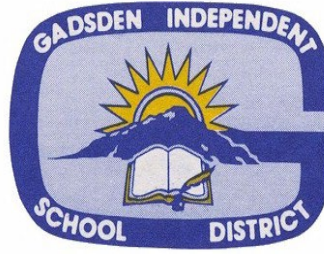


Laura Salazar Flores Board President
Claudia I. Rodriguez Board Vice President
Arlean Murillo Board Secretary
Daniel Castillo Board Member
Christian Lira Board Member

Travis L. Dempsey
Superintendent

4950 McNutt Road
Sunland Park, New Mexico



DRAFT 02/15/2024

FINAL 02/22/2024

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

For February 8, 2024

1. The Gadsden School Board convened in regular session at 5:21 p.m. President Flores presided the meeting held at the Gadsden Administrative Complex.

Introduction
And Roll Call

Members present: Daniel Castillo, Laura Salazar Flores, Christian Lira, and Arlean Murillo

Pledge &
Mission Statement

2. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the New Mexico flag was recited. The mission statement was read by Board Secretary Murillo.

Superintendent's
Report

3. Superintendent District updates and recognitions:
 - A. Principal De La Garza, Alta Vista Early College, expressed gratitude to Dr. Acuña and Mrs. Campos for preparing students who won the New Mexico Governors STEM Challenge. She introduced the recipient students—Brianna Hernandez, Alexa Chavez, Caitlin Paz, and Donna Renteria explained their winning project, its details, and their future vision and plan. Assistant Principal Villagrana, Santa Teresa High School, expresses gratitude to the school board for the opportunity to present the students' project, a "cuddle cup" addressing mental health issues post-pandemic. The project aimed to assist students with their mental well-being. Two members of the winning team, Caitlyn Salas and Robert Rapanut, provided further details about the project. Robert acknowledges the crucial contributions of Mr. Nuñez and Mr. Bobadilla in forming and guiding students in creating the cuddle cup, recognizing their roles in supporting mental health outlets for students.
 - B. Mrs. Villalobos, Associate Superintendent for Federal Support, expresses gratitude for the opportunity to recognize Sun City Calvary West Church for their annual holiday contributions to families in the district. They highlight the church's 13-year partnership, providing shoes, hoodies, toys, food boxes, and blankets to families chosen by social workers. The collaboration, which began with 20 families at La Union

Elementary, has grown to assist 80 families across the district. The church's generosity has made a profound impact on students and their families. Two representatives, Lisa Espinosa and Mariel Mancias, are recognized to receive recognition for their continued support. The church is praised for its contributions, and a certificate of appreciation is presented to express gratitude for their generosity and support to the families of GISD. The church is encouraged to continue their impactful work.

- C. Superintendent Dempsey provides an update on the ongoing legislative session, focusing on House Bill 2 (HB2) and its implications for public education. HB2 includes an average 4% increase for all public-school employees, but the word "average" allows flexibility in fund allocation. The line item for out-of-school time funding is in HB2 but has been zeroed out, potentially affecting after-school and summer programs. There is mention of a specific dollar amount for stipends for Special Education (SPED) teachers, though the exact figure is uncertain. The transportation budget is highlighted, with emphasis on a targeted 4% salary increase for transportation staff. The 80/20 Bill, covering medical benefit expenses, is discussed with potential concerns about adequate funding. Lastly, changes to graduation requirements are noted, with local boards having the flexibility to decide certain credit requirements, including the option for Algebra 2. Superintendent Dempsey encourages staying tuned for updates as the legislative session progresses.
 - D. Student Representative-Isabel Piñon, a junior from Gadsden High School, reported that Gadsden High School was nominated for Innovation and Education recognition. Juniors have had discussions about graduation requirements for the upcoming school year. The baseball team is scheduled to have their season opener on February 20th at Southwest University Park, while the softball team will have their season opener on February 29th at home. The NJROTC (Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps) is currently in California, competing for the Super Bowl drill championship. Additionally, a few students from the enlisted program were selected to shadow a New Mexico Senator during the legislative session.
4. Mr. Castillo expresses personal feelings about Santa Fe but emphasizes the joy and value getting from witnessing the excitement of students during their experiences. He finds it worthwhile to witness the enthusiasm of students, such as the Santa Teresa band in Santa Fe. He mentioned of a teacher's invigorating speech in Chaparral further highlights the meaningful impact such moments have on students. He stated that he would "take one for the team" anytime if it means providing opportunities and experiences for students.

