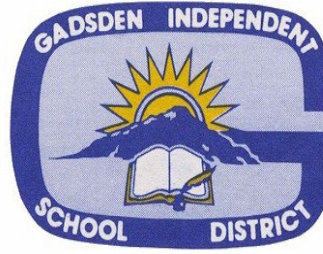


**Laura Salazar Flores** Board President  
**Claudia I. Rodriguez** Board Vice President  
**Arlean Murillo** Board Secretary  
**Daniel Castillo** Board Member  
**Armando Cano** Board Member  
**Travis L. Dempsey** Superintendent

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*DRAFT 11/02/2023*

*FINAL 11/09/2023*

## **REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

*For October 26, 2023*

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

Introduction  
And Roll Call

Members present: Armando Cano, Daniel Castillo, Laura Salazar Flores, Arlean Murillo, and Claudia Rodriguez.

Pledge &  
Mission Statement

2. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the New Mexico flag was led by Ariana Sandoval and Hannah Elliot. The mission statement was read by Board Secretary Murillo.

Superintendent's  
Report

3. Superintendent District updates and recognitions:
  - A. Mrs. Cadena, Associate Superintendent for Support Services, introduced the recipients for the Ben Lujan Excellence in Maintenance Award: Jesus Avila-Welder; Enrique Briones-Warehouse Supervisor; Santos Chavez-Electrician; Rosa Gamon-Instructional Materials Specialist; Christina Nares-Head Custodian at Chaparral High School; and Lourdes Piedra-Head Custodian at Northern On-Track Pre-K. Guillermo (Memo) Hernandez-Coordinator for Physical Plant, was selected as the State of New Mexico recipient Plant Manager of the Year.
  - B. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the University of Florida Literacy Institute Implementation and Classroom Visits. Superintendent Dempsey recently visited Loma Linda Elementary and Gadsden Elementary, where he had the opportunity to observe three GISD teachers at varying levels of experience. What stood out during these visits was that all three educators had undergone training in the University of Florida's Literacy Institute process, specifically in the areas of phonics and phonemic awareness. This process has proven to be instrumental in shaping the way literacy is taught in these schools, offering a promising avenue for standardizing literacy instruction across the district. Furthermore, these successful strategies have not been confined to traditional English

classrooms alone. They have also been effectively applied in bilingual classrooms, showcasing the adaptability and universality of the University of Florida's Literacy Institute process. Superintendent Dempsey's recognition of these initiatives underscores the district's commitment to providing a consistent and effective literacy education to all students, regardless of their background or language proficiency.

- C. Mr. Beach, Coordinator of Cultural Arts, recognized the Fine Arts Groups:
- Art Displays at the Southern New Mexico Fair  
Santa Teresa – Kimberly Reyes; Desert Trail – 5<sup>th</sup> best of show – Jessica Soto; Chaparral - 4<sup>th</sup> best of show – Linda Al Hanna; Yucca Heights – 3<sup>rd</sup> best of show – Omar Martinez; Desert View - 2<sup>nd</sup> best of show – Graciela Cordero; Vado – 2<sup>ND</sup> best of show – Joel Santa Maria; La Union – 2<sup>nd</sup> best of show – Linda Hains; Berino - best of show – Michelle Padgett-Hernandez; Riverside – best of show – Lucerito Marrufo; Chaparral MS – best of show – Alynna Bowsher; Sunrise – Reserve Grand Champion – Alicia Gomez.
  - Santa Teresa High School Theater Group - Placed Second in the State at the New Mexico Activities Association One Act Play Competition.
  - Kaylee Soriano, Gadsden High School Theater Group – individual award at the New Mexico Activities Association One Act Play Competition.
  - Gadsden High School Marching Band – earned a second division rating at the Southwest New Mexico Music educators Music Performance Assessment.
  - Santa Teresa High School Band - earned a first division rating at the Southwest New Mexico Music educators Music Performance Assessment.
  - Santa Teresa and Gadsden Bands both attended the Eastern Arizona College Marching Band Competition. They both came away with First Division Awards and several individual awards. GHS overall score placed them First, STHS placed second.
- D. Student Representative-Leah Chavez, a senior from Gadsden High School, reported that last Thursday boys' soccer had their Senior Night. Gadsden celebrated Pink Week for October Breast Cancer Awareness. They had their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall meet the Panther. Today the 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades took the PSAT or the SAT. Also, the girls' soccer players are playing their senior night game which is their Pink Out game. The varsity football team will play for the district championship. This game will also serve as Senior Night for football players, cheerleaders, and athletic trainers. The Gadsden band received an Overall 1<sup>st</sup> Division superior rating along with 1<sup>st</sup> place in marching, 1<sup>st</sup>

place in music, 1<sup>st</sup> place in drum line, and 1<sup>st</sup> place in drum majors at the Eastern Arizona Band Conference.

