

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 18, 2025 5:30 PM

Gatesville ISD Administration Building
311 S. Lovers Lane, Gatesville, TX 76528

Present: Charles Alderson, Charles Ament, Calvin Ford, Cheyenne Kizer, Mary Anne Leib, Linda Maxwell

Absent: Loyd Hopson.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Charles Ament, President, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Charles Ament led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INVOCATION

Dr. Yancey Sanderson gave the invocation.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve consent agenda items A-G as presented.

This motion, made by Mary Anne Leib and seconded by Cheyenne Kizer, Passed.

Loyd Hopson: Absent, Charles Alderson: Yea, Charles Ament: Yea, Calvin Ford: Yea, Cheyenne Kizer: Yea, Mary Anne Leib: Yea, Linda Maxwell: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

A. MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

B. MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING

C. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF JULY 31, 2025

D. BILLS AND PAYROLLS FOR JULY 2025

E. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

F. Y-T-D BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO FUND BALANCE

G. VITAL SIGNS REPORT

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH RESULTS

Pam Willams, Executive Director of Community Outreach, gave a report on the Back to School Bash. We served over 200 families, passed out 365 pairs of shoes and 371 backpacks. We had 10 hairdressers give 80 haircuts. The Lions Club screened 44 students, with a few that our nurses will follow up with. Dr. Brindley conducted 28 audiological exams. Vendors gave out new books, school supplies, and prizes to our school families.

B. REVIEW OF GISD HANDBOOKS

Dr. Yancey Sanderson, Asst Supt. of Admin. Services, reviewed some of the changes to student handbooks. The student and employee handbooks are updated annually using the Model Handbooks provided by TASB as a guide. Each one is designed to align with the law, board-adopted policy, and the Student Code of Conduct. GISD student handbooks are a general reference guide that is divided into two sections:

Parental Rights and Other Important Information for Parents and Students. Yellow highlights indicate

campus specific information, teal indicated district specific information, and purple indicates new information.

C. JUNIOR HIGH, FIELD HOUSE, PRESS BOX PROJECT UPDATE

Dr. Barrett Pollard, Superintendent, updated the board on the proposed renovation project. At our last meeting, I mentioned briefly that our architect thought moving 6th grade to junior high would not be feasible with our \$26 million bond limit. However, he suggested if we could allocate \$1.4 million before the bond election towards early design it would allow construction to begin more promptly avoiding months and months of inflation. It is possible that the pre-election expenses could be less than \$1.4 million once all those proposals are submitted. Plus, we would do a reimbursement resolution so the bond election money would restore our fund balance with the amount that we allocated up front. This scenario would allow us to perform all of the upgrades to the Junior High with the exception of the complete auditorium renovation. This package would address the auditorium's acoustics but nothing else. This package would also get the field house, press box, and track renovation. However, it would not be enough to get turf on the baseball or softball fields.

D. REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF FEES PAID TO TASB ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LeighAnn Goodwin, Asst. Supt. of Finance, explained as specified in Board Policy CH (legal) and under Section 44.031 of the Education Code, contracts in excess of \$25,000 entered into under Section 44.031 (a)(5), Sub chapter F, Chapter 271 of the Texas Local Government Code are subject to an annual reporting in an open meeting of the board of Trustees disclosing the amount, purpose, and disposition of any fees paid to a cooperative. Gatesville ISD was and still is part of the TASB Fuel Cooperative. As part of this fuel pool, we receive a fixed rate for both diesel and unleaded throughout the time of our agreement. Our Interlocal Participation Agreement allows the Cooperative to collect a service fee to pay the expenses involved in successfully operating the cooperative program. It is factored in to the fixed fuel rate. On August 10, 2025, Gatesville ISD received the summary report for the 23-24 school year. GISD paid a total of \$2,541.15 in fees for the 50,823 gallons of fuel we purchased through the cooperative between September 2023 and August 2024. This is not a bill, the fees were factored in to the price per gallon of fuel. This is information only.

7. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. BASEBALL UPGRADES UPDATE

Goodwin presented the new plan for baseball upgrades. At the December 16, 2024 school board meeting, Rickey Phillips presented a sponsorship agreement with First National Bank of Central Texas \$100,000 to the boys baseball program. GISD determined that much needed upgrades to the dugout and backstop, including netting and poles, would be a good place to apply the proceeds from this sponsorship. Containment Systems Inc. originally put in the only sealed bid during the second bidding RFP. The bid was extremely expensive and unattainable. After talking with athletics, they agreed to alter the scope of work and remove the dugout portion of the project. That leaves just the backstop that goes in hand with the netting and poles project already bid and awarded previously. This amended version will cost \$53,000.

Goodwin recommended accepting the amended RFP for baseball backstop upgrades to Containment Systems Inc. and proceeding with the baseball upgrades.

This motion, made by Linda Maxwell and seconded by Cheyenne Kizer, Passed.

Lloyd Hopson: Absent, Charles Alderson: Yea, Charles Ament: Yea, Calvin Ford: Yea, Cheyenne Kizer: Yea, Mary Anne Leib: Yea, Linda Maxwell: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

B. RECOMMENDED ADULT MEAL PRICES FOR 2025-2026

Goodwin recommended changes in the adult meal prices. The prices were calculated using the adult meal calculator with the current rate of assistance from USDA. Breakfast will be raised 10 cents from \$3.30 to \$3.40 and lunch will be raised 25 cents from \$5.00 to \$5.25. This is a required hike in prices by USDA for adult meal prices.

Goodwin recommended that the board approve the rate changes for adult meals to \$3.40 for breakfast and \$5.25 for lunch.

This motion, made by Mary Anne Leib and seconded by Calvin Ford, Passed.

