

Minutes
Monday, August 29, 2022
Budget Adoption Meeting 5:00 P.M.
Administration Office, Board Room, 1615 St. Louis St., Gonzales, Texas 78629

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

Board Members Absent:

Item #1 Call To Order:

The Board of Trustees of the Gonzales Independent School District met Monday, August 29, 2022, at the Administration Office, Board Room. President Ross Hendershot III called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

A quorum was declared with seven board members in attendance

Invocation, Pledge, Mission Statement

Justin Schwausch gave the invocation. Sandra Gorden led the pledge to the flag and Glenn Menking read the mission statement.

Item #2 Public Comments: None

Item#3 Recognitions:

Ms. Robin Trojcek, Executive Director of Accountability and Student Support Services, recognized students from the High School Campus that participated in the TIEC program. These students were recognized for their participation in the Texas International Education Consortium (TIEC) program. The students were awarded a certificate with a \$50 amazon gift card. Cooper LaBuhn, one of the students, shared a little of his experience in this program regarding the sharing of key aspects of each other's lives and experiences with the students from Mishima, Japan.

Item # 4 New Business/Action Items

A. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve Budget Amendments:

Ms. Amanda Smith, CFO, gave the board a brief explanation of the budget amendments for both the General Fund and the Food Service Fund which were presented. After some explanation of the budget amendments, the CFO also explained that it was recommended that the district seek approval from the board to amend the budget as necessary to comply with the requirements of the new accounting standard.

There were some comments and questions which were addressed.

A motion was made by Glenn Menking, with a second by Justin Schwausch, to approve the budget amendments, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

B. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) members for the 2022-2023 School Year.

Ms. Wanda Fryer, Director of Community and Student Services, requested approval for the School Health and Advisory Council (SHAC) Committee. Ms. Fryer shared the 2022-2023 list of members with the board. It was mentioned that an individual had been left off the list and needed to be added to the list. The list was amended to add Penny Christian.

A motion was made by Sue Gottwald, with a second by Gloria Torres, to approve the Gonzales ISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) membership for the 2022-23 school year, as amended. The motion carried 7/0.

C. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the 2022-2023 Coach Bus Driver Rate of Pay

Ms. Haley Ratliff, Chief Human Resources Officer, requested approval for the 2022-2023 Coach Bus Driver Rate of Pay. Per policy code DEA, changes to the rate of pay must be approved by the board.

After some comments and questions, a motion was made.

(The change is from .10 cents a mile, with a minimum of \$15.00 a trip, to a \$25.00 flat rate for trips under 60 miles and a \$50.00 flat rate for trips over 60 miles.)

A motion was made by Justin Schwausch, with a second from Gloria Torres, to approve the 2022-2023 Coach Bus Driver pay, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

D. Discuss and Consider taking possible action to report an educator to the State Board of Educators (SBEC) for contract abandonment

Ms. Haley Ratliff, Chief Human Resources Officer, requested approval to report an educator to the State Board of Educators (SBEC) for contract abandonment. Ms. Ratliff shared with the board the information regarding contracts governed by Chapter 21. It was shared that an educator may resign no later than 45 calendar days before the first day of the school year. If an educator resigns after the 45-day rule, they may only resign with the consent of the Superintendent or Chief Human Resources Officer. Some situations are considered "good cause". However, if the resignation is denied, the employee is to report to work. If the educator fails to report to work after being notified that his/her resignation has not been accepted, the district may pursue sanctions against the educator's certificate by reporting the matter to the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC). At this time, the Chief Human Resources Officer is seeking approval to report such an educator. The Superintendent also gave a brief explanation as to why the district was requesting approval to report to (SBEC).

A motion was made by Sandra Gorden, with a second from Sue Gottwald, to approve the recommendation to report the educator, Rosalinda Perez, to the State Board of Educators for contract abandonment based on a finding that no "good cause" exists for abandonment of the contract, as presented. The motion carried 6/1 with Ms. Smith-Wright voting against.

E. Discuss and Consider Possible Action to Approve the Free Breakfast and/or Lunch Incentive Program for Licensed Law Enforcement Officers

Ms. Robin Trojcek requested for the board to approve the Free Breakfast and/or Lunch incentive program for licensed law enforcement officers. She explained to the board that the district was seeking to incentivize and reward the law enforcement officers who are serving the district by increasing security at district campuses as well as acknowledge the significant service they provide to our public education system.

Before a motion was made, the board secretary read the Resolution.

A motion was made by Glenn Menking, with a second from Josie Smith-Wright, to approve the Free Breakfast and/or Lunch Incentive Program for licensed law enforcement officers, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

F. Discuss and Consider Action to Adopt the 2022-2023 Budget

Amanda Smith, CFO, requested approval for the adoption of the 2022-2023 Budget for the General Fund, Food Service Fund, and Debt Service Fund. Ms. Smith presented the Board with budget summaries which broke out the budget into the familiar format from prior presentations. Ms. Smith spoke of the General Fund, Food Service, and Debt Service. It was mentioned that each motion needed to be made separately per fund.

There were some comments and questions that were addressed.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to adopt the General Fund Budget, as presented. Motion carried 7/0.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Sandra Gorden, to adopt the Food Service Fund Budget, as presented. Motion carried 7/0.

Glenn Menking made a motion, with a second from Sue Gottwald, to adopt the Debt Service Fund Budget, as presented. The motion carried 7/0.

G. Discuss and Consider Action to Approve the Ordinance to Set the Tax Rate for Tax Year 2022.

Amanda Smith, CFO, came to seek approval from the board for the 2022 Tax Rates.

Ms. Smith reported to the Board that there had been no change to the recommended tax rate since the Budget Workshop held on August 15, 2022. The recommended rate for Maintenance and Operations is \$0.9185, and the rate for payment of principal and interest on debts is \$0.0698. Combining these two rates results in a total tax rate of \$0.9883, which is a decrease of 10.44 pennies from the 2021 tax year and 19.17 pennies in the most recent 5 years.

Ms. Smith mentioned that the Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet was also included in the information that was provided to the board. This is a new legal requirement that has to be attached as an appendix to the tax rate ordinance or the budget. It was recommended by the CFO to attach it to the tax rate ordinance because it is the worksheet that drives the numbers for the budget. However, the board was given the choice of where to include this worksheet because, either way, the district would comply with the law.

Ms. Smith again repeated the recommendation of a total tax rate of \$0.9883 which is a decrease of almost 10.5 pennies from the current year.

There were some comments and questions that were addressed.

The Ordinance to set Tax Rate Resolution was read by the board secretary before a motion was made.

Sandra Gorden made a motion, with a second from Justin Schwausch, *that the property tax rate is increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.9883, which is effectively a 0.2077 percent increase in the tax rate. This tax rate is comprised of \$0.9185 for funding maintenance and operation expenditures and \$0.0698 to service the district's debt. The motion carried 7/0.*

Item #5 Closed Session:

The Board adjourned into a closed session at 5:37 P.M.

Item# 6 Open Session:

Board came back to the open session at 6:46 P.M.
There were no motions from the closed session.

Item#7 Adjourn

President Hendershot adjourned the meeting at 6:46 P.M.



Ross Hendershot III, President
Board of Trustee



Sue Gottwald, Secretary
Board of Trustee