

**Minutes**  
**Monday, October 9, 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  
D'Anna Robinson  
Ashley Molina  
Gloria Torres  
Sandra Gorden

**Board Member Absent:**

**Item #1. Call to Order**

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, October 9, 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, Josie Smith-Wright led the Pledge to the Flag, and Gloria Torres 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
2. Minutes: September 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

Amanda Smith, GISD Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the budget amendments which included:

- Increase Function 34 by 10k: CDL Stipends for Coaches (\$500/ea; Approved at March 2023 Bd Mtg)
- Increase Function 11 by \$70k: 2 JH Math Aides & 1 ECSE Aide (approved in Spring, but not include in original budget)
- Increase Function 15 by \$15,518: HS Flooring (2022-23 unfulfilled commitment)

Justin Schwausch 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 an Interlocal Agreement with the Harris County Department of Education to Facilitate Participation in the Choice Partners Purchasing Cooperative**

Ashley Wilke, GISD Business Manager, presented to the board the Interlocal Agreement with the Harris County Department of Education to Facilitate Participation in the Choice Partner Purchasing Cooperative. The Texas Education Code allows the use of interlocal agreements as one of the approved methods for the acquisition of goods and services of all types.

According to Chapter 44, §44.031 B (a) (4) interlocal contracts of the Texas Education Code, Chapter 791 Interlocal Corporation Contracts of the Texas Government Code, and Board Policies CH (Legal), CH (Local) purchasing and

acquisition, Gonzales ISD is able to enter into an Interlocal contract with Harris County Department of Education and therefore be a member of Choice Partners Purchasing Cooperative. The utilization of interlocal agreements assists the district in purchasing or sharing contracts for goods and services that are currently needed. This type of procurement process will ensure the district that all bidding requirements have been performed by the participants and will also ensure that the products offered meet various required standards.

Choice Partners was created by the merger of three Harris County Department of Education procurement cooperatives: Choice Facility Partners, Gulf Coast Food Co-op and HCDE Purchasing Cooperative.

There is no fee for membership.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Harris County Department of Education as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

C. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the 2023 Tax Roll Per Secion 26.09 Texas Property Code**

Amanda Smith presented to the board The Gonzales County Tax Assessor-Collector, 2023 final roll report for review and approval. The 2023 final roll report (which included the levy totals).

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to approve the 2023 tax roll, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Accept the Annual Investment Report and Approve a Resolution Related to Review of Investment Policy and Investment Strategies**

Amanda Smith presented to the board the Annual Investment Report and to approve a Resolution Related to Review the Investment Policy and Investment Strategies.

Board Policy CDA (Local) requires that an annual comprehensive report on the investment program actively be prepared and presented to the Board. Administration will share a report covering the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The policy also requires that the Board adopt a "written instrument" stating that it has reviewed the investment policy and investment strategies and record any changes made. The resolution was found on the last page of the Annual Investment Report.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, that the accept the annual investment report and approve and adopt the resolution, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

E. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the revisions to DEC Local, Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences.**

Brandi Bell, GISD Executive Director of Recruitment, Leadership, and Professional Development, presented to the board the revisions to DEC Local, Compensation and Benefits leaves and Absences

In accordance with DEC Local, the proposed revisions to the Compensation and Befits Leaves and Absences section is being presented with changes highlighted in blue in the packet that was provided.

- (Mental Health Leave was changed to any eligible employee may use mental health leave.
- Line of Duty Illness or Injury Leave of Absence

Gloria Torres made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the proposed revisions to DEC Local Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences.

The motion carried 7/0.

F. **Discuss and Consider Action to amend EIC Local, Local Graduation Honors.**

Jon Basha, Principal at Gonzales High School, presented the amended EIC Local, Local Graduation Honors to the board.

- For the Purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year. The third quarter grade shall be used as the semester grade for this purpose.
- For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fall semester of the senior year.

There were a few questions and comments which were addressed.

This action item was tabled and asked to be brought back to the November board meeting.

**Item#4 Reports:**

A. **School First (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) Overview & Gonzales ISD's 2022-23 Rating**

Amanda Smith presented information to the board the 2022-23 School FIRST rating. The rating was based on data from the 2021-22 fiscal year.

B. **Financial Report**

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

C. **Architectural/Engineering RFQ Update**

Amanda Smith presented the update on the Architectural/Engineering and Construction Administration Services Request for Qualification (RFQ) process that is ongoing. This RFQ is associated with the November 2023 bond election.

- All RQS's were due September 19, 2023
- 14 Responses from Architect Firms
- Evaluation Committee met September 22, 2023
- The committee will interview the top 5 or 6 Mid November depending on the election outcome in November.

D. **GISD Bilingual/ESL Yearly Program Report**

Erin Lindemann-LaBuhn, GISD Executive Director of State and Federal Programs, provided the yearly program report specific to the district bilingual and ESL programs.

E. **Amendment to Secondary Grading Guidelines**

Jon Basha presented the amendment to Secondary Grading Guidelines. The purpose for the amendment is to provide staff and students with a more equitable grading system.

E. **Superintendent Reports**

Presented by Superintendent, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda

- Enrollment as of 10/5/23 is at 2568
- ADA for the district is 94.25

**Item#6 Board Business:**

**Board Correspondence:** Thank you letter from Wanda Fryer.

**Dates of Interest:**

The month of February	
October 13, 2023	End of the First Nine Weeks
October 16 & 17, 2023	Staff Development/Student Holiday
October 18-20, 2023	Fall Break
October 23, 2023	Early Voting Begins (thru Nov. 3rd)
November 7, 2023	Election Day
November 10, 2023	Staff Development/Student Holiday
November 13, 2023	Regular Board Meeting

**Item #9 Adjourn**

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 6:51 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President  
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary  
Board of Trustees