

**Minutes**  
**Monday, January 13, 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:** Ross Hendershot, III, President  
Justin Schwausch-Vice President  
D'Anna Robinson  
Ashley Molina  
Gloria Torres  
Naomi Brown  
Josie Smith-Wright

**Board Member Absent:**

**Item #1. Call to Order**

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, January 13, 2025, 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**

Josie Smith-Wright gave the Invocation, Gloria Torres led the Pledge to the Flag, and Naomi Brown read the Mission Statement.

**Item #2: Public Comments:** There was one public comment by Renee Rathmann. She brought before the board her concerns over a Jr. High boys 8<sup>th</sup> grade A & B basketball game.

**Item #3: Recognitions:**

- GISD Law Enforcement was recognized for National Law Enforcement day and all of their hard work to GISD and our community.
- Jaxson Hill and Nora Camarillo. During the December Community Strategic Planning committee meeting, Jaxson, praised Mrs. Camarillo for the excellent work she does in her classroom. Specifically, for using the technology tools to ensure her students receive her classroom lesson even when they miss school.
- GNA, Tamela Baker- Recognized "Kiwi" Le
- GJHS, Vanessa Gibson- Students of Principals in Human Services Students (Community Service)
- Athletics, Coach Cubit- Academic All District for Football
- Appreciation to the GISD Board of Trustees

**Item #3: New Business/Action Items:**

A. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes: December 9, 2024-Regular Meeting
2. No budget amendments

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

The motion carried 7/0.

B. **Discuss and Consider Action to on the Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention Grant Program Resolution**

Amanda Smith presented to the board the opportunity to once again apply for grant funding from the Office of the Governor to support the cost of the truancy prevention program (including covering the costs of a truancy officer position). GISD had this grant in the 23-24 school year. In order to submit the application for the grant for the 25-26 school year, board approval is needed. If approved our truancy officer and the Grants Director will work together to complete and submit the application. Mrs. Smith, did not have an amount of how much GISD would be funded by the grant. The grant last year was right at \$60,000. If the grant is secure, the expenditures are currently in the general fund and would be able to move that to grant, which will help with goal of reducing the deficit in the general fund budget.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the resolution, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

C. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Annual Financial & Compliance Report for Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2024 and the Engagement Letter from Singleton, Clark & Company, PC for the 2025 Fiscal Year Audit.**

Preston Singleton, Lead Financial External Auditor from Singleton, Clark & Company, shared items from the audit process, the results and went over the report provided to the board.

Mrs. Smith commended the auditors for being so professional and courteous.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the annual financial audit report and engagement letter, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

D. **Discuss and Consider Action on Board Policy CW (Local)**

Amanda Smith presented Board Policy CW (Local) (a new policy to the district) seeking approval from the board. TASB drafted the board policy regarding procedures for naming district facilities. Recent events have led administration to recommend the addition to our policy manual.

The policy includes four criteria when selecting a name for a facility.

1. Local geographical names related to the area where the school or facility is located
2. Names of historical significance to the geographical area or to local, state, or national historic events
3. Names identifying the program housed in the facility or the function of the facility
4. Distinguished educators or Board members who have retired from service to the District

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve board policy CW (local), as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

E. **Discuss and Consider Action on Renaming the GHS Competition Gym**

At the August 19, 2024 special meeting, the board voted to rename the GHS Competition Gym floor after Coach Victor Salazar. Following that action, it was discovered the intention was to rename the entire gymnasium after the former coach, not just the floor. This item will correct the clerical error from the August 19, 2024 motion and will allow us to move forward in finalizing to rename the facility.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch to approve the renaming of the entire GHS Competition Gymnasium after Coach Vic Salazar and authorize the superintendent to finalize interior and exterior signage accordingly.

The motion carried 7/0

F. **Discuss and Consider Action on a Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Education at Texas State University for Clinical Practice (Student Teacher or Internship)**

MaryLynn Ramirez, Director of Human Resources, presented to the board the Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Education at Texas State University for Clinical Practice.

