

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 28, 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. Charles Alderson arrived at 6:04 PM.

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

Mary Anne Leib gave the invocation.

4. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Tristan Modisett was scheduled to be honored as this month's student spotlight. However, Tristan had a workplace obligation, so we will honor him at May's board meeting.

5. STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Barrett Pollard recognized the GISD custodial staff. We have 28 total custodians in our district, so tonight we asked the lead custodian from each campus to represent the group. This team really is the silent backbone of our schools. Their constant work throughout the day creates clean and welcoming environments at each campus. Being a custodian is a physically demanding job, and their impact is felt throughout the district. We particularly want to acknowledge their extraordinary work during the recent cold and flu season. The custodians put in a lot of extra effort to clean as many surfaces as possible to combat illness. In addition, many of our custodians work beyond the school day at after-school events, and some are even bus drivers or bus aides. Their dedication and hard work is deeply appreciated, and we are grateful to have them on our team. The lead custodians are Brian Reeder - High School, Ramon Ramirez - Junior High, Mike Reeder - Intermediate, Tammy Reeder - Elementary, and Becky Hitt - Primary.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve consent agenda items A-I as presented.

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

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

- A. MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2025 REGULAR MEETING
- B. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2025
- C. BILLS AND PAYROLLS FOR MARCH 2025
- D. BUDGET AMENDMENTS
- E. Y-T-D BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO FUND BALANCE
- F. VITAL SIGNS REPORT
- G. FOOD SERVICE REPORT

H. SUMMER SCHOOL DATES

*K-12- Monday, June 2 - Thursday, June 12

*Student Hours- 8:30-3:30

*Breakfast and lunch provided

*Teacher Hours- 30 minutes longer than student hours, divided between arrival and dismissal

I. SUMMER SCHOOL TUITION FOR OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENTS

*K-8- \$150 for full session

*HS- \$100 per course

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. THE US ARMY'S YOUTH SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM & PURPLE STAR CAMPUS DESIGNATION UPDATE

Bridget Register, Exec Dir of Bilingual Ed & Accountability, reported that the Secretary of Defense requires that each installation have a youth sponsorship program to facilitate the integration of dependent children of military parents into new surroundings when moving to that military installation as a result of a parent's permanent change of station. The goal of the program is to provide information, create a sense of belonging, and offer support to make friends. The program implementation reduces social isolation, a more positive transition into a new school setting, and a less stressful change when transitioning. We plan to bring the US Army Youth Sponsorship program to Gatesville ISD, with teacher training in August and student training in the fall. Purple Star applications are due June 6. Each campus is working towards the designation. Staff professional development is set for May 5, which is a final piece needed for the designation. A culmination of evidence is needed for the application, which is what most campuses are completing now.

B. MEDICAID SETTLE UP PAYMENT FY24

LeighAnn Goodwin, Asst. Supt. of Finance, shared that the district submitted its final SHARS cost report of April 1, 2025 for the FY2024 school year. The district stands to earn \$106,475 in settle-up payment to be received in early FY2026. This is on top of the interim reimbursements received of \$118,507 for a total of \$224,982 for FY2024. The district budget \$300,000 in reimbursements for the FY24 school year. This is approximately \$75,000 less than expected. The SHARS guidelines continue to become more restrictive with less billing capabilities for school districts. Unfortunately this is expected to continue to decline in opportunities. This school year, we expected a settle up payment from FY23 for a total of \$177,000. The government only approved a reimbursement of \$28,000. We disagreed with this and are waiting to hear if we will receive any more. Half of the school districts in Texas owed money back. Currently, we have received \$66,000 in interim reimbursements for FY25. Revenues continue to decline and unfortunately is getting harder to rely on SHARS Medicaid as a revenue source. We will not meet our revenue goal of \$300,000 for this current school year.

C. PROJECT GRADUATION LOCK-IN PLANS

Dr. Barrett Pollard, shared graduation lock-in plans. Typically, the event has taken place at locations such as Texas Station, Urban Air in Killeen, or a facility at Baylor. This year the event will be held at Spare Time in Temple. Our graduating seniors will meet at the Primary parking lot before midnight on the night of graduation. As customary, a drug dog will be present to ensure no prohibited items are taken on the buses. The group will depart on GISD school buses at 12:15 a.m. The lock-in will be from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Students will ride school buses from the stadium to the venue and return to the stadium on the buses. In other words, there will be no parent drop off or pick up or students driving themselves to the venue. Additionally, students may not come and go from the lock-in. Tickets are \$75 per student but fundraising has reduced the price to \$20 per senior. We're hoping that additional fundraising eliminate the cost altogether. Also, scholarships will be available for any student who really wishes to attend but legitimately cannot afford the \$20.

