

Minutes
Monday, April 14, 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-Secretary

Board Member Absent:

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, April 14, 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

Karsyn Rathmann-5th grade Student gave the Invocation, Levi Shelton-3rd grade Student led the Pledge to the Flag, and Cole Carrales-5th grade Student read the Mission Statement.

Item #2: Public Comments:

Yesi Melchor, high school student went before the board with her concerns of Academic Dishonesty in On Ramps courses.

Item #3: Recognitions:

- GPA
 - JLG
- Staff members
 - Valerie Kuntschik
- GE
 - Milo Perkins-Kinder
 - Kenna Alcala-1st Grade
 - Brayden Almaguer-2nd Grade
 - Staff Member
 - Ms. Petre
- GNA
 - Arlo Bostick-3rd Grade
 - Abigail Martinez-4th Grade
 - Camila Licea-5th Grade
 - Staff Member
 - Ms. Reyes
- GJHS
 - 8th grade Girls District Champs-
 - Basketball
 - Track
- GHS
 - Cheerleaders
- School Librarians

- Paraprofessionals
- Assistant Principals
- Bus Drivers
- Administrative Professionals

Item #4: New Business/Action Items:

A. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Consent Agenda

1. Minutes: March 10, 2025- Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2025- Board Training (Team of 8)
2. No budget amendments:
 - Increase Function 61 & "Other Local Revenue" by \$100: Donations for Special Prom Family Engagement Event (Mayor Steve Sucher)
 - (Roll over from 2023-24) Increase Federal Revenue \$168,757, Function 81 \$14,730, and Function 53 \$194,160: Bring unused 2023-24 E-Rate funding and associated expenditures into budget (fiber project; per contract approved on 2-12-24 vendor must complete by 9-30-25)

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

The motion carried 7/0

B. Discuss and Consider Action to approve and sign the Gonzales ISD Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials

Dr. Ysquierdo went before the board seeking approval and signature for the Gonzales ISD Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials.

In accordance with Texas Education Code 31.004, local education agencies (LEAs) are required to certify annually to the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Commissioner that students have access to instructional materials covering all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for all required subjects except physical education.

The form was completed offline and presented to the board for signature. If approved, the form will then be submitted through a Qualtrics survey.

D'Anna Robinson made a motion, with a second from Naomi Brown to approve the Gonzales ISD Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials for the 2025-2026 school year.

The motion carried 7/0

C. Discuss and Consider Action to approve the Gonzales ISD House Bill 3 Board Goals for Literacy, Math, and College Career Military Readiness (CCMR)

Dr. Ysquierdo went before the board seeking approval of the Gonzales ISD House Bill 3 Board Goals for Literacy, Math and College Career Military Readiness (CCMR). House Bill 3 amends Texas Education Code to add Sec.

11.185 and 11.186 to include plans that target early childhood literacy and math proficiency and college, career, and military readiness. To meet the requirement of being specific and quantifiable, each board outcome goal needs to contain a baseline (current state), a target (future state), a population (which students will be impacted), and a deadline (month and year by when the current state will equal the future state). Annual targets must be included for each goal in addition to the five-year deadline target. It is recommended that school boards adopt progress measures to create alignment between district outcome goals and the board-adopted plans.

- Early childhood goals focus on annual growth.
- 3rd grade Reading and Math STAAR performance,
- Targeted goals for student groups under closing the gap.
- Professional development for Pre-K -3 on campuses not meeting goals with support for special programs
- CCMR plan includes annual growth charts on college career and military readiness indicators
- With board approval we will begin implementation to assure compliance reporting and bring yearly updates to the board for review.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to approve the Gonzales ISD House Bill 3 Board Goals for Literacy, Math, and College Career Military Readiness.

The motion carried 7/0

D. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve Representatives from Lone Star Investment Pool

Amanda Smith went before the board seeking approval to update the authorized representatives at the district's investment pool adding Dr. Dana Arreola. This shift can only be granted by the board and is done by approving the resolution included with the action item.

Naomi Brown made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch to pass and approve the authorized representatives add form, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

E. Discuss and Consider Action on a Board Resolution Extending Depository Contract for Funds of Independent School Districts Under Texas Education Code, Chapter 45, Subchapter G, School District Depositories

Amanda Smith went before the board seeking approval for an extension with Sage Capital Bank for the bank depository contract.

Senate Bill 754 amended Texas Education Code to allow the school district depository contract to be extended a total of three (3) two-year terms (prior law only allowed two (2) additional two-year terms).

