

Special Meeting
Friday, August 29, 2025 12:00 PM

GISD Administrative Board Room
1615 St Lawrence St.
P O Box 157
Gonzales, Texas 78629

Agenda

1. Call to Order
Presenter: Board President
 - 1.A. Roll Call
Presenter: Board President
 - 1.B. Invocation:
Presenter: Justin Schwausch, Board President
 - 1.C. Pledge:
Presenter: Naomi A. Brown
 - 1.D. Mission Statement:
2. Public Comments
3. New Business/Action Items
 - 3.A. Consent Agenda
Presenter: Dr. Dana Arreola, Superintendent of Schools
 - 3.A.1. Meeting Minutes
 - 3.A.2. Budget Amendments
Presenter: Amanda Smith, Chief Financial Officer
 - 3.B. Discuss and Consider Action on the GASB 54 Resolution
Presenter: Amanda Smith, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Dana Arreola, Superintendent of Schools
 - 3.C. Discuss and Consider Action to Update Policy FD(L) and FM(L) to opt out of home school participation in UIL Activities, pursuant to Senate Bill 401
Presenter: Dr. Dana Arreola, Superintendent of Schools
4. Adjourn



Board of Trustees

Justin Schwausch
President

Ross Hendershot, III
Vice President

Ashley Molina
Secretary

Naomi Brown

D'Anna Robinson

Josie Smith-Wright

Gloria Torres

GISD School Board Agenda Information Sheet
August 29, 2025

ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Consent Agenda

ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBLE: Dr. Dana Arreola, Superintendent of Schools

RATIONAL SUMMARY:

A. Meeting Minutes: August 25, 2025-Spec Board Meeting

B. Budget Amendments:

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

MOTION: *I move that the Board approve the consent agenda, as presented.*





Minutes
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



Board of Trustees

Justin Schwausch
President

Ross Hendershot III
Vice President

Ashley Molina
Secretary

Naomi Brown

D'Anna Robinson

Josie Smith-Wright

Gloria Torres

GISD School Board Agenda Information Sheet
August 29, 2025

ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider Action on the GASB 54 Resolution

ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBLE: Amanda Smith, Chief Financial Officer;
Dr. Dana Arreola, Superintendent of Schools

RATIONAL SUMMARY: The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 54 requires that a resolution be used should a district's board of trustees desire to commit or "earmark" a portion of its fund balance for a specific purpose.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Approve

SAMPLE MOTION: *"I move that the board approve and adopt the resolution, as presented."*



**Resolution of the
Gonzales Independent School District
Board of Trustees
as Required by GASB 54**

WHEREAS, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") has adopted Statement 54 ("GASB 54"), a standard for governmental fund balance reporting and governmental fund type definitions that became effective in governmental fiscal years starting after June 15, 2010, and

WHEREAS, Gonzales Independent School District ("Gonzales ISD ") implemented GASB 54 requirements, and applied such requirements to its financial statements beginning with the September 1, 2010 - August 31, 2011 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Gonzales ISD categorized according to the following components: Nonspendable (including but not limited to, inventory, prepaid), Restricted (external restrictions), Committed (imposed by resolution), Assigned (general intent for specific use) and Unassigned (residual); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Gonzales ISD Board of Trustees commits a portion of its General Fund Balance to the following:

- \$70,000 is committed for the repair and restoration of district facilities damaged as a result of significant events

The above Resolution is adopted this 29th day of August 2025.

Board President

Board Secretary



Board of Trustees

Justin Schwausch
President

Ross Hendershot III
Vice President

Ashley Molina
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Naomi Brown

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Josie Smith-Wright

Gloria Torres

GISD School Board Agenda Information Sheet
August 29, 2025

ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider Action to Update Policy FD(L) and FM(L) to opt out of homeschool participation in UIL Activities, pursuant to Senate Bill 401

ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBLE: Dr. Dana Arreola, Superintendent of Schools

RATIONAL SUMMARY:

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.

