Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:30 PM
Board Room at the Education Center, 2602 South Belt Line Road, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

1. **5:30 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER**
2. **RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

A. Board Discussion of Personnel Matters under § 551.074: Employment, Retirement(s), Termination(s)/Proposed Termination(s), Proposed Nonrenewal(s), Request(s) for Leave of Absence, Request(s) for Extended Leave Without Pay, Resignation(s), Reassignment(s), Job Abandonment, Proposed Extension of Probationary Contract(s), Proposed Suspension Without Pay, Administrator Contract Recommendations, Non-Administrator Contract Recommendations

B. Discussion of Real Property under § 551.072.

C. Consultation with legal counsel regarding and/or involving pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer or on a matter which the School District's legal counsel determines should be confidential including contract negotiations in accordance with Government Code, § 551.082, § 551.0821, § 551.087, and § 551.071, respectively; Hawkland v. GPISD No. 3-19-cv-01822-B-

3. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

A. Action as a Result of Closed Session

4. **INVOCATION**

A. Pastor Michael Brooks
St Andrews' Anglican Church
Grand Prairie

5. **PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG AND TEXAS FLAG**
6. **RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

A. Board Recognition Month
B. Leadership Spotlight - Honoring Custodial Staff
C. Students of Character

7. **OPEN FORUM FOR AGENDA ITEMS**
8. **ADOPT AGENDA**
9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes from Previous Meetings
B. Personnel: Routine Action

1. Employment, Retirement(s), Termination(s)/Proposed Termination(s), Proposed Nonrenewal(s), Request(s) for Leave of Absence, Request(s) for Extended Leave Without Pay, Resignation(s), Reassignment(s), Request(s) for Temporary Disability, Job Abandonment, Proposed Extension of Probationary Contract(s), Proposed Suspension Without Pay, Administrator Contract Recommendations, Non-Administrator Contract Recommendations

C. Regular Reports of the Superintendent

1. Contracts
2. Tax Collection Report
3. Revenue and Expenditure Report
4. 2020-2021 Budget Transfers/Amendments
5. Quarterly Investment Report

10. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Adoption of Order of Election
B. Approval of Annual Financial Report 2019-2020

C. Consider Approval of the 2021-2022 School Calendar

D. Consider Approval of the Resolution to Extend Paid Sick Leave for Specified Reasons Related to COVID-19

E. Employee Contracts

F. Teacher Resignation/Contract Abandonment

11. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Resilient School Support Program

B. 10th Annual GPISD Experience

C. Board Training Credit

D. Review of Board Agenda Calendar

12. **OPEN FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Persons attending the meeting may request an Open Forum Sign-Up Card. The card must be completed in its entirety and submitted to the Board President or designee prior to the meeting being convened. This second Open Forum allows individuals to address the Board on any subject, except personnel and individual/specific students. Any personnel concern should be brought directly to the attention of the Superintendent prior to the meeting. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes. When more than one individual wishes to address the same topic, the Board President may ask the group to appoint one spokesperson.

13. **COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS**

A. Board of Trustees expressions of thanks, congratulations, and condolences.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Minutes of Regular Meeting
The Board of Trustees
Grand Prairie Independent School District
December 17, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Grand Prairie Independent School District was held Thursday, December 17, 2020, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Education Center 2602 South Belt Line Road, Grand Prairie, TX 75052.

1. **5:30 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER**

President King called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and stated a quorum was present.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Aaron King, President
Ms. Emily Liles, Vice President
Mr. Terry Brooks, Secretary
Mr. Burke Hall
Ms. Gloria Carrillo
Mr. Bryan Parra
Mr. David Espinosa

Ms. Ellis verified that notice of the meeting had been properly posted for the time and manner required by law.

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 5:33 p.m.

2. **RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

A. Board Discussion of Personnel Matters under § 551.074: Employment, Retirement(s), Termination(s)/Proposed Termination(s), Proposed Nonrenewal(s), Request(s) for Leave of Absence, Request(s) for Extended Leave Without Pay, Resignation(s), Reassignment(s), Job Abandonment, Proposed Extension of Probationary Contract(s), Proposed Suspension Without Pay, Administrator Contract Recommendations, Non-Administrator Contract Recommendations

B. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, including the mid-year termination of the probationary contract of Kendall Pearson.

C. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, to consult with the District's attorney, in person or by phone, on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the District under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, including the mid-year termination of the probationary contract of Kendall Pearson.

D. Discussion of Real Property under § 551.072.

E. Consultation with legal counsel regarding and/or involving pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer or on a matter which the School District's legal counsel determines should be confidential including contract negotiations in accordance with Government Code, § 551.082, § 551.0821, § 551.087, and § 551.071, respectively; Hawkland v. GPISD No. 3-19-cv-01822-B

3. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:33 pm.

3.A. Action as a Result of Closed Session

There was no Action taken as a result of Closed Session.

4. **INVOCATION**

Jordan Villanueva
Pastor – Indian Hills Baptist Church

5. **PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG AND TEXAS FLAG**

6. **RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

Prior to moving to the agenda, Board President Aaron King recognized State Board of Education Member District 13 Aicha Davis who was in attendance as part of a later agenda item.

A. Fine Art Students – All State Band, National YoungArts Winners

The Board recognized Fine Arts students Mauricio Martinez (Grand Prairie High School) for being named to the **All State Mariachi Band** and Diego Salazar (Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy) for being named to the **All State Jazz Band**. Also recognized were **National YoungArts Winners** Isabella Gueck, Josie Jacks, and Xavier Williams (all from Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy).

B. TEA Math Innovation Zone Distinction Campuses

Marty Cardenas, Secondary Math Facilitator, recognized Moore College and Career Preparatory, Travis World Language Academy, Young Women's Leadership Academy, School for the Highly Gifted, Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy, and Grand Prairie Collegiate Institute for receiving the **Math Innovation Zone** designation from the Texas Education Agency for the 2109-2020 school year.

C. Leadership Spotlight – Honoring Nurses

This month's **Leadership Spotlight** focused on GPISD nurses. The nursing team was honored with a video that highlighted the work they do every day in our schools to keep students and staff safe and healthy.

D. Jim Swafford Tribute

Trustees gave tribute to former school board member and City councilman **Jim Swafford**. Mr. Swafford, who recently passed away, was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1984-1993. During his tenure on the Board, he helped to lead a superintendent transition as well as the construction of several campuses.

7. **OPEN FORUM FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Wendell Davidson, 3456 Country Club Drive, Grand Prairie, TX, 75052, addressed the Board during open forum. Mr. Davidson wanted to talk about the budget. He stated that we have teachers and employees on the front line that are risking their lives for the health and education of our city. He said other Districts are compensating their employees with stipends or bonuses and he thinks that our District could afford to do the same for our employees. He believes that even though we didn't budget for it at the beginning of the year that the District still has the opportunity to do it. He would like to reward them for their hard work and dedication. He said that our District is not broke and we have money coming in that we hadn't counted on. He would like to see us give a bonus to some of our hard-working employees for their hard work.

8. **ADOPT AGENDA**

Mr. Brooks made a motion that the Board adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Hall seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 7-0!

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Ellis stated that there are four items on the Consent Agenda. She recommended the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mr. Hall made a motion that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Ms. Liles seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 7-0!