GISD began a new contract with Sage Capital Bank on September 1, 2021, it is currently eligible for extension.

During the initial bid process Sage Capital Bank was the front runner. There are no fees for the districts service and customer service is superior, very prompt and professional. The contract in place now expires August of this year. If approved, the bank depository contract with Sage Capital Bank will be extended through August 31, 2027.

Under TEC, 45.204(b) if you are employed by Sage Capital Bank, the board member(s) should abstain from the voting process.

Ms. Smith-Wright asked if we went out for bids to extend the contract. Mrs. Smith replied that when we went out for bid 4 years ago we did, but other other entity charged fee whereas Sage Capital Bank does not.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to approve the resolution extending the contract with Sage Capital Bank, as presented.

The motion carried 5/0/2; Naomi Brown and Ross Hendershot abstained from voting.

F. **Discuss and Consider Action on Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Nixon-Smiley Consolidated School District for the Cooperative Disciplinary Alternative Education Campus**

Amanda Smith presented to the board the Interlocal Agreement with Nixon-Smiley Consolidated School District for the Cooperative Disciplinary Alternative Education Campus.

This is the last year that we anticipate bringing this Interlocal Agreement to the board. Renovations to the west side of our admin building are scheduled to begin this year for an in house DAEP program, that was approved with our 2023 bond. Those renovations are anticipated to be complete next summer. If it all stays on schedule those programs will begin the 2026-2027 school year.

The district's agreement with NSCISD for the DAEP Cooperative will expire at the end of the current school year. The interlocal agreement that was enclosed provides service for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. Hendershot asked what the current estimated cost for this year is. Mrs. Smith replied with \$119, 042 and that includes 2,842 student days. \$55/per day for any overage that we incur or top of the 2800 days. Waelder ISD pays GUSD \$40/day for any day that we transport 1 or more of their students. Waelder ISD drops their students off at GUSD for transport to DAEP. On an annual basis that's about \$5,000 they pay us. It's about a quarter of a million dollars to this agreement.

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

The motion carried 7/0

G. **Discuss and Consider Action on the Purchase of Playground Equipment for the GE and GNA Campuses from The KYA Group**

Casey Sledge with Sledge Engineering/ESC Region 13 went before the board seeking approval for the purchase of playground equipment for GE and the GNA Campuses.

As part of the bond maintenance projects, the district's administration recommends approving the enclosed purchase of new playground equipment for the Gonzales Elementary and Gonzales North Avenue campuses. Work is expected to begin in June 2025 & be completed in August 2025.

Proposal includes:

- Demo of select old equipment
- New engineered wood fiber fall protection
- New basketball goals
- New shade structures
- New Gaga Ball pits
- New benches
- New Playground units
- New Swings at GES
- New Soccer Goals at GNA
- Repaired basketball court at GNA
- New coating on basketball courts

BUDGET INFORMATION:

- GNA Cost = \$219,781
- GE Cost = \$278,602
- Owner Contingency = \$40,000
- TOTAL = \$538,383

The equipment will be purchased using the TIPS purchasing cooperative and bond funds.

Naomi Brown asked about warranty on the equipment. Casey replied that there is manufactory warranty on the playground (possibly 10yrs), installation has a 1year warranty.

Josie Smith-Wright asked if the need for all slides would be necessary at North Avenue. This new equipment would be on the South Side playground. Casey stated that the principals were involved in the process for picking the equipment.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson to approve the purchase, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

H. **Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for District-Wide Safety & Communication Improvements as part of the 2023 Bond Program**

Casey Sledge with Sledge Engineering/ESC Region 13 presented to the board the first GMP #1 (phase 1) purchase with the maintenance side of the bond program.

In February 2024 the Board selected Weaver & Jacobs as the Construction Manager at Risk for the 2023 Bond Program. This scope of work is referenced in the Bond Program as Maintenance GMP#1 and includes new Building Identification Signage for all existing buildings and 441 new security cameras across the District. The new cameras utilize advanced artificial intelligence (AI) for surveillance and motion alerts, including facial recognition abilities. The accompanying software allows fully integrated use across multiple devices with secure log-ins. The cameras include a 10-year license for GISD.

Weaver & Jacobs opened bids for the project on 03/27/25. The coverage and response from trade contractors was very good. The quality and experience of the trade contractors is high. Once awarded, Weaver & Jacobs will mobilize in May and work through the summer on all campuses. Substantial completion is expected in October 2025.

