

# Regular Meeting

Monday, May 19, 2025 5:30 PM

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

**Present:** Charles Alderson, Charles Ament, Calvin Ford, Loyd Hopson, Cheyenne Kizer, Mary Anne Leib, Linda Maxwell.

## **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**

Reverend Lee Ford gave the invocation.

## **4. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

Dr. Barrett Pollard, Superintendent, recognized Tristan Modisett. Tristan is a responsible and polite student with a strong academic record. He set a goal of graduating a year early and will walk the stage in May. Despite having a heavy course load and busy work schedule, Tristan has maintained excellent grades. In fact, at semester he was ranked 18th in the senior class with a 3.73 GPA. Earlier in his high school career (and despite having asthma), Tristan was in our track program. Recently, Coach Aguirre was able to convince Tristan to compete again at our district track meet. Tristan has worked as a waiter at Rancher's for quite some time. If you are fortunate enough to have him as a waiter, you will see firsthand his kindness, patience, and respect for others. We are proud to call him a Hornet and wish him the best after graduation.

Dr. Pollard also recognized Liam Shoaf. On each STAAR test, a student receives a grade that either "did not meet," "approaches," "meets," or "masters" the state's expectations. To receive a "masters" rating on a STAAR test is a great accomplishment. Liam is the one and only senior this year who "mastered" every STAAR test he ever received. That means he mastered 18 STAAR tests over the course of his 3rd grade through 11th grade journey.

## **5. VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

Lead Friend on Duty (FOD) Adam Fitzer honored Bill Trotter. Bill joined the FOD program 2 years ago. During that time, Mr. Trotter worked countless hours at the junior high and numerous extracurricular events. A pastor by profession, Bill also served as the FOD's chaplain. Mr. Trotter is a positive influence for everyone, and the junior high students love and respect him. He has been a dear friend to all of us and will be missed immensely.

Fitzer also recognized Donnie Cole. Donnie is married to Lillis Cole and retired from Conoco Phillips in west Texas many years ago. They relocated to Gatesville for Lillis's teaching job at the elementary. Donnie worked for the GISD maintenance department for 18 years before retiring again. Lillis encouraged Donnie to join the FOD. For two years now, Donnie works arrival and dismissal at the elementary. He averages over 19,000 steps per day checking every interior and exterior door at all five campuses. His good mood is infectious, and he will be very hard to replace. We hope that both Bill and Donnie can return at some point.

## **6. STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

Dr. Pollard recognized GISD's substitute teachers for being some of the hardest working employees in the district. Each morning the principals typically email their campuses to let them know which staff members are absent and if a substitute is available to cover their class. When there are not enough substitutes available, it makes the functioning of the campuses and the entire district much more difficult. Tonight, we wanted to spotlight a group of substitutes who are extremely dependable. The Ford family consisting of Leo O. Ford, Donald Ford, Lillian Ford, LaSonia Ducette, and Cassandra Ward are consistently available to substitute at our campuses. They are particularly helpful for the high school campus. In fact, high school principal Liz Shoaf even commented once this past year that, "if it were not for the Ford Family, the high school would not be able to function."

## **7. SPECIAL RECOGNITION: STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC ALL-STATE RECIPIENTS**

Rickey Phillips, Athletic Director, recognized 34 senior student-athletes that earned Academic All-State from the THSCA.

## **8. THE VFW'S PATRIOT'S PEN & VOICE OF DEMOCRACY ESSAY CONTESTS**

Dr. Pollard shared information from Eddie Sherman, Past Commander of the VFW Post 9191, who wanted to give an advanced notice of the annual VFW essay contests. The Patriot's Pen essay contest for grades 6-8 and the Voice of Democracy audio essay contest for grades 9-12 have the same theme for the 2025-2026 school year. The theme is "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support For Our Country?" Submissions for both are due by October 31.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

## **10. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approve consent agenda items A-G as presented.

This motion, made by Loyd Hopson and seconded by Mary Anne Leib, Passed.

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

Mary Anne Leib: Yea, Linda Maxwell: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**A. MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2025 REGULAR MEETING**

**B. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF APRIL 30, 2025**

**C. BILLS AND PAYROLLS FOR APRIL 2025**

**D. BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

**E. Y-T-D BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO FUND BALANCE**

**F. VITAL SIGNS REPORT**

**G. FOOD SERVICE REPORT**

## **11. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. PRELIMINARY 2025 PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUES RELEASED**

LeighAnn Goodwin, Asst. Supt. of Finance, reported that, in late April each year, the District receives from the Coryell and Bell Counties Appraisal Districts what are known as preliminary property tax values that will eventually be used to assess the 2025 Tax Levy in support of the 2025-2026 school year. These values may be adjusted up or down before the Certified Values are released in late July.

