

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 July 22, 2020, beginning at 6:30 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 attend this meeting via videoconference in order to properly mitigate the spread of COVID-19, pursuant to State and local emergency/disaster declarations.

Governor Abbott and Attorney General Paxton have temporarily suspended a number of open meetings laws in response to COVID-19, allowing governmental entities, including Galveston ISD, to conduct meetings by telephone or video conference. Notice is hereby given that Galveston ISD intends to conduct this meeting at the Lovenberg Administration Building with video conferencing as needed. As required by the temporary suspension, Galveston ISD:

GISD 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.

GISD provided the public with access and a means to participate in the emergency called meeting, at 3904 Ave T Galveston, TX 77550; and

GISD 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.

- 1) Call to order Open Session. --6:31

- 2) Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag. --6:31
- 3) Citizen's Request to Address the Board on Agenda and Non-Agenda items. --6:32 - 7:24

Rev. Eddie R. Johnson – in support of Juneteenth holiday

Darrell Cox, Superintendent of Upbring Headstart – He is supporting the agenda item to partner with GISD.

Eric Wagner, Parent of 4 kids in GISD – Spoke about personal experience in support of health data regarding COVID-19 and the experience with their daughter.

Matthew Hay, Community member, former trustee – Spoke on salaries and increase of pay for teachers and personal COVID-19 experience.

Keath Jacoby, Parent of rising Kinder – She would like to know the plan for community outreach around needs beyond digital, what is the criteria for closures and reopening, what are we asking of our teachers and are we providing universal curriculum/ equity between our schools and programs.

Carrie Hunicutt, Teacher Central MS – She doesn't feel safe and wants to know how can the school district protect her? Online is the only smart thing to do.

Katie Asah, teacher and parent – She appreciates effort. Asks that the board please look at the health data to keep everyone safe. Teachers are ready to show how great virtual learning will be.

Teresa Megahan, teacher – Teachers want to feel like their voices are being heard and be involved. She feels left out.

Dr. Daniel Hoffman, teacher at Ball Environmental Systems and Biology – Teachers are scared and confused. Unsure of their positions. Teachers do not feel safe. Kids are just as transmissible as adults. He feels the only viable option is to do a virtual entry.

Allison Cowan, speech language pathologist for GISD – She is concerned about PPE. Question: if one of her students test positive, will all of her students over two schools need to be quarantined. Therapy was very good over Zoom. She supports the four week remote learning.

Eliza Quigley – Thanks for the work being done. Surprised as leaders/Board members didn't switch the format of the board meeting and do the presentation of how school will roll out and comments after. Concerned teachers haven't been as involved as they should have been and if they have been, the info hasn't been transparent. She would like to see what will be presented and is hoping for distance learning. Questioned how parents will be trained to support remote learning? She is also concerned about cleaning. Feels it's not possible for teachers to do everything.

Tony Brown-under the law, public comment has to be at the beginning of the meeting.

Flor Mota – prospective teacher at GISD. Her 21st year of teaching. Please look at the data and science and concerns of parents and teachers expressed tonight. It is important that the board is taking all of the teachers' opinions into consideration.

Michelle Puig, BHS teacher 14 years . Two children in GISD. Would like to echo concerns of others about comments before. Agrees with starting out remotely.

Question: if we don't do a remote start, what kind of education can we provide and still be safe? Says technology is amazing now and the type of education that can be provided remotely is going to far surpass education done in the classroom face to face. The public has been given a lot of data about the parents surveyed publicly, but not the teachers' data. She would like to see the teacher's data.

Sabrina Jackson, parent – Has a 14 year old daughter that she tried to homeschool. It sent her daughter into a deep depression. She is concerned about depression kids are still facing without socializing. Suggested more socialized interaction through online. Suggested students stay in one classroom and teachers move between classes.

Brandon Woods, GUM –. He wants to make sure that if GISD does go virtual, underserved students will have computers and hot spots. He is also offering help from GUM in any way needed.

April Horner (earlier call interrupted)– She is concerned that teachers' voices have not been heard. Teachers in Galveston are scared and angry. She wants to go back to school, but they need to have safety measures in place. She feels CDC guidelines have been watered down putting teachers in a situation that isn't going to be safe.

Zarah Ecktefaei, teacher –There's a misconception that teachers don't want to help their students and that they don't want to work. Reminder that all students will be served by remote instruction. Encourages effective communication with families about what remote learning is going to look like and make sure that the Board gets the message out.