At the August 11, 2025, board meeting, the Board approved a resolution to opt out of homeschool participation in UIL activities. The Board updated policies (FD(L) and FM(L)) provided by TASB will bring GISD into compliance with Senate Bill 13, which goes into effect on September 1, 2025.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Approve

SAMPLE MOTION: *"I move that the board of trustees approve the update to Board Policy FD(L) and FM(L) that will bring our policies in compliance with SB13"*



PROPOSED REVISIONS

Persons Age 21 and Over	The District shall not admit into its public schools any person age 21 or over unless otherwise required by law.
Registration Forms	The student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control shall annually complete registration forms. A student who has reached age 18 shall be permitted to complete these forms.
Proof of Residency	In accordance with administrative regulations, the parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of the student under order of a court shall present proof of residency. The District may investigate stated residency as necessary.
Minor Living Apart	A minor student residing in the District but whose parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control under a court order does not reside in the District shall present a power of attorney or an authorization agreement as provided in Chapter 34 of the Family Code assigning responsibility for the student in all school-related matters to an adult resident of the District.
Person Standing in Parental Relation	
Misconduct	A minor student living apart who has engaged in misconduct that results in any of the consequences found in Education Code 25.001(d) shall not be permitted to attend a District school.
Exceptions	Based on an individual student's circumstance, the Superintendent shall have authority to grant exceptions to the requirement for a power of attorney or authorization agreement and to the exclusion for misconduct.
Extracurricular Activities	The Superintendent shall determine whether a minor student living apart is present in the District for the primary purpose of participating in extracurricular activities.
<u>Students Not Enrolled</u>	<u>A student enrolled in a private school, including a homeschool, shall not be eligible for concurrent enrollment in the District nor for participation in curricular or extracurricular activities. [See EEL and FM]</u>
Nonresident Student in Grandparent's After-School Care	<p>The parent and grandparent of a nonresident student requesting admission under Education Code 25.001(b)(9) shall provide to the Superintendent the required information on the grandparent's residency and complete a form provided by the District describing the extent of after-school care to be provided by the grandparent.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall have authority to approve or deny such admissions requests in accordance with criteria approved by the Board.</p>
"Accredited" Defined	For the purposes of this policy, "accredited" shall be defined as accreditation by TEA, an equivalent agency from another state, or an

accrediting association recognized by the commissioner of education.

**Grade-Level
Placement**

Accredited Schools

The parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of a student enrolling in a District school from an accredited public, private, or parochial school shall provide evidence of the prior schooling outside the District. The student shall be placed initially at the grade level reached elsewhere, pending observation by the classroom teacher, guidance personnel, and the principal. On the basis of these observations and results of tests that may be administered by appropriate District personnel, the principal shall determine the final grade placement.

Nonaccredited
Schools

A student enrolling in a District school from a nonaccredited public, private, or parochial school, including a homeschool, shall be placed initially at the discretion of the principal, pending observation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the principal. Criteria for placement may include:

1. Scores on achievement tests, which may be administered by appropriate District personnel.
2. Recommendation of the sending school.
3. Prior academic record.
4. Chronological age and social and emotional development of the student.
5. Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal.

Transfer of Credit

Accredited Texas
Public Schools

Credit toward state graduation requirements earned in an accredited public school district in Texas shall be transferable and recognized by the District.

Other Accredited or
Nonaccredited
Schools

Before recognizing credit in a course earned in an accredited non-public school, an accredited school outside of Texas, or a nonaccredited school, appropriate personnel shall evaluate a student's records and transcript. The District may require the student to demonstrate mastery of the content or use alternative methods to verify course content for the award of credit.

Transition
Assistance

In accordance with law, when a student who is identified as homeless or in substitute care enrolls in the District, the District shall assess the student's available records and other relevant information to ensure credit, including proportionate credit, is awarded appropriately for all subjects and courses taken prior to enrollment.

[See EI]

Withdrawal

A parent or guardian wishing to withdraw a minor student shall present a signed statement that includes the reason for the withdrawal. A student who is 18 or older may submit a withdrawal statement without a parent's or guardian's signature.

[For District withdrawal of students no longer in attendance, see FEA(LOCAL).]

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Extracurricular Activity Absences

The District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extracurricular activities approved by the Board.

A student shall be allowed in a school year a maximum of 30 absences for extracurricular activities not related to post-district competition; however, a student shall be allowed unlimited absences for participation in post-district, state, or national competition.

[\[For eligibility of a private school student, including a homeschool student, to participate in extracurricular activities, see FD\(LOCAL\).\]](#)

Use of District Facilities

School-sponsored student groups may use District facilities with prior approval of the appropriate administrator. Other student groups may use District facilities in accordance with policy FNAB.