

**Minutes**  
**Monday, May 10, 2021**  
**Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Location of Meeting: North Ave Intermediate Campus, Band Hall Gonzales Texas 78629**

**Board Members Present:** Glenn Menking, President  
Gloria Torres, Vice President  
Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary,  
Sandra Gorden  
Sue Gottwald  
Ross Hendershot, III  
Justin Schwausch

**Board Member Absent:**

**Item #1. Call to Order**

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, May 10, 2021, at the North Ave. Intermediate Campus, Band Hall, Gonzales, Texas. President, Glenn Menking called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

A quorum was declared with seven board members present

**Invocation, Pledge, Mission Statement**

Ross Hendershot, III gave the Invocation, Justin Schwausch led the Pledge to the Flag, and Sue Gottwald read the Mission Statement.

**Item #2 Public Comments:** Public Comment from Ashley Molina, regarding the Pre-Kinder program.

**Item #3: Recognitions.**

Superintendent John Schumacher asked Ms. Robin Trojcak to present the recognitions for the month. Ms. Trojcak announced that GISD wanted to recognize the Education Foundation for the donation of \$1,300 that was given to district campuses. The donation was in honor of the continuous hard work the teachers put forth, particularly for this year. The District also recognized all the teachers and staff for Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week, celebrated the week of May 3-7, the Nurses for National School Nurse Day, celebrated May 12, 2021, and School Principal Day celebrated on May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The District wanted to say Thank You to all for their commitment to the students and their success.

**Item #4: New Business/Action Items**

A. Discuss and Consider action to approve the Consent Agenda

1. Minutes: April 12, 2021, Regular Board Meeting and April 28, 2021, Special Board Meeting
2. Budget Amendments:

Ms. Amanda Smith, CFO, shared information regarding the Budget Amendments presented.

There were no comments or questions.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second by Sue Gottwald, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

**B. Issuance of the Certificate of Election and Statement of Officer**

It was stated that the newly elected and appointed Board members, before taking the oath or affirmation of office and entering upon the duties of office, shall sign the required officer's statement. The statement shall be retained with the official records of the office. The officers were presented with the Statement of Officer.

Mr. Menking made a motion with a second by Justin Schwausch for the board to approve the recommendation that the Certificate of Election is presented to Josie Smith-Wright (District 4), and Sandra Gorden (District 7) and that they sign the Statement of Officer form as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

Mrs. Pena, administrative assistant to the Superintendent and a notary public, read the statement of officer and had each member swear or affirm the statement. (Forms were signed after the affirmation)

**C. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Administration of Oath of Office**

After the officer's statement had been signed and the certification of the election issued but before entering into duties of an elected official, the board member is required to take the Oath or affirmation of office. Based on the requirements it was recommended that Josie Smith-Wright (District 4) and Sandra Gorden (District 7) take the Oath of Office to serve as Gonzales ISD School Board Trustees.

Mr. Menking made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to administer the Oath of Office to Josie Smith-Wright (District 4) and Sandra Gorden (District 7) by a Notary Public as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

Mrs. Pena, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and a notary public read the Oath of Office and had the member respond with a swear or affirm to the statement. (Forms were signed after the affirmation)

**D. Discuss and Consider action to vote on the Election of Officers**

This item was tabled until after the closed session. Board returned to this item after the closed session.

Mr. Menking made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to appoint Ross Hendershot, III as President. The motion carried 7/0.

Ms. Gloria Torres made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to appoint Justin Schwausch as Vice President. The motion carried 7/0.

Ms. Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden to appoint Sue Gottwald as Board Secretary. The motion carried 7/0.

**E. Acknowledgment of Conflict of Interest policy BBFA (Legal) and (Local) in connection with the application for agreement for limitation on the appraised value of the property for school district maintenance and operations taxes from Brush Country Solar, LLC.**

Mr. Robert Pena from Texas Energy Consultants, LLC was allowed to speak on behalf of Brush Country Solar, LLC. He spoke of where this project would take place, and how this company worked, and what it was offering.

Mr. Menking reminded the board what this Acknowledgment was regarding. He reminded the Board about the Information that was provided to the Board regarding the Affidavit disclosing substantial interest in a Business Entity or Real Property. The affidavit disclosed interest in property and the acknowledgment of Individual Trustees of the Gonzales ISD Board of Trustees of Conflict of Interest Policy. The Board president explained again what this item was about and polled each Board member to state whether or not they had any conflict of interest with this project.

There was No Conflict of Interest.

- F. **Discussion and Possible Action to accept an Application for Value Limitation Agreement from Brush Country Solar, LLC pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code; authorize the Superintendent of Schools to review the application for completeness and submit the Application to the Comptroller of Public Accounts; and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to approve any request for extension of the deadline for action by the board of trustees beyond the 150 day review period, as may be required.**

Mr. Schumacher, Superintendent of Schools reminded the board that the Executive Director of Economic Development from the office of Sara Leon & Associates was there to answer any questions relating to the Agreement from Brush Country Solar, LLC pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code.