9.A. Minutes from Previous Meetings

9.B. Personnel: Routine Action

9.B.1. Employment, Retirement(s), Request(s) for Leave of Absence, Resignation(s), Reassignment(s), Request(s) for Temporary Disability, Proposed Extension of Probationary Contract(s), Administrator Contract Recommendations, Non-Administrator Contract Recommendations

Employment: Shasta Alvarado, South Grand Prairie HS; Teresa Muhammad, Adams Middle School; John Shaw, South Grand Prairie HS

Employment Addendum on 12.17.20: Roger Arockiam, Grand Prairie HS; Jason Cameron, Jackson Middle School; Saul Gonzalez Tapia, Reagan Middle School; Sonya Gore, Ed Center; Azela Hernandez, Moseley Elementary; Lloyd Timms, Grand Prairie HS

Resignations: Veronica Alarcon, Moseley Elementary; Maritza Aviles De Garcia, Fannin Middle School; Brooke Beaird, Powell Elementary; Jamie Dunkley, Jackson Middle School; Telesa Echols, Eisenhower Elementary; Sandra Hood, Rayburn Academy; Naseem Khozein, Grand Prairie HS; Annika Poindexter, Powell Elementary

Resignation Addendum on 12.17.20: Regina Patton, Travis WLA; Anntina Rodriguez, Jackson Middle School; Michelle Williams, Seguin Elementary

Retirements: Elizabeth Medina, YWLA @ Arnold MS; Jacqueline Pepperling, Bonham EE School; Geneva Rideaux, Crosswinds HS

9.C. Regular Reports of the Superintendent

9C.1. Purchasing Contracts

9.C.2. Tax Collection Report

9.C.3. Revenue and Expenditure Report – General Fund

9.C.4. Budget Transfers/Amendments – General Fund #4

9. D. Consider Approval of the City of Grand Prairie Interlocal Cooperative Agreement
Presenter: Ms. Sherry Ellis

9.E. Approval of Board Travel

10. **ACTION ITEMS**

10. A. Consider Approval of Student Handbook Addendum-Corrective Action Parents Right to Information
Presenter: Dr. Vern Alexander and Dr. Dorothea Gordon

The Board approved an addendum to the Student Handbook as required by Texas Education Code (TEC) § 26.0081(c). The Texas Education Agency provided a written explanation of the options and requirement for providing assistance to students who have learning difficulties or who need or may need special education. This information must be provided each year to a parent of each student in the district by including the explanation in the Student Handbook or by another means.

Mr. Hall made a motion to approve a power motion on Items 10. A & 10. B. Mr. Espinosa seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 7-0!

10.B. Consider Approval of GPISD HB3 Board Goals
Presenter: Dr. Angela Herron and Dr. Melissa Steger

The Board approved HB 3 Board Goals for Early Literacy, Early Numeracy, and College, Career, and Military Readiness. These goals were developed in collaboration with district leadership based on historical data and future projections and were presented at previous board

meetings.

Mr. Hall made a motion to approve a power motion on Items 10. A & 10. B. Mr. Espinosa seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 7-0!

10. C. Consider Approval of Contract for Professional Services to Distribute the COVID-19 Vaccine
Presenter: Ms. Linda Ellis

The Board approved a contract with Top Care Medical Group for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured GPISD employees. All GPISD staff will have access to the vaccine through Clinicas Mi Doctor at no cost.

10. D. Consider Taking Action on Employee Contracts
Presenter: Ms. Linda Ellis

No Action was taken on Item 10.D.

10. E. Consider Teacher Resignations/Contract Abandonment
Presenter: Ms. Linda Ellis

Ms. Carrillo made a motion that the Board accept Superintendent Ellis's recommendation that good cause does not exist for abandonment of contract for the 2020-2021 school year for the following employees; Jorge Castaneda, Candida Dubois, Melinda Zavala, April Fleming and that the Administration and Board did not consent to the abandonment; and these employees have failed to perform his/her duties of their contract; and the Board authorizes the Superintendent to file a complaint with the State Board of Educator Certification to seek sanctions for the abandonment of contract for these four employees.

Mr. Parra seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 7-0!

10. F. Consideration of and Possible Action on the Superintendent's Recommendation to Finalize Termination/Discharge of Teacher Kendall Pearson's Probationary Contract Prior to the End of the Contract Period.
Presenter: Ms. Linda Ellis

Ms**.** Ellis recommended that the Board accept her recommendation to Finalize the Termination/Discharge of Kendall Pearson's Probationary Contract.

Mr. Brooks made a motion that the Board approve the recommendation of the Superintendent as presented to terminate the probationary contract of Kendall Pearson for good cause during the school year.

Mr. Hall seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 7-0!

11. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

11.A. Native American Studies Course
Presenter: Dr. Angela Herron and Ms. Lanette Aguero

The Texas Education Agency is in the process of expanding its ethnic studies courses and has asked Grand Prairie ISD to develop a Native American Studies course. Over the past two years, PK-12 Social Studies Facilitator Lanette Aguero, along with GPISD American Indian Education Program coordinator Monica Smith, led a team comprised of staff, parents, university partners, and community stakeholders to develop the standards for this potential new course. The committee presented updates on their progress for the course that is proposed to begin in the 2021-2022 school year.

11.B. Instructional Progress and Updates
Presenter: Dr. Elna Davis, Ms. Traci Davis and Dr. Nugget Cunningham

Area Superintendent Traci Davis led a mid-year update that included:

Beginning of the school year data

- Planning and monitoring of instruction including engaging families
- Changes in approach to address instructional needs
- Upcoming assessments
- Instructional initiatives

11.C. 2021-2022 Academic Calendar
Presenter: Dr. Vern Alexander

Following a meeting with the District Education Improvement Council and a survey of GPISD educators, parents and the community, Deputy Superintendent of Student Support Services Dr. Vern Alexander presented a proposed calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. The proposed calendar will be taken back to the EIC in January and presented to the Board for consideration at the January 14 board meeting.

11.D. Review of Board Agenda Calendar
Presenter: Superintendent and Board of Trustees

Ms. Ellis pointed out the following dates:

Winter Break - December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021

The 10th Annual Experience will be virtual – Opens January 4, 2021

Martin Luther King Day - January 18, 2021

12. **OPEN FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

12.A. Ms. Deyanira Barrientos addressed the Board. She lives at 1525 Ash St. in Grand Prairie. She would like to propose a means of honoring Mr. and Ms. Blackwell. They were great people and

excellent teachers. She stated the Blackwells were teachers for all three of her children who are now 23, 20 and 14 years old. She has had many beautiful experiences relating to the Blackwells. Anna Maria, while in 3rd grade, told her mother she was ready to begin all of her classes in English and she did well. Jessica was a cheerleader at Arnold Middle School where Mr. Blackwell taught. Mr. Blackwell showed himself to be a person who was attentive to students and he always took good care of Jessica. It was Mrs. Blackwell that noticed her son Mario had trouble concentrating, and it was at her urging that he began participating in the 504 program. She can name many other things that the Blackwells did for everyone. With the Board's help she would like to make sure the Blackwells are honored with the Blackwell Movement to take care of those educators who have pre-existing or underlying conditions and look for a way to help them fulfill their work duties in a safe matter. If such a movement already exists, she would like for it to be more well known and transparent so that workers can come to GPISD with a sense of safety.

