

Minutes
Monday, August 11, 2025
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: Justin Schwausch- President
Ross Hendershot, III, Vice President
Ashley Molina-Secretary
Gloria Torres
D'Anna Robinson
Josie Smith-Wright

Board Member Absent: Naomi Brown

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, August 11, 2025, at the Administrative Office Board Room, Gonzales, Texas. President, Justin Schwausch called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

A quorum was declared with 6 members present.

Invocation, Pledge, Mission Statement

Josie Smith-Wright lead the invocation, D'Anna Robinson lead the Pledge, and Ross Hendershot lead the Mission Statement

Item #2: Public Comments: No public Comments

Item #3: New Business/Action Items:

A. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Consent Agenda

1. Minutes: July 14, 2025- Regular Board Meeting
2. Budget Amendments- No budget amendments
3. Bonus Local Leave Resolution

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

The motion carried 6/0

B. Discuss and Consider Action on an MOU with Victoria College to Bridge Instructional Services for Plumbing Courses

Jennifer Ervin went before the board seeking approval on an MOU with Victoria College to Bridge Instructional Services for Plumbing Courses. Approval of the MOU would allow the district to continue the programs as approved and initiated in August 2024.

Victoria College will be paying for GISDs level two instructor for plumbing for the 25-26 school year.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the MOU, as presented.

The motion carried 6/0

C. **Discuss and Consider Action on Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate**

Amanda Smith went before the board seeking approval of a recommendation to publish the Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and proposed Tax Rate in the Gonzales Inquirer on August 14, 2025, in compliance with the requirements in Chapter 44 of the Texas Education Code. The annual notice must be legally published no less than ten (10) days and no greater than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the notice, as presented.

The motion carried 6/0

D. **Discuss and Consider Action on Bid for Resale Property: Suit 6792 (Parcel 13390)**

Amanda Smith went before the board seeking approval of a recommendation with a bid for Resale Property that was received by the County. This property conformed to resale policies and was, therefore, approved by the Commissioners at Court on July 14, 2025, pending the approval of the other taxing entities. This property is located on St. Michael Street between McClure and Dewitt streets, south of the museum.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to accept the bid, as presented

The motion carried 6/0

E. **Discuss and Consider Action on Gonzales ISD's 2025-26 Adult Breakfast and Lunch Meal Prices**

Ed Wayner went before the board seeing approval of increasing the prices for adult breakfast and lunch prices for the 2025-26 school year.

Each year, school districts participating in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs are required to set minimum student and adult meal pricing. Since **all of our students receive FREE breakfast and lunch** under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), the district is only required to update the adult meal prices.

Adult meal prices are calculated by adding the free reimbursement rate for student meals, any additional severe need reimbursement, additional performance-based supplement (lunch only) and the per-meal commodity value received. Since we use USDA commodities at breakfast and lunch, the commodity value is included in both calculations.

USDA's intention of districts reviewing and updating adult meal price (as necessary) is to ensure districts charge enough for adult meals so that they are not subsidized by funds received for student meals. This year the base breakfast and lunch reimbursement rate reset to the inflation adjusted rate after a couple of years of temporary legislative increases. We have included the pricing worksheet the district is required to use to calculate the required minimum adult meal pricing.

In order to stay compliant with the minimum adult meal pricing, for 2025-2026 administration recommends increasing the adult breakfast price from \$3.30 to \$3.40 and adult lunch price from \$5.00 to \$5.15.

Gloria Torres made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to set the 2025-26 Gonzales ISD adult breakfast meal price at \$3.40 and the adult lunch meal price at \$5.15, as presented.

The motion carried 6/0

F. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve Change Order #01 for District Wide Safety & Communication Improvements Maintenance GMP#1 as part of the 2023 Bond Program**

Casey Sledge went before the board seeking approval to Change Order #01 for District Wide Safety and Communication Improvements Maintenance GMP#1 project.

Weaver and Jacobs was awarded this project on 4/14/25 in the amount of \$1,1615,911. Change Order #1 includes adding security cameras at the Baseball and Softball Fields. The original GMP Award included \$200,000 in Owner Contingency Funds. Previous Contingency uses for this project include:

- Additional cameras at campuses after bidding= \$32,977
- Additional cameras at Apache Stadium=\$53,948
- Required Switches and Hardware (in lieu of ISD direct purchase) =\$72,802
- Leaving a current Contingency Balance of \$40,274

Change Order #1 cost is \$58,154.26 this will allow Weaver & Jacobs to install new security cameras at the Baseball and Softball Fields. (Note there was a change in the amount that was originally posted. \$58,219.61 original price)

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to approve the Change Order #1 in the amount of \$58,154.26 for District-Wide Safety & Communication Improvements Maintenance GMP#1 as part of the 2023 Bond Program, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate the final terms of the contract.