This is a partnership that the district had in place many years ago and would like to reimplement as a teacher pipeline. The partnership will allow GISD to have student teachers from Texas State come to our district instead of other districts, in hopes that this will allow GISD to retain them. The student teachers will be partnered with certified teachers to meet the requirements needed for certification to ensure their success.

The contract has been reviewed by the district's legal team and is waiting to hear back on requested revisions from Texas State. To expedite the ability to move forward, administration is asking and recommending that the board delegate authority to the superintendent to finalize the revisions and execute the contract with the support of our legal counsel.

There is no cost to the district.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve the MOU and authorize the superintendent to finalize and execute the contract, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

G. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Order and Notice of Election for Gonzales ISD School Board, Districts 1 & 2**

Amanda Smith presented the Order and Notice of Election for Gonzales ISD School Board, Districts 1 & 2. The template forms uploaded are from the Secretary of State. One change noted, the date on the Notice of Election uploaded in Board Book reads May 5, 2025 and it should be May 3, 2025. A new form with the correct date has been provided for signature.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Ashley Molina to approve the Order and Notice of Election for GISD Single Member District 1 & 2 as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

H. **Discuss and Consider Action to Grant Authority to the Superintendent to Contract with the Gonzales County Election Administrator for the May 3, 2025 Elections**

Amanda Smith went to the board seeking permission to utilize the services of the Gonzales County Election Administrator for the May 3, 2025 Elections. In addition to increased efficiency for district staff, utilizing the same polling place as the county makes it more efficient and easier on voters to access the polls, while also satisfying the requirements to hold the joint election.

Naomi Brown made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson to grant authority to the superintendent to enter into a contract with the Gonzales County Election Administrator for the May 3, 2025 school board election.

The motion carried 7/0

I. **Discuss and Consider Action on the GASB 54 Resolution**

Amanda Smith brought to the board another donation to help support the new CTE facility. This resolution will ensure that the donated funds are "earmarked" for the donors intended purpose and may only be utilized with the approval of the school board.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Ashley Molina to approve and adopt the resolution, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

J. **Discuss and Consider Action on the Annual Investment Report, Investment Policies, Investment Strategies and Related Resolution**

Amanda Smith presented the Annual Investment Report as well as seeking adoption of the Resolution found on the last page of the investment report that was provided. The report covers the most completed 23-24 fiscal year, and is a legal requirement that it is presented to the board and a resolution must be passed.

The resolution states that the board has reviewed the investment policy and administration is not recommending any changes to the policies at this time. The policies were reviewed in the Fall of 2023 and are TASB standards for investments.

GISDs portfolio grew immensely due to the bond proceeds that were received in June 2024. Interest earning in the General Fund grew 1.19 million as compared to 1.17 million last year.

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to accept the annual investment report and approve and adopt the resolution, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

**Item#4 Reports:**

A. **Academic Report**

Dr. Rachelle Ysquierdo presented the Academic Report

B. **Technology Report**

Chema Chavez presented a report on recommended updated to board policies CQ and EIA regarding artificial intelligence and its use in the educational setting. This information will be brought back in February for further action.

An AI translator will be piloted at North Avenue for one teacher to see how this will assist with teaching in the classroom.

C. **Financial & Quarterly Investment Report**

Presented by Amanda Smith, Acting Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer

D. **Strategic Vision 2022-2027 Update**

GISD hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual community update on December 12, 2024 for the 5year strategic plan.

Out of 73 action steps in the plan only 3 do not have progress.

Some suggestions for revisions were brought from community members and will be reviewed. An implementation, recommendation will be brought to the board in February for action.

1. Action Step 1.1.1: Provide a marketing and communications toolkit to school and department leaders to facilitate their ability to share successes, demonstrate innovative practices, and communicate with external and internal stakeholders.

- Revise to clarify that any district stakeholder can submit information on accomplishments

2. Action Step 1.3.2: Improve equity and access by ensuring communication is shared in English and Spanish through all communication platforms.

- Translations only needed on printed communications as social media and the internet provide automatic, user-friendly translation services.