12.B. Doris Hill, 534 Frank Keasler Blvd, Duncanville, TX, addressed the Board. Ms. Hill represents herself and the Grand Prairie Education Association. Ms. Hill said that we are coming to the end of the first semester. Many students have not been in class or in a scheduled Zoom and you can imagine their grades. Teachers have spent time going back and reopening gradebooks in hopes that the students might be able to pass. They not only teach in person but virtually and asynchronously. It is three times the work for basically the same pay. No one asked if this is what teachers thought was best. A survey was sent out but then they were told how it would be done. "Just do it and become technical experts too." She said they love their students but are beyond exhausted. She said that she could explain why they are so tired, but they really wouldn't know unless they were working along beside the teachers. Districts all across Texas are giving their employees stipends that range anywhere from $500.00 to $2000.00 to recognize the extreme effort being made. GPISD employees see this on social media and in the news and from other fellow teachers in other Districts and they hoped that they might be rewarded too. Ms. Hill said they know they have been loyal and gone way beyond normal amounts of effort of what is asked of them. They have been told to put aside their fears because it is safe, but they take all students hoping and trusting they are feeling well. Teachers are willing to risk their lives to answer the calling of educating our students. Last Sunday, the District lost two great educators, Mary and Paul Blackwell to COVID. She said it isn't known if they were exposed at their schools, but we don't know that they weren't. She hates to admit that she has often wondered who will be next. Ms. Hill said they are proud to be GPISD, they love their calling, they love teaching their students. She said that they know the risk they are taking. She said it would be nice to have choices like the students, whether they teach in-person or virtually. Students and parents get a choice, but employees don't. All they are asking is for the Board to consider what their employees are giving at work and on their personal time. Please carefully consider the sacrifices that your employees are giving this year.

12.C. Mr. Rich Lane, 222 High Point Ln, Cedar Hill, TX stated: How come Board Trustees are not even following safety guidelines, such as maintaining 6-ft and wearing a mask, while telling students and teachers to do so? And Board President, do you still think that you did the right thing by reopening the schools because everything else is opened and parking lots are full? If everyone around you is drunk driving, would you do the same? To other Board members that I respect a little more: if some Board members are making poor, uneducated decisions, are you

going to just get along, get in their good graces, and enable them, or are you going to do something about it?

12.D. Johnna Palmatier, 525 NE 5th St, Grand Prairie, TX, Travis World Language Academy, stated: First off, I want to let you know, I have been with Grand Prairie for 13 years and have been proud to work with such a great District. However, a few weeks ago, I wrote to the President who is on the Board and he did not respond which saddens me. When I contacted the Mayor, Ron Jenson, about a question he didn't reply back with only an email, he went a step further and called me to talk to me. I wish our Board was more like him. In the past couple of years, I have become very disappointed with this District, especially this year. Every day many of us put our lives in danger to work for the children and for you, the Board, and Ed. Center and not complaining about the low pay scale we receive nor the dangers we face every day. Many of us teachers at Travis have contracted COVID-19, and yet the school still remains open. I was one of the teachers who contracted the virus and was only given so many days before I had to return back to school. MeShelly was very disrespectful and rude to me when I was working with her. I was still sick when I returned back to work because I was told the district would take my sick days. Another one of our teachers had to use all of her sick days because of the COVID and she is still recuperating while she works. Another staff member returned back this week and I watched her fall down twice due to lack of oxygen (she had COVID-19 as well and was told she had to return back, or her sick days would be used up.) And then the worst thing happened at Travis, we lost a dear friend and colleague. I believe this could have been avoided. There was a student in her class, who was sent to school even though a family member had the virus. I turned down an $8,000 raise to work in Irving because I wanted to be loyal to this District. I was hoping you guys would honor us and give us a substantial raise at the beginning of the year, due to us having to work on the front lines and having to put our lives in danger. I can see that wasn't the case. I let it go. And now, Christmas is coming so all of us were hoping and praying we would get a bonus such as Duncanville, who gave their employees $2000. We not only didn't get a substantial bonus; we didn't get anything!!!! You and the Board say you care, and safety is first, but I am seeing this is not the case. I am disheartened and angry that you guys don't think we are worth anything. Because of this, I know of many teachers that are looking for employment elsewhere. I used to be so proud of Grand Prairie and I used to hear that our school was in the top competitively in paying their teachers. We aren't even in the top 10 anymore. Now that is sad!!! I hope you read this and take this before the board because I really think we as Staff deserve more than what we are being given. Thank you for your time and I pray you all stay safe and don't contract the Virus as so many of us have.

12.E. Jae, 2905 Pitkin Dr, Arlington, TX. He is affiliated with AFT. Jae stated:
As a GPISD teacher and a member of American Federation of Teachers, I'm asking the board and superintendent to "be kind" to our GPISD staff. When GPISD staff members got COVID and got sick they were told to return back to work or use their sick days. Which forces staff to return while still sick. Even if you don't die from COVID, you may still suffer from the aftereffects of it, which could be severe and permanent. Some staff has collapsed in school because she became weakened from COVID. The director in the HR department that decides whether you come back or not was reported to be very rude and not accommodating to staff who have gone through COVID. Education workers are known to be selfless, but it is very disappointing when it just becomes a norm and requires us to be sacrificial. We are not saints or

martyrs; we are only human. Most of us don't really have a choice because we need to make a living. You are forcing our staff to choose between losing their paycheck, career, home, and starving or risking their health and family's health by going to work. The current way of giving out COVID notices is turning out to be unhelpful to the staff too. There are staff members that get in contact with more than just one class, sometimes the entire school and they have no idea if they were around that person or not. There has to be a way to protect confidentiality while providing more transparent and essential information to the staff for themselves and their families. Seating charts are not enough to figure out who stayed too close for how long.
Texas is seeing an unsustainable increase in hospitalizations. The number of Texans hospitalized with COVID and the 7-day average of new cases have nearly tripled since the beginning of October. Vaccines are rolling out, but we need to make sure we do not lose any more precious lives until our staff and community are sufficiently vaccinated. Lastly, many other neighboring ISDs are providing a bonus for being in the frontline and overworked. What is GPISD doing to appreciate our staff?

12.F. Mary Gibson, 606 Chickapoo Trace, Grand Prairie, TX, stated: I know I'm not the only parent massively struggling with remote learning. I am incapable of sending my children back to in person school. We are a HIGH-RISK family. I receive at least 2 emails each week from both of my children's schools regarding a COVID positive case. Which confirms my decision to keep my children home. However, this only remote learning, is not doing anything but assisting my child in failing the school year. These kids aren't really learning or engaging via remote learning. I refuse to send my kids back to in person. So, what I'm searching for is some sort of change regarding how remote learning is done. These children are going through so much that school is all of our least worry!! The lesson load should've been lightened. I've received so many emails from the schools & School Board saying they don't want to add to our stress levels, but that's all the schools are doing!! My child or family isn't thriving during this pandemic, we're barely able to keep our heads above water & also get to worry if my child is going to pass.

12.G. Ambria Hawkins, 3504 Corn Valley, Grand Prairie, TX. She is with GPISD: She stated: Is GPISD honoring a teacher pay bonus as other districts have granted their teachers, to show their gratitude for our bravery, hard work, and dedication as we continue to educate students wholeheartedly under the climate pandemic? For example, and as shared on the news and other media platforms, Duncanville ISD granted their teachers $2,000.

12.H. Roger Arnold, 8014 Westover Drive, Dallas, TX, stated: Keep our kids safe!

