

Minutes
Monday, August 26, 2024
Special 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
Naomi Brown

Board Member Absent:

Item #1. Call to Order

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, August 26, 2024, 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, D'Anna Robinson led the Pledge to the Flag, and Gloria Torres 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 Budget Amendments**

Amanda Smith Proposed 2023-2024 Budget Revisions from the General Operating Fund (Year end function-balancing budget amendment).

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Ashley Molina, to Approve the Budget Amendments as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

B. **Discuss and Consider Action on the Creation of a Special Finance Committee**

Dr. A presented to the board the need for a Special Finance Committee.

Following Board Policy BDA, administration recommends the board create a special advisory committee to assist in balancing the general fund balance.

Board policy state: "The President shall appoint members to special committees created by the Board to fulfill specific assignments, unless otherwise provided by Board action. These committees may include District personnel and citizens. The function of committees shall be fact-finding, deliberative, and advisory, but not administrative. Special committees shall report their findings to the Board and shall be dissolved upon completion of the assigned task or vote of the Board.

The President of the Board and the Superintendent shall be ex officio members of all Board committees, unless otherwise provided by Board action."

“A committee that includes less than a quorum of board members is not subject to the Open Meetings Act if it serves a purely advisory function, with no power to supervise or control public business.”

Ashley Molina made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to create a special committee, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

C. **Discuss and Consider Action to Adopt the 2024-2025 Budget**

Amanda Smith presented the 2024-2025 Budget.

No later than August 31st, the Board must legally adopt the annual budgets for the General Fund (Fund 199), the Food Service Fund (Fund 240), and the Debt Service Fund (Fund 599). Each of the three budgets must be adopted separately.

During the 86th Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1495. This bill requires school districts to reflect in their proposed budget a line item specifically for expenditures for “directly or indirectly influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of legislature or administrative action.” The estimated amount budgeted in the 2024-25 is \$1,018 compared to \$1,018 estimated to have been expended in 2023-24.

*Budget for statutorily required public notices is included in function code 41. This information is for reference only. During the 85th Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 622. SB 622 requires school districts to reflect in their proposed budget a line item specifically for expenditures to publish all statutorily required public notices in the newspaper by the school district or their representatives. The line item must include a clear comparison of the budgeted expenditures and the actual expenditures for the same purpose in the prior year, as required under Texas Local Government Code 140.0045. Those figures have been included below for reference.

2024-25 Budget:	\$6,700.00
2023-24 Expenditures (at the time of budget adoption)	\$4,581.15
Increase (Decrease) from Prior Year:	\$2,118.85

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to adopt the General Fund budget, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to adopt the Food Service Fund budget, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Gloria Torres, to adopt the Debt Service Fund budget, as presented.

The motion carried 7/0

D. **Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Ordinance to Set the Tax Rate for Tax Year 2024**

Amanda Smith presented the 2024 Ordinance to Set the Tax Rate for Tax Year 2024.

The required notice was published in the newspaper on August 15, 2024.

The Tax Code requires the tax rate be set by an ordinance, resolution, or order. The ordinance must be read and a record vote recorded in the meeting minutes.

Because the proposed total tax rate exceeds the M&O no new revenue tax rate, the sample motion language below is required to be read aloud as part of the motion and a super majority vote (at least 5 of 7 board members voting in favor of the ordinance) is required.

Josie Smith-Wright made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch to move that the property tax rate be adopted at a rate of \$0.8634, which is effectively a 19.95% increase in the tax rate. This tax rate is comprised of \$0.7308 for the purpose of funding maintenance and operation expenditures and \$0.1326 to service the district's debt.

The motion carried 7/0

E. **Discuss and Consider possible action to approve the TASB Endorsement Form**

Dr. A presented to the board a TASB Endorsement Form from Bryan Holubec seeking GISDs board members candidacy nomination to fill a position on the TASB Board of Directors.

Justin Schwausch made a motion, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright to approve Bryan Holubec's nomination to the TASB Board of Directors.

The motion carried 7/0

Item #5 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 5:51 P.M.

Item #6 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 7:36 P.M.

No motions were made.

Item #7 Adjourn

There being no further business, President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 7:37 P.M.



Ross Hendershot, III, President
Board of Trustees



Josie Smith-Wright, Secretary
Board of Trustees