3. Action Step 2.1.2: Implement a prekindergarten through third grade literacy initiative. Increase the percentage of students on grade level by third grade with 100% of third grade students on grade level within five years.

- Revise to reflect 15% growth from Dec24 percentages; reasonable growth goal is 5% per year

4. Action Step 2.1.4: Increase the percentage of graduates that meet the criteria for CCMR from 63% to 100% by August 2027.

- Revise to read 88% as the goal (5% per year from original performance metric)

5. Action Step 3.1.3: Host teachers through TIEC (J-1 Teacher Program) for hard to fill positions and retain the teachers in these positions for the 3-year term.

- Consider removing

6. Action Step 4.1.2: Identify and commit to a data management system to maintain the financial planning data and cross-train on its use.

- Revise to include a review opportunity to ensure the software selected continues to be in the district's best interests

7. Action Step 4.2.1: Refine the financial procedures manual so that it is meaningful and interactive for end users; At least once annually send out a survey to GISD Employees (email group) to gather feedback on the usefulness of the manual.

- Revise to state the survey should be sent to only Skyward Finance users

8. Action Step 4.7.3: Develop a routine staff development internal training program for all technical staff.

- Consider removing

9. Action Step 4.8.3: Create a database to efficiently match community resources with student and campus needs.

- Consider removing

#### **E. 2023 Bond Program Monthly Update**

Jennifer Black w/Sledge Engineering presented the update.

11.7% spent to date of the total bond budget.

### **CTE / Ag Barn**

1. Final Construction Documents complete this month with staff feedback

1. final design this month
2. bidding February 2025
3. Board Award April 2025

2. Geotech borings & lab work COMPLETE

3. Water/Wastewater utility extensions submitted to City Engineer

4. Address request submitted

### **Maintenance Projects**

Weaver & Jacobs

#### **1. GMP#1: Safety/Security Package**

1. Final Construction Documents complete in February 2025
2. Bidding March 2025
3. Board Award April 2025
4. Construction Summer 2025

2. **GMP#2: Remodel Package**

1. Final plans complete in May 2025
2. Targeting Board June 2025 (after GMP1 known)
3. Construction to Fall 2026

**Maintenance Projects**

ISD Direct

**Roofing Project:**

1. GHS Roofs: 95% complete
  2. Old Admin Building (adjacent to HS) power washing 100% complete
  3. EAC Roof: 95% complete
  4. GNA Roof: 100% complete
  5. JHS: 30% complete
  6. GES: 80% complete
- Final completion all roofs tracking for February 2025

**Item #5 Superintendent Report:**

- Enrollment: 2547
- ADA: 93.23% (the second highest attendance rate in the last 5 years in December)
- Mrs. Smith praised our custodial team for their great work and dedication and heightened attention to fogging and disinfecting our campuses and classrooms.
- The TAPR report will be presented in February.
- North Avenue 3<sup>rd</sup> graders advanced to the next bracket in the Read for Four Challenge. Sitting in the top 68 out of 301 schools.

**Item#6 Board Business:**

**Board Correspondence:**

- Thank you note from Lena Hernandez
- Thank you from Vic Salazar

**Dates of Interest:**

<i>January</i>	
January 15	First day to apply for a place on the ballot for the May election
January 20	Student/Staff Holiday
February 10	Regular Board Meeting

**Item #7 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 7:10 P.M.

**Item #8 Reconvene to Open Meeting:**

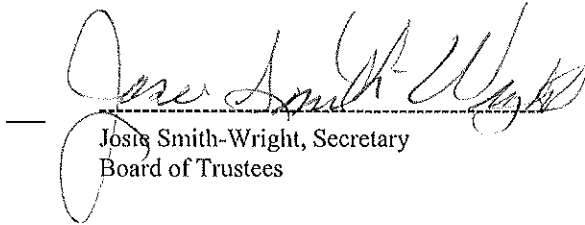
The Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in the Closed Session. The board returned to an open session at 9:07 P.M.

**Item #9 Adjourn**

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 9:08 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President  
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary  
Board of Trustees