12.I. Rebecca Jarrett, 3951 Dechman Drive, #7108, Grand Prairie, TX, stated: My name is Rebecca Jarrett and I am a first-year teacher here in the district. The contents of this letter have been sitting on my heart for a long time, but I did not want it to seem too emotional, so I waited to write it. Despite that, I fear that some of my stronger emotions may bleed through anyway, and I apologize in advance. It's no great secret that this year has been a challenge. 2020 has been crazy, and I think I can safely say that everyone is feeling off right now. I believe that is only to be expected -- we are in a pandemic, but America has attempted to return to business as usual, and the juxtaposition of our traditions and our current reality is taking a toll on many people.
I want to start this letter by saying that I understand that there is only so much that is within your focus of control. I understand that, despite the dangers of our current situation as numbers continue to rise and people continue to die each day from the coronavirus, a shutdown/return to

virtual learning only is not something that can happen -- as much as I wish it could, for the safety of myself, my colleagues, and the students and families we serve. I also greatly appreciate the safety measures that have been taken in schools, because they have kept me and most of my students and colleagues safe so far. However, I am scared, stressed, and drained, emotionally and physically. I can't light the kids' flame if my own is burnt out. I have heard so many other teachers, administrators, parents, and just people in general talking about grace this year. The students need grace. We're in a pandemic, be understanding. I wholeheartedly agree. But unfortunately, I do not believe that the same grace that has been extended to the students has been given to us, the teachers. Every day, I struggle to get out of bed and come in to work. I love my job and I love the kids more than anything, but I am terrified for my own life. I understand that it's impossible to live in fear of the worst-case scenario, but, for once, I believe that my anxiety is valid. We do not know enough about this virus to be acting like this is "business as usual." I could get coronavirus and survive but have lifelong effects that have an impact on the quality of my life. It could happen to anyone. Knowing that, and still coming in to work each day and facing it, is truly the scariest thing that I have ever experienced. I have the job of my dreams, yet I feel like I am living in a nightmare. Allow me to take you through a brief timeline of events. When the pandemic first started, I did not leave my house for anything other than walking my dog outside or attending doctor appointments, and that has really not changed. The only thing I have now added is going to work every day. I am lucky and privileged to be able to order groceries instead of going inside the store, and to be working during a pandemic. I try to take every precaution. At work, I feel like all of those precautions are canceled out. Before the kids returned to school, I cried almost every day. The fear weighed heavily on my heart. Now, I am resigned to it. I am drained, physically and emotionally. The first nine weeks of school were probably the hardest nine weeks of my life. At the expense of oversharing: my mental health plummeted, I had to withdraw from grad school in order to focus on work, and I relapsed into the eating disorder that has not impacted me since high school. I only share this because I know that I am not alone in my struggles -- even my specific struggles I share with a fellow educator who is a dear friend. I speak for myself, but I hear and see my fellow teachers. I know they are struggling, many more so than me, and it hurts my heart to know that so many educators are at the end of their ropes. Their hearts are hurting and some of them don't even know if they can teach anymore. Great teachers, amazing people, who SHOULD be in education, are getting frustrated and turned off of education just because of the struggles of this year. And I can't blame them, because I almost was them. As of writing this letter, I don't even know if I have been exposed. I understand that medical information is confidential, but it is extremely frightening knowing that any of my students could test positive, and I would not be informed because I'm not a "close contact." We may take every precaution, but allow me to speak frankly: sometimes, the students don't care, and it's hard to make them. I don't believe some of them truly understand the scale of what's going on. They don't take masks or social distancing or hand hygiene seriously. They're only kids! Psychologically, most of them don't yet have the capacity to understand -- that their actions affect others, and that they aren't immortal/indestructible. As someone who is solution oriented, I wanted to pose a couple of ideas that I believe could greatly impact morale and provide a bit of grace to teachers who desperately need it. Firstly, perhaps we could have two days a month for totally asynchronous lessons, that could then be a teacher workday. This time could be used for deadlines we are falling behind on, such as documenting accommodations, or grading. Potentially, for teachers who do not have anything to catch up on, it could even be a personal day -- I know we all could definitely use some time to relax. I don't

think it's a stretch to say that time is well earned. Secondly, I would like to propose a small stipend or bonus. I honestly believe that could extremely help morale, especially as more and more districts are giving stipends. I don't want to seem entitled; I merely want to offer a genuine perspective -- we have been working very hard, and it's one thing to say we are appreciated, but another thing to show it. As I tell my students: good writing shows and does not tell. In my opinion, not giving a stipend almost shows us that we are undervalued (or, at the very least, valued much less than those teachers at districts where stipends/bonuses have been provided).
I want to close this letter by affirming that I truly love to teach in this district. Teaching at Reagan Middle this year has grown my love for educating children, and I truly believe my supportive and encouraging coworkers are the reason I have gotten through this semester. Despite my supportive team, I, unfortunately, do not feel valued. Even more unfortunate: I know I am not alone in those feelings. I feel like many are of the opinion that I am just a teacher, and my life is dispensable. I will close by saying that, if nothing else, the kids deserve me at my best. I do my best to show up and love them and teach them every day, as well as trying to get everything else done on time, but I fear that I am not bringing my true best to the table. I am respectfully asking to be considered.

12.J. Jose, 620 Westchester Pkwy, Grand Prairie, TX. is affiliated with GPISD. He states: Contact tracing is not working. I'm assuming that the district guidelines and campus guidelines are the same, and if so, it should be modified. The principle of contact tracing and quarantining seems to be based on mostly just a seating chart, and at this point, it seems more like a formality. Let's say we are quarantining a student because he has been sitting close to a confirmed student. Why are siblings, relatives, and neighbors that ride and come to school in the same vehicle allowed to come to school? At least siblings should automatically be an exposed close-contact and subject to quarantine.

12.K. Amanda Rodriguez, 1938 Beach Drive, Grand Prairie, TX, is affiliated with GPISD. She stated: Every single day we enter a school building, the health and safety of your educators, students, and our families is put at risk. Going out to the grocery store or running an errand isn't the same as being in a building with hundreds of students and staff members all day. We have the tools needed to move toward remote instruction for at least two weeks after winter break. Several students and staff will travel or gather in large groups over the holidays, and conversely, you'll have staff and students who won't, and they will be exposed to COVID even after taking all the precautions when we return in January. We have tragically lost two members of our GP family, and thoughts and prayers aren't enough, counseling isn't enough. We need action from you. Stand up and take care of your staff and students.

12.L. Lawanda Christopher, 1658 S. Forum Rd, Grand Prairie, TX. She works at Jackson Middle School. She stated: I am writing to inquire about a monetary bonus for the teachers this year. It has taken us 3-4 times as long to plan lessons, communicate with parents, and we are literally juggling several jobs at once. Of course we love what we do and we all will do just about anything to ensure our kids continue to learn throughout this pandemic, however, the time we've spent working to make this school year as successful for the students as possible should be rewarded with a bonus or raise.

12.M. Ashley Harper, 7510 E. Grand Ave, #3107, Dallas, TX, is affiliated with Jackson Middle School. She stated: As an employee of GPISD, this school year has been one of the toughest times being a teacher. Teachers are working more hours every day/week than a normal school year, from lesson planning, handling technology and internet issues, calling parents (more than usual), etc. This pandemic has affected teachers and their families in many ways. I am inquiring about a bonus to the teacher as we are doing our best and working hard daily.

13. **COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS**

13.A. Board of Trustees expressed thanks, congratulations, and condolences.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. King adjourned the meeting at 10:17 p.m. on December 17, 2020.