There were no questions or comments

Ross Hendershot, III made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to accept an Application for Value Limitation Agreement from Brush Country Solar, LLC pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code; authorize the Superintendent of Schools to review the application for completeness and submit the Application to the Comptroller of Public Accounts; and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to approve any request for extension of the deadline for action by the Board of Trustees beyond the 150 day review period, as may be required. The motion carried 7/0

- G. **Discuss and possible action to retain the law firm of Sara Leon & Associated, PLLC and Financial Consultant, Jigsaw School Finance Solutions, LLC to assist the district in the review and processing of the Application for Value Limitation Agreement from Brush Country Solar, LLC pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code.**

The Board President reminded the Board that this was also the same as before regarding the information that had previously been shared. He also asked if there were any questions regarding this item. There were no questions or comments.

Sue Gottwald made a motion with a second from Sandra Gorden to retain the law firm of Sara Leon & Associates, PLLC, and financial consultant, Jigsaw School Finance Solutions, LLC to assist the district in the review and processing of the Application for Value Limitation Agreement from Brush Country Solar, LLC, pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

(Items EFG were held up until Mr. Pena arrived to discuss the items before action was taken)

- H. **Discuss and Consider action to set the Pre-Kindergarten Tuition Rate for the 2021-22 School Year.**

Ms. Amanda Smith, CFO, shared with the Board that this item was a continuation of the action taken on April 12, 2021, to expand the Pre-Kindergarten program offering to include a tuition-based option. Ms. Smith explained the tuition rate must be approved by the Commissioner of Education and could not exceed the proposed rate published annually by TEA. The administration recommends a rate of \$4,800 to the Commissioner. There were a few questions and comments, which were addressed.

Ross Hendershot, III made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to set the tuition rate for the tuition based Pre-Kindergarten program at \$4,800 for the 2021-2022 school year pending approval from the Commissioner of Education, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

- I. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Local Policy (EHBG)**

Ms. Amanda Smith, CFO, explained to the Board that this policy addresses the expansion to the Pre-Kindergarten program that the district is offering, which includes the tuition-based option. The first paragraph was modified to include the statement - (free for all employees) – in the first sentence.

No questions or comments.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Ross Hendershot, III, to approve the Policy EHBG (local) as amended. The motion carried 7/0.

J. **Discuss and Consider Action to the Fuel, Lubricant, and Oil Contract**

Ms. Ashley Wilke, Business Manager, explained to the Board that the district had solicited and received two proposals, one from Mansfield Oil Company and the other from Schmidt Sons. It was requested that the Board award the bid to Schmidt & Sons.

A question of clarification was asked & addressed about the bid amount for the fuel.

Sue Gottwald made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to award the Fuel, Lubricant, and Oil Contract to Schmidt and Sons, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

K. **Discuss and Consider Action to Select an Engineering /Architectural Firm for the Gonzales High School Practice Field Turf and Lighting Project**

Mr. Gene Kridler shared with the Board that it was being recommended to enter into negotiations with PBK. It is requested to allow the Superintendent to negotiate a contract with PBK. This is only to begin negotiations. It was recommended to approve PBK Sports

There were a few questions that were addressed.

Sue Gottwald made a motion with a second from Gloria Torres that the Board of Trustees select the firm of PBK Sports as the most highly qualified provider of services for the Gonzales High School Practice Field Turf and Lighting project and authorize the Superintendent to attempt to negotiate a contract pursuant to Texas Government Code 2254.004 and to present the contract to the Board of Trustees for consideration, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

L. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve a Contract and Budget Amendment for the Gonzales High School Fire Suppression System Project.**

Amanda Smith, CFO shared with the Board that the district was ready to enter into a contract for the replacement of the Gonzales High School Sprinkler/Fire suppression system. It was recommended that the Board contract with Ranger Builders, LLC.

There were a few questions and comments that were addressed.

Justin Schwausch made a motion with a second from Ross Hendershot, III to approve the contract with Ranger Builders, LLC and associated budget amendment, as amended. The motion carried 7/0.

M. **Discuss and Consider action to Appoint Crystal Cedillo, Gonzales County Tax Assessor-Collector, as the individual, to calculate and prepare the 2021 No-New Revenue and Voter-Approval Tax Rates for the Gonzales ISD.**

Ms. Amanda Smith shared the information with the Board stating that this is an annual item. The legislature requires all taxing entities to specify the person responsible for calculating the 2021 No-New Revenue and Voter-Approval Tax Rate Calculations. The district would like to appoint Crystal Cedillo, Tax Assessor-Collector, as the individual to calculate and prepare the 2021 No-New Revenue and Voter-Approval Tax Rates for Gonzales ISD.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion with a second from Gloria Torres to appoint Crystal Cedillo as the individual to calculate and prepare the 2021 No-New Revenue and Voter-Approval Tax Rates for the Gonzales ISD, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

N. **Discuss and Consider action to approve the Resale Bid of Property Suit#7167 Property R10456.**

Mr. Schumacher shared with the Board that Gonzales ISD received notice regarding the Resale Bid of Property suit#7167. Gonzales Commissioner's Court approved the bid on April 26, 2021, pending the approval of the other entities.

