

**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 03/12/2024*  
*FINAL 03/19/2024*

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
*For March 7, 2024*

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| Introduction<br>And Roll Call          | <p>1. The Gadsden School Board convened in regular session at 5:13 p.m. President Flores presided the meeting held at the Gadsden Administrative Complex.</p> <p>Members present: Daniel Castillo, Laura Salazar Flores, Christian Lira, Arlean Murillo, and Claudia Rodriguez</p>  |
| Pledge &<br>Mission Statement          | <p>2. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the New Mexico flag was recited. The mission statement was read by President Flores.</p>   |
| Reorganization of the<br>Board Members | <p>3. Mrs. Murillo made a motion to nominate President Flores for President. A roll call was taken, Daniel Castillo, Christian Lira, Arlean Murillo, and Claudia Rodriguez all voted "aye". Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Murillo made a motion to nominate Claudia Rodriguez for Vice President. A roll call was taken, Daniel Castillo, Laura Salazar Flores, Christian Lira, and Arlean Murillo all voted "aye". Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Castillo made a motion to nominate Arlean Murillo for Secretary. A roll call was taken, Daniel Castillo, Laura Salazar Flores, Christian Lira, and Claudia Rodriguez all voted "aye".</p>          |
| Superintendent's<br>Report             | <p>4. Superintendent District updates and recognitions:</p> <p>A. Principal Marquez at Gadsden Elementary, recognized Linda Mediano, substitute teacher, with the assistance of their quick and effective response to a student's severe allergic reaction. Substitute teacher Linda Mediano noticed the student's distress, and with the assistance of registered nurse Miss Sheri Pierce and medical assistant Miss Lisa Collins, they promptly took-action. The student was swiftly transported to the hospital and is now fine, thanks to their immediate response. Superintendent Dempsey expressed gratitude for their dedication to the safety</p> |

and well-being of the students, emphasizing the importance of taking care of kids.

- B. Superintendent Dempsey discusses the implementation of a structured literacy program called LETRS at Gadsden School District. This program focuses on teaching phonics and phonemic awareness to students, and the staff. The program includes additional components aligned with the University of Florida reading initiatives, known as "You Fly" strategies. A video from Lexi, a large educational company, showcases Gadsden's implementation of LETRS, and it is considered a national highlight. The school's commitment to continuous improvement is emphasized, with the director for elementary education mentioning their involvement in a statewide grant called the Circle Grant, where the choice to adopt LETRS was seen as a way to provide teachers with essential skills they may not have learned in college. The goal is to address this issue statewide.
- C. Student Representative-Caritina Parra, a senior from Santa Teresa High School, highlighted the positive achievements, including national recognition for the yearbook program, success in winter sports and wrestling at the state championship, and the band's first-place score at the music performance assessment. They also commend the NJROTC for running a well-executed biannual blood drive, leading to a \$500 scholarship for Dylan Lopez and six students attending the Hispanic Institute in the summer. The upcoming prom, organized by Mr. Oz, is selling tickets rapidly, and attention is drawn to the Instagram page (@stsWarriors) for updates.

However, challenges persist, particularly with bathroom issues, smoking, and the need for stricter policies. Security measures have been implemented, but some seniors express concerns about changes in graduation traditions and decorating of caps.

- 5. Board Secretary Murillo expresses gratitude to Mr. Carmona for sharing the district's spelling bee online, congratulating Chaparral students for securing all three places. They mention missing LEGO night but receiving positive feedback about the event. She attended Santa Teresa Elementary career day, appreciating the diverse career pathways showcased. They acknowledge Dr. Seuss week, with students participating in themed activities. She also attended the MPA at Organ Mountain and highlights Project Search presentations at Chaparral High School and Santa Teresa High School, expressing hope for increased participation next year. They commend Miss Pat, the teacher for Project Search, and thank Miss Parra for podcast updates, concluding with a Dr. Seuss quote.

Mrs. Rodriguez had nothing to report.

Mr. Castillo had nothing to report.

Board Member  
Report

Mr. Lira questioned that recently he learned that Gadsden is not renewing CRRUA's lease. Concerned about the impact on Sunland Park residents, he is exploring options for the office spaces. They are considering suggesting speaking with the City of Sunland Park that CRRUA could use a building. He proposes extending CRRUA's stay for three months to facilitate the transition, hoping to ensure accessibility for the residents.

President Flores attended a DACC Advisory Board meeting and shared updates. Dr. Torres discussed strategic priorities, provided an Advisory Board handbook, and mentioned DACC's upcoming accreditation visit. She plans to attend a Zoom meeting for preparation. They acknowledged Loma Linda Elementary's achievements in literacy and praised the district's bands. She attended an MPA at Organ Mountain High School, expressing pride in Chaparral High School's band despite challenges. They also congratulated winners of a spelling bee in Chaparral and wished everyone a good spring break, emphasizing the importance of supporting extracurricular activities.

Personnel Report

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

Approval of the  
Agenda

7. President Flores made a motion to modify the agenda by removing Item 9L Surplus Property 23-24-119 E-Rate Services and Products. Motion carried unanimously.

School Board Minutes

8. Board Secretary Murillo made a motion to approve the Regular School Board Minutes for March 7, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

9. Mr. Castillo made a motion to approve the consent agenda as modified. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Forum

10. Open Forum: Mayra Nuñez addressed to the board regarding issues not being met for her son under Special Education.

Action  
NMSBA Excellence  
In Student  
Achievement Award

11. Action Items:

A. Board Secretary Murillo made a motion to approve the NMSBA Excellence In Student Achievement Award. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion  
New Riverside On-Track Center

Chaparral Elementary School Partial Re-Roof

Graduation Exercises GISD Policy IKFB

Monthly Budget Report For The Month Ended January 31, 2024

Upcoming Board Meetings and Events

Closed Session

Reconvene

Adjourn

12. Discussion Items:

- A. Mrs. Vela, Director for Energy Management and Construction, presented information on the New Riverside On-Track Center.
- B. Mrs. Vela presented information on the Chaparral Elementary School Partial Re-Roof.
- C. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the Graduation Exercises GISD Policy IKFB.
- D. Mrs. Villarreal, Director for Finance, presented information on the Monthly Budget Report For The Month Ended January 31, 2024.

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

- A. Next Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 19, 2024- Loma Linda Elem (Deadline for Item Requests Monday, March 11, 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

14. Closed Session

President Flores 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, Arlean Murillo and Claudia Rodriguez all voted "aye". Motion carried unanimously. The Board went into Closed Session at 7:17 p.m.

15. President Flores made a motion to reconvene in open session. No action was taken. Motion carried unanimously. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 10:07 p.m.

16. President Flores made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:08 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