CONTRACTS FOR BOARD APPROVAL

January 14, 2021

(Pursuant to Paragraph 1 CH (LOCAL) Unless Specifically Stated Otherwise)

VENDOR	NOT TO EXCEED ANNUAL AMOUNT
CATEGORY: Administrative, Co-Curricular and Instructional Contracted Services	
Jordan Taylor Thomas	$10,000.00
CATEGORY: Equipment, Supplies and/or Installation for Maintenance, Facilities, Transportation, and Food Service	
Radio Engineering Industries	$92,000.00
CATEGORY: Interlocal Agreement and/or State Procurement Programs	
(i.e. TASB BuyBoard, HCDE Choice Partners, E&I Cooperative Services, EPCNT, 1 GPA, HGAC, National IPA, PACE, Regional ESC's, Sourcewell (NJPA), TCPN, TXMAS, TIPS, US Communities, DIR, OMNIA, ASC, NCPA etc.)	
JF Filtration, Inc. (PRIOR Board Approval on August 13, 2020 in the Amount of $73,000.00)	$35,000.00
CATEGORY: Retail / Grocery	
Jason's Deli (PRIOR Board Approval August 13, 2020 in the Amount of $4,800.00)	$10,000.00

Purchasing: Sherry Ellis Finance: Tracy Ray

GRAND PRAIRIE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2020

MAINTENANCE & OPERATION (M&O)

Description	2020-2021 Original Budget	2020-2021 Revised Budget	November 2020-2021 Monthly Activity	2020-2021 FYTD Activity
LOCAL TAXES-CURRENT	$ 85,912,579.00	$ 85,912,579.00	$ 3,480,810.27	$ 4,835,080.23
LOCAL TAXES-PRIOR YR	500,000.00	500,000.00	10,027.93	159,839.54
PENALTY/INTEREST/MIS	450,000.00	450,000.00	21,233.70	69,130.91
CED PENALTY/INTEREST/MIS	-	-	(418.44)	(618.52)
TOTAL	**$ 86,862,579.00**	**$ 86,862,579.00**	**$ 3,511,653.46**	**$ 5,063,432.16**

INTEREST & SINKING (I&S)

Description	2020-2021 Original Budget	2020-2021 Revised Budget	November 2020-2021 Monthly Activity	2019-2020 FYTD Activity
LOCAL TAXES - CUR YR	$ 37,000,000.00	$ 37,000,000.00	$ 1,501,630.02	$ 2,085,865.42
LOCAL TAXES - PRIOR YEAR	100,000.00	100,000.00	2,588.75	65,654.55
PENALTY/INTEREST/DEL	50,000.00	50,000.00	8,055.84	27,827.90
TOTAL	**$ 37,150,000.00**	**$ 37,150,000.00**	**$ 1,512,274.61**	**$ 2,179,347.87**

This report is prepared for the Board of Trustees meeting held January 14, 2021.

2020-2021 GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2020

	General Fund Original Budget	November 30, 2020 Amended Budget	11/30/20 Revenue, Expenditures, and Change in FB	% of Budget
REVENUES:				
5700 Local revenues	$ 90,111,750	$ 90,111,750	$ 5,619,453	6%
5800 State revenues	194,488,250	194,488,250	67,396,154	35%
5900 Federal revenues	900,000	900,000	141,209	16%
TOTAL REVENUES	**$ 285,500,000**	**$ 285,500,000**	**$ 73,156,815**	**26%**
EXPENDITURES:				
11 Instruction	$ 171,695,476	$ 171,748,656	$ 26,077,091	15%
12 Inst. Resources/Media	3,665,060	3,672,060	789,834	22%
13 Curr & Staff Develop	3,723,787	3,716,037	574,980	15%
21 Inst Leadership	4,436,253	4,441,003	1,038,736	23%
23 School Leadership	20,219,186	20,217,954	4,872,972	24%
31 Guidance/Counseling	11,905,320	11,905,880	2,749,334	23%
32 Social Services	234,007	234,007	45,535	19%
33 Health Services	4,073,850	4,075,050	628,441	15%
34 Transportation	6,563,516	6,612,016	1,840,989	28%
35 Food Service	50,000	50,000	2,288	5%
36 Extra-Curricular	5,655,757	5,655,757	706,732	12%
41 General Admin.	8,172,533	8,057,033	1,814,800	23%
51 Maint & Operations	27,632,139	27,795,059	6,260,849	23%
52 Security	2,871,342	2,871,342	447,620	16%
53 Data Processing	8,416,197	8,416,197	2,488,673	30%
61 Community Services	4,485,177	4,467,599	866,023	19%
71 Debt Service	1,205,400	1,205,400	-	0%
81 Facilities Acq/Constr.	-	-	-	
95 Juvenile Justice Prgm	85,000	85,000	16,566	19%
97 Payments to TIF	-	-	-	
99 Intergovernmental Chgs	410,000	410,000	201,768	49%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 285,500,000**	**$ 285,636,050**	**$ 51,423,232**	**18%**
OTHER SOURCES:				
7912 Sale of Property	$ -	$ -	$ 695	
7913 Proceeds from Capital Leases		-	-	
7915 Operating Transfer In	-	-	-	
TOTAL OTHER SOURCES	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 695**	
OTHER USES:				
8911 Operating Transfer Out	$ -	$ -	$ -	
TOTAL OTHER USES	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	**$ -**	**$ (136,050)**	**$ 21,734,279**	

2020-2021 General Fund
Summary of Proposed Budget Transfers/Amendments
01/14/2021 Regular Board Meeting

	General Fund Original Budget	December, 2020 Amended Budget	January, 2021 Proposed Budget Transfers	January, 2021 Proposed Budget Amendment	January, 2021 Proposed Amended Budget
REVENUES:					
5700 Local revenues	$ 90,111,750	$ 93,217,875	$ -	$ -	$ 93,217,875
5800 State revenues	194,488,250	191,382,125	-	-	191,382,125
5900 Federal revenues	900,000	900,000	-	-	900,000
TOTAL REVENUES	**$ 285,500,000**	**$ 285,500,000**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 285,500,000**
EXPENDITURES:					
11 Instruction	$ 171,695,476	$ 171,703,763	$ (4,560)	$ -	$ 171,699,203
12 Inst. Resources/Media	3,665,060	3,678,001	-	-	3,678,001
13 Curr & Staff Develop	3,723,787	3,730,816	5,660	-	3,736,476
21 Inst Leadership	4,436,253	4,424,883	-	-	4,424,883
23 School Leadership	20,219,186	20,219,632	-	-	20,219,632
31 Guidance/Counseling	11,905,320	11,903,880	-	-	11,903,880
32 Social Services	234,007	234,007	-	-	234,007
33 Health Services	4,073,850	4,075,050	-	-	4,075,050
34 Transportation	6,563,516	6,612,016	-	-	6,612,016
35 Food Service	50,000	50,000	-	-	50,000
36 Extra-Curricular	5,655,757	5,633,882	(3,320)	-	5,630,562
41 General Admin.	8,172,533	8,049,533	-	-	8,049,533
51 Maint & Operations	27,632,139	27,849,049	2,220	-	27,851,269
52 Security	2,871,342	2,871,342	-	-	2,871,342
53 Data Processing	8,416,197	8,414,197	-	-	8,414,197
61 Community Services	4,485,177	4,485,599	-	-	4,485,599
71 Debt Service	1,205,400	1,205,400	-	-	1,205,400
81 Facilities Acq/Constr.	-	-	-	-	-
95 Juvenile Justice Prgm	85,000	85,000	-	-	85,000
97 Payments to TIF	-	-	-	-	-
99 Intergovernmental Chgs	410,000	410,000	-	-	410,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 285,500,000**	**$ 285,636,050**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 285,636,050**
OTHER SOURCES:					
7912 Sale of Property	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
7915 Operating Transfer In	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER SOURCES	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
OTHER USES:					
8911 Operating Transfer Out	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
TOTAL OTHER USES	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	**$ -**	**$ (136,050)**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ (136,050)**

