

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING GOVERNING BOARD
GUSTINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

TIME AND PLACE

The regular meeting of the Gustine Unified School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. The meeting was held in the Board Room, 1500 Meredith Avenue, Gustine, California.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:06 p.m. by Board President Kevin Bloom. The Board went into Closed Session and reconvened to Open Session at approximately 7:02 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kevin Bloom, Board President, Mr. Kevin Cordeiro, Mr. Zachery Ramos, Mr. Gary Silva, and Mrs. Loretta Rose. Student Board Member Miss Alma Medina Tovar was present during the Open Session.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Nothing at this time

REVISION/ORDERING OF AGENDA

Dr. Ballenger amended the agenda by adding the following in Section V. Consent Agenda Item A. Personnel – remove #2, Linda Jones. Item C. Yearly Renewals and Contracts add 7. MCOE Seal of Biliteracy Proficiency MOU (Renewal) and 8. MCSBA Dues (renewal). In Section VIII. Action add Item DD. Classroom Set Laptops, Replacement for Adult Ed and remove Action Item M. Merced County School Board Association Representatives.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mr. Silva. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. **Westside 4-H Club Student Presentation – Melissa Ventura or Michelle Bell** – Westside 4-H Club students/members gave a presentation to the Board which included information about their interests and activities in 4-H.
- B. **Student Board Member – Alma Medina Tovar** – Student Board Member gave her report to the Board on various ongoing activities at Gustine High School.
- C. **Board Reports** – Mrs. Rose thanked the sponsors of the Welcome Back Staff Breakfast. The MCSBA Conference is coming up in October.

Mr. Ramos wanted to share that CSBA has brought back the Small Rural District Board which he is part of that board now. He also wanted to thank Assembly member Alanis; he and Dr. Ballenger met with him to discuss the high school project.

D. Superintendent Report – He is proud to report that the district is up and running. He had the pleasure of being in classrooms and seeing instruction, seeing students learn, and being able to interact with them. He also attended Back to School Night at GES and GHS. He also attended the Merced County Planning Commission regarding the Virginia Smith Trust Project. The project has moved on to the board of supervisors. What that means for Gustine is the Virginia Smith Trust is the trust and land that was set aside that UC Merced sits on. They are looking at developing that into housing and shopping. What it does for education is it gives students in Merced, the City of Merced, their three high schools scholarships. By this expansion and this development, they are going to provide all students in Merced County with scholarships. Today, that trust has given out over 6 million in scholarships to residents in Merced. That's expected to be close to 6 million annually for all students in Merced County. He and Mr. Ramos attended a meeting with Assembly member Alanis. He wanted to personally thank him for the hard work he put into our application to the state water board. We were having some issues getting that moved along, and that's our reimbursement for the underground storage tanks. His office got involved, and within two days we were issued a letter that they opened a case and it was moving forward.

E. Financial Report – Mr. Rizvi presented the monthly financial report for August.

F. Attendance – GMS won the attendance award for having the highest percentage.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Annel Flores still had questions about drivers and the vans that are used when routes are cancelled. She stated that Dr. Ballenger told her that the person had to be trained as a school bus driver and had to go through the process of being fingerprinted and DMV clearance. Also, if a van was used for more than five days that would be considered a route. She asked why the process wasn't being followed. Why are more vehicles being purchased? Why is the district cutting people? They haven't seen the drivers. The district needs people to work as drivers, not take them away. Dr. Ballenger replied saying that he never said that anytime it was 5 days or more it would be considered a route. There are minutes that she can go back to look at. What he did say was that if it was permanent, the district would look into that. The law does not require the district to do that on van drivers. The district is doing everything possible to get kids to school. So, when a route is cancelled, we don't have a sub-bus driver to be able to drive a bus. If parents call the district saying they need transportation, then staff will go pick up the kids. Everybody that is driving those vans are district employees, all of them have been fingerprinted and cleared through DMV and do not have any record. Ms. Flores asked to schedule an appointment to talk more about it.

Ms. Antonia Sierra – She's a mom of three students in the school district. Because of the need to hire bus drivers, she volunteered to help distribute flyers in nearby towns to help get people to apply. She knows some people have applied. Her question is, how long will it take the district to get them prepared to drive a bus so that there can be more routes? Dr. Ballenger replied that two people just

finished the 20 hours in the classroom. Next, they need to go get their permit and begin the 20 hours behind the wheel. Ms. Sierra said this would help avoid so many absences and minimize exposure of many students to the danger that she's seen when they are walking. She's seen little kids crossing the park. And to have more students participating in sports and extracurricular activities because of not having transportation for them at the high school and middle school. Mr. Bloom asked if there were any students that haven't made it to a sports event.