Lauren Scott, parent- Thank you for your service. What threshold is the board using to determine a safe return for both teachers and students and all staff on campus? How are we ensuring equitable access to technology in an already inequitable district? Three observations: It's clear teachers have not been part of this process. Board members are masked or shielded in a virtual meeting and yet debating sending our teachers and children into a physical space. Also, no one is taking notes while listening to people calling.

Rob Lewis, Teacher – Encourage using data to drive decision making. The teaching staff has felt that they have not been a part of the decisions making process. Would like to know what the community needs and what can be done to take care of both their academic future and social emotional future. He would like to build efficacy for teachers and community members.

4) Superintendent's Report 7:24 - 8:14

Would like to reiterate what Mr. Brown said earlier. We are bound by policy and state law in the order in which public comments are made.

A) Returning to Learning Update

The Returning to Learning plan can be found at <https://www.gisd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=11178>

Board discussion/comments: 8:14 - 8:45

Wagner - Thanks to all who worked on this. She is concerned about transitional learning. The county says we need to be at 7 percent to allow kids back to school, but the numbers fluctuate. How long will it be 7 percent? Within the transitional learning time, what is in place for children who have chosen to do remote learning to learn the ropes if they enter the classroom after a nine week break to adjust to the classroom. She is also concerned that this could be a premature step. She wants to market the SAIL program and that it's important that parents know that remote learning is not going to be what it was before.

Moulton- Along with the roll out tomorrow at 1pm, the SAIL website will launch.

Masel - She is concerned that computers will not be here when school starts. How will the first four weeks really be worthwhile and equitable for everybody? The district needs to figure out who does and does not have technology. She would like to hear about the two people who have been picked to put together the remote process and what they are doing. Finally, she is concerned with kids having 6 hours of instruction a day in front of the computer with parents at work. Will all children in a grade level be on the computer at the same time?

Moulton - That information is detailed in the work of SAIL. The principals of SAIL are Michelle Hammonds preK through 6 and Julia Ramirez for grades 7-12 under the guidance of Audrey Torres. We have the right people in place. Instructional time will be 15 minutes per class synchronous. The rest of the time would be similar to completing work.

Jobe - He would like to acknowledge the amount of time and hard work done by all. Everything in the plan accounts for most everybody's concerns. He recognizes that this has not been thrown together last minute. Thanks to Moulton for all the work that has been done. His question is about onsite learning the first two weeks. What would those small groups of students be learning?

Moulton - Students could be learning routines and getting acquainted with the campus. Those decisions would be determined by campus teachers and leaders.

O'Neal - He would like some clarity about how transparent we are as a district relaying information to the public providing they would access what we are offering to make that information to them. In order for us to be successful, we all have to do our part. Specifically, we are going to provide the best education as safely as we can for all involved

and parents and students will have to do their part. Kudos to the administrative staff and district for being ahead of the curve.

Lakin - Thanks to all on the task force. How are we going to roll out related services to our special needs population?

Smecca - From certain parents who have been talking to him, we tend to have issues normally with turning in information/ work/ projects. Parents trying to keep up with what their children are doing feel like we had issues prior to COVID and believe it's going to be an even bigger problem going forward. He is surprised that there hasn't been more data from substitutes. How does a single parent of a kindergartener raise a child, work full time and go through a remote system for four weeks as a brand new student?

Brown - Understands people wanting information. The district is getting lots of information. The district has lots of people from different sectors giving us the best support we can get. Please work with us. There are going to be town halls. He would like to know how we are going to reliably assess students beginning of the year? What will the parameters be on the different levels? On the on campus piece, what will the program be to ensure everyone is protected. We have a great base to build on here.

Wagner - She feels that no kindergartner is going to participate for 6 hours without being in a classroom and that parent engagement is going to be needed from k-2 because children can not read the instructions themselves. Finally, will the board be seeing a final copy of the plan before it is released tomorrow?

8:45 - 8:51

Presentation of Moody Foundation check. - Angela Blair/ Billy Rudolph

Rudolph - Last Thursday, July 16th, the Moody Foundation presented us with a technology grant \$1,953,275 to purchase 3000 computer devices and 1200 hot spots.

Blair - Four years ago the trustees at the Moody Foundation wanted to venture more into education especially here on the island. Their mission/vision is to try to promote more success with all the students on the island by funding programs and projects that are evidence-based that will ensure increased student achievement and increased success especially when they graduate so they're college and career-ready. This proposal, when it was made by Dr. Moulton to us, falls directly in line with their goals. They were so supportive of wanting to fund this at this time. I can't say enough about working with Dr. Moulton and her staff. Congratulations to everyone for being there for all the students.

