

Minutes

~~Special~~ **Monday, August 25, 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
Naomi Brown
Josie Smith-Wright
D'Anna Robinson

Board Member Absent: Ashley Molina left at 6:54pm

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, August 25, 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 7 members present.

Invocation, Pledge, Mission Statement

Josie Smith-Wright lead the invocation, Ross Hendershot lead the Pledge, and Ashley Molina 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 purchase of additional Chromebooks to complete the 1:1 replacement cycle process

Chema Chavez, GISD Director of Technology, went before the board seeking approval to purchase 600 Chromebooks to complete the 1:1 replacement cycle process. Last year no Chromebooks were purchased saving the district about \$307,000. Two campuses keep their Chromebooks in-house, making them last a little more than four years.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to approve the purchase of additional Chromebooks for the replacement cycle process as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

B. Discuss and Consider Action on Budget Amendments

Amanda Smith, GISD Chief Financial Officer, went before the board seeking approval for the year-end budget amendments. This has been the district's practice to bring a year-end budget amendment for the board's consideration, to ensure sufficient coverage in each function in anticipation of our audit. There is sufficient budget within the existing budget so no additional fund balance is necessary to cover any expenditures. This does include the raise that was approved at the July 2025 meeting.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Naomi Brown to approve the budget amendment, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

C. **Discuss and Consider Action on Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credits (Option 3 Agreement) and to Delegate Contractual Authority to the Superintendent**

Amanda Smith presented this agenda item. For the 2025–2026 school year, we delegated contractual authority to obligate the school district under Texas Education Code (TEC) §11.1511(c)(4) to the superintendent, solely for the purpose of obligating the district under TEC, §48.257 and TEC, Chapter 49, Subchapters A and D, and the rules adopted by the commissioner of education as authorized under TEC, 49.006. This included approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit or the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding).

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the agreement and delegate contractual authority to the superintendent, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Adopt the 2025-26 Budget**

Amanda Smith went before the board seeking approval to adopt the 2025-26 Budget which includes the annual budgets for the General Fund, Food Service Fund and the Debt Service Fund.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Ross Hendershot to adopt the General Fund Budget as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Ross Hendershot to adopt the Food Service Fund Budget as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Ross Hendershot to adopt the Debt Service Fund Budget, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

E. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Ordinance to Set the Tax Rate for Tax Year 2025**

Amanda Smith went before the board seeking approval of the Ordinance to Set the Tax Rate for Tax Year 2025.

The recommendation for the tax rate remained at \$0.7308 for the purpose of maintenance and operations and \$0.1442 for the purpose of payment of principal and interest on debts. Combined, the two tax rates result in a total tax rate of \$0.875. The tax rate that will increase is the I & S or debt service. This increase is necessary due to the additional homestead exemptions that were passed during this year's Texas Legislative Session. Those additional homestead exemptions are causing our taxable property values to decrease. With the tax increase as reflected on the notice that was published in the Gonzales Inquirer newspaper on August 14, 2025, our local residents will still experience a decrease in their GISD property tax bill due to the additional homestead exemptions.

GISD is still one of the lowest taxing entities in the surrounding counties as shown on a peer comparison chart.

Naomi Brown asked what we told the community the I&S tax rate would increase during the 2023 bond election informational meetings. The response was that, when the bond was initially presented to the community, the total amount expected was an increase of 8.13 pennies. At an increase of 5.03 pennies since that point in time, we are still under what the community thought we would be when the community said "yes" to the 2023 bond.

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the property tax rate be adopted at a rate of \$0.875. This rate is comprised of \$0.7308 for the purpose of funding maintenance and operation expenditures and \$0.1442 to service the district's debt.

The motion carried 7/0.

Item#4 Reports:

A. 2023 Bond Worskshop

Presented by Casey Sledge, Sledge Engineering/Region 13, GISD bond program manager. Casey presented the list of maintenance requests the administration received from campuses seeking the board's assistance in prioritizing the list for completion since the value of the request list was more than the amount of money the district had to contribute to the projects. The board requested Casey assign estimated dollar values to that list and share it with Dr. Arreola who would share it with the board.

****Let the record show that Ashley Molina left at 6:54pm****

Item #5 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 7:03 P.M.

Item #6 Reconvene to Open Meeting:

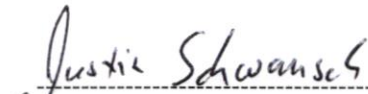
The Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in the Closed Session. The board returned to an open session at 8:30 P.M.

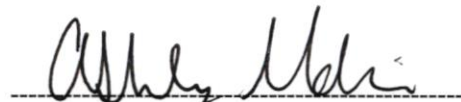
Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Ross Hendershot, to authorize the superintendent to take action, including execution in any written agreements, regarding the special education student matter consistent with the parameters discussed in closed session.

The motion carried 6/0

Item #7 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Schwausch adjourned the meeting at 8:31 P.M.


Justin Schwausch, President
Board of Trustees


Ashley Molina, Secretary
Board of Trustees