

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 02/29/2024

FINAL 03/07/2024

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

For February 22, 2024

1. The Gadsden School Board convened in regular session at 5:08 p.m. President Flores presided the meeting held at Vado Elementary Cafeteria.

Introduction
And Roll Call

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

Christian Lira was absent

Pledge &
Mission Statement

2. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the New Mexico flag was recited by Samantha Marquez and Jade Campos. The mission statement was read by Claudia Rodriguez.

Superintendent's
Report

3. Superintendent District updates and recognitions:
 - A. Mr. Beach, Coordinator of Cultural Arts, recognized the Art Show Winner for Gadsden High School: Ximena Sanchez placed 3rd in her division at the El Paso Community College K-12 Art Show and 3rd out of over 200 entries. Ximena also placed 1st and earned Best in Show in the High School division at the Socorro ISD Black History Month Art Contest.
 - B. Mr. Beach recognized the Fine Arts Groups All-State Elementary Choir, STHS Band. Five music students from our district successfully auditioned and secured spots in the New Mexico American Choral Directors Association Elementary All-State Choir. These talented students, representing Santa Teresa Elementary, include Siana Lomanivere, Mia Melendrez, and William Perez, under the guidance of their director, Melissa Solares. The group traveled to Albuquerque on January 25th, where they had the opportunity to perform alongside students from across the state. Additionally, Emilee Jasso and Anthony Apodaca from Chaparral Elementary, led by their director Chris Perkins, also contributed to the performance in Albuquerque.

Ten high school band students from Santa Teresa High School excelled in auditions and secured positions in the New Mexico Music Educators Association All-State Band. These students traveled to Albuquerque on January 11th and participated in a collaborative performance with students from across the state. Santa Teresa High School had the highest representation in the All-State Band. The honored students are Jaime Godinez, Damian Gonzalez-Campos, Zaina Hernandez, Benjamin Jimenez, Preston Johnson (absent tonight), Jovany Labrado, Jeremy Lampman (absent tonight), Javier Murillo, Elza Rubio, and Esmeralda Sanchez.

- C. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the Legislative Update. He explained that House Bill 2, encompassing our public -school budget, includes a notable 3% across-the-board increase for all school staff. It's important to note that there is currently no averaging language in the bill, but its finalization awaits the Governor's approval and potential exercise of line-item veto power. The graduation requirements aspect of the bill, expected to impact students starting from the current eighth, ninth, and seventh graders, maintains the state's 24-credit standard for math and English. However, districts now have the option to select two of these 24 credits. The board will have the opportunity to review scenarios and decide locally on the configuration of these two credits. The significant change in graduation requirements is the exclusion of Algebra 2 as a mandatory course. Superintendent Dempsey stated while the district is obliged to continue offering it, students will no longer be compelled to complete Algebra 2 to graduate. The district has a couple of years to adapt to this alteration, and discussions around competency.
- D. Student Representative-Briana Hernandez, a junior from Alta Vista Early College, reported that Alta Vista Early College High School has accepted 65 incoming freshmen for the 2024-2025 school year, 25 students from Chaparral Middle, 19 from Gadsden Middle, 19 from Santa Teresa Middle, 1 from Harmony School of Innovation in El Paso, Texas, and 1 homeschooled student. The accepted students were presented with school lanyards, badges, and Letters of Acceptance by Principal De La Garza and Ms. Angel, counselor.

She stated she had the opportunity to travel with 16 other students in the Business Professionals of America group trip to the state competition in Albuquerque. She competed in Digital Media Production and Broadcast News Production. Fifteen students, including herself, qualified for Nationals in Chicago, Illinois, on May 10-14th. Six teams securing 1st place, five teams achieving 2nd place, and two teams placing 3rd across different categories.

Alexa Chavez from Alta Vista was elected President of the State BPA Organization for the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Brinegar will be taking 11 students to compete in the Innoventure Challenge on March 20th at NMSU. Dr. Acuna's students won 3rd place at the National Regional Science Bowl in El Paso, Texas. He will also be taking 3 students to the Southern New Mexico STEM Challenge at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico, on Saturday, March 16th.

The Chess Club, led by Mr. Almeida, is sending 8 students to a Chess Tournament at Loretto Academy in El Paso, Texas. Seniors had a dedicated FAFSA night last month to prepare for their post-secondary education. Mrs. Angel and Principal De La Garza will be chaperoning 21 juniors and seniors to NMSU for the Aggie Experience on March 23rd. Ms. Campos will be taking 18 students to the MESA Day competition in Albuquerque on April 30.

Juniors are scheduled to meet with DACC Advisors in April to plan for their senior year. Isaias Alvidrez, a 2022 graduate, attended the BPA awards ceremony and was recognized for his achievements. He is a member of the District Student Leadership and salutatorian, was accepted into UNM's BA/MD Program. He will begin his practicum this summer and intends to change his medical specialty from Pediatrics to OB/GYN. Continued success is wished for him in his journey to become a doctor.

