

**Laura Salazar Flores** Board President  
**Claudia I. Rodriguez** Board Vice President  
**Arlean Murillo** Board Secretary  
**Daniel Castillo** Board Member  
**Armando Cano** Board Member  
**Travis L. Dempsey** Superintendent

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*DRAFT 10/05/2023*  
*FINAL 10/12/2023*

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
*For September 21, 2023*

1. The Gadsden School Board convened in regular session at 5:01 p.m. President Flores presided the meeting held at the Desert Trail Elementary School Cafeteria.

Introduction  
And Roll Call

Members present: Laura Salazar Flores, Arlean Murillo, and Claudia Rodriguez.

Armando Cano arrived at 5:12 p.m.

Daniel Castillo was absent.

Pledge &  
Mission Statement

2. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the New Mexico flag was led by Amaris Wilson and Diego Mora.

Superintendent's  
Report

3. Superintendent District updates and recognitions:
  - A. Principal Avila from Chaparral Middle School introduced Mrs. Rina Viramontes, sponsor the CMS Mesa Team and Dr. Acosta. Mrs. Viramontes recognized the two teams that placed 1<sup>st</sup> Overall and one team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall.
  - B. Student Representative-Elias Aguilar, a senior from Chaparral High School, reported that homecoming was last week and students had fun partaking in homecoming activities, such as the Annual Lobo Trail, powder puff game, and bonfire. They celebrated the week with spirit days, door decorating, and a pep rally. The volleyball team has been doing great this season, as well as the boys soccer team. Ms. Garcia, Pro Start Culinary Teacher, has been giving her students on-the-job experience and teaming up with the cafeteria staff to have students gain experience in the kitchen. She stated that the clubs have been seeing great student participation and recruitment this year. Chaparral High School is honored to be starting their 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program. It has allowed for teachers to create great afterschool programs for students to engage in. The students will be taking the PSAT and SAT in October. They are looking forward on how well their sports teams do for the

remainder of the fall season. The seniors will have the chance to visit New Mexico State University in October for the Aggie experience and are excited to explore their future campus. The seniors will be organizing their own Halloween celebration with movie watching, dressing up in costumes, and eating delicious food. Lastly, the school was placed on lockdown Tuesday afternoon due to safety concerns in the area; however, releasing students became chaotic but were able to stay well organized.

4. Mr. Cano apologized for his tardiness. He mentioned a tragedy struck in El Paso, TX losing two teenagers in a drive-by shooting. He reminds parents to always supervise their children.

Mrs. Rodriguez reported that it's always amazing to watch the great things that are happening in our district. She enjoyed watching the students perform on stage with buckets as instruments and CMS Mesa Team winning 1<sup>st</sup> Overall. She thanked Elias for her report on Chaparral High School. She stated she participated at the Santa Teresa Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament last Friday. She appreciates everything they do to give back to the students. She thanked the parents that participate in the Coffee with the Principal and Coffee with the Superintendent and encourage more parents to participate.

Mrs. Murillo thanked Principal Barajas for her hospitality. She stated that she enjoyed the student's performance. She congratulated the CMS Mesa Team. She wished Board Vice President Rodriguez and Mr. Rapanut, Director for SPED, a Happy Birthday. She stated that she has attended some of the events at the schools and has seen an increase in parent involvement. She encourages students to celebrate in a fun and safe way. She stated during the lock down how she was impressed to see how the staff came together and didn't hear anything negative from transitioning the children to their parents. She reminds students to be safe as their celebrating homecoming week.

President Flores thanked Principal Barajas and her staff for their hospitality. She thanked the music students for their performance. She reminds students to have fun and celebrate safe during homecoming. She also reminds parents to come out and support the athletes. She stated that she attended the naming of the Gadsden Football Field "Salvador Gonzalez" on Friday at the Gadsden football game.

She welcomed the new band director from Chaparral High School, Eric Short.

Personnel Report

5. The personnel report is included for the Board's information with no action required.

Approval of the Agenda

6. Mr. Cano made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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| School Board Minutes  | 7. Mr. Cano made a motion to approve the September 7, 2023 Special School Board Minutes and the September 7, 2023 Regular School Board Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.  |
| Consent Agenda  | 8. Mrs. Murillo made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.  |
| Open Forum  | 9. Open Forum: None  |
| Action<br>Legislative Requests  | 10. Action Items:<br>A. Mrs. Murillo made a motion to table the Legislative Requests. Motion carried unanimously.  |
| Legislative Primer  | B. Mrs. Murillo made a motion to approve the Legislative Primer. The board agreed to host a Legislative Primer Event on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at Desert Pride Academy. Motion carried unanimously.  |
| Discussion<br>Santa Teresa HS<br>Partial Re-Roof<br>Project           | 11. Discussion Items:<br>A. Mrs. Vela, Construction Coordinator/Project Manager, presented information on the Santa Teresa HS Partial Re-Roof Project.   |
| Santa Teresa<br>Elementary Partial<br>Re-Roof Project                 | B. Mrs. Vela presented information on the Santa Teresa Elementary Partial Re-Roof Project.   |
| Student Physicals   | C. Mr. Wohlgenuth, Director for Secondary Schools, presented information on the Student Physicals. He gave an over view on the current requirements associated with student physicals and considered ways to encourage more students to schedule annual physical exams.  |
| Next Steps for<br>Sunland Park<br>Elementary and<br>Mesquite Building | D. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the Next Steps for Sunland Park Elementary and Mesquite Elementary Building. He further explained the purpose of the discussion for input on future uses of the two facilities.   |
| Employee Leave Buy<br>Back Proposal                                   | E. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the Employee Leave Buy Back Proposal. He further explained a potential buy back program for GISD employees to support retention and recruitment of quality staff, recognize employees for their dedication to the district, and encourage the proper use of leave to support student achievement. |
| Upcoming Board<br>Meetings and Events                                 | 12. Superintendent Dempsey announced the upcoming board meetings and events:<br>A. Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, October 12, 2023 (Deadline for Item Requests Monday, October 2, 2023)<br>B. NMSBA Fall Region VII Meeting October 17 @ 5:30 – Gadsden High School   |

Adjourn

13. Mr. Cano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Arlean Murillo, School Board Secretary

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Laura Salazar Flores, School Board President

Minutes taken by MaryLou Delgado