GRAND PRAIRIE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Quarterly Summary of Investments for the period September 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020 (1st Quarter)

	BEGINNING BALANCE 09/01/2020	INCREASES	DECREASES	ENDING BALANCE 11/30/2020	AVERAGE YIELD	# DAYS IN PERIOD	QUARTERLY INTEREST EARNED
Texpool (Investment Pool)							
General Fund	209,958.69	70.46	-	210,029.15	0.13%	91	70.46
Debt Service Fund	2,954,554.24	991.74	-	2,955,545.98	0.13%	91	991.74
Workers' Compensation Fund	1,879,797.51	631.00	-	1,880,428.51	0.13%	91	631.00
Employee Benefits Fund	440,268.29	147.81	-	440,416.10	0.13%	91	147.81
Total Texpool Investment Pool	**$ 5,484,578.73**	**$ 1,841.01**	**$ -**	**$ 5,486,419.74**			**$ 1,841.01**
TexStar (Investment Pool)							
General Fund	1,177,507.04	336.05	-	1,177,843.09	0.11%	91	336.05
Debt Service Fund	1,883.51	0.66	-	1,884.17	0.11%	91	0.66
Total TexStar Investment Pool	**$ 1,179,390.55**	**$ 336.71**	**$ -**	**$ 1,179,727.26**			**$ 336.71**
Texas Class (Investment Pool)							
General Fund	79,712,073.69	83,876,340.70	(55,587,556.19)	108,000,858.20	0.19%	91	44,938.16
Debt Service Fund	19,045,254.56	2,175,434.22	-	21,220,688.78	0.19%	91	9,288.18
Capital Projects Fund-635 Series 2017	-	-	-	-	0.19%	91	-
Campus Activity Fund	749,974.86	358.21	-	750,333.07	0.19%	91	358.21
Food Service Fund	399,590.26	177.08	(182,769.55)	216,997.79	0.19%	91	177.08
Total Texas Class Investment Pool	**$ 99,906,893.37**	**$ 86,052,310.21**	**$ (55,770,325.74)**	**$ 130,188,877.84**			**$ 54,761.63**
Lone Star (Investment Pool)							
General Fund	18,829.42	3.84	-	18,833.26	0.08%	91	3.84
Total Lone Star Investment Pool	**$ 18,829.42**	**$ 3.84**	**$ -**	**$ 18,833.26**			**$ 3.84**

TCG Advisors, LP.	**Beginning Market Value 09/01/2020**	**Quarterly Interest**	**FMV Appreciation / (Depreciation)**	**Ending Market Value 11/30/2020**	**Cost Basis**	**Purchase Rate**	
Gen Fund-Cash and Cash Alternatives	1,258,388.99	34,950.84		2,213,339.83			
Gen Fund-Fixed Income	3,690,283.71		(14,306.59)	2,755,977.12	13,890,000.00	100.548	
Total MunicipalTaxable/Agency/CDs	**$ 4,948,672.70**			**$ 4,969,316.95**			**$ 20,644.25**
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	**$ 111,538,364.77**			**$ 141,843,175.05**			**$ 77,587.44**

COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the quarterly Investment Report represents the investment position of the district as of August 31, 2020 and that all investments were purchased in compliance with the Board approved Investment Policy. The Board of Trustees has approved and reviewed the policies and strategies for investments of the Grand Prairie Independent School District.

Lara Brown — **December 16, 2020**

Lara Brown — **Date**

Director of Finance

Action

Topic: Adoption of Order of Election

Submitted by: Tracy Ray

Approved for transmittal to school board:

Date assigned for board consideration: January 14, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board of Education adopt the Order of Election as submitted and establish the date of Saturday, May 1, 2021 for the Board of Education Trustee Election.

RATIONALE:

An Order of Election has been prepared for a School Board Election to be held on May 1, 2021. The Order is presented to the Board of Education for adoption at this board meeting on January 14, 2021 at the Grand Prairie ISD Education Center, 2602 South Belt Line Road, Grand Prairie, Texas. The Calendar of Events pertaining to this election is included for your information. The beginning date for filing is January 13, 2021 with the last date for filing being February 12, 2021.

The positions for election this year are Single Member District 1, incumbent Terry Brooks and Single Member District 5, incumbent David Espinosa.

Dallas County Elections will conduct the Election. Early voting by personal appearance will begin April 19, 2021 and conclude April 27, 2021. The early voting locations will be Crosswinds High School and Betty Warmack Library. The Election Coordinator for the District will be Debbie Torres.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

Projected pro-rata cost of election is approximately $60,000 to $80,000

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

BBB (LEGAL) and BBB (LOCAL)

AW1-3
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 3.004, 3.006, 4.008, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007 Texas Election Code
9/2009

ORDER OF ELECTION

An election is hereby ordered to be held on May 1, 2021 for the purpose of electing to the Board of Trustees of the Grand Prairie Independent School District one trustee each for positions designated as Single Member District 1 and Single Member District 5 for a full three-year term.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted as follows:

Crosswinds High School		1100 N. Carrier Pkwy., 75050
Betty Warmack Library		760 Bardin Rd., 75052
Apr 19	(Monday through Friday) – Apr 23	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Apr 24	(Saturday)	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Apr 25	(Sunday)	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Apr 26	(Monday and Tuesday) – Apr 27	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be submitted by mail, carrier delivery, fax or Email to:

Toni Pippins-Poole, Early Voting Clerk
(Name of Early Voting Clerk)

1520 Round Table Drive
(Address)

Dallas 75247
(City) (Zip Code)

evapplications@dallascounty.org
Email Address

214-819-6303
Fax

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

Issued this the 14th day of January 2021

Aaron King, School Board President	David Espinosa, Member
Emily Liles, School Board Vice President	Burke Hall, Member
Terry Brooks, School Board Secretary	Bryan Parra, Member
Gloria Carrillo, Member	Aaron King, Presiding Officer

AW1-3
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 3.004, 3.006, 4.008, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007 Texas Election Code
9/2009

ORDEN DE ELECCIÓN

Por la presente se requiere que se lleve a cabo una elección el 1ro de mayo de 2021 con el propósito de elegir a la Mesa Directiva del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Grand Prairie un fideicomisario cada uno para los puestos designados al Distrito 1 de un solo miembro y al Distrito 5 de un solo miembro para un plazo completo de tres años.

Votación temprana en persona se realizará como sigue:

Crosswinds High School Betty Warmack Library	1100 N. Carrier Pkwy., 75050 760 Bardin, Rd., 75052
19 de abril (lunes a viernes) – 23 de abril	8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.
24 de abril (sábado)	8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.
25 de abril (domingo)	1:00 p.m. a 6:00 p.m.
26 de abril (lunes y martes) – 27 de abril	7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.