Rudolph - This donation has allowed us

B) Board Committee Reports 8:51 - 8:52 Pass on committee reports

Monica - Would like to mention that most of what was discussed in the curriculum meeting has already evolved into different plans so anything she would have said

would have been out of date information and would have confused those that are listening. So that was part of the agreement as to why it wouldn't be very prudent to be speaking at this time.

- 1) Policy Committee Chair- Mr. David O'Neal
- 2) Curriculum Committee Chair- Ms. Monica Wagner
- 3) Facilities/Finance Committee Chair- Mr. Johnny Smecca

C) Request for Agenda items Update

- 5) The Board may recess 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. 8:52 - 9:11

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

B) Superintendent Evaluation

C) Consultation with Attorney

- 6) CONSENT AGENDA - Action Items --9:11 - 9:13

Motion by Wagner, second by Masel

Item "N" moved to Regular agenda and Item "U" pulled until next meeting

Brown - Finance committee met and reviewed projects in the consent agenda.

Unanimous in favor

- A) Consider approval of minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on June 17, 2020.
- B) Consider approval of personnel resignations and recommendations with contracts.
- C) Attorney Fees
- D) Finance Reports
- E) Consider approval of the Board's Time Use Tracker for June 17, 2020.

- F) Consider approval of the Juvenile Justice Alternative Educational Program (JJAEP), Funding Parameters and Interlocal Cooperation Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) extension.
- G) Consider the funding parameters, Interlocal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding for the Coastal Alternative Program (CAP) and Transforming Lives Coop for the 2020-2021 school year.
- H) Consider an Order Calling Regular Single Member School Board Trustee Election for Districts 5E and 6F on November 3, 2020.
- I) Discuss and consider approval of the 2020-2021 Resolution sanctioning the Galveston County 4-H Organization as an extracurricular program and approval of adjunct faculty agreement to recognize Galveston County Cooperative Extension Agents as adjunct faculty members for the 2020-2021 school year.
- J) Consider authorization to allow the purchase of band instruments for the middle school bands to Steve Weiss Music, a co-op vendor, in the amount of \$81,811.68.

This will be funded from unspent, budgeted funds, consolidated between fine arts account codes.

- K) Consider approval for the Galveston Independent School District interlocal cooperative purchasing agreement with New Caney Independent School District for the 2020- 2021 school year.
- L) Consider approval of 2019-2020 General Fund Budget amendments D, E, and F.
- M) Discuss and consider authorization to allow the renewal of the Workers'

Compensation coverage with TASB for \$299,284.00 for the period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. (Under separate cover.)

- N) Discuss and approve 7-22-20 amendments to the 2020-2021 School Calendar. (*moved to regular agenda*)
- O) Discuss and consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Galveston Independent School District and Galveston County, Texas for the use of Crenshaw Facilities in time of Disaster. (Under separate cover.)
- P) Discuss and consider authorization to award replacing district wide exhaust fans under MEP Package 8 with CFI Mechanical using the Choice Partners Co-op

18/036MC-02 in the amount of \$415,289.90. (Under separate cover.)

- Q) Change order reducing the original District Wide MEP – Project 3 with CFI Mechanical in the amount of \$28,828.00. (See attached.)
 - R) Change order reducing the original District Wide MEP – Project 5 with CFI Mechanical in the amount of \$970.00. (See attached.)
 - S) Discuss and Consider the Certified Athletic Trainer Service Agreement Between University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB Health) and Galveston Independent School District (GISD) August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021.
 - T) Discuss and consider authorization to award MEP Sprinkler Head Replacement at Crenshaw to Island Fire & Safety Equipment Co, Inc. in the amount of \$21,630.73.
 - U) Discuss and consider authorization to award the purchase of white boards and bulletin boards for classrooms located at Crenshaw, Rosenberg, LA Morgan, Burnet, Parker and Oppe from Challenge Office Products under Choice Partners Contract 19/033MJ-06. (Under separate cover). The scope of this project remains unchanged from the original bond project scope. *(pulled)*
 - V) Discuss and consider the purchase of Magnet 3 chromebooks for Burnet STREAM Magnet in an amount not to exceed \$125,000. (Under separate cover.)
 - W) Consider approval of Moody Technology Grant
- 7) REGULAR AGENDA- Action Items 9:13 - 9:49
- A) Discuss and Consider approval of the Superintendent's evaluation and compensation. *Deferred to end of meeting. 11:06 - 11:08*
 - B) Discuss and consider establishing Juneteenth Emancipation day (June 19, or the following Monday if June 19 occurs on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday) as an Official GISD Holiday. *Motion by Jobe, second by Lakin*
- Discussion by Brown - Acknowledged Doug Matthews for making Juneteenth as important as it is today on the island and thanked The Daily News for writing about Juneteenth.*
- O'Neal - Echoes Brown and appreciates that the employees of the district will be able to have the day off to embrace the holiday.*
- Brown - The board received a letter of support from NAACP in Baltimore.*
- Lakin - O'Neal was honored at the Juneteenth celebration at Ashton Villa this year.*
- Unanimous in favor.*