4. Mr. Castillo reported that he always enjoys watching the kids sing. He stated something he likes to do but shouldn't do. He stated this is the first time he's ever heard "You Are My Sunshine" in Spanish. It blew his mind. He loved seeing those little ones sing.

Mrs. Rodriguez expresses her appreciation for being back at the school where her children attended. She thanked Mr. Santa Maria for his dual role as the art teacher and music coordinator, praising the students' excellent performance. She acknowledges the opportunities for students to explore beyond the district, encouraging parents to support and motivate their children to participate in various activities. Mrs. Rodriguez emphasizes the importance of staying informed by participating in events like "Coffee with the Principal" and "Coffee with the Superintendent". She stated these as valuable opportunities for parents to receive district-wide information and provide input into their child's education.

Board Member
Report

Mrs. Murillo expresses gratitude to Vado Elementary for their hospitality. She apologizes for missing Loma Linda Elementary's science fair due to her presence at the school board meeting. She

attended a youth job fair, where she was pleased to see a significant turnout. Congressman Gabe Vasquez visited Santa Teresa Elementary, and Mrs. Murillo praises the positive feedback from parents regarding communication with the administration. Mrs. Murillo commends the smooth process of the district's vaccine event and encourages parents to take advantage of such opportunities. She also acknowledges the wrestling team from Santa Teresa High School, wishing them luck in their upcoming competition. Mrs. Murillo participated in the leadership district meeting, applauding the students for their honesty and expressing appreciation for the dedicated leadership team. She concludes by sharing her positive experience at Rolling Smokes, a local business run by a Gadsden graduate, supporting the Job Training Program from Gadsden High School, and highlighting the generosity of a local barber offering free haircuts for kids. She expresses pride in the strong sense of community within Gadsden and encourages others to get involved.

President Flores thanked Principal Cheryl Coyle and Miss Sophia Hernandez for the delicious food, and Mr. Santa Maria for his performances and thanked him for his support of the Dual Language program at Vado Elementary. President Flores stated that the legislative session ended, and recognition is given to New Mexico Representatives: Willie Madrid, Ray Lara, Doreen Gallegos, and Joseph Cervantes for their hard work. A reminder is provided to parents of seniors to ensure that their children apply for scholarships and complete the FAFSA application. She appreciates the efforts of Santa Teresa High School and Gadsden High School in hosting FAFSA evenings and hopes Chaparral High School will also organize such events. She stated she attended the music performance assessment at Santa Teresa High School and commends the improvement in Chaparral's band under Mr. Short's guidance. She thanked Briana for her report and excitement about a student from Harmony joining Alta Vista Early College High School. President Flores reminds to save the date for the Parent Institute at Gadsden High School on April 10th.

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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. President Flores made a motion to modify the agenda by removing Item 8B Fund 24101 Title I Maintenance BAR 2023-2024 to Action Item A. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Castillo made a motion to accept the agenda as modified. Motion carried unanimously. |
| School Board Minutes | 7. President Flores made a motion to approve the Regular School Board Minutes for February 8, 2024 with an amendment in correcting Item 9 Open Forum to indicate Chaparral Elementary. Motion carried unanimously. |

Consent Agenda

8. Mr. Castillo made a motion to accept the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Forum

9. Open Forum: None

Action
Fund 24101 Title I
Maintenance BAR
2023-2024

10. Action Items:
 - A. Mr. Castillo made a motion to accept the Fund 24101 Title I Maintenance BAR 2023-2024 by approving with ratification. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion
Gadsden Middle
School Construction
Project: Timeline

11. Discussion Items:
 - A. Mrs. Cadena, Associate Superintendent for Support Services, presented information on the Gadsden Middle School Construction Project: Timeline.
 - B. Mr. Bobadilla, Coordinator for Social Emotional Learning, presented information on the Restorative Practices giving an overview of the concept and the impact on students and schools.
 - C. Mr. Wohlgemuth, Director for Secondary Schools, presented information on the Proposed Regulation JJJ-R: Student Physical and Insurance Requirement a proposed regulation to require NJROTC and Marching Band participants to acquire sports physical. The NMAA requirements and guidelines will be used as a model.
 - D. Mr. Wohlgemuth presented information on the Graduation-Updated NMPED Competency Requirements.
 - E. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the Retention Stipend/Sick Leave Buy Back. He gave an over view on two opportunities with the GISD Board of Education with the understanding these were offered with the understand that these were one-time allocations. As of now there are no additional funds to offer retention stipends or leave buy back options

Restorative Practices

Proposed Regulation
JJJ-R: Student
Physical and
Insurance
Requirement

Graduation Updated
NMPED Competency
Requirements

Retention
Stipend/Sick Leave
Buy Back

Upcoming Board Meetings and Events

12. Superintendent Dempsey announced the upcoming board meetings and events:
- A. DACC Advisory Meeting: Monday March 4, 2024 6pm
 - B. Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024- GAC (Deadline for Item Requests Monday, February 26, 2024)
 - 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. President Flores made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Arlean Murillo, School Board Secretary

Laura Salazar Flores, School Board President

Minutes taken by MaryLou Delgado