D. SECOND READING OF BLUEBONNET LEARNING MATERIALS

Dr. Pollard revisited Bluebonnet learning materials. At last month's board meeting, we introduced the idea of adopting the state's Bluebonnet learning materials. Bluebonnet materials are available for Reading K-5, Math K-5, and 6-8 Math along with Algebra I. The questions presented in these materials align with the same format as the STAAR test. Tomorrow, April 29, a large group of us will be attending an all-day training at Region 12 to dive deeper into these resources. If it meets with everyone's approval, we will likely present the Bluebonnet materials at the May board meeting for adoption. Best of all, Bluebonnet aligns with our current TEKS Resource Curriculum.

E. UPDATE ON POTENTIAL 2026 BOND FOR ADDITION/RENOVATION OF JH, NEW FIELD HOUSE AND NEW PRESS BOX

Dr. Pollard gave an update on renovation plans. Gatesville resident and Huckabee architect Brent Winkler provided ballpark estimates of the cost of some future building projects.

1. New JH band hall, choir room, and theater room with staff and student restrooms. Cost: \$4.2 million
2. Remove JH portables, replace those 4 rooms, and connect the main building to the Mary Bishop Gym: Cost: \$1.8 million
3. Complete renovation of the current JH auditorium for better lighting, sound, and seating. Cost: \$750,000
4. New field house located behind current visitor's side of the stadium would house all boy athletes except tennis. Cost: \$7.7 million
5. New press box at McKamie Stadium on what is currently the visitor side along with 1,000 additional seats. Cost: \$550,000
6. Add 6th grade to JH-10 classrooms, 4 student RR, 2 staff RR, 2 admin offices, & 2 intervention rooms. Cost: \$4.1 million
7. Cafeteria would expand into existing library and a new library would then be built. Cost: \$2 million
8. Update the 3 existing girl/boy student restrooms found in the main 3 hallways. Cost: \$405,000
9. Add parking lot in the grassy area currently located in the front of the JH. Cost: \$375,000
10. New turf for existing baseball field. Cost: \$800,000. New baseball bleachers and baseball press box. Cost: \$250,000.

Total cost of all these projects: \$22.93 million, but you have to add 10% inflation by next May and the unpredictable tariffs. Brian Grubbs (our financial advisor) informed us that we have such good bond capacity that we could ask voters for up to \$26 million without having to raise the tax rate. Be aware that House Bill 19, if passed, would eliminate May bond elections.

9. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. NEW AND INNOVATIVE COURSE OFFERINGS AT GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Scott Harper, Asst. Supt. of Academics and Student Services, presented that TEA allows districts to offer state-approved innovative courses to enable students to master additional skills not included in the current required curriculum. With the approval of the board of trustees, Gatesville ISD will offer one new state-approved innovative course this year for elective credit. The class is Sports & Entertainment Marketing. This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of marketing concepts and theories applied to the sports and entertainment industries. Student will explore branding, sponsorship, endorsements, event planning and career development within the field. For your information, our Career & Technology Education program will offer 25 industry based certifications (IBC's). This next school year we will seven new, non-innovative courses for 2025-2026 school year: Certified Medical Assistance (CMA); Landscape Design & Maintenance, Turf Grass Management; Principles of Education & Training.; Sports & Entertainment Marketing, Entrepreneurship I, Fashion Marketing.

Dr. Harper recommended the Board approve the CTE Sports and Entertainment Marketing innovative course for the 2025-2026 school year.

This motion, made by Calvin Ford and seconded by Loyd Hopson, 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. APPROVE 2025-2026 SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Dr. Yancey Sanderson, Asst Supt. of Admin. Services, spoke on the substance abuse policy. The purpose of the Gatesville ISD substance abuse policy is to encourage an alcohol and drug-free educational environment, deter student use of drugs, alcohol, and prohibited substances and educate students regarding the harm of illegal drugs. This program requires that any student in grades 7-12 desiring to participate in any District extracurricular program to follow the guidelines of the Substance Abuse Policy, including consenting to mandatory random drug testing. This year, we are proposing a few changes to wording to improve clarification of the SAP. The main addition to the substance abuse policy was the term "prohibited substance." This term refers to any product or substance causing intoxication or inebriation as a result of inhaling, ingesting, or injecting.

Dr. Sanderson recommended the Board adopt the 2025 - 2026 GISD Substance Abuse Policy as presented.

This motion, made by Mary Anne Leib 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

C. APPROVE 25-26 RENEWAL FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY CONTRACT

Goodwin reported on renewal of food service management contract. We are under a current contract with Southwest Food Service Excellence LLC (SFE); however, the state requires us to complete an amendment during the contract to consider updates to the price adjustments, projected budget, and meal equivalents. All other provisions and conditions of the contract are considered unaffected and in full force. This amendment will act as a renewal of contract for the period of one year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 with SFE.

