

Laura Salazar Flores Board President
Claudia I. Rodriguez Board Vice President
Arlean Murillo Board Secretary
Daniel Castillo Board Member
Christian Lira Board Member

Travis L. Dempsey Superintendent

4950 McNutt Road
Sunland Park, New Mexico



DRAFT 02/01/2024

FINAL 02/08/2024

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

For January 25, 2024

1. The Gadsden School Board convened in regular session at 5:19 p.m. Board Secretary Murillo presided the meeting held at Yucca Heights Elementary Cafeteria.

Introduction
And Roll Call

Members present: Daniel Castillo and Arlean Murillo.

Christian Lira and Claudia Rodriguez joined virtually.

Laura Salazar Flores was absent.

Pledge &
Mission Statement

2. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the New Mexico flag was recited by Emiliano Flores and Katherine Huerta. The mission statement was read by Daniel Castillo.

Superintendent's
Report

3. Superintendent District updates and recognitions:
 - A. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the Georgetown University: School Budget Training. He discusses various aspects related to Georgetown University School, training initiatives, and recent participation in a conference. He highlights the importance of understanding budgets, mentioning a unique approach based on the color-coded key map tied to state revenues. Superintendent Dempsey emphasizes the significance of considering diverse perspectives in budgeting, incorporating insights gained from interactions at the conference. He touches on the economic factors influencing states like New Mexico and the evolving approach to budgeting, indicating a potential shift in understanding and handling budgets over time.
 - B. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the Legislative Update. He provides an update on House Bill 2, the major funding bill for public education, which has progressed through the initial stages in the House. Discussions within the bill involve potential salary increases ranging from three to six percent and a separate proposal for a minimum salary of \$30,000 for school employees. Superintendent Dempsey mentions the Governor's funding request, emphasizing a literacy

initiative around structured literacy, in which the district is recognized as a model. Additionally, he discusses the creation of the New Mexico Literary Institute, focusing on the science of reading. Controversial topics include potential changes to the school calendar and anticipated alterations to graduation requirements, the latter having been returned by the governor for further consideration. The update concludes with mentions of medical benefits coverage and a reminder to stay informed about legislative developments during the upcoming session in Santa Fe.

C. Student Representative-Matthew Portillo, a senior from Desert Pride Academy, reported that a Senior at Desert Pride Academy, shares recent achievements from his school:

- In December, 42 students graduated, and there are projections for 105 more to graduate in May.
- The New Mexico Vistas score improved significantly from 9 to 33.
- Visitors from the state recently visited the school.
- Desert Pride Academy continues to enroll new students with four intakes per week, adding around 30 new students.
- A new elective, New Mexico GRADS, began this semester to provide additional support for student parents.
- A new counselor is set to start on February 1st.
- The new semester welcomed a Spanish teacher, Ms. Mendoza, and a Math teacher, Mr. Adams.

Matthew expresses gratitude for his experience at Desert Pride Academy, anticipating his graduation in May. While unsure about post-high school plans, he aims to use the tools learned for his future goal of becoming a professional skater and seeks sponsorship. Matthew appreciates the positive attitudes of his teachers and their warm daily greetings.

4. Mr. Castillo expresses gratitude to Mrs. Urbina for her hospitality. He acknowledges a change in perspective after Mr. Uribe's inspiring words, particularly regarding the upcoming week in Santa Fe where discussions with politicians are expected. Mr. Castillo appreciates Mr. Uribe's motivating words and extends thanks.

Board Member
Report

Mr. Lira had nothing to report.

Mrs. Rodriguez begins by apologizing for not being present at the board meeting due to recent surgeries. She expresses excitement about the introduction of a salad bar at the schools, emphasizing the positive impact on students' meal choices. She suggests showcasing the Salad and Produce Program (S&P) at different meetings to involve parents and the community. She commends the Student Nutrition Program Facebook page for valuable information. She appreciates the choir's beautiful performance. She thanked Matthew for his report on Desert Pride Academy. She expresses enthusiasm for the GRADS program and encourages attendance at meetings with principals and the superintendent to stay informed about district developments.

Mrs. Murillo expresses gratitude to Mrs. Urbina, Mr. Mata, and staff for their hospitality. They share their positive experience interacting with students during a visit to the library and appreciate the warm welcome. She thanked Matthew for his presence, expressing thanks for the rare opportunities to engage with student representatives. They reflect on the special connection formed over the years with a graduating student representative. She praises the salad bar initiative, mentioning positive feedback from students. She congratulates spelling bee participants and winners. They highlight the district's representation at the All-State concert and appreciate the positive recognition received from the governor. She expresses gratitude for the collaborative effort of teachers, administrators, and staff in supporting students.

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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. Castillo made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. |
| School Board Minutes | 7. Mrs. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Regular School Board Minutes for January 11, 2024. 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: None |
| Action
Gadsden Middle
School: School Color
Change Requests

Gadsden ISD:
Legislative Requests | 10. Action Items:
A. Mr. Castillo made a motion to approve the Gadsden Middle School: School Color Change Request. Motion carried unanimously. |

- B. Mr. Castillo made a motion to approve the Gadsden ISD: Legislative Requests.

Discussion
Proposal Offer Of
Land Purchase By
Alto De Las Flores
MDWCA

11. Discussion Items:

- A. Mrs. Cadena, Associate Superintendent for Support Services, presented information on the Proposal Offer Of Land Purchase By Alto De Las Flores MDWCA.
- B. Mrs. Cadena presented information on the Renewal Of US Bureau Of Land Management Leases.

Renewal Of US
Bureau Of Land
Management Leases

Upcoming Board
Meetings and Events

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

- A. Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2024-GAC (Deadline for Item Requests Monday, February 12, 2024)
- B. NMSBA Board Member Institute-Hilton Hotel and Santa Fe Convention Ctr-February 1-3
- C. National School Boards Association-New Orleans, LA April 6-8
- D. NMSBA Spring Region VII Meeting-Cloudcroft-April 16
- E. Teacher of the Year Ceremony Grace Gardens-May 3, 2024
- F. Graduation Ceremonies -UTEP – May 24 – 25, 2024
- G. NMSBA Law Conference - Albuquerque - May 30 – June 1, 2024
- H. NMSBA Leadership Retreat – Taos – July 11-13, 2024

Adjourn

- 13. Mr. Castillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Arlean Murillo, School Board Secretary

Laura Salazar Flores, School Board President

Minutes taken by MaryLou Delgado