The motion carried 5/1

D'Anna Robinson abstained from voting

G. **Discuss and Consider Action regarding Board Resolution to opt out of homeschool participation in UIL activities, pursuant to Senate Bill 401**

Dr. Arreola went before the board seeking approval on the resolution opting out of homeschool participation in UIL activities.

Senate Bill 401, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature, amends Texas law to permit homeschooled students to participate in University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities sponsored by public school districts unless a district's Board of Trustees adopts a policy to opt out of such participation.

Under SB 401, districts that wish to opt out must adopt such a policy by record vote no later than September 1, 2025. If no action is taken, homeschooled students would become eligible to participate in UIL activities in the district beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

During the 2024-2025 school year, UIL operated under an opt-in model for homeschool participation. Under SB 401, the presumption shifts-participation is now allowed unless Board takes action to opt out.

The administration recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution opting out of homeschool participation in UIL activities for the following reasons:

- To maintain consistent oversight of academic, attendance, and conduct standards for all UIL participants;
- To preserve the integrity of extracurricular programs as an extension of the district's educational mission for enrolled students;
- To avoid administrative and logistical complexities associated with managing eligibility and compliance for non-enrolled students

The board agreed to table this action item and come back after closed session with a possible decision

H. **Discuss and Consider Action to update Board Policy EFB (Local)**

Joy Philpott went before the board seeking approval with an update to board policy EFB (Local)

Texas Senate Bill 13 passed during this most recent legislative session articulates guidelines for acquisition of school library materials and clarifies rights of parents/guardians in respect to reviewing materials and establishing parameters for what materials their children may access.

The update to Board Policy EFB (Local) that brings our policy in compliance with SB 13 goes into effect on September 1, 2025

The changes to the policy requires that a list of resources from the campus library and classroom libraries be available to parents upon request. Parents may submit list of books that their child may not have access to. A form being developed by TEA gives access to parents to request removal of books from libraries. When purchasing new materials for libraries districts are required to have a list of books publicly 30 day in advance and the board has to vote on the library materials.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the update to Board Policy EFB(Local) that will bring our policy in Compliance with SB 13.

The motion carried 6/0

I. **Update to Board Policy FNCE Local**

Adrienne Steen went before the board seeking approval to update Board Policy FNCE.

Texas House Bill 1481 passed during this most recent legislative session prohibits student use of cell phones and other personal communication devices during the school day.

Before you this evening is the update to Board Policy FNCE Local that brings our policy in compliance with HB 1481 which goes into effect on September 1, 2025.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to adopt the update to Board Policy FNCE Local.

The motion carried 6/0

J. **GISD Regulations on Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

Adrienne Steen went before the board seeking approval of the Gonzales ISD regulations prohibiting student use of electronic communications devices during the school day.

Texas House Bill 1481 passed during this most recent legislative session prohibits student use of cell phones and other personal communication devices during the school day.

Board Policy FNCE that brings HB 1481 into local board policy states "The Superintendent shall develop regulations to implement this policy."

The attached document is a draft of Gonzales ISD regulations to implement the prohibition of electronic communications devices as mandated by law.

Ashley Molina questioned the first offense of the enforcement, which states: "*Student may pick up the electronic device the first instructional day of the following week.*" Mrs. Molina also asked who the students would be picking the phones up from—secretaries or administration. Ms. Steen responded that the administrator would designate who that would be. She also expressed concerns regarding the safety of students after school, noting that without access to their phones, students would be unable to notify their parents that they had arrived home safely.

Dr. Arreola stated that students will be encouraged to comply with the established regulations. Cell phones will be permitted in backpacks. Administration expressed confidence in enforcing these regulations, noting that they were developed through a collaborative process. It was further noted that a policy is already in place which prohibits the use of cell phones during the instructional day.

Josie Smith-Wright questioned the section indicating that repeat offenders may be recommended for possible DAEP placement, noting the following offense specifies that refusal to surrender the phone would result in three days of ISS.

If a student goes to ISS they must turn their cell phone in.

Phones should be out of sight from the beginning to the end of the school day.

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve Gonzales ISD regulations prohibiting student use of electronic communications devices during the school day.

The motion carried 6/0

K. **Discuss and Consider Action on GISD Student Code of Conduct 2025-26**

Ms. Steen went before the board presenting the GISD Student Code of Conduct 2025-26.

Texas Education Code Chapter 37 mandates that school districts adopt a student code of conduct prior to the beginning of the school year.

