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Gonzales ISD Approves Guardian Plan

Gonzales ISD strives to continue to enhance student and staff safety and security across the district. After the past few months of consideration, research, and collaboration with the Gonzales ISD Police Department, local law enforcement agencies, and other school districts who have implemented similar plans/programs throughout the area and state, the Gonzales ISD Guardian Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees this evening at the regularly scheduled school board meeting.

Next steps in the implementation process will consist of staff members qualifying for the program by adhering to specific requirements by the Texas Department of Public Safety. “Guardians” must pass a psychological exam similar to law enforcement personnel prior to being considered as part of the plan. Each Guardian will undergo intense initial training and evaluations as well as follow-up training alongside the Gonzales ISD Police Department and other law enforcement agencies. Approved guardians will remain confidential as it is a requirement of the plan.

Throughout the process, Gonzales ISD has worked collaboratively with local law enforcement agencies to develop a well-rounded plan to meet the needs of Gonzales ISD. Gonzales ISD appreciates the feedback and guidance from all local law enforcement agencies including the Gonzales County Sheriff's Department and the City of Gonzales Police Department.

Gonzales ISD Chief of Police Ross Gottwald stated, “Teachers and parents have been speaking about the possibility of bringing a Guardian Plan to Gonzales ISD for years. I'm glad we were finally able to put something together to show that we are being responsive to our community's wishes. With a lot of help, we were able to craft a plan that suits both our current and future needs. I will always be a proponent of adding additional layers to our Safety and Security Plan, and I believe what we have done here is a positive step.”

Gonzales County Sheriff Keith Schmidt shared, “As Sheriff of Gonzales County, I take the security and well-being of our children very seriously. In light of the recent tragedies in Uvalde, Sutherland Springs, Santa Fe and others, the potential of a mass shooting in our school district is a real possibility. Therefore, after careful consideration, I believe the Guardian Plan will help to keep our schools safer.”

Gonzales City Police Department Chief Tim Crow stated, “We at the Gonzales Police Department take the safety of our students and school staff seriously. We look forward to continuing to support this program.”