- C) Consider approval of the Date of a Public Meeting on the 2020-2021 Budget and Proposed Tax Rate and vote on the 2020-2021 Proposed Tax Rate to be published in the Notice of Public Meeting. *Motion by Jobe, Second by O'Neal*

Discussion:

O'Neal - discussed in the finance meeting

Moulton - This is the maximum taxable rate for notice. It can be lower than this when adopted. More at the August 5th meeting.

Brown - HB3 Legislature provided that rates would be decreased as values increase.

Unanimous in favor.

- D) Discuss and consider a contract with UTMB - BHAR for an amount not to exceed \$230,000 to provide mental health counseling funded by the Moody Foundation Causeway Galveston Grant for the period September 1, 2020 through August 30, 2021. *Motion by O'Neal, Second by Wagner*

Discussion :

O'Neal - These services will be needed now more than ever

Unanimous in favor

- E) Discuss and consider UPBRING MOU for Head Start Partnership *Motion by Masel, Second by Wagner*

Discussion:

O'Neal - Most of the things are already being done. Concerned that everything is so far away from Galveston and the main office is in Austin. He wants to make sure that the locals have more hands on with the group.

Moulton - They apply and it's awarded. If we don't accept we give up funding and support for young students. HeadStart provides for health care including transportation. The Galveston based HeadStart was not awarded the contract.

Mary Patrick - UpBring will have an office here in Galveston and they have been collaborating with GISD and MECC. Some of the students served are teen parents at Ball High School.

Cox (UpBring Exec Dir.) - Assures that UpBring staff will also be located in Galveston County. Employees will be local.

Unanimous in favor.

- F) Discuss and consider endorsing a candidate for TASB Board of Directors - Region IV - Position B. *Motion to endorse Paige Rander by Brown, Second by O'Neal*

Discussion :

O'Neal - He knows Rander from Clear Creek and appreciates that she is local.

Unanimous in favor

G) Discuss and consider cancellation of the deferred-to-November Bond Election. (Under separate cover.) *Motion by Masel, second by Lakin.*

Discussion:

Brown - We will come back with a Bond Election at a better time.

Unanimous in favor

H) Discuss and consider 2020-2021 Salary Schedule (Under separate cover.) *Motion by Masel, second by Wagner*

Wagner - She feels this is a good balance with what she would like and what can really be done.

Smecca - He feels it's fair. One percent may not be a lot, but over a career it will mean a lot.

O'Neal - He feels this is a good way to show teachers that we value them.

Brown - He is mindful of the comments Dr. Hay made earlier.

6 in favor, 0 opposed, Jobe abstaining.

Item N from the consent agenda

N) Discuss and approve 7-22-20 amendments to the 2020-2021 GISD Academic Calendar.

Motion by Wagner, second by Masel.

Discussion:

Wagner - She feels it is important to discuss the added 10 minutes to the school day and added make up days in case of closures.

Unanimous in favor

Closed session to discuss Superintendent Evaluation 9:49 - 11:06

A) Discuss and Consider approval of the Superintendent's evaluation and compensation. 11:06 - 11:08

Motion by Masel, second by Wagner to provide a 1% salary increase and the same longevity stipend provided to all non-teaching staff

Discussion:

Brown - This has been a very hard situation. He would like to publicly thank Dr. Moulton.

Wagner - She agrees with Brown.

6 in favor, 0 opposed, Smecca absent

8) Suggested Future Agenda Items

9) Board Comments 11:08 - 11:14

Lakin - She would like to encourage our community to get their information about the progress of what's going on in our schools and campuses from our website or from the dedicated Galveston ISD Facebook page.

O'Neal - He asked for a moment of silence for three people who were instrumental in supporting GISD, Theodore Teddy Hightower, JJ Shabazz and Pastor Norman Johnson Jr.

Wagner - She wants teachers and parents to understand that there is a lot of thought that goes into decision making and asks the community to do their part to socially distance and wear your mask

10) Adjournment 11:14

Minutes taken by: Amedia Bly

Approved on: _____

Mr. Tony Brown, President

Mrs. Monica Wagner, Secretary