

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 04/04/2024

FINAL 04/11/2024

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

For March 19, 2024

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

Introduction
And Roll Call

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

Arlean Murillo joined virtually.

Pledge &
Mission Statement

2. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the New Mexico flag was recited by Adriana Flores and Maritza Ramirez. The mission statement was read by Claudia Rodriguez.

3. Superintendent District updates and recognitions:
 - A. Mrs. Lugo, Coordinator for Professional Development, recognized the GISD Professional Learning Facilitators (PLFS): Aurora Martinez Borunda, Nancy Bellagamba, Angela Sanchez, Carlos Enriquez, Jeannette Gomez Duran, and Veronica Lugo.

Superintendent's
Report

GISD National Board-Certified Teachers: Angela Sanchez, Aurora Martinez Borunda, Blanca Cardona-Gutierrez, Brenda Delgadillo, Carlos Enriquez, Cathie Williams, Claudia Muñoz, Jeanette Gomez Duran, Laura Salazar Flores, LeeAnn Vasquez, Nancy Bellagamba, Nereida Antuñez-Gamon, Silvia Najera, Stacey Fernandez, and Veronica Lugo.

Candidates for National Board: Diana Villagrana, Wendy Rios, Denise Maldonado, Gabriela Lopez, Michelle Mirabal, Yeiliam Figueroa, Cristal Moraga, Lesley Johnson, Sarah Hudspeth, Javier Rincon Luna, Priscilla Martinez, Arcelia Guillermo-Rios, Betel Contreras, Cynthia Araujo, Sheila Eylicio, Diane Moreno, Joel Santa Maria, Salvador Melendrez, Ivonne Manzano, Sammantha Portillo, Nancy Guzman, Matt Grubaugh, Jose Flores, Wendy Stern, Isela Ramos, Erika Cervantes, Carmen Cervantes, Trisha Reade, Diana Jayme, Ana Rico, Olga

Arguelles, Deborah Saucedo, Aaron Camacho, Cynthia Perez, Kimberly Garibay-Rueda, Misty Canfield, Jessica Armendariz, Rosario De Los Santos, Ana Parra, and Maribel Medrano.

New National Board-Certified Teacher: Stacey Fernandez.

Maintenance of Certification: Cathie Williams, Nancy Bellagamba, Silvia Najera, and Veronica Lugo.

- B. Superintendent presented information on the New Mexico Lexia LETRS Journey: The video highlighted some of our teachers and Loma Linda Elementary and Vado Elementary which are two model schools within the state of New Mexico.
 - C. Student Representative-Luis Rodriguez, a junior from Chaparral High School, reported that the basketball teams, wrestling team, and track and field athletes have performed well, with some students qualifying for State competitions. Softball and baseball seasons have begun, and the school's band achieved a D1 ranking at a competition in Las Cruces. Seniors enjoyed a sleepover during spring break, and the school will host its annual community egg hunt this weekend, featuring activities and games organized by various clubs.
4. Mr. Castillo had nothing to report.

Mr. Lira thanked Principal Cardona at Loma Linda Elementary for their hospitality and performance.

Mrs. Rodriguez expressed appreciation for the dedication and passion exhibited by teachers at Gadsden, particularly highlighting the intense training provided to new teachers and the commitment of national board-certified teachers. She commended the efforts of those assisting aspiring teachers despite their own busy schedules. Mrs. Rodriguez also noted the significant number of teachers participating in training cohorts and emphasized the collaborative spirit within the school community. She concluded by thanking those involved in initiatives at Chaparral High School.

Board Member
Report

Mrs. Murillo expressed her apologies for not being able to attend in person. She congratulated the Loma Linda cheerleaders for their performance, particularly praising their new uniforms. She stated she attended the Board Workshop and was productive. She hoped everyone had a good break.