BUDGET INFORMATION

These projects are to be funded from the 2023 Bond Funds. The GMP total for this scope is \$1,615,911 and includes \$200,000 in Owner and Contractor contingencies for unforeseen items to enable the project to proceed with minimal disruption. All Contingency funds will be tracked, and all unused funds will remain with GISD.

Ashley Molina asked if the campuses would be placed at every school and GISD facility and Mr. Sledge stated that they would be at every campus including the admin. building and Operations building.

Ashley Molina also asked what would happen if the server would go off-line? Would they still record? Mr. Sledge stated that there would certainly be back up but he could not go into further detail with that at the moment.

Mr. Hendershot asked if there would be actual servers recording the information. The cameras have a built in to control however Technology chooses.

Ms. Smith-Wright asked if every campus would have access to be able to see what's going on. Mr. Sledge stated it could be every where and even accessed from your phone or laptop if they have access to some or all of the campuses.

Amanda stated that who has access to the cameras would be an administrative procedure that the Technology Director and the Superintendent would work together to fine tune.

Ms. Smith-Wright asked who was awarded the bid. Mr. Sledge stated they did receive 3 bids for the installation of the cameras. Once the board awards the GMP Weaver and Jacobs will get the award and then they will close out and start putting their subcontractors under contract.

Naomi Brown made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$1,615,911 to Weaver & Jacobs for District-Wide Safety & Communication Improvements as part of the 2023 Bond Program, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate the final terms of the contract.

The motion carried 6/0/1

D'Anna Robinson abstained

Item#7 Reports:

A. **Curriculum Report**

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

B. **Financial & Quarterly Investment Report**

Presented by Amanda Smith, Acting Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer

C. **Board Members Continuing Education Credits/SBOE Framework for School Board Development Report**

Presented by Ross Hendershot, Board President

Mr. Hendershot announced each board member that has completed, exceeded, or is deficient in the required continuing education.

The following board members have exceeded the required continuing education hours:

- Ashley Molina
- D'Anna Robinson
- Gloria Torres
- Josie Smith-Wright
- Justin Schwausch

The following board members are deficient in the required continuing education hours;

- Naomi Brown
- Ross Hendershot

These board members have scheduled training to timely complete the required continuing education hours.

E. **2023 Bond Program Monthly Update**

Presented by Casey Sledge, Sledge Engineering/Region 13

CTE/AG Barn

- Pre-Construction Meeting 4/16
 - Protocols / Communication / Schedule / Process
- Bi-Weekly Construction meetings
- City/County coordination
- Groundbreaking Ceremony

UPCOMING:

- Job trailer on site
- Site grading
- Utilities

Maintenance Projects-Weaver & Jacobs

- GMP#1: Safety/Security Package
- Board Award April 2025
- Construction Summer 2025
- Security Cameras & Communications system (P.A.)

- GMP #2: Remodel Package

Maintenance Projects

- Doors / hardware / vestibules, remodels this package
- Final plans complete in Summer 2025
- Targeting Board August 2025
 - *may separate into 2 bid packages
- Construction to Fall 2026
- ERRC Testing April

ISD Direct Roofing:

Maintenance Projects

- Awaiting roofing material manufacturer final inspection
- Plan to add discovered repairs needed at JHS using cost savings Playgrounds:
- GNA & GES playground Award April
- tracking Summer 2025

C. Superintendent's Report

Presented by Amanda Smith, Acting Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer

Item#8 Board Business:

Board Correspondence:

Dates of Interest:

April 4	Special Rodeo at JB Wells
April 14	Regular Board Meeting
April 18	Student/Staff Holiday
April 21	Staff Dev/Student Holiday
April 21	1 st day of Early Voting for the May election
May 1	FFA Banquet
May 2	Senior Decision Day
May 5	Military Signing Day; Top 10% Banquet
May 8	Band Banquet
May 9	Bad Weather Day
May 12	Athletic Banquet @JB Wells
May 16	Bad Weather Day
May 18	Senior Parade through Town
May 19	Senior Walk & Lunch; Scholarship Ceremony
May 21	Senior Awards Day

May 22	Early Release
May 23	Staff Dev/Student Holiday
May 23	Graduation Practice at Apache Field (8:30); Graduation
May 26	District Closed

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 6:51 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 8:31 P.M.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to offer Richard Varela a teacher contract. The motion carried 7-0

Item #9 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 8:32 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
Board of Trustees