Ross Hendershot, III, made a motion with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to accept the bid as submitted for property tax suit #7167, Property R10456 as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

O. **Discuss and Consider action to approve the Resale Bid of Property Suit#6996 Property R18924**

Mr. Schumacher shared with the Board that Gonzales ISD received notice regarding the Resale Bid of Property suit#6996. Gonzales Commissioner's Court approved the bid on April 26, 2021, pending the approval of the other entities.

Sue Gottwald made a motion, with a second from Ross Hendershot, III, to accept the bid as submitted for property tax suit #6996, Property R18924 as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

P. **Discuss and Consider Action regarding the Nomination/Endorsement of individual to TASB Board of Directors Region 13, Position C.**

Superintendent Schumacher shared information with the Board regarding the nomination/endorsement to the TASB Board of Directors, Region 13, Position C. Texas Association of School Boards provided the district with written notice that a position currently held will soon be available.

There was no action on this item.

**Item#5 Reports:**

A. **Financial Report**

Amanda Smith, CFO, shared the financial report with the Board. Ms. Smith spoke on several items consisting of (1) Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance as of March 31, 2021 (2) Monthly Expenditure Level Comparison (3) Tax Collection Status Report as of March 31, 2021. CFO also explained the ESSER I, ESSER II, ESSER III

CFO also shared a copy of the financial report and the ESSER 1, II, and III sheets.

There were a few questions and comments that were addressed.

(The board went back to the action items E, F, and G as Mr. Pena had arrived to share his information)

B. **Superintendent Reports.**

1. Enrollment-Attendance  
The Superintendent shared the enrollment information with the board.
2. GISD Reading Academy Report  
Ms. Shelnett and Ms. Clark shared the information regarding the Reading Academy Report and HB3.
3. Long-Range Facilities Planning Overview was shared by Robin Trojcek and Gene Kridler
4. STAAR/EOC Testing Dates - A report was given by Ms. Needham, District Testing Coordinator.
5. Ron Clark Report- Ms. Melissa Skinner, Chief Academic Officer, and her group gave a small skit with music to show and explain the exciting time they had during the Ron Clark Academy Workshop that they had attended.
6. Summer Hours for District- Ms. Haley Ratliff reported to the Board that the district would observe a 4-day work week for most staff, except for the auxiliary staff, who will work a regular 5 day work week beginning June 1 – July 31, 2021.

**Item#6 Board Business**

Board Correspondence: None

Dates of Interest

Month of May	
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> -May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 4 – May 7, 2021	STAAR/EOC Testing
May 10, 2021	Board Meeting
May 11-May14, 2021	STAAR/EOC Testing
May 12, 2021	National School Nurse Day
May 12, 2021	Public School Paraprofessional Day
May 26, 2021	End of Sixth Six Weeks
May 27, 2021	Teacher PD/Planning/Prep Days
May 28, 2021	Graduation
May 31, 2021	Memorial Day/Staff Holiday

**Item #7 Personnel Matters, Section 551.074, and Property Matters: Section 551.072, Attorney Matters Section 551.071 & Security Matters: Section 551.076 and Texas Government Code 551.002-Consultation with legal counsel regarding Application for Value Limitation Agreements pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Property Tax Code.**

The Board adjourned into a closed session Monday, May 10, 2021, at 6:54 P.M. for personnel matters and returned to the open session at 8:58 P.M.

Josie Smith Wright made a motion, with a second from Sue Gottwald, to approve the proposed FTE for the Director of H.R. as presented by the HR Dept. and the Superintendent. The motion carried 7/0.

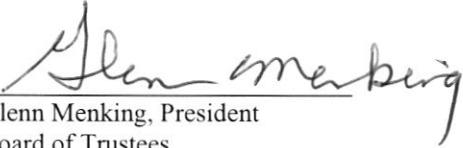
Josie Smith Wright made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to approve Michelle Turek as GPA Principal as presented by the HR Dept. and the Superintendent. The motion carried 7/0.

Josie Smith Wright made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to approve the Teacher Contracts as presented by the HR Dept. and the Superintendent. The motion carried 7/0.

Return to the item for the Reorganization of the board.

**Item #8 Adjourn**

Ross Hendershot, III made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to adjourn. The motion carried 7/0. The meeting adjourned Monday, May 10, 2021, at 9:02 P.M.

  
Glenn Menking, President  
Board of Trustees

  
Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary  
Board of Trustees