

Minutes
Monday, March 10, 2025
Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.
Location of Meeting: GUSD Administrative Board Room, 1615 St Lawrence St.
Gonzales, Texas 78629

Board Members Present: Ross Hendershot, III, President
D'Anna Robinson
Ashley Molina
Gloria Torres
Naomi Brown
Josie Smith-Wright-Secretary

Board Member Absent: Justin Schwausch-Vice President

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, March 10, 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 6 members present.

Invocation, Pledge, Mission Statement

Martin Torres- GJHS Student gave the Invocation, Alexis Padilla-GJH Student led the Pledge to the Flag, and Michael Modgling-GJHS Student read the Mission Statement.

Item #2: Public Comments: There were no public comments

Item #3: Recognitions:

- GPA
 - Yaretzi Martinez
 - Riley Izaguirre
 - Baylee Molina
 - Anaveah Carrizales
 - Natanael Suzrez
 - Aaron Orduna
 - Tatum Vega
 - Kaylynn Helms
- Staff members
 - Stephanie Vela
 - Abby Gonzalez
- GE
 - Billy Jones 1st Grade-Mrs. Blundell
 - Kamryn Martinez-1st Grade-Mrs. Moore
- GNA
 - Haven Guerrero-3rd Grade
 - Felix Matamoras-4th Grade
 - Zayda Zavala-5th Grade
- GJHS
 - Region Band concert and Clinic
 - Isabela Hataway
 - Giovanni Rodriguez
 - Angelica Eureste
 - Hayley Gonzalez

- Kamryn Harkey
- Braden Miller

Lions Club Peace Poster Contest

- Audrey Woods-1st place
- Samuel Leon-2nd place
- Flora Almazan-3rd place
- Lucero Gallegos-Honorable Mention
- Kyle McLain-Honorable Mention

Black History Month Celebration Participants

- Shalaiyah Clack
- Jaliyah Jackson
- Kamari Smith
- Kyleigh Webb

- GHS
 - OAP Students
- Student Athletes
 - Powerlifting Program
 - Regional Qualifiers
 - Midaya Cantu
 - Mariah Mendoza
 - Alize Miller
 - Regional Champion and State Qualifier
 - Jazmin Juarez
 - Regional Runner up and State Qualifier
 - Madison Sampleton
 - Qualifiers
 - Jesus Maldonado
 - Martin Cantu
 - Gary Lewis III
 - Omar Borjon-State Qualifier
- Maintenance Team
- School Business & Operations Teams (SBO Day 2/26/2024)
- Coach Hamilton

Item #4: Adjourn to Closed Session

The board will recess this open session and convene in a closed meeting to discuss items on the agenda. The Board may conveniently meet in such closed or Executive Session or meeting, concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Texas Government Code chapter 551, including, but not limited to:

[Section 551.071](#): Consultation with Attorney;
[Section 551.074](#): Personnel Matters; Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee: Closed Meeting from a hearing.

The board went into a closed session at 6:01 P.M.

Item #5 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 6:30 P.M.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Ashley Molina to approve the hire and the superintendent contract for Dr. Dana Arreola

The motion carried 6/0

Item #6: New Business/Action Items:

A. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Consent Agenda

1. Minutes: February 3, 2025-Regular Meeting
February 10, 2025-Special Meeting
February 12, 2025-Special Meeting
February 13, 2025-Special Meeting
February 17, 2025-Special Meeting
2. No budget amendments:
 - Increase Function 61 by \$3,450: Donations for Special Prom Family Engagement Event (Ryan Lee, Attoyac Energy, Pilot Club of Gonzales, Episcopal Church, and D&G Auto)
 - Increase Function 11 by \$1,405: Use of prior year funds donated in memory of Bill Weaver to support the NNDCC

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

The motion carried 6/0.

B. Discuss and Consider Action on updates to Board Policies: Policy Update 124 (Local), EIA (Local) and DFE (Local)

Amanda Smith presented to the board updates to board policies 124 (Local), EIA (Local) and DFE (Local)

- TASB Policy Update 124: Updates recommended by the Texas Association of School Boards to ensure alignment with current legal standards and best practices;
- EIA (Local): Update to reflect the district's nine-week grading period; and
- DFE (Local): Update to reflect current staffing.

