

**Travis L. Dempsey**  
Superintendent

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*DRAFT 12/02/2021*  
*FINAL 12/09/2021*

## **REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

*For November 9, 2021*

1. The Gadsden School Board convened in regular session at 5:01 p.m. President Salazar Flores presided at the meeting held at the Gadsden Administrative Complex.

Introduction  
And Roll Call

Members present: Armando Cano, Daniel Castillo, Laura Salazar Flores, and Jennifer Viramontes

Members absent: Claudia Rodriguez

Pledge &  
Mission Statement

2. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the New Mexico flag was recited. Jennifer Viramontes read the mission statement.

3. Superintendent District updates and recognitions:
  - A. Carlos Sanchez, New York Life, presented a grant to Gadsden ISD with a check for \$12,000 on behalf of New York Life Foundation GSSI.
  - B. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the GO Bond Election Results. He announced that the General Obligation Bond passed and he thanked all our parents, staff, and community partners for their support which allows Gadsden ISD to continue to make improvements to our facilities which supports student achievement.
  - C. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the NM Social Studies Standards: NMPED Hearing November 12, 2021. He stated that NMPED will host a hearing that establishes the standards that all children in New Mexico are suppose to be proficient.
  - D. Superintendent Dempsey presented information on the COVID Vaccinations. He stated that GISD will support NMDOH's efforts to provide vaccinations for 5 years of age and up. The first clinic will be held Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Anthony Department of Health. The students must be accompanied by parents. The goal is to provide transportation option for any parent who request additional support.
  - E. Student Representative-Ethan Garcia, a sophomore from Alta Vista Early College High School, reported that Alta Vista had a

Superintendent's  
Report

very festive start to fall. They celebrated spirit week that concluded with the Fall Festival, which included fun games and prizes at the end of the school day. He stated they hosted a Fall Formal, which took place outdoors under the stars. It was great to see students socializing in a different environment. As for Halloween, he stated that they had a costume contest and pumpkin carving competition during lunch. They had lots of participation for these events and students were able to showcase their creativity. The Chess Club meets every Tuesday after school with Mr. Almeida. On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Christopher Hernandez, a freshman, participated in the Wiggs Middle School Fall Regional Scholastic Tournament in El Paso, Texas. This was his first chess tournament and he won 1 out of 4 games. The next chess tournament will be on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at Park Hills Christian Church. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, Ms. De La Garza presented in the UNM Diversity Summit virtually alongside with two other early college high schools. The emphasis of the summit was how we serve underrepresented groups of students from three areas, Gadsden ISD, Gallup, and Santa Fe areas. We showcased what we are doing to promote a head start for students in college and how these students are meaningfully supported in the successful acquisition of dual credit. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Science Club took a field trip to Space Port and Dripping Springs National Park. Students were able to take a tour and see the Virgin Galactic and saw a sneak peek of Richard Branson's Spaceship Two. Our students were also selected by the SRCL Grant coordinator, Martha Chacon, to present a video to the New Mexico Department of Education of a lesson utilizing the SRCL Grant resources. This video shows Mrs. Brinegar's English 3 class and how they work collaboratively using discussions to analyze various types of literature and the video also specifically discusses a book called "American Like Me" by America Ferrera. He reported that a classmate Bianca Navarrete, a sophomore, was giving an impromptu narration during the video. She gave an excellent perspective on the book and how it empowers us to accept our differences and embrace our culture. He thanked Mr. Carmona for helping them create such an amazing video.

- F. Mr. Cano reported that he attended the National Lunch Competition that Maria Guerra, Director for Student Nutrition Program, hosted at Gadsden High School and it was awesome. He gave a Get-Well card to fellow board member Claudia Rodriguez that couldn't attend the board meeting. He stated he visited her in the hospital and is doing better.

Mr. Castillo also gave a Get Well to Mrs. Rodriguez. He thanked Ethan Garcia for his report on Alta Vista Early College High School. He wished Ethan luck in continuing his journey.

Mrs. Viramontes also thanked Ethan for representing his school. She also thanked New York Life for their contribution to Gadsden ISD. She wished everyone a Happy Veteran's Day. She congratulated and gives her best of luck to the Santa Teresa High School Volleyball Team as they won District for 6 years in a row. She also sends her best of luck to the Santa Teresa High School Football Team as they play Farmington. She congratulated the STHS Band as they placed in Las Cruces. She thanked everyone who went out to vote for the Bond Election.

President Flores wished a Happy Birthday to all the November babies. She thanked Ethan for his report. She wished everyone a Happy Veteran's Day and thanked all who served. She thanked everyone who went out to vote. She congratulated 10 softball players from Chaparral High School who were invited to participate in a College Showcase Camp in Glendale, AZ where there is going to be evaluation and instructions from some top coaches in the area. She congratulated Mrs. Angela Silvaggio, Principal at Mesquite Elementary, as she traveled to Washington D.C. to receive her Blue-Ribbon Award. She also congratulated Superintendent Dempsey as he traveled to New York to be recognized as the Superintendent of the Year for New Mexico.

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| Personnel Report       | 4. The personnel report is included for the Board's information with no action required.  |
| Approval of the Agenda | 5. Mr. Castillo made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Superintendent Dempsey recommended approval of the motion. Motion carried unanimously.                           |
| School Board Minutes   | 6. Mr. Cano made a motion to accept the Regular School Board Minutes for October 21, 2021. Superintendent Dempsey recommended approval of the motion. Motion carried unanimously. |
| Consent Agenda         | 7. Mrs. Viramontes made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Superintendent Dempsey recommended approval of the motion. Motion carried unanimously.                |
| Open Forum             | 8. Open Forum: Aaron Wolfley addressed to the board members the mask and vaccines mandate.  |
| Action                 | 9. Action Items: None   |

Discussion  
Save the Kids Action  
Network MOU

10. Discussion Items:  
A. Mrs. Burciaga, Director for Early Childhood, presented information on the Save the Kids Action Network MOU.

Quarterly Budget  
Report For The  
Month Ended  
September 30, 2021

- B. Mrs. Martinez presented information on the Quarterly Budget Report For The Month Ended September 30, 2021.

Closed Session

11. Closed Session  
Mr. Castillo made the motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to 10-15-1, H-2, NMSA 1978 for Superintendent's and Associate Superintendent's report on recent personnel actions and issue such as: employees on administrative leave with pay, employee grievances, and employee issues. Superintendent Dempsey recommended approval of the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Armando Cano, Daniel Castillo, Laura Salazar Flores, and Jennifer Viramontes all voted "aye". Motion carried unanimously. The Board went into Closed Session at 5:54 p.m.

Reconvene

12. Mr. Castillo made a motion to reconvene in open session. No action was taken. Superintendent Dempsey recommended approval of the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:15 p.m.

Adjourn

13. Mr. Cano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Superintendent Dempsey recommended approval of the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Jennifer Viramontes, School Board Secretary

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Laura Salazar Flores, School Board President

Minutes taken by MaryLou Delgado