Ms. Elena Castro who also has kids a GMS and GES said she needs transportation because she doesn't want to expose her kids to the danger of traffic. She works seasonally and is contemplating not sending her kids to school. Someone commented to her that certified drivers would be picking up students in vans. She wants to know how the district will help. Dr. Ballenger stated that as soon as new bus drivers are trained, in-town bus routes may open up as right now the district isn't providing transportation within the city limits. Mr. Bloom stated that the district is doing everything possible. The same thing has been said six times now. People are not applying, there aren't many people who want to work. Ms. Castro asked why they didn't have this problem previously. Mr. Bloom answered stating people wanted to work then. She understands that you can't force people to apply, but she believes the district needs to do something.

Ms. Erica Martinez attended a meeting with Dr. Ballenger to discuss transportation from Cottonwood to Santa Nella. It was said that the bus drivers would be getting 8 hours daily. They would be given extra hours so that they wouldn't go to other districts to work. A bus driver just resigned. She helped recruit people. Mr. Romero from Santa Nella applied and he was told that we are no longer offering training. Also, who is creating these routes? How is it possible that her daughter is picked up taken to Santa Nella and then gets dropped off? She asked where was Mrs. Cheryl Pometta, who had been a school employee for over 19 years and already had the routes established. Mr. Cordeiro replied that he doesn't have an issue when parents speak at board meetings, but they need to do their research and stop coming to them with things that aren't facts. They are listening to other people but don't do their own research to see if it's true. Ms. Martinez replied saying that's why she is there, to find out. Ms. Pometta used to pick up her daughter and hasn't seen her. Mr. Cordeiro stated that Cheryl is personnel so they can't speak about her. Ms. Martinez then said that there needed to be another transportation meeting at Romero because the district said they were going to hire more people. Mr. Cordeiro replied the district has tried fixing the situation by having employees drive vans, but then they are told that the same people who are with their child in a classroom can't pick them up in a van. Mrs. Filippini stated that several employees from the district office have been transporting kids every morning and afternoon in a van because bus routes have been canceled due to drivers being ill or other reasons. Everyone has been working tirelessly to make sure kids are getting to school and home every single day. Mrs. Filippini asked Ms. Martinez if her child had not made it to school one day. She replied that she had called the office to have her child picked up. Mrs. Filippini continued saying that according to the ParentSquare message that's what she's supposed to do. Bloom wanted more information about the person who applied and was turned away. Miss Juarez, spoke up and stated that she has been in contact with everyone who has applied. Two people just finished their 20 hours of classroom instruction. The person whom the parent is referring to has an appointment to meet with her.

Ms. Annel Flores questioned the ParentSquare message that was sent out that morning. Mr. Bloom and Dr. Ballenger confirmed that in previous messages, parents were notified to call or text if they needed transportation and directed her to look at previous messages. As that parent continued to argue her point, Mr. Bloom let her know that she already had her three minutes to speak and that she was disrupting the meeting and he could have her escorted out. At that time, Mr. Bloom ended the public comments and continued with the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Warrants** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to ratify the warrants, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- B. Sufficiency of Instructional Material Public Hearing/Resolution NO. 2023-24-01**
1. Mr. Bloom opened the public hearing on the Sufficiency of Instructional Materials Resolution NO. 2023-24-01 at 7:58 p.m. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:59 p.m.
 2. Mr. Ramos made a motion to waive the reading on the Sufficiency of Instructional Materials Resolution NO. 2023-24-01, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
 3. Mr. Silva made a motion to approve the Sufficiency of Instructional Materials Resolution NO. 2023-24-01, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- C. Gann Limit Public Hearing/Resolution NO. 2023-24-02**
1. Mr. Bloom opened the public hearing on the Gann Limit Resolution NO. 2023-24-02 at 8:01 p.m. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed at 8:02 p.m.
 2. Mr. Ramos made a motion to waive the reading on the Gann Limit Resolution NO. 2023-24-02, seconded by Mr. Cordeiro. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
 3. Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the Gann Limit Resolution NO. 2023-24-02, seconded by Mr. Cordeiro. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- D. Education Protection Account, Resolution NO. 2023-24-03, Public Hearing/Approval**
1. Mr. Bloom opened the public hearing to obtain community input regarding the Education Protection Account, Resolution NO. 2023-24-03 at 8:03 p.m. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed at 8:04 p.m.
 2. Mr. Ramos made a motion to waive the reading of Education Protection Account, Resolution NO. 2023-24-03, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

3. Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the Education Protection Account, Resolution NO. 2023-24-03, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- E. **2022-2023 Unaudited Actuals** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Unaudited Actuals, seconded by Miss Medina Tovar. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- F. **Booster Club Approval** – Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the Gustine FFA Ag Boosters, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- G. **CodeStack Conference** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the Special Education staff to attend the CodeStack Conference, seconded by Mr. Cordeiro. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- H. **We Will! MOU** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the We Will! MOU, seconded by Miss Medina Tovar. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- I. **GHS Purchase of Multi-Touch Smart Board TV** – Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve Gustine High School's purchase of four Multi-Touch Smart Boards for our Math Department, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- J. **GHS Charter Bus Cost for Athletic Travel for Fall Sports** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the Charter Bus Cost for Athletic Travel for fall sports - football and volleyball, seconded by Miss Medina Tovar. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- K. **GHS Science Wing Inspection Fee Change Order** – Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the GHS Science Wing Inspection Fee Change Order, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- L. **Board Policy Updated June 2023, Second Reading**
 1. Mr. Ramos made a motion to waive the reading of Board Policy Updates June 2023, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
 2. Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the Board Policy Updates June 2023, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- M. **Merced County School Board Association Representatives** – This item was pulled from the agenda

- N. **Interim Healthcare Staffing Agreement** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the Interim Healthcare Staffing Agreement, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- O. **NASP 2024 Annual School Psychologist Convention** – Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the attendance of GUSD School Psychologist Heather Barco at the NASP 2024 Annual Conference, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- P. **Ag Program Carl Perkins and Ag Incentive Grants** – Mrs. Rose made a motion to approve the Ag Program Carl Perkins and Ag Incentive Grants for the 2023-2024 School Year, seconded by Miss Medina Tovar. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- Q. **New District Vehicles** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the purchase of two 2023 Ford Escapes and two Ford Super Duties, seconded by Mr. Cordeiro. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- R. **New 8.5-ton HVAC Unit for Library at GES** – Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve purchasing a New 8.5-ton HVAC Unit for the Library at GES, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- S. **3rd Millennium Classrooms** – Mrs. Rose made a motion to approve the purchase of 3rd Millennium Classrooms at Gustine Middle School, seconded by Miss Media Tovar. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- T. **GMS Band Instruments** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the purchase of band instruments and supplies from Musician’s Friends, seconded by Miss Medina Tovar. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- U. **Flexible Seating/Collaborative Classrooms** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the purchase of tables and chairs from School Specialty, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- V. **6th Grade Camp** – Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the agreement between MCOE and GUSD for the use of Camp Green Meadows Outdoor School February 12, 2024 – February 16, 2024, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- W. **7th Grade Camp** – Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the agreement between MCOE and GUSD for the use of Camp Green Meadows Outdoor School January 16, 2024 – January 19, 2024, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.
- X. **Charter Bus for GMS Sports** – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the agreement

between Awesome Charters and Tours and GUSD for the charter bus transportation costs for GMS sports events starting on September 2023 and ending on April 2024, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

Y. Summit K12 English Learner Support 3-Year Purchase – Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the Summit K12 English Learner Support Purchase, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

Z. GHS NWEA MAP Assessment Purchase – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the GHS NWEA MAP Assessment Purchase, seconded by Miss Medina Tovar. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

AA. LED Multi-Touch Display Purchase for GES, RES, and PD – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the LED Multi-Touch Display Purchase for GES, RES, and PD, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

BB. Surplus Ag Department Student Laptops and Carts – Mr. Cordeiro made a motion to approve the surplus of Ag Department laptops and computer carts and sell them for \$50 each to students, seconded by Mr. Ramos. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

CC. ERWC-ELD MOU for Data Sharing Agreement – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the ERWC-ELD MOU for Data Sharing Agreement, seconded by Miss Medina Tovar. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

DD. Classroom Set Laptops, Replacement for Adult Ed – Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve Classroom Laptops for Adult Ed, seconded by Mr. Cordeiro. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0.

ADVANCED PLANNING

- A. Reg. Board Mtg. October 11, 2023, @ 7:00 p.m. @ DO
- B. Reg. Board Mtg. November 8, 2023, @ 7:00 p.m. @ DO
- C. Future Agenda Items
 - 1. MCSBA Conference in October in Monterey

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ramos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Rose. Student Representative Preferential Vote: Aye. Motion carried, 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

Zachery Ramos, Clerk of the Board