Solicitudes de boletas por correo serán enviadas por correo, transportista, fax o email a:

Toni Pippins-Poole, Oficinista de Votación Temprana
(Nombre de la Oficinista de Votación Temprana)

1520 Round Table Drive
(Dirección)

Dallas 75247
(Ciudad) (Código Postal)

evapplications@dallascounty.org
Dirección de Email

214-819-6303
Fax

Solicitudes de boletas por correo deben ser recibidas no más tarde que al cierre de negocio el martes 20 de abril de 2021.

Emitida este 14 de enero de 2021

Aaron King, Presidente de la Mesa Directiva	David Espinosa, Miembro
Emily Liles, Vicepresidente de la Mesa Directiva	Burke Hall, Miembro
Terry Brooks, Secretario de la Mesa Directiva	Bryan Parra, Miembro
Gloria Carillo, Miembro	Aaron King, Funcionario que Preside

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

to be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021

CALENDAR DATES	ELECTION ACTIVITY
Wednesday, January 13, 2021	First day to submit application for place on ballot
Thursday, January 14, 2021	Order Calling for Election by School Board
Friday, February 12, 2021	Last day to file for place on ballot (5:00 pm)
Tuesday, February 16, 2021	Last day for "write-in" candidate to file (5:00 pm)
Thursday, February 18, 2021	Post notice of ballot position drawing (drawing date February 22)
Friday, February 19, 2021	Last day candidate may withdraw and not appear on the ballot (5:00 pm)
Friday, February 19, 2021	First day an election can be cancelled
Monday, February 22, 2021	Drawing for candidate position on ballot (4:00 pm)
Thursday, April 1, 2021	Last day to register to vote for May 1 School Board Election
Thursday, April 1, 2021	Beginning of period to publish notice of election in newspaper
Saturday, April 10, 2021	Last day to post notice of election at Education Center and on website
Monday, April 19, 2021	First day of early voting (Crosswinds & Betty Warmack Library)
Wednesday, April 21, 2021	Last day of period to publish notice of election in newspaper
Tuesday, April 27, 2021	Last day of early voting (Crosswinds & Betty Warmack Library)
Saturday, May 1, 2021	ELECTION DAY – (results partial pending "provisional votes")
Tuesday, May 4, 2021	First day to canvass election results*
Wednesday, May 12, 2021	Last day to canvass election results*

*Notice must be posted 72 hours continuously before conducted

Action

Topic: Consider Approval of the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2020

Submitted by: Tracy Ray

Approved for transmittal to school board:

Date assigned for board consideration: January 14, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board of Trustees approve the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2020, as presented.

RATIONALE:

Per Section 44.008 of the Texas Education Code, the Board of Trustees of each school district shall have its school district fiscal accounts audited annually, and a copy of this annual audit report, approved by the Board of Trustees, shall be filed by the district with Texas Education Agency not later than the 150th day after fiscal year end.

In compliance with the Texas Education Code and district legal policy, Weaver and Tidwell, LLP has conducted an audit of the district's 2019-2020 fiscal accounts and will present the resulting Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended, August 31, 2020 to the Grand Prairie ISD Board of Trustees for approval.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

Board Policy CFC (LEGAL) Accounting – Audits
Texas Education Code Section 44.008

Action

Topic: Consider Approval of the 2021-2022 School Calendar

Submitted by: Ms. Linda Ellis, Dr. Vern Alexander, Mr. Sam Buchmeyer

Approved for transmittal to school board:

Date assigned for board consideration: January 14, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Board adopt the school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.

RATIONALE:

The School Board shall approve the School District calendar.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

DRAFT GPISD Calendar
2021-2022 School Year

July 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	H	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	NT	NT	30	31

August 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	SD	SD	SD	SD	SD	7
8	WD	SS	(11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	H	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	ER	9
10	H	12	13	14	15)	16
17	(18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	H	H	H	H	H	27
28	29	30				

December 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17)	18
19	H	H	H	H	H	25
26	H	H	H	H	H	

Semester/Nine Weeks

Aug. 11 - Oct. 15 . . . . . 46 days
Oct. 18 - Dec. 17 . . . . . 40 days
First Semester . . . . . 86 days

Jan. 4 - Mar. 11 . . . . . 47 days
Mar. 21 - May 26 . . . . . 47 days
Second Semester . . . . . 94 days

Total Days . . . . . 180 days

New Teacher
July 28 - 29

Staff Development
August 2 - 6 January 3

Early Release Days
October 8 March 4

Teacher Work Days
August 9-10 May 27

Bad Weather Make-Up Days
February 21 April 18

Dolores C. Huerta and Cesar E. Chavez Day
March 28

Holidays

July 5 ..... Independence Day (Observed)
September 6 ..... Labor Day
October 11 ..... Fall Break
November 22 - 26 ..... Thanksgiving Break
December 17 - Jan. 1 ..... Winter Break
January 17 ..... MLK Day
March 14 - 18 ..... Spring Break
April 15 ..... Good Friday
May 30 ..... Memorial Day

First Day of School . . . . . August 11
Last Day for Students . . . . . May 26

January 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	SD	(4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	H	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	BW/H	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	ER	5
6	7	8	9	10	11)	12
13	H	H	H	H	H	19
20	(21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	H	16
17	BW/H	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26)	WD	28
29	H	31				

June 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

NT New Teacher Orientation
SD Staff Development
WD Teacher Work Days
SS SafeSchools
BW Bad Weather Make-Up Days
( ) Beginning/Ending Nine Weeks
H Holidays and Other Non-School Days
ER Early Release Days

Students: 180 Days
Teachers: 187 Days
Note: Subject to change by legislative action

Action

Topic: Consider Approval of the Resolution to Extend Paid Sick Leave for Specified Reasons Related to COVID-19

Submitted by: Karry Chapman

Approved for transmittal to school board:

Date assigned for board consideration: January 14, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Resolution extending the provision to provide up to 80 hours of paid sick leave (EPSL) for eligible employees unable to work or telework due to specified reasons related to COVID-19. Specified COVID-19 related reasons include: the employee is subject to a quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19; the employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19; the employee is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis; the employee is caring for an individual subject to quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19.

RATIONALE:

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), enacted April 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020, expired with no extension for public employers to continue to offer paid sick leave for employees absent due to COVID-19 related reasons. Approval of this resolution will provide up to 80 hours paid sick leave, for COVID-19 related absences, January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 for employees who had not yet used the available paid sick leave prior to December 31, 2020.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

Anticipated substitute costs are included in the Board adopted 2020-2021 budget.

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

DEC (LOCAL)

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GRAND PRAIRIE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees ("Board") of the Grand Prairie Independent School District ("District") is authorized by Texas Education Code § 11.151 to govern and oversee the management of the public schools in the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized by Texas Education Code § 45.105 to expend funds of the District for purposes necessary in the conduct of the public schools as determined by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that during a pandemic, District employees may require additional leave due to exposure or infection of themselves or family members; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges the emergency paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Act, otherwise known as FFCRA, expired on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges the pandemic is ongoing and employees may be infected, exposed, or required to care for family members infected or exposed to COVID-19 after the expiration of the leave provisions of FFCRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board determines continuing the emergency paid sick leave provisions of FFCRA past December 31, 2020 serves the public purposes of maintaining morale, reducing turnover, and ensuring continuity of District staffing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT:

RESOLVED, the District will continue to offer employees current protections of the EPSL for current qualifying events and circumstances authorized by the FFCRA, except that:

a. Employees who have already exhausted leave under the FFCRA will not be eligible for any additional leave time; and
b. This authorization expires no later than June 30, 2021, unless this authorization is revoked sooner, or extended by the Board of Trustees.