Loyd Hopson: Absent, Charles Alderson: Yea, Charles Ament: Yea, Calvin Ford: Yea, Cheyenne Kizer: Yea, Mary Anne Leib: Yea, Linda Maxwell: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

C. PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE RENEWAL 2025-2026

Goodwin presented the Property & Casualty Insurance Renewal. The district requested bids for the 2025-2026 school year coverage through interlocal agreements and received two proposals. One from our current policy holder, PCAT, and the one through a firm Roach Howard Smith & Barton(RHSB). RHSB presented a policy through TPS. This proposal is good for 1 year, it has better terms and will cost \$476,000 for the 25-26 school year. PCAT proposal is for 1 year with the same terms as before and will cost \$535,000. This price comes with an option to renew each year up to 3 years and limits each year increase no more than 10% or we can choose not to renew.

RHSB is a broker who does not work directly for TPS. They, in essence, work for us at no charge to us, and shop for the best rates and coverage on our behalf. We chose this option for board approval, not only for the reduction in cost, but it came with better coverage, and RHSB promises to make sure our rates and coverage are the best we can get each year. PCAT was given the option to compare the TPS proposal and come back with something more comparable, they declined to give us anything better. Even though they give us the 3 year option with not raising our rates more than 10%, last year they raised our rates 17%. They did so on July 25, 2024. This did not give us time to look for other options before our September 1st deadline. So we had no choice but to renew for a third year with PCAT. This year we have better options to choose from.

Goodwin recommended to approve TPS as our Property & Casualty insurance provider for the 2025-2026 for \$476,000.

This motion, made by Calvin Ford and seconded by Linda Maxwell, Passed.

Loyd Hopson: Absent, Charles Alderson: Yea, Charles Ament: Yea, Calvin Ford: Yea, Cheyenne Kizer: Yea, Mary Anne Leib: Yea, Linda Maxwell: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

D. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CORYELL COUNTY

Dr. Pollard presented the interlocal agreement with Coryell County. In May of 2019, GISD entered into an interlocal agreement with Coryell County to improve the cross country track. At that time, the cross country track was a dirt pathway that was susceptible to becoming very muddy after a rain and students would have to train elsewhere. The total cost of the project was approximately \$16,820. Every year since then, Justin Latham and the Road and Bridge crew has performed maintenance to the track. Our initial interlocal agreement has long since ended, so county attorney Brandon Belt crafted this document for both the county and GISD to consider.

Dr. Pollard recommended that the board approve the interlocal agreement with Coryell County to provide ongoing upkeep to our cross country track.

This motion, made by Mary Anne Leib and seconded by Linda Maxwell, Passed.

Loyd Hopson: Absent, Charles Alderson: Yea, Charles Ament: Yea, Calvin Ford: Yea, Cheyenne Kizer: Yea,

Mary Anne Leib: Yea, Linda Maxwell: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

E. BOARD POLICY CQ LOCAL AND EIA LOCAL REGARDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Dr. Pollard explained, our TASB policy expert, Lexi O'Hair, recommended the following addition to our CQ (local) policy: Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes and shall never take the place of teacher and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with teacher permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work. Students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy. She also recommended the following to EIA (local): Academic dishonesty includes the use of artificial intelligence to complete an assignment in part or in whole unless approved by the classroom teacher. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration the use of an artificial intelligence detection tool selected by the District.

Dr. Pollard recommended that the board adopt policy CQ (local) and EIA (local) regarding artificial intelligence as presented.

This motion, made by Calvin Ford and seconded by Mary Anne Leib, Passed.

Loyd Hopson: Absent, Charles Alderson: Yea, Charles Ament: Yea, Calvin Ford: Yea, Cheyenne Kizer: Yea, Mary Anne Leib: Yea, Linda Maxwell: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

F. EXTRACURRICULAR STATUS OF 4-H ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION/APPOINT ADJUNCT FACULTY

Dr. Pollard explained, every year we approve a resolution that allows 4-H to be considered an extracurricular activity. We are again presenting the attached resolution for the board's consideration. Along with that resolution, each year we approve the Coryell County Extension Staff to be considered "adjunct faculty" with GISD. This allows students to be considered "in attendance" when participating in off-campus activities with adjunct staff members of the district. These extension agents all hold a master's degree. They are Robert Ferguson, Becky Coward, and Donna Schwausch. The request notes that these adjunct faculty members receive no compensation or benefits from GISD.

Dr. Pollard recommended that the board approve the resolution allowing 4-H to be considered an extracurricular activity as well as approve that the Coryell County Extension staff be considered adjunct faculty with GISD.

This motion, made by Mary Anne Leib and seconded by Charles Alderson, Passed.

Loyd Hopson: Absent, Charles Alderson: Yea, Charles Ament: Yea, Calvin Ford: Yea, Cheyenne Kizer: Yea, Mary Anne Leib: Yea, Linda Maxwell: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION (TEX. GOV'T CODE 551.001)

The board agreed that an executive session was not needed for this meeting.

A. DELIBERATION REGARDING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, EMPLOYMENT, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, AND EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL (TEX. GOV'T CODE 551.074)

B. DELIBERATION REGARDING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, EMPLOYMENT, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, AND EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL (TEX. GOV'T CODE 551.074)

9. ACTION PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, EMPLOYMENT, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, AND EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

B. RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, EMPLOYMENT, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, AND EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL-Information only; no board action needed.

<i>Employ (2025-2026)</i>	<i>Type Contract</i>	<i>Term</i>
Sarah Rippen	Probationary	10 month

10. FUTURE BUSINESS

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ament adjourned the meeting at 5:57 PM with no voiced objections.

We affirm that these minutes are official, complete and correct.

President

Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____