Gloria Torres made a motion, with a second from Ashley Molina to approve board policies, as presented

The motion carried 6/0

C. Discuss and Consider Action on Purchase of HVAC Equipment and Installation Services

Gene Kridler went before the board seeking approval to purchase ne HVAC Equipment that supports the GNA Cafeteria and the service agreement. Administration recommends replacing the unit.

HVAC Unit: \$262,799
Service Agreement: \$6,516

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Naomi Brown to approve the purchase and delegate authority to the superintendent to finalize the purchase, as presented.

The motion carried 6/0

D. **Discuss and Consider Action on Pre Kindergarten Tuition Rate for the 2025-26 School Year**

Amanda Smith went before the board seeking approval to adopt the tuition rate for the 2025-2026 school year for the Pre Kindergarten tuition rate program.

Recommendation to increase the annual rate by \$50. In the last four years the tuition has not been increased.

At \$5,200 a year GISD is still below the estimated cost per student and the overall average cost to operate the program. GISD can not make a profit by operating this program.

Naomi Brown made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to set the tuition rate for the tuition-based prekindergarten program at \$5,200 for the 2025-24 school year pending approval from the Commissioner of Education, as needed.

The motion carried 6/0

E. **Discuss and Consider Action on Purchase Materials Testing for the CTE Building and AG Barn as Part of the 2023 Bond Program**

Casey Sledge from Sledge Engineering/Region 13 presented to the board information about this process.

Terracon was selected as the most qualified professional engineering firm to perform geotechnical borings at the new CTE Building and AG Barn site.

This proposal is to provide materials testing during the construction of the project. Building Code requires certain materials testing and some of the work is desired for quality control via 3rd party testing. Materials testing is designated as a professional service per State law and must be selected based on qualifications, not price.

Administration finds the proposed pricing structure and agreement within industry standards and expectations. Note this work is performed on a unit basis and will be paid based on actual work performed. The proposal includes a fee estimate of \$80,037 based on the expected number of tests. Administration recommends the Board authorize an additional \$15,000 to cover possible additional testing. The total of \$95,037 is under our budgeted amount for this work.

Josie Smith-Wright asked if there were other firms that submitted bids and would have liked to view them all. Casey replied that state law prohibits for getting comparable pricing because of professional services. He stated we could consider other firms qualifications.

Terracon was selected for being the most qualified.

D'Anna Robinson made a motion, with a second from Naomi Brown to approve the purchase of materials testing from Terracon Consultants, Inc up to the amount of \$95,037 for the CTE Building and AG Barn as part of the 2023 Bond Program, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate the final terms of the contract and determine how many tests actually be performed, as presented.

The motion carried 6/0

F. **Discuss and Consider Action on Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the CTE Building and AG Barn as Part of the 2023 Bond Program**

Casey Sledge went before the board with a pricing proposal for the CTE/AG Facility. This is a planned expenditure to be funded from the 2023 Bond Program.

In February 2024 the Board selected Weaver & Jacobs as the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the 2023 Bond Program. Weaver & Jacobs solicited & reviewed bids for the project on 2/18/25. A total of 221 bids were received. The coverage and response from trade contractors was very good. The quality and experience of trade contractors is high.

Once awarded and under contract, it is anticipated Weaver & Jacobs will mobilize within 3 weeks to begin the project and reach substantial completion within 18 months. If awarded at this Board Meeting, substantial completion is expected to be on or before September 2026.

BUDGET INFORMATION

These projects are to be funded from the 2023 Bond Funds and interest earnings.

The bid summary is as follows:

- Base Bid = \$19,173,278
- Alternate #1 Stainless Steel Railings = \$13,876
- Alternate #2 Additional Parking Lot = \$276,167
- Alternate #3 Infill Paving at Ag Barn = \$60,275

Total = \$19,523,596

All Weaver & Jacobs fees are consistent with their contracted amounts. Included within the recommended award amount is \$1,175,000 in Allowances for planned work items and Contingencies for unforeseen items to enable the project to proceed with minimum disruption. All Allowance and Contingency funds will be tracked, and all unused funds will be returned to GISD.