Mr. Lira begins by apologizing for being late and stated he missed the trip to Santa Fe but expresses excitement after seeing pictures of the event. He commends the students for their presentation on STEM activities, expressing pride and excitement, especially for the project related to mental health. He appreciates the significance of addressing mental health issues, particularly during challenging times, and expresses gratitude to the students for their efforts in that area.

Board Member
Report

Mrs. Murillo discusses the importance of hearing from students and emphasizes the significance of giving them a voice. She expressed gratitude to the Santa Teresa Charitable Foundation for funding the dinner and Mr. Pablo Duran, member of the community, for funding lunch during the students' visit to Santa Fe. She stated that the students' opportunity to engage with representatives and the lieutenant governor, not just for photos but also for a meaningful conversation, expressing pride in Gadsden High School being viewed as a model for other districts. She recognized Representative Ray Lara for his role in facilitating the trip, as well as to Miss Isabel, the student representative. She invites everyone to attend the Chihuahua stadium's season opener against Santa Teresa on the 20th, with free admission. She congratulated the students in computer science, and she reflects on the networking and professional development during the trip, including discussions about Project SEARCH and the recognition of Gadsden's unique community.

President Flores thanked Isabel for joining the meeting and congratulates her on pursuing a career as a Guinness Theologist. She congratulated Gadsden Independent School District School Board for exceeding the required five hours of professional development. She thanked Representative Madrid, Representative Lara, and Representative Gallegos for meeting with them, as well as with the lieutenant governor and the governor of New Mexico. She stated she attended the district English Spelling Bee and congratulated the winners: Aiden Aguilar (1st place-Chaparral Elementary), Megan Hawkins (2nd place-Gadsden Middle), and Savannah Valencia (3rd place-Yucca Heights Elementary). President Flores also congratulated Miss Lisa White, as the principal for Chaparral Elementary.

Personnel Report

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

Approval of the
Agenda

6. President Flores made a motion to modify the agenda removing Item 8M Fund 31200 Capital Outlay Cash Increase BAR. Board Secretary Murillo second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- School Board Minutes 7. Board Secretary Murillo made a motion to approve the Regular School Board Minutes for January 25, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consent Agenda 8. Mr. Castillo made a motion to approve the consent agenda as modified. Motion carried unanimously.
- Open Forum 9. Open Forum: Suje Rodriguez addressed to the board regarding issues at Desert View Elementary. Jeanette Terrazas addressed to the board regarding her daughter's grade at Desert View Elementary. Vanessa Sanchez addressed to the board regarding her son being bullied at Desert View Elementary.
- Action Reschedule March 21, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting 10. Action Items:
A. Mr. Castillo made a motion to approve to Reschedule March 21, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting. The regular board meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024 conflicts with the NMASBO Spring Budget Workshop. Superintendent Dempsey requesting to reschedule for Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at Loma Linda Elementary. Motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion NMSBA Excellence In Student Achievement Award 11. Discussion Items:
A. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the NMSBA Excellence In Student Achievement Award. He further explained that the award recognizing school leaders, staff and other individuals who have played an important role in improving student achievement at the local level. The former NMSBA recipients will meet as a committee to review the nominations submitted and select the current NMSBA recipients.
- Overview Of GISD Facility Master Plan B. Mrs. Cadena presented information on the Overview of GISD Facility Master Plan.
- Cinematic Futures C. Eric Kirker, a former teacher at Alma de Arthur charter high school, presented information on the Cinematic Futures where he taught filmmaking. Due to funding cuts, the program was discontinued, leading him to create "Real Work Studios." His goal is to empower underprivileged and minority students, providing them with opportunities in the film industry. Eric shares his personal journey in the film industry and the challenges faced by students with limited resources. He discusses the workshops he plans to organize, seeking grant funding to support supplies and development. The presentation includes visuals of his studio and examples of students' work, emphasizing the hands-on experience they gain. Eric expresses the need for collaboration with schools and other organizations to expand the program's reach. Superintendent Dempsey acknowledges the presentation, indicating potential collaboration and expressing gratitude for the initiative.

