

# Galt Joint Union Elementary School District Board of Education Minutes

**Regular Board Meeting  
November 15, 2023**

**Galt City Hall Chamber  
380 Civic Drive, Galt, CA 95632**

**Zoom Webinar ID:  
83493758048**

## **Board Member**

Wesley Cagle  
Traci Skinner  
Casey Raboy  
Annette Kunze  
Katherine Harper

Lois Yount  
Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano  
Kuljeet Nijjar  
Alejandra Garibay  
Stephanie Simonich

## **Administrators**

David Nelson  
Jennifer Porter  
Laura Papineau  
Tina Homdus  
Carlos Castillo  
Laura Marquez via Zoom

- A. 6:00 p.m. – Closed Session Location:** Galt City Hall Conference Room
- B. Wesley Cagle called the Closed Session to order at 6:00 p.m.** to discuss the following items:
1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, Government Code §54957.6  
Agency Negotiator: Lois Yount, Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Kuljeet Nijjar, Alejandra Garibay
    - Employee Agency: (GEFA) Galt Elementary Faculty Association
    - Employee Agency: (CSEA) California School Employee Association
    - Non-Represented Employees
  2. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE §54957
- C. Closed Session adjourned at 7:05 p.m.** Wesley Cagle announced no action was taken in closed session followed by the flag salute. **Open Session began at 7:10 p.m.**
- The Presentations and recognitions** were presented before the Board Meeting Protocol.
- D.** Lois Yount, Superintendent, shared the **Board Meeting Protocol.**
- E. Presentations & Recognitions**
1. Marengo Ranch Elementary Band Students
- F. Public Comments** for topics not on the agenda  
There were no public comments.
- G. Reports**  
**LCAP GOAL 1**  
*Engaging learners in PreK-8 through a focus on equity, access, and academic rigor with inclusive practices in various learning environments.*

## 1. **Acceleration Blocks**

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Curriculum Director, reported acceleration blocks take place after school. So far, it has been an 8-session cycle that students participate in 1 hour each day. The number of sessions provided and the number of students that participated was provided by grade level. The strongest focus area is in multiplication fluency with 38 rotations involving 276 students.

Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano said the whole intent of the acceleration blocks is to provide targeted instruction in very specific areas based on students' needs.

Tina Homdus, Principal said a key point of acceleration blocks is not just the content, but the engagement, attendance, and connectedness to school.

## 2. **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)**

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Curriculum Director, reported MAP is administered to all students in grades first through eighth grade in the fall. She indicated the District LCAP goal is to increase test scores by 5% from winter 2023 to winter 2024. We cannot look at grade levels in student groups by identifying winter-to-winter scores. And this is important because each group starts at a different place. So, if we measure the growth of a cohort, we're better able to gauge the growth for that same group of students over time. She highlighted the area of reading. In first grade, 30% of the children reached the sixtieth percentile on MAP. The sixtieth percentile appears to be the percentile that can best determine if the children are at grade level. She shared the results of student groups and teacher efforts to accelerate learning and indicated the District is seeing progress.

Carlos Castillo, Middle School Principal, stated that when looking at the data, we look at what we can focus on in the two years they are in middle school and set goals. He indicated that students are celebrated when moving from one level to another and showing growth. Mr. Carlos said teachers are working hard on common assessments and providing targeted intervention between classrooms.

## 3. **California Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and Chronic Absenteeism State Release**

Lois Yount reported the SBAC data is now available to the public. She highlighted how GJUESD performed on these state tests and indicated that GJUESD students outperformed the state average in English language arts and math. She shared the percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards and indicated almost all school sites saw growth in math. Ms. Yount said the CA Dashboard report will be brought to the December or January meeting. The Dashboard provides parents and educators with meaningful information on these assessments.

Annette Kunze, Board Member, stated that some of the data is worrisome because people may decide whether to put their children into public school based on the data. She said the District is improving and doing better, but this is what the State of California looks like, what we're doing for children. This does not take away from the individual efforts of teachers.

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano said the task for administrators is to interpret the data and continue the work toward meaningful progress. The more we collaborate the better we can address students needs. She indicated sometimes it takes a little while to identify and if we can't identify it properly, how can we target it appropriately?

Lois Yount said teachers have voluntarily attended a lot of training over the last couple of years, including a week-long training this summer for building thinking classrooms, math labs after school and there's a large percentage of our teachers that are wanting to learn new math strategies.

Kuljeet Nijjar, Educational Services Director, reported all school districts are grappling with chronic absenteeism is statewide and nationwide. However, there are some positive trends. This year GJUESD launched a campaign called Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow! She said chronic absenteeism is students that are absent for 10% or more of the instructional days they were enrolled to attend. The absenteeism rate is monitored at least monthly so the District can identify students who are at risk of being chronically absent by the end of the school year. This year the chronic absenteeism rate dropped a significant 28.5%. Ms. Kuljeet shared attendance rates for 2022-2023, 2021-2022, and the two years subsequent to the COVID-19 pandemic. She indicated that while the District has increased attendance and or decreased the absenteeism rate, there is a vast difference between pre-pandemic and post pandemic.

Ms. Kuljeet acknowledged the GJUESD is identified for Differentiated Assistance for Students with Disabilities for chronic absenteeism following the release of the 2022 California School Dashboard. This population's absenteeism rate has decreased from 53.9% to 35.9%. She indicated this is a testament to school site administrator teams.

Ms. Kuljeet said barriers to attendance include social/emotional, behavioral, health, transportation, higher rates in kindergarten. She indicated these are barriers that we want to help families overcome versus being punitive. The District has developed and implemented attendance teams at every school site that includes administrators, social workers/counselors, office staff and parents. The teams are working to create districtwide consistencies to address attendance issues. She said administration is focusing on positive learning environments, engagement, relationships, and giving staff the tools they need address barriers to attendance.

## LCAP GOAL 2

*Promoting PreK-8 whole learner development through social and emotional learning opportunities in a variety of safe and supportive environments.*

### **1. Transportation Services**

Alejandra Garibay, Chief Business Officer, reported. She said the transportation services department provides safe and timely transportation services to the Galt Joint Union High School District and the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District. The team comprises bus drivers, mechanics, trainers, office staff and bus monitors. She indicated