

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Galveston Independent School District

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Galveston Independent School District was held September 16, 2020, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Lovenberg Administration Building, 3904 Avenue T, Galveston, TX.

Notice was given pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.127 as modified by the Texas Attorney General, that due to the state of emergency declared by, Governor Abbott on behalf of the State of Texas, and President Trump on behalf of the United States of America regarding the spread of coronavirus/COVID-19 (hereafter "COVID-19"), one or more members of the Galveston ISD Board of Trustees may have attended this meeting via videoconference in order to properly mitigate the spread of COVID-19, pursuant to State and local emergency/disaster declarations. Notice was given that Galveston ISD intended to conduct this meeting via videoconference. As required by the temporary suspension, Galveston ISD:

- Has provided online written notice containing a free-of-charge website link, as well as an electronic copy of any agenda packet, before conducting this meeting via videoconference; specifically, the public may use the following free-of-charge website link: <https://www.gisd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=5397>; or a live broadcast on Channel 17.
- Provided the public with access and a means to participate in the meeting, at 3904 Ave T Galveston, TX 77550; or by telephone at 409-766-5139; and
- Provided the public with access to a recording of the meeting.

The subjects discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

1) Call to Order Open Session 6:28

Board members in attendance - Anthony Brown, Monica Wagner, Monday Lakin, Johnny Smecca, David O'Neal, Shae Jobe, and Ann Masel

Staff in attendance - Dr. Moulton, Dr. Scott, Connie Morgenroth, Audrey Torres, Dyann Polzin, Mary Patrick, Paul Byers, Joseph Pillar, and Dr. Julia Ramirez

- 2) The Board recessed into Closed Executive Session in the Library as permitted by the Texas Open Meeting Act Government Code Sections 551.071- 551.090 Subchapter D and E. 6:49 - 7:52

Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the School Board with regard to any matter considered in such closed meeting then the final action, final decision, or final vote shall be either:

- A) in the open meeting covered by the Notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting; or
- B) at a subsequent public meeting of the School Board upon notice thereof; as the School Board shall determine.

A) Personnel

- 1) Discuss and Consider administration's proposal to suspend without pay, for the remainder of the school year, a probationary employee at Central Middle School.
- 2) Discuss and Consider administration's proposal to terminate the contract, at end of school year, of a probationary employee at Central Middle School.
- 3) Discuss, Consider and possibly take action on the Superintendent's letter of retirement and possible succession, interim, search planning.

B) Consultation with Attorney

C) Real Property

- 3) Reestablish the open meeting of the Galveston ISD Board of Trustees.
- 4) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag.
- 5) Citizen's Request to Address the Board on Agenda and Non-Agenda items. 6:30 - 6:49

Megan Sanborn - SPED teacher. Requesting more teachers.

Sara Archer - Middle Schools - Austin was full for her daughter. She expressed her issues with Colligate. She feels there should be equity in the middle schools.

Dianna Williams - 23 year GISD teacher - She is concerned with social distancing in the schools and her classroom.

Eric Wagner - parent - He would like to share thoughts on school reopening. He summarized with the word uncertainty.

Katie Asad - Teacher at Parker - She is concerned with safety measures provided and not enough PPE. She also would like to have a staggered opening of schools.

Jennifer Waldrop - teacher and Elementary Parent - She feels she and her child have adjusted to virtual learning and an extension would allow more time for the virus to run its course.

Liz Murphy - principal at Parker - Her school brought in 5 students at a time and they were able to identify problems. She is asking for a slower transition.

6) Superintendent's Report 7:52- 8:14

We have been back since August 24th, here is an update. The number of all students enrolled onsite is 4332 and 2297 in SAIL, approximately 400 less than last year. PreK enrollment is 268, down 180 from last year. Child NUTRITION - Curbside meals will be

discontinued when we go back in regular session, but will still be provided for students in SAIL. Breakfast and lunch has been in the classrooms. Teachers are asking about small pods in the cafeteria. It is being considered. TECHNOLOGY - Thanks to Moody for their donation. Supply problems around the world causing delay in getting chromebooks. 593 Chromebooks have been promised within the week. We have distributed about 1100 hot spots. High school students will be trading chromebooks for laptops. The GISD website has a help desk being managed by MIS. COVID - Dashboard on the website has data about students and staff in the district. PPE is available to all students. Gloves are back ordered. Protocols for what to do are also on the website. TIPS TO COLLEAGUES - We asked each campus, what's something that they are doing that is working and would like to share with others. COVID DATA from Galveston County - Information from the beginning of Covid is available. It shows after July, there has been a steady decrease.

8:14 - Board comments: Wagner - Spoke of concerns and questions about masks. Byers answered that each campus will have 4 reusable and 8 disposable per student to start. Smecca - Do we have more in storage? Masel - At what point should the district order more? Morgenroth - Reporting numbers of inventory of PPE, we have 63,600 disposable masks and 15,900 reusable. Masel was concerned about running out. Moulton - The district is managing inventory and will order more. Brown - Had questions about desk dividers. Wagner - Where will they go? Smecca - He was glad the comment was made about gloves giving a false sense of security.. Lakin - Wanted to ensure that the help desk will be manned by bilingual personnel.

- A) Update on Returning to Learning 2020-2021
- B) Request for Agenda items Update 8:23

David O'Neal requests a report on the stipends and job assignments in athletics.

- C) Board Committee Reports 8:25 - 8:37
 - 1) Policy Committee Chair - Mr. David O'Neal 8:25

Legislators are giving directives about changes in the law to make sure we are being compliant. We will have a policy meeting October 7th.