The attached document is a draft of Gonzales ISD Code of Conduct for 2025-26; this includes an update to regulations regarding cell phones and other electronic devices.

Gloria Torres made a motion, with a second from Ross Hendershot to approve Gonzales ISD Code of Conduct for the 2025-2 school year.

The motion carried 6/0

L. **Discuss and Consider Action to Add, Revise, or delete (Local) policies as offered by TASB Policy Service**

Dr. Arreola went before the board seeking consideration and approval of the following policy updates:

BDAA(LOCAL): OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS - DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF BOARD OFFICERS

BDB(LOCAL): BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION - BOARD COMMITTEES

BDF(LOCAL): BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION - ADVISORY COMMITTEES

EI(LOCAL): ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

FDE(LOCAL): ADMISSIONS - SCHOOL SAFETY TRANSFERS

FEC(LOCAL): ATTENDANCE - ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson to add, revise, or delete (Local) policies as offered by TASB Policy Service for consideration and according to the Instruction Sheet for TASB Localized Policy Manual Update.

The motion carried 6/0

A. **Academic Report**

Presented by Joy Philpott, Chief Academic Officer

B. **2023 Bond Program Monthly Update**

Presented by Casey Sledge, Sledge Engineering/Region 13

CTE/AG Barn

- Site utilities continue
- Building pad plumbing underway
- Grade Beams underway
- Off-site sewer main nearing completion
- Code inspection underway
- Color/materials selection finalized with staff

UPCOMING:

- Slab pour in August

Contingency/Allowance use log to date:

Contract Amount = \$1,175,000

Added manhole to begin sewer main = \$9,991

- Credit to remove lime stabilization = (\$91,614)
- Fire Booster pump electrical = \$3,902
- Texas Gas requested crane mats = \$11,458

Upcoming items:

- *Offsite Water Main relocation pending easements*
- *Add restroom to Ag Barn*

Maintenance Projects-Weaver & Jacobs

- GMP#1: Safety/Security Package(Cameras)
 - Camera installations continue
 - As campuses open, disruption will be minimized by working after hours
 - Contingency Log \$200,000 original; \$40,274 available:
 - Added campus cameras=\$32,977
 - Added cameras to Apache Field: \$53,947
 - Required Switches=\$72,802
 - Change Order #1 Baseball and Softball Cameras this agenda
- GMP #2: Doors/Vestibules Package
 - Awarded; contracts signed
 - Weaver & Jacobs working on schedule and sequencing plans
 - Will meet with each campus admin team to discuss scope, schedule and phasing
- GMP#3/4
 - HVAC replacement and improvements
 - Remodels, HS Cafeteria, Primary restrooms, sewer replacements, Transportation Addition
 - Construction to Fall 2026
 - Budget and scope review meetings underway with staff to develop priorities and options

Maintenance Projects-ISD Direct

- Roofing
 - Complete and in close-out phase
- Playgrounds
 - GNA & GES playground Awarded April
 - Installations underway on site each campus
 - Tracking completion 1st day of school
- LED Lighting Replacements
 - Complete; final inspections underway

C. **Financial and Quarterly Investment Report**

Presented by Amanda Smith, Chief Financial Officer

D. **Superintendent's Report**

Presented by Dr. Dana Arreola, Superintendent of Schools

Item#5 Board Business:

Board Correspondence:

Dates of Interest:

August 13	First Day of School
August 18	Budget Workshop Board Meeting
August 25	Budget & Tax Rate Adoption Board Meeting
August 29	Early Release
September 1	Student/Staff Holiday
September 8	Regular Board Meeting
September 19	Early Release

Item #6 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 6:54 P.M.

Item #7 Reconvene to Open Meeting:

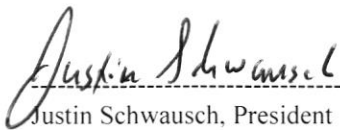
The Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in the Closed Session. The board returned to an open session at 7:32 P.M.

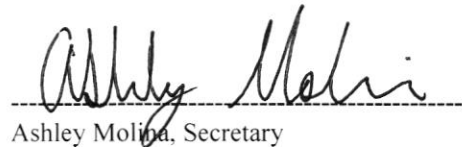
D'Anna Robinson made a motion, with a second from Ross Hendershot to approve the resolution opting out of homeschool participation in UIL activities.

The motion carried 5/1-Ashley Molina abstained from voting.

Item #8 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Schwausch adjourned the meeting at 7:33 P.M.


Justin Schwausch, President
Board of Trustees


Ashley Molina, Secretary
Board of Trustees