This year's preliminary Certified Property Net Taxable Values for 2025 \$1,307,742,804 which are up over last year's for 2024 \$1,221,002,919 for Coryell County. Bell county values are up as well. For 2025 the Net Taxable Values is \$1,760,300 as compared to 2024's \$1,517,713.

## **B. TASB ENERGY COOPERATIVE FUEL POOL FOR 2025-2026**

Goodwin updated on TASB Fuel Pool. At the March 24, 2025 board meeting, the school board approved the district's commitment to participate in the 2025-2026 TASB Fuel Pool. The maximum price was capped at \$2.79 for diesel and \$2.59 for unleaded. TASB Energy Cooperative was successful in finalizing the 2025-2026 pool. The rate locked in lower at \$2.42 for diesel and \$2.21 for unleaded through Mansfield Energy Company. Based on our commitment letter to purchase 36,000 gallons of diesel and 9,000 gallons of unleaded, this brings the district's total commitment down to \$107,010 (down from \$123,750 projected last month). As a reference, last year's commitment was \$126,343. This is the 5th year we have seen a decline in fuel prices through the pool.

## **C. 2025 SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM**

Goodwin spoke about 2025 Summer Feeding. The District will be offering its 15th Annual Summer Feeding Program this year through the National School Lunch Program. This program is operated out of the Child Nutrition Fund. GISD began offering this program in June 2011 and grew to its peak in 2020. This program has a history of some years we have a net loss and some years we have a net gain. The District aims to operate this program as close as possible to a break-even. Last year the program lost \$3,488. This year's feeding program will utilize the Elementary campus only. Meals will be served at the Elementary campus and will include feeding the Boys & Girls Club. Meals will be delivered to all other locations, which are Trinity Baptist Church, City Pool, Summer School campuses, and High School for athletic camps. Service will begin Monday, June 2, 2025 and end Thursday, July 31, 2025.

## **D. BLUEBONNET LEARNING MATERIALS**

Dr. Scott Harper, Asst. Supt. of Academics and Student Services, revisited Bluebonnet Learning Materials and answered questions from the Board. Texas is offering a State curriculum (Bluebonnet Learning) for K-5 Reading/Language Arts and K-Algebra1 in Math. Special funding (\$48,520) is earmarked strictly for purchasing Bluebonnet materials. In the Fall the State offered grant money Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) where the Service Center works on the campus implementing Bluebonnet Learning in its entirety. We passed on that grant because of its rigidity of not wavering from the script and pacing. We wanted more local control. Twenty GISD teachers from Math & Reading attended a Bluebonnet workshop. This was their take-aways: K=loved Rdg & Math; 1st-3d=loved Math; 1st&2d=need another 30 minutes of Rdg; 3d=loved Rdg; 4th-8th=skeptical of the gaps created by inserting a new curriculum without prior knowledge. We are considering purchasing K-3 Math and K Reading/Language Arts for the 2025-2026 school year.

## **12. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ALLOTMENT (IMA) TEKS CERTIFICATION**

Dr. Harper reported that districts are required to certify annually to the State Board of Education and the commissioner that, for each subject in the required curriculum other than physical education, students have access to instructional materials that cover all of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. By approving the certification form, the district superintendent and board of trustees certify: 1) that the district's instructional materials allotment(IMA) is used only for expenses allowed by the Texas Education Code (TEC); 2) that for the coming school year, the district has instructional materials that cover all elements of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills of the required curriculum identified in TEC for each subject and grade-level (other than physical education); 3) that, upon request, the district will provide to the State Board of Education the title and publication information for any instructional materials requisitioned or purchased by the district with the district's IMA funds.

Dr. Harper recommended the Board approve the IMA TEKS Certification form including, but not limited to Bluebonnet Learning, so that it may be submitted to TEA.

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

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **B. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ONRAMPS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**

Dr. Harper recommended the Board approve the Interlocal Agreement with UT at Austin so that GHS Students may take advantage of college coursework offered through the OnRamps program.

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

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **C. DATE FOR PROPOSED 2025-2026 BOARD BUDGET & TAX RATE WORKSHOP**

Goodwin recommended setting the date for the annual board proposed budget and tax rate workshop for Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 5:30pm two weeks prior to the Board's regular August 18, 2025 board meeting.