4. Mrs. Murillo thanked Principal Barraza for her hospitality, gifts, and food. She thanked Leah for her updated report on Gadsden High School. She stated she attended the NMSBA Region VII meeting at Gadsden High School. She thanked the Santa Teresa High School Welding and Drafting class for the gifts they created for the region meeting. She stated she also attended the Santa Teresa High School pep rally and later that night attended the football game. She also attended the La Clinica de Familia cutting ceremony and the College and Trading application night. She attended the Eastern Arizona Band competition and stated it was a well-deserved recognition for Gadsden schools. She congratulated the winners for the Fine Arts group. She thanked Mr. Beach for his leadership towards Fine Arts. She reminded everyone that there will be a Red Ribbon parade tomorrow at La Union community at 9:30 am. She announced that there will be a Fall Festival tomorrow night at the Sunland Park Sports Complex.

Mrs. Rodriguez reported that it's always amazing to watch the great things that are happening in our district. She thanked Leah for her updated report on Gadsden High School. She also thanked the schools that celebrated Red Ribbon Week for Drug Free and Pink Week for Breast Cancer Awareness. She congratulated the recipients from the Physical Plant Department for the Ben Lujan Award. She reminds parents to stay informed of what's happening at your child's schools by attending the Coffee with the Principal and Coffee with the Superintendent meetings.

Board Members  
Report

Mr. Cano thanked Principal Barraza for her hospitality. He stated he's looking forward in attending the Red Ribbon Parade in La Union. He encourages everyone to attend the Fall Festival at the Sunland Park Sports Complex. He congratulated the Fine Arts Group that competed at the Southern New Mexico Fair. He also thanked Mr. Beach for putting this together. He stated that he attended the Red Ribbon Week ceremony at Santa Teresa Middle School and Desert View Elementary.

Mr. Castillo congratulated the student performance acapella. He stated he attended with NMSBA Region VII meeting along with his fellow board members at Gadsden High School. He mentioned that our students were showcased very well from Ballet Folklorico to the Culinary students.

President Flores thanked Principal Barraza and Assistant Principal Reyes for their hospitality. She reminds everyone to go out and vote. She thanked her fellow board members for attending the

Region VII meeting and stated that they were the only district that were fully represented. She stated she is proud to be part of this board and speaks volumes of their leadership. She thanked MaryLou Delgado, Administrative Assistant, for coordinating the Region VII meeting. She also thanked Martha Ortega, Administrative Support, and Lorena Herrera, Secretary, who helped plan the meeting. She thanked Hector Moreno, Media, for taking pictures and video of the event. She also thanked the ballet folklorico performers. She thanked Gadsden High School Culinary for preparing the meal. She thanked Mr. Rincon, STHS Architectural Drafting, and Mr. Champagne, STHS Welding for the gifts. She stated she attended the Dona Ana Community College Advisory Board with Mr. Castillo. She thanked Mr. Beach for his leadership of Fine Arts. She wishes luck to the Gadsden Panther football team as they take on Deming Wildcats tomorrow evening. She reminds everyone to be safe on Halloween. Lastly, she welcomed Baylor University representatives as they will present for “Meals To You.”

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| 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.  |
| School Board Minutes                         | 7. Mrs. Murillo made a motion to approve the October 12, 2023 Regular School Board Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.  |
| Consent Agenda                               | 8. Mr. Castillo made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.  |
| Open Forum                                   | 9. Open Forum: Daisy Lira presented to the board regarding collaboration between child cares and public education. Jeremy Evertt and Elijah Tanner presented to the board regarding Meals To You. Richard Hernandez addressed to the board regarding not being able to attend requested blackout game for player safety at football games. Analisa Gardea and Gracie Ramirez presented to the board regarding safety at football games-contact sports- all levels. |
| Action<br>Santa Teresa HS<br>ReRoof Project  | 10. Action Items:<br>A. Mrs. Murillo made a motion to approve the Santa Teresa HS Partial ReRoof Project. Motion carried unanimously.  |
| Santa Teresa ES<br>Partial ReRoof<br>Project | B. Mrs. Murillo made a motion to approve the Santa Teresa ES Partial ReRoof Project. Motion carried unanimously.   |

Employee General  
Leave Buy Back  
Proposal

C. Mr. Cano made a motion to approve the Employee General  
Leave Buy Back Proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion  
Gadsden Middle  
School Construction  
Project: Student/Staff  
Transition Proposal

11. Discussion Items:

A. Mrs. Cadena, Associate Superintendent for Support Services,  
presented information on the Gadsden Middle School  
Construction Project: Student/Staff Transition Proposal.

NMAA Two Strikes  
Rule/Benching Bad  
Behavior Campaign

B. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the NMAA  
Two Strikes Rule/Benching Bad Behavior Campaign.

Legislative Primer  
Event

C. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the  
Legislative Primer Event.

Upcoming Board  
Meetings and Events

12. Superintendent Dempsey announced the upcoming board meetings  
and events:

A. Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, November 9,  
2023 (Deadline for Item Requests Monday, October 30,  
2023)

B. Legislative Primer Event-TBD

Adjourn

13. Mr. Cano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried  
unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 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