

Minutes
Monday, June 12, 2023
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
Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
D'Anna Robinson
Ashley Molina
Gloria Torres
Sandra Gorden

Board Member Absent:

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, June 12, 2023, 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

Gloria Torres gave the Invocation, D'Anna Robinson led the Pledge to the Flag, and Ashley Molina read the Mission Statement.

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

Item #3: New Business/Action Items:

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

1. Budget Amendments
2. Minutes: May 8, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and May 11, 2023 Canvassing Special Meeting

Amanda Smith reviewed the budget amendments. There were three adjustments to the Budget Amendments that Mrs. Smith presented to the board.

General Fund

- Move \$50,000 from Function 11 to Function 23: GJHS Intercom System
- Move \$23,392 from Function 11 to Function 81: Architect/Engineer for Press Box Project
- Move \$6,000 from Function 11 to Function 35: Stipend for Food Service Supervisor

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

B. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve a Purchase and Budget Amendment for Perimeter Fencing at Gonzales High School and Gonzales Junior High School**

Veronica Johannsen presented to the board a Budget Amendment and Purchase for Perimeter Fencing at GHS and GJHS to support the district's safety and security initiative.

The purchase will be made through a TASB BuyBoard purchasing cooperative contract.

A budget amendment for the amount of \$218,867 is being requested for this project.

We received a bid from Weaver & Jacobs and Foster.

Dr. A reminded the board that GJHS is planning on getting a soccer program that Coach Rivera is working on and this project will help with the safety issue that was presented in a previous board meeting.

Mr. Hendershot asked for a grading system and was told that we did not have a grading system that we went with the vendor that gave the district the least expensive quote. That also included black coating on the fencing.

Mr. Hendershot asked that in the future he would recommend to always include a grading chart, ask for references/recommendations for any bids that are submitted. He is also stated that a low bid is great but may cost us more if they do not provide a quality service.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to approve the purchase and budget amendment, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

C. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the purchase of Math and Science K-8 instructional Materials for the 2023/2024 school year.**

Ms. Bell presented to the board the approval to purchase STEMscopes instructional resources K-8 in Math and Science. Curriculum and Instruction, Principals, Instructional Coaches and Teachers met for 2 meetings to vertically align our district with this resource to support the math and science standards that our students are tackling every year. This resource also supports the gap years and the updated adoption cycle.

A question was asked whom all attended the meetings that were invited by their principals and curriculum coaches.

Mr. Schwausch asked if this was a new program or if it is something that we have in place now. Ms. Bell explained how this resource will help all teachers to be successful with their students. This program will align students to have the same pattern as they move from grade levels.

Dr. A spoke on how he gave Ms. Bell this major task as well as the campus leaders and instructional leaders was to have a solution for every area of need for next year with out adding to the general budget. Ima Funds will be purchasing these instructional materials.

Mrs. Molina asked if Ms. Bell knew the success rate that other districts have had with this program. Ms. Bell stated that we purchased this program in pieces and started it at North Avenue and at the K-2 campus in the second semester and the teachers loved it. This purchase was a request from teachers not the admin.

Mrs. Robinson asked if teachers would still be using Invision or would this replace that program. Ms. Bell explained how this new program works.

Ms. Smith-Wright asked if the kids were struggling in Math and Science if they were still struggling with this program. Ms. Bell stated that we did not have the whole program last year and we didn't start it until January in K-2 and at North Avenue in November. Ms. Smith-Wright asked who would do the professional development for the program and Ms. Bell stated that STEMscopes would come in to do the professional development in August.

Ms. Gorden was asking about the Online part of the program and how that could be difficult for some students.

Mrs. Molina asked about the program we have in place now.

Ms. Bell said this a very scripted program that tells teachers exactly what to do and say.

Mrs. Torres asked what schools have used the program and have had success.

Ms. Nerada and Mrs. Gibson spoke highly of the program.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from D'Anna Robinson, to approve purchase of the math and science K-8 instructional materials for the 2023-2024 school years as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Gonzales ISD District of Innovation Plan Amendment**

Amanda Fullilove presented to the board the amendment to seek approval to the GISD District of Innovation Plan. This plan removes the stipulation that uncertified individuals hired for a teaching position receive state-based pay.

This would possibly be 10 individuals who have not finished paperwork and are in the classroom teaching. Salary would be going from \$33,000 to \$50,000. Change is possible to be able to retain teachers.

Ms. Gorden asked if these individuals are working on getting their certificate. Dr. A stated that they were.

Mr. Schwausch if these individuals were being kept at the 1-year probation period. Dr. A stated that we would keep the probation the same.