Notably, the 2023 Bond Program called for a 26,000 square foot CTE Building. The proposed building is 31,782 square feet and includes the Auto Tech space as discussed during the Schematic Design phase. During Schematic Design, staff indicated this additional square footage would require an additional \$2M from Operational Funds.

The proposed GMP including all 3 recommended Alternates can be funded entirely from 2023 Bond proceeds and interest earned. No operational funds are needed to Award the GMP.

Further, the 2023 Bond Program Budget still contains over \$1.5M in funds designated for expected upcoming costs including permits, shop equipment, furniture, materials testing, code inspections, new marquee sign, technology items needed, new computers, greenhouse, cattle trailers, and health & nursing equipment.

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Naomi Brown to approve the GMP for the CTE/AG Facility to Weaver & Jacobs and authorize the superintendent to finalize agreements, as needed.

The motion carried 5/0

D'Anna Robinson abstained

Item#7 Reports:

A. **Academic Report**

Dr. Rachelle Ysquierdo, Executive Director of C&I, presented the Academic Report

B. **Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR)**

Dr. Rachelle Ysquierdo, Executive Director of C&I, presented the TAPR Report

C. **Formative and Summative January Review for the District Improvement Plans and Campus Improvement Plans**

Dr. Rachelle Ysquierdo, Executive Director of C&I, presented the districts DIP and CIP plans

B. **Financial Report**

Presented by Amanda Smith, Acting Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer

E. **2023 Bond Program Monthly Update**

Presented by Casey Sledge, Sledge Engineering/Region 13

- CTE/AG Barn
 - Final Construction Documents presentation
 - GMP Award this Agenda
 - County permitting underway for driveways utility lines
- Maintenance Projects-Weaver & Jacobs
 - Bidding March 2025
 - Board Award April 2025
 - Construction Summer 2025
 - Primarily Security Cameras this phase
 - Doors/hardware moved to GMP#2 due to lead times
 - GMP #2: Remodel Package
 - Doors/hardware/vestibules, remodels this package
 - Final Plans complete in Summer 2025
 - Targeting Board August 2025
 - Construction to Fall 2026
 - ERRC Testing
 - Maintenance Projects-ISD Direct
 - Roofing
 - Final Inspection walk this week
 - Tracking to finish **\$250k under budget**
 - HVAC
 - HVAC North Avenue
 - Playgrounds
 - GNA & GEs playground pricing underway
 - Tracking Summer 2025

Michael Martinez from VLK presented the CTE & AG Barn Update design process

C. **Superintendent's Report**

Presented by Amanda Smith, Acting Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer

Item#8 Board Business:

Board Correspondence: Roque Thompson , for supporting the Black History program.

Dates of Interest:

March 17-21	Spring Break
March 24	Staff Development/Student Holiday
April 1	Kingsville & Texas State Job Fairs
April 4	Special Rodeo at JB Wells
April 14	Regular Board Meeting
April 21	1 st day of Early Voting for the May election
May 1	FFA Banquet
May 2	Senior Decision Day

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 8:06 P.M.

Item #9 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 9:58 P.M.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to approve the 2025 Guardian members list as presented.

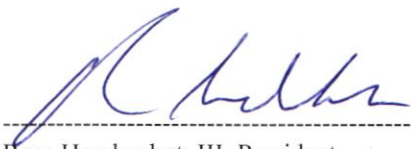
The motion carried 6-0

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Naomi Brown to approve the administrator contracts as presented.

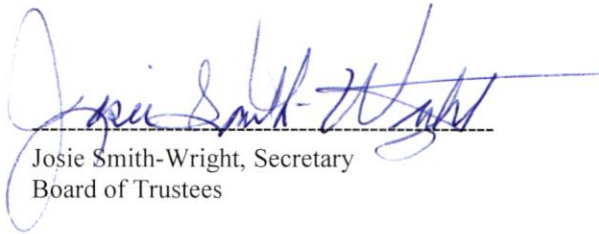
The motion carried 6-0

Item #10 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 9:59 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
Board of Trustees