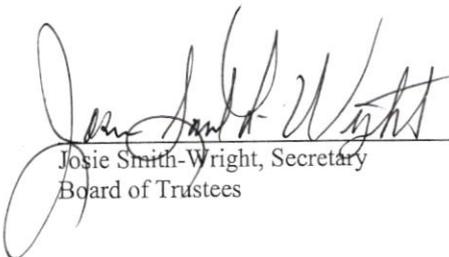
The Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in the Closed Session. The board returned to an open session at 6:45 P.M.

No motions were made.

**Item #9 Adjourn**

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 6:46 P.M.

  
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Ross Hendershot, III, President  
Board of Trustees

  
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Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary  
Board of Trustees