Mrs. Torres asked if we had new hires come on that are not certified that follow the DOI would they follow the same pay and Dr. A stated we would give them the salary that is decided from the meeting. He explained that the Grow Your Own program is different. She also asked about Greg Ramirez and if he would fall into the new DOI, Dr. A said he would look into it but would rather not discuss personnel during the open meeting.

Mrs. Robinson asked if these individuals were working on their alternative certification.

Board members disagreed with this DOI because it would be unfair to the teachers that are certified but do agree that a raise is necessary.

No motion was made and will be discussed further.

E. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the FFA travel to the National Convention in Indianapolis November 1-4, 2023.**

Jennifer Ervin presented to the board to seek approval to attend the FFA National Convention.

There were no questions or comments.

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, to approve the FFA travel to the National Convention in Indianapolis November 1-4, 2023 as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

F. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Interlocal Agreement between The University of Texas at Austin and Gonzales Independent School District for the 2023-2024 OnRamps Program.**

Mr. Basha presented to the board to seek approval to continue the OnRamps program with UT for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mr. Schwausch asked if there was a way for GISD to pay for the cost instead of parents having to pay.

Dr. A asked how many students took advantage of the OnRamps program. Mr. Basha replied that we had 85 students enrolled this year, and next year we have 96 enrolled, ranged between Jr. and Sr.'s.

Mr. Hendershot asked how courses each student is taking. Mr. Basha replied that it's 96 students enrolled in 1 or more courses which counts for 267 enrollments. This would be about 2 ½ courses per student on average. Mr. Hendershot stated that the cost per course would be \$149 per enrollment or \$99 for free and reduced.

Ms. Smith-Wright asked if the \$149 was per class.

Several board members asked if there was any way that if the parents paid in full that they get reimbursed if the students passed the course or get the cost reduced per class. Members of the board requested that an agenda item be added to a future meeting to allow the board to discuss and consider paying the cost of the tuition or these courses.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the Interlocal Agreement, with UT Austin for the 2023-2024 OnRamps Program as presented.

The motion carried 7/0,

G. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the TASB Board Policy Update 121, affecting GISD local policies.**

Dr. A presented to the board the TASB Board Policy Update 121.

No questions or comments were made.

Ross Hendershot made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres to move that the board add, revise, or delete (LOCAL) policies as recommended by TASB Policy Service for Update 121 as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

H. **Discuss and Consider Action to Enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Leon Alcalá PLLC for Chapter 313 Agreement Reporting and Maintenance of Existing Value Limitation Agreements Under Chapter 313 of the Property Tax Code.**

Amanda Smith presented to the board to seek approval of the professional services agreement with Leon Alcalá PLLC. This is a renewal of the service that we are already receiving. The district has determined that this is the best provider.

The district's budget is not affected by this Staling Solar, LLC and Cannon Solar, LLC pay the fees for the service.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden to approve and enter into the agreement, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

I. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve a Purchase and Budget Amendment for Playground Equipment for Gonzales Elementary.**

Amanda Smith presented to the board the need for new Playground Equipment due to the increasing number of students who need inclusive playground equipment at Gonzales Elementary. GISD would be utilizing a TASB BuyBoard purchasing cooperative contract. Gonzales Elementary does have an accessible piece of playground equipment that is very old and the maintenance team had to cut a piece out to make it accessible to our wheelchair-bound students. All students would be able to use the equipment.

Mr. Hendershot asked if the funding for this item is within the existing budget and Mrs. Smith replied that it was.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Ashley Molina to approve the purchase and budget amendment, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0.

Item#5 Reports:

A. **Financial Report**

The Financial Report was presented by Amanda Smith, CFO.

B. **Campus Academic Achievement Report**

Brandi Bell presented to the board the Academic Achievement Report per campus.

D. **OnRamps Report**

Mr. Basha presented current snapshot data for students enrolled in OnRamps at Gonzales High School.

E. **Grading Guidelines Update for 2023/2024**

Brandi Bell presented the updated grading guidelines for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Going from a 6week calendar to a 9week calendar

E. **Superintendent's Reports**

Presented by Superintendent, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda

197 students are attending summer school.

May 2022 Enrollment-2590

May 2023 Enrollment-2540

May 2022 Attendance Rate-91.25%

May 2023 Attendance Rate-91.79%

Item#6 Board Business:

Board Correspondence: Thank you card from Dr. Strozier.

Dates of Interest:

***Added Items**

June 12, 2023	Board Meeting
June 14 th -June 16 th	Summer Leadership-San Antonio, Texas

**Move board meeting up a week in July. The board meeting will be held July 6th.

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 6:59 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 9:21 P.M.

Item #9 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 9:22 P.M.

Ross Hendershot, III, President
Board of Trustees

Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
Board of Trustees