This motion, made by Cheyenne Kizer and seconded by Calvin Ford, Passed.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **D. CALL FOR PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS & ADOPT 2025-2026 BUDGET & TAX RATE**

Goodwin recommended calling for a public hearing to discuss and adopt the budget and tax rate for the 2025-2026 school year for Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

This motion, made by Loyd Hopson and seconded by Linda Maxwell, Passed.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **E. RENEWAL OF BANK DEPOSITORY AGREEMENT**

Goodwin recommended that the School Board approve this resolution granting a two year depository contract extension to Cadence Bank effective September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

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

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **F. UPDATE ON PERIMETER FENCING AT PRIMARY & ELEMENTARY PROJECT**

Goodwin gave an update on the fencing project. At our last board meeting, the School Board approved the construction of perimeter fencing at the primary and elementary schools. Because of the potential price tag for this project, the District sent out an Request for Proposal and accepted bids. Bids were opened at 10am on Friday, May 16, 2025.

Goodwin recommended the School Board accept the winning bid, Encore Fencing, for the project.

This motion, made by Loyd Hopson and seconded by Charles Alderson, Passed.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### **G. REPLACEMENT OF PROJECTORS AT INTERMEDIATE CAMPUS**

Goodwin presented, the District is purchasing interactive flat panel touch displays for 43 Intermediate School classrooms for the 2025-2026 school year. Currently, the High School, Junior High and Primary campuses utilize these touch displays. The flat panel touch displays will replace the aging projectors that were installed in 2015. Two vendors submitted state bid contract proposals for 43 flat panel touch displays including the mounting hardware: Cynergy Technology=\$67,174.26 and Visual Techniques Inc.=\$71,971.00.

Goodwin recommended the approval to purchase the flat panel touch displays from Cynergy Technology.

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

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### **H. WASTE MANAGEMENT COST SAVINGS AGREEMENT**

Goodwin presented a new company, Communications Expense Group, Inc. (CEG), a company that works with businesses such as school districts to identify billing discrepancies and recover overcharges. CEG has been serving clients through billing audits for over 22 years. Their goal is to help businesses like us optimize expenses in areas like utilities (electricity, gas, water, sewer, waste) and telecom and information technology. After spending some time reviewing our bills in these areas, CEG believes they can not only help us recover overcharged amount billed in error, but also help us to set cost savings going forward. CEG and GISD would enter into a 2 year contract. There is no set up or inventory processing fee and no monthly fee. CEG compensation comes strictly from our cost savings and recovery of overcharges at 40%. Anything CEG is able to recover on our behalf, 60% remains with the district and 40% goes to CEG. During the 2 year contract, any cost savings moving forward (the difference between our old bill and new bill) 60% would remain with the district and 40% would go to CEG. CEG estimates the biggest potential cost savings and recovery in the area of Waste Management with a smaller potential in the area of electricity, water, and Nextlink Internet. CEG estimates a cost saving for the next 24 months at \$42,352 (CEG's 40% estimated portion \$16,940 and GISD net estimated savings would be \$25,412).

Goodwin recommended entering into a 24 month contract with CEG to recover and reduce telecom and utility costs and provide potential cost savings to the district.

This motion, made by Loyd Hopson and seconded by Mary Anne Leib, Passed.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

### **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (TEX. GOV'T CODE 551.001)**

The board took a break at 6:30 PM and then went into executive session at 6:36 PM and returned to open session at 7:36 PM.

#### **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)**

### **14. ACTION PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, EMPLOYMENT, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, AND EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL-** Information only, no board action needed.

## B. RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, EMPLOYMENT, REASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES, AND EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL

Information only; no board action needed.

Information items:

<b>Resignations</b>	<b>Campus/Position</b>	<b>Last Day</b>
Melanie Catsoris	HS-Math	5/23/25
Vanessa Dubay	IN-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5/23/25
Sherry Stephens	HS-CTE Graphic Designs	5/23/25
Jana Richardson	PR-Pre Kindergarten	5/23/25

<b>Reassignments (2025-2026)</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Reassigned to</b>	<b>Replacing</b>
Jason Allman	JH-Social Studies/Coach	JH-Health/Coach	Mackensie Wilson
Michael Kunkel	IN-Special Ed-Life Skills	HS-Math	Venus Leung

<b>Employ (2025-2026)</b>	<b>Type Contract</b>	<b>Term</b>
Rebecca Castro	Part-Time Agreement	10 month
Tyler Hanson	Probationary	10 month
Justin Hoover	Probationary	10 month
Jackie Pruitt, Jr.	Probationary	10 month

## 15. FUTURE BUSINESS

A. DISTRICT END OF YEAR SERVICE AWARDS- FRIDAY MAY 23, 10:00 AM, GHS AUDITORIUM

B. JUNE BOARD MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED FROM JUNE 23RD TO JUNE 16TH

C. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

## 16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ament adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM with no voiced objections.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_