President Flores thanked the Loma Linda administration for their hospitality and expresses pride in her previous experience teaching in the Gadsden Independent School District. She expressed admiration for Loma Linda and Vado Elementary's achievements and express a desire to observe structured literacy in action. She highlighted the shift from balanced literacy to structured literacy

and emphasize the importance of addressing struggling readers, particularly those who were instructed under the balanced literacy model. President Flores encourages educators to subscribe to the New Mexico PED literacy newsletter and attend the upcoming summer convening on June 4th and 5th. She expressed the importance of ongoing professional development in literacy instruction and hopes for future educators to be trained in structured literacy.

- 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 March 7, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consent Agenda 8. Mr. Castillo made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Open Forum 9. Open Forum: None
- Action Superintendent's Evaluation Tool 10. Action Items:
A. Mrs. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Tool. During a work session, President Flores addresses the decision not to revise the evaluation tool for Superintendent Dempsey, citing fairness to him and consistency for teachers. The tool was created with input from educational services and two board members. They outlined a timeline for Superintendent Dempsey's self-evaluation and subsequent board evaluations, with a final evaluation scheduled for April 11th during an executive session. Motion carried unanimously.
- Board Committee Assignments B. Mr. Castillo made a motion to approve the Board Committee Assignments. Motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion NMSBA Student Achievement Award: Process to Determine 11. Discussion Items:
A. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the NMSBA Student Achievement Award: Process To Determine. The board has decided to maintain the current nomination structure, which includes nominating two support staff members, one administrator, and one teacher. Additionally, there is a possibility for the board to make two or three additional nominations in the future.

Policy IKFB:
Graduation Exercises

B. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the Policy IKFB: Graduation Exercises. President Flores advise for Action in order to avoid in prolonging the discussion or persuasion in dealing with a certain topic that has escalated to a significant level. She emphasizes the importance of consistency and assertiveness in decision-making within the board. They express a desire for transparency in the policy-making process and suggest a straightforward approach to handling the matter, emphasizing personal interpretation of policies and a preference for direct action over deliberation.

Community
Meetings: GISD
Strategic Planning
Process

C. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the Community Meetings: GISD Strategic Planning Process. He states that these meetings aim to gather input from community members to prioritize needs and highlight the importance of active participation from parents, students, and other community stakeholders, emphasizing the need for effective communication to ensure broad involvement. He stresses the importance of valuing input from all members of the community. Superintendent Dempsey outlines the tentative dates and locations for upcoming community meetings: Monday, April 15th at Chaparral High School, Tuesday, April 16th at Santa Teresa High School, and Wednesday, April 17th at Gadsden High School.

NM Public Education
Department 180 Day
Rule

D. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the NM Public Education Department 180 Day Rule. He discusses the recent submission by the New Mexico Public Education Department during their tenure, which has finally passed. This submission allows certain school districts in New Mexico to adopt a 40-week calendar, contingent upon meeting proficiency level requirements. Superintendent Dempsey reassures the board that their current calendar, including early release on Wednesdays, is likely to be approved, with final confirmation expected by the end of the week. They explain that the definition of a school day as 5 and 1 half hours accommodates the early release schedule while meeting all hour requirements. Despite concerns from other districts and discussions about legal action, Superintendent Dempsey advises against involvement, emphasizing the focus on serving Gadsden students. However, they acknowledge potential arguments regarding threats to local control and anticipate further legislative discussions on the matter.

Upcoming Board Meetings and Events

12. Superintendent Dempsey announced the upcoming board meetings and events:
- A. Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2024-GAC
 - B. (Deadline for Item Requests Monday, March 25, 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. Human Resources Employee Recognitions-GHS-Tuesday, May 7
 - G. DACC Commencement-May 9
 - H. Graduation Ceremonies -UTEP – May 24 – 25
 - I. NMSBA Law Conference - Albuquerque - May 30 – June 1
 - J. NMSBA Leadership Retreat – Taos – July 11-13

Adjourn

13. Mr. Castillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Arlean Murillo, School Board Secretary

Laura Salazar Flores, School Board President

Minutes taken by MaryLou Delgado