Price adjustments changes for breakfast, lunch, at-risk snack, and summer programs are 2.0294 to 2.1065 which is a 3.8% change. Non-program meal equivalent changes are 3.8% from 4.69 to 4.8682. These meal rate changes are based on the yearly percentage change from the consumer price index from Bureau of Labor Statistics. The projected revenue for 25-26 is \$2.19 million. The projected expense is \$2.04 million.

Goodwin recommended that the price adjustment amendment for 25-26 school year with SFE contract be approved as presented.

This motion, made by Charles Alderson 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

D. BIDS FOR AUDIT FIRM FOR FY25

Goodwin explained bids for audit firms. GISD has utilized the auditing services of Lott Vernon for the past 8 years. In the last 4 years, the cost to use Lott Vernon has increased \$16,300 as follows: \$24,000(FY21), \$27,500(FY22), \$32,400(FY23), and \$40,300(FY24). For this reason, we went out to bid for the upcoming FY25 audit. We sent inquiries to 4 firms, including Lott Vernon. Lott Vernon chose not to bid this time. We received bids from the 3 other firms we reached out to. We would like to introduce

Singleton, Clark & Company CPA firm. SC is a certified public accounting firm and had the most competitive bid and came with great references including Region 12. While their main office is in the Austin area, they have a satellite office in Temple and this office serves quite a few of the the districts in Region 12. Texas government audits is all this firm does.

Goodwin recommended using Singleton & Clark as our CPA auditing firm for the FY25 school year.

This motion, made by Calvin Ford and seconded by Loyd Hopson, 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. MOU BETWEEN GISD AND FREEDOM REINS

Dr. Pollard spoke about Freedom Reins. Lori Rockwood and her team of counselors specialize in severe cases of trauma, anxiety, and depression. For years now, Mrs. Rockwood and her team have been serving our families in cases where our students need services that go beyond what the school district can offer. In those instances, our counselors referred these students to Freedom Reins. Mrs. Rockwood and her team meet with these students' parents and ask them to sign a release form so that her staff can work with the children. Therapists from Freedom Reins then come to our campuses to work with these students. Sessions are typically 50 minutes in length. Freedom Reins bills Medicaid or the family's insurance to pay for these services. In cases not covered by insurance or Medicaid, GISD would reimburse Freedom Reins Counseling for services not covered by insurance at a rate of \$50.00 per session. Sessions billed will not exceed 60 minutes per individual student per week. Monthly billing will not exceed \$1200.00. Payment will not cover the costs for more than 50% of total students being seen by Freedom Reins. This is the same billing arrangement as last year.

Dr. Pollard recommended that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Freedom Reins Counseling so that our students will continue to have access to additional counseling services through the 2025-2026 school year.

This motion, made by Mary Anne Leib 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

F. GRANT FOR RIFLE-RESISTANT BODY ARMOR

Dr. Pollard presented, Corporal Justin Burgan, our school police officer at the junior high campus, has spent time applying for a grant for rifle-resistant body armor for our five GISD police officers. As part of the grant, the board must adopt a resolution supporting the grant for body armor and assuring that we do not misuse the funds. As a side note, we wanted to make the board aware of another document that is a part of this grant package that might accompany all state and federal grants in the future. Basically, it is an assurance that we will cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by providing information requested by that agency pertaining to illegal aliens. Also, the department asks that we detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. We feel this is a highly unlikely request, but we thought it was worth mentioning.

Dr. Pollard recommended that the board adopt the resolution as presented so that we may complete the grant paperwork necessary for the rifle-resistant body armor for our police officers.

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. FENCING PROJECT AT PRIMARY & ELEMENTARY PAID OUT OF DISTRICT FUND BALANCE

Dr. Pollard presented, additional fencing continues to be a high priority for the district from a safety standpoint. Specifically, the fence that separates the primary playground from Business 36 is getting old. In addition, we would like to increase the height of that fence from 4 feet to 8 feet. Recently, we had a primary student scale the fence very quickly, which might be the first time in the school's history that this occurred. The student was quickly retrieved but this is an obvious safety risk. The 8 feet fence will be a much greater impediment for anyone wanting to get in or out of that area. There is an incredible amount of foot traffic of pedestrians walking from the McDonalds area to the Walgreens/Walmart area. Thus, we will also add fence from the administration building to the baseball field and then from the baseball field to the primary school fence mentioned above. This would create a barrier for all pedestrians so they cannot enter the school's property from Lovers Lane until they get to Hornet Way. Additionally, we would like to insert a 6 foot fence at the elementary that would separate the car lanes from the playground area. We would also replace the 4 feet fence that currently separates the playground from the back parking area with a 6 foot fence. The Primary fence project will be \$46,117.64, while the elementary/admin fence project will be \$39,573.87. The work should commence as soon as the school year ends.

Dr. Pollard recommended approving both of these fencing projects to better ensure the safety of our youngest students. The \$85,691.51 cost would come from the fund balance.

This motion, made by Linda Maxwell 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

H. EMPLOYEE LEAVE DONATION PROGRAM

Dr. Pollard presented the new Employee Leave Donation Program, which is separate from the Catastrophic Leave Bank. Gatesville ISD's Leave Donation Program is designed to assist employees dealing with prolonged, severe, or life-threatening conditions. This leave applies only to GISD employees and not their family members. Once an employee battling one of these conditions has exhausted all available paid leave plus the possible 30 days of catastrophic leave, he or she will be eligible to receive donated leave days from fellow employees. This could help prevent employees struggling with a prolonged, severe, or life-threatening condition from having their pay docked fully or even partially. Once eligibility criteria has been met and that employee has exhausted all paid leave and catastrophic leave, he or she will be eligible to receive donated state and local leave days from other employees. GISD employees may donate up to 5 days of their accrued state and/or local leave to employees struggling through these types of conditions. Lexi O'Hair, our TASB policy analyst, has added this verbiage to our DEC Local Policy if approved by the board tonight.

Dr. Pollard recommended that the Board approve the Employee Leave Donation Program as presented so that it can be added to our DEC Local board policy and begin immediately.

This motion, made by Calvin Ford and seconded by Loyd Hopson, 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

I. DISTRICTWIDE LOW ATTENDANCE WAIVER FOR 2-19-2025

Dr. Pollard reported, on Wednesday, February 19, we had a two hour delayed start. Our attendance rate that day was only 81.03%. Our average daily attendance rate from the previous year was 94.11%. Thus, that day's rate was 13% below last year's average. By petitioning the state for a low attendance waiver for this day, the state would delete that percentage when calculating this year's overall average. In other

words, this low percentage would no longer negatively impact our overall average. The state allows each district to waive up to ten school days for reasons such as illness or bad weather.

Dr. Pollard recommended that the board of trustees allow the district to submit a low attendance waiver to the state for the instructional day of February 19.

This motion, made by Mary Anne Leib 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

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

The board took a break at 6:29 PM and then went into executive session at 6:37 PM and returned to open session at 7:39 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)

C. CONSIDER SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRACT STATUS OF CLASSROOM TEACHER AND OTHER NON-ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL (TEX. GOV'T CODE 551.074)

1. TERMINATE PROBATIONARY CONTRACT EMPLOYEES

2. PROPOSE NONRENEWAL TERM CONTRACT EMPLOYEES

11. 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:

Resignations	Campus/Position	Last Day
Vic (Richard) Carruth	HS-Special Ed-PASS	Revised to 4/16/25
Edith Jan Hall	JH-Spanish (part-time)	5/23/25
Michael Hamilton	HS-Asst Band Director	6/27/25
Denise Jones	JH-College & Career Connections	5/23/25
Katrina Neason	PR-Special Education (part-time)	5/23/25
Katy Simmons	IN-5 th Grade	5/23/25
Sherry Stephens	CTE-Technology Applications	5/23/25
Zachary Tyler	JH-Special Education	5/23/25
Emily Weatherford	PR-PreK	5/23/25

Reassignments (2025-2026)	Current Position	Reassigned to	Replacing
Marilynn McCracken	EL-1 st Grade	PR-Reading Intervention	K Neason realigned
Madeline Necessary	JH-Math	EL-3 rd Grade	Brady Leech
Laci Martin	EL-2 nd grade	EL-3 rd Grade	Taylor Caffey
Brittany Crosby	EL-3 rd Grade	IN-4 th Grade	Stacy Zuehlke
Chase Smith	HS-CTE Business	HS-Special Ed-PASS	Richard Carruth

<i>Employ (2025-2026)</i>	<i>Type Contract</i>	<i>Term</i>
Jane Banda	Probationary	10 month
Kylie Dixon	Probationary-MA	11 month
Michael Hallman	Probationary-MA	11 month
Rebecca Herring	Probationary	10 month
Jennifer Hobday	Probationary	10 month
Amanda Kistler	Probationary	10 month
Teresa Lee	Probationary	10 month
Cassidie Owen	Probationary	10 month
Kate Patton	Probationary	10 month
Michelle Richardson	Probationary-MA	11 month
Alixandria Shonkwiler	Probationary	10 month

C. CONSIDER SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRACT STATUS OF CLASSROOM TEACHER AND OTHER NON-ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL (TEX. GOVT CODE 551.074)

1. **TERMINATE PROBATIONARY CONTRACT EMPLOYEES-** no action taken
2. **PROPOSE NONRENEWAL TERM CONTRACT EMPLOYEES-** no action taken

12. FUTURE BUSINESS

A. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ament adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM with no voiced objections.

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

President

Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____