Youth Development and Diversion Program

D. Pat Acosta, Carol Montoya and Kamika Ramirez, diversion specialists from the Youth Development Diversion program, presented information on how the program collaborates with various organizations to address youth vaping awareness. They highlight their work in conducting parent info sessions and engaging youth in creating anti-vaping posters. These posters are then assembled into a paper quilt presented to the school district. Mrs. Acosta emphasizes the importance of community engagement in addressing youth issues. Carol and Kamika present a framed quote and gifts to the board members, symbolizing their commitment to partnership and community support.

2024-25 Budget Development Proposed Timeline

E. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the 2024-25 Budget Development Proposal Timeline. He discussed various aspects of the budget, emphasizing the importance of the calendar and legislative considerations. They highlight the upcoming Spring budget release, with workshops for understanding its components. There's an urgency for specific board requests and the need to plan a year ahead for budget adjustments.

Another key focus is on literacy, especially for struggling readers in middle and high school. Superintendent Dempsey expresses concern about waiting for external programs and advocates for proactive measures within the district. The importance of addressing students' needs directly through activities like Fine Arts and motivational speakers is discussed. The emphasis is on finding individuals within the district to provide meaningful support, rather than relying solely on external plans that may lack clarity.

Board Member Roles And Responsibilities

F. Superintendent Dempsey discusses the board's specific policy and emphasizes their role in governance, including evaluating the superintendent, approving budgets, and establishing district policy. President Flores adds that there are opportunities for board members to be involved in school events, encouraging communication with Mr. Dempsey for attendance. She suggests using platforms like Facebook to stay informed about school events. The importance of experiencing and understanding the current educational landscape is highlighted, urging board members to attend events like teacher and student performances. The challenges faced by administrators are acknowledged, emphasizing the need for thoughtful participation without adding burden. Lastly, the board is encouraged to engage in training opportunities to better inform policy decisions and support the district's goals.

Quarterly Budget Report For The Month Ended December 31, 2023

G. Mrs. Villarreal presented information on the Quarterly Budget Report For The Month Ended December 31, 2023.

Upcoming Board Meetings and Events

12. Superintendent Dempsey announced the upcoming board meetings and events:
- A. Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, February 22 - Vado Elem
(Deadline for Item Requests Monday, February 12, 2024)
 - B. National School Boards Association-New Orleans, LA April 6-8
 - C. NMSBA Spring Region VII Meeting-Cloudcroft-April 16
 - D. Teacher of the Year Ceremony Grace Gardens-May 3, 2024
 - E. Graduation Ceremonies -UTEP – May 24 – 25, 2024
 - F. NMSBA Law Conference - Albuquerque - May 30 – June 1, 2024
 - G. NMSBA Leadership Retreat – Taos – July 11-13, 2024

Closed Session

13. Closed Session
- Mr. Castillo made the motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to 10-15-1, H-2, of the Open Meetings Act NMSA 1978 as amended for Superintendent’s and Associate Superintendent’s report on recent personnel actions and issues such as: employees on administrative leave with pay, employee grievances, and employee issues. A roll call vote was taken, Daniel Castillo, Laura Salazar Flores, Christian Lira, and Arlean Murillo all voted “aye”. Motion carried unanimously. The Board went into Closed Session at 7:13 p.m.

Reconvene

14. Mr. Castillo made a motion to reconvene in open session. No action was taken. Motion carried unanimously. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:57 p.m.

Adjourn

15. President Flores made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Arlean Murillo, School Board Secretary

Laura Salazar Flores, School Board President

Minutes taken by MaryLou Delgado