- 2) Curriculum Committee Chair - Ms. Monica Wagner 8:26

Appreciate BHS flags near entrances to signal A or B days. Congratulations to our TIA designated teachers. The district announced the names of five recognized teachers, 17 exceptional and 18 Master Teachers. The committee talked about the asynchronous plan that was submitted to TEA. The committee discussed TEEM guidelines for 2020-2021. The last item talked about was Middle School realignment. Next curriculum meeting is scheduled for October 14th.

3) Facilities/ Finance Committee Chair - Mr. Johnny Smeca 8:33

Two people spoke during public comments. One spoke about Middle Schools and the other about facilities. We had an update from Mark Chevalier from Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson, the firm that collects delinquent taxes. Since 2006, they have collected about \$400,000 in penalties and interest for the district. Attorney fees were roughly \$14,000 for the last month. Financials were reported. Thanks again to the Moodys for their donations. Two expenditures were discussed. One about purchasing units to improve indoor air quality and the other, water bottle fillers for the campuses. Facility rental and deferred maintenance were discussed.

7) Financial Reports 8:37 Proposed budget amendment update. Connie Morgenroth - Budget amendment is attached as part of the minutes.

8) CONSENT AGENDA - Action Items 8:40 Pulling Item O - 8:43

Motion by O'Neal. Second by Masel

Unanimously approved.

- A) Consider approval of the minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting on August 26, 2020 and the Curriculum Committee and Special Board Meeting on September 2, 2020.
- B) Consider approval of Budget Amendments
- C) Consider Approval of Gifts and Donations.
- D) Consider Approval of Purchases >\$50,000
- E) Consider approval of personnel resignations and recommendations with contracts.
- F) Attorney Fees
- G) Consider approval of the Board's Time Use Tracker – August 26, 2020.
- H) Discuss and Consider approval to cancel the Regular School Trustee Election for District 5E and 6F for the November 3, 2020 School Board Election.
- I) Discuss and Consider approval of Certification of Unopposed Candidate for the Regular School Trustee Election for Districts 5-E and 6-F.
- J) Discuss and Consider submitting for a TEA waiver for the Alternate Instrument for 7th Grade Reading due to COVID 19 for 2020-2021.
- K) Discuss and Consider approval to contract with Julie Schmid to provide professional services of recruiting and the development of community partnerships in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.
- L) Discuss and Consider submitting for a TEA waiver for Missed School Days.
- M) Public Funds Investment Act Annual Compliance
- N) Consider Approval of Water Fountains with Bottle Fillers.
- O) *Pulled from consent.* Consider Purchase of Chromebooks >\$50,000 8:40

9) REGULAR AGENDA - Action Items 8:43 - 11:00, 11:14 - 11:54

Moved from consent. Consider Purchase of Chromebooks >\$50,000 8:43

Motion by Brown. Second by Wagner

Unanimous in favor.

- A) Discuss and Consider a waiver request to TEA to extend the back to school transition period for an additional four weeks (Sept 21, 2020 – Oct 16, 2020). 8:45

10:51 motion by Wagner. second by Smecca

6 in favor, Jobe opposed

- B) Discuss and Consider purchase of Biodefense Indoor Air Protection System. 10:51

Motion by Masel. Second by Jobe.

Unanimously in favor.

Short recess 11:00 - 11:14

- C) *pulled* Discuss and Consider administration's proposal to suspend without pay, for the remainder of school year, a probationary employee at Central Middle School. 11:14

- D) *pulled* Discuss and Consider administration's proposal to terminate the contract, at end of school year, of a probationary employee at Central Middle School.

- E) Discuss, consider and potentially take action on Superintendent's letter of retirement and possible succession, interim, search planning. 11:14

Tony Brown - Dr. Moulton has given her letter of resignation. We are doing a comprehensive search to continue. Two presentations were made to the board to consider a formalized agreement with a superintendent search firm:

Butch Feltner, with TASB - He assisted with the search last time. They do national searches. Dr. Bob Smith is our consultant joined by Mariane Straus. He explained their process.

David Thompson and Jim Byrom with Thompson and Horton - David Thompson explained their process.

Motion by Masel to hire Thompson and Horton. Second by Jobe

Discussion: Masel - She likes the idea of using a law firm. Also likes that they are dealing with way fewer searches than TASB. She also likes the focus groups and that they are local.

O'Neal - He says all of these groups use basically the same concept. The community can help with the selection, but the board knows what is best for the district. The decision should be made just because they are local. Cost difference is another thing to look at. \$18K for Thompson Horton vs \$8K for TASB. Reminded that TASB was used to get Dr. Moulton.

Wagner - Has concerns about added fees and difference in costs.

Brown - We have used TASB before and a good result with them, but we want to make sure that the firm hired is focused on us as a client. He feels hiring a superintendent is the most important thing the board does.

Unanimous in favor.

10) Suggested Future Agenda Items 11:54

Smecca - procurement procedures

11) Board Comments 11:55 - 11:59

Jobe - BHS tennis is doing great.

O'Neal - let the public know that tickets are purchased online, no concessions will be available and 25% capacity at events.

Brown - Thanks to everyone for a long meeting.

All board comments can be viewed online at

<https://gisd.viebit.com/player.php?hash=qv37tNO119v>

12) Adjournment 11:59

Minutes taken by: Amedia Bly

Approved on: _____

Mr. Tony Brown, President

Mrs. Monica Wagner, Secretary