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees hereby (1) determines that these payments serve a public purpose, (2) retains sufficient control over the expenditures to ensure a public purpose is served, and (3) is confident the District will receive a return benefit.

RESOLVED, the authority granted by this resolution to continue the emergency paid sick leave to eligible employees is effective until June 30, 2021 unless the Board takes action to authorize continuation of such leave for a longer duration.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ___ day of January 14, 2021 by the Board of Trustees for the Grand Prairie Independent School District.

By: _____
Board President

Attest: _____
Board Secretary

Action

Topic: Consider Taking Action on Employee Contracts

Submitted by: Ms. Linda Ellis

Approved for transmittal to school board:

Date assigned for board consideration: January 14, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Board consider the following:

- Proposing nonrenewal of contracts.
- Consider terminating probationary contracts.
- Consider extending probationary contracts to a fourth year.
- Accepting resignations.
- Consider proposing termination during the contract year.

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

Action

Topic: Teacher Resignations/Contract Abandonment

Submitted by: Ms. Linda Ellis

Approved for transmittal to school board:

Date assigned for board consideration: January 14, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider whether good cause exists under TEC Section 21.210(c)(2) and 19 TAC 249.14(g) for teachers attempting to resign during the contract term.

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

Information/Discussion

Topic: Resilient School Support Program

Submitted by: Dr. Angela Herron

Approved for transmittal to school board:

Date assigned for board consideration: January 14, 2021

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

The Resilient School Support Program is a service grant offered through the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Grand Prairie ISD is currently one of forty school districts awarded the opportunity to participate in the Resilient School Support Program with the purpose of building a world class virtual-learning instructional model. This presentation will provide an overview and progress report on how GPISD is using the Resilient School Support Program to evaluate, grow, and strengthen our virtual-learning instructional model for our staff, students, and stakeholders.

Information/Discussion

Topic: 10th Annual GPISD Experience (Virtual)

Submitted by: Ms. Gay Lynn Broom

Approved for transmittal to school board: 

Date assigned for board consideration: January 14, 2021

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

The GPISD 10th Annual Experience was held virtually this year. The results of this years' experience will be presented tonight.

Information/Discussion

Topic: Board Training Credit

Submitted by: Ms. Linda Ellis

Approved for Transmittal to School Board:

Date Assigned for Board Consideration: January 14, 2021

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

Annually, at the completion of the calendar year, the board president is required to announce the board members' compliance with the training requirements. The board president is required to announce the name of each board member who has completed the required continuing education, who has exceeded the required hours of continuing education, and who is deficient in the required continuing education.

Terry Brooks	10.25
Gloria Carrillo	23.25
David Espinosa	14.25
Burke Hall	7.25
Aaron King	7.25
Emily Liles	24.50
Bryan Parra	30.25

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

JANUARY 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	
Personnel	1. Evaluation of Superintendent/Superintendent's Contract
Budget	2. Approve Audit Report
Team Development	
Policy	
Other	1. Adoption of Election Order
District Events	1. Student Holiday - Staff Development: January 4, 2021 2. The Experience (Virtual): January 9, 2021 3. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: January 18, 2021
Other Board Related Events	1. School Board Recognition Month

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

FEBRUARY 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	1. Attendance Zones
Personnel	1. Administrator contract recommendations
Budget	
Team Development	
Policy	
Other	
District Events	1. Bad Weather Make-up Day: February 15, 2021
Other Board Related Events	1. TASA/TASB Virtual Legislative Conference: February 23, 2021 9:00am - 12:50pm

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

MARCH 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	1. Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) Public Hearing
Personnel	1. Administrator contract recommendations 2. Non-administrator contract recommendations and proposed non-renewals; terminations
Budget	1. Budget Work Session
Team Development	
Policy	
Other	1. Waiver request for inclement weather make-up days 2. Dolores C. Huerta and Cesar E. Chavez Day: March 29, 2021
District Events	1. Texas Public Schools Week: March 1 – 5, 2021 2. Spring Break: March 8-12, 2021
Other Board Related Events	

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

APRIL 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	
Personnel	1. Administrator contract recommendations 2. Non-administrator contract recommendations and proposed non-renewals; terminations
Budget	
Team Development	
Policy	1. Investment Policy and Strategy Review and Approval
Other	1. Good Friday Holiday: April 2, 2021 2. Holiday/Bad weather make-up day: April 12, 2021
District Events	1. Service Awards Banquet and Retiree Recognition: April 27, 2021 (Drive Thru Event)
Other Board Related Events	1. Announce Board Member Training Credits

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

MAY 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	1. Approve hazardous bus routes
Personnel	
Budget	
Team Development	1. New Board Member orientation (if needed)
Policy	
Other	1. Present Student Handbooks and Student Code of Conduct Updates 2. Canvass school board election: 3. Memorial Day Holiday: May 31, 2021 4. Cinco de Mayo: May 5, 2021
District Events	1. School Board Election: May 1, 2021
Other Board Related Events	

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

JUNE 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	
Personnel	
Budget	
Team Development	
Policy	
Other	1. Student Handbooks 2. Reorganization of Board
District Events	1. Graduation
Other Board Related Events	1. TASB Post-Legislative Conference 2. TASB Summer Leadership Institute: Fort Worth; June 23-26, 2020

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

JULY 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	
Personnel	
Budget	1. Review draft of budget
Team Development	
Policy	
Other	1. Student Organization Constitutions & Baseline Guidelines (Presented every five years – Board approved 2/12/2015)
District Events	1. Mandatory GPISD Closing
Other Board Related Events	1. Approve Board participation in TASA/TASB annual convention 2. Approve Board delegate and alternate to TASB Delegate Assembly 3. Texas Institute for School Boards Center for Reformed School Systems Training (CRSS)

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

AUGUST 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	
Personnel	
Budget	1. Public hearing for new fiscal year budget 2. Approval for new fiscal year budget 3. Order establishing tax rate and levying/assessing ad valorem taxes 4. Budget Workshop 5. Final Budget Amendment for Current Year
Team Development	1. Board Team of 8 Training
Policy	
Other	1. Pre-K tuition letter to TEA 2. DIP – Performance Objectives 3. Suicide Awareness Report 4. Approval for Memorandum of Understanding for Dallas County JJAEP
District Events	1. Convocation 2. Summer Graduation 3. Market Day (Vendor Fair) 4. First day of school
Other Board Related Events	

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	
Personnel	
Budget	1. Budget Amendment #1 (prior year rollover expenditures)
Team Development	
Policy	
Other	
District Events	1. Football season begins 2. Labor Day Holiday:
Other Board Related Events	1. TASA/TASB Convention:

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

OCTOBER 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	
Personnel	
Budget	1. Present budget calendar
Team Development	
Policy	
Other	
District Events	1. Fall Break: 2. Education Foundation Golf Tournament
Other Board Related Events	

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

NOVEMBER 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	
Personnel	
Budget	
Team Development	
Policy	
Other	
District Events	1. Thanksgiving Break:
Other Board Related Events	

Revised 1/14/2021

Grand Prairie Schools

Board of Trustees Agenda Calendar

DECEMBER 2021

Planning/ Evaluation	
Personnel	
Budget	
Team Development	
Policy	
Other	
District Events	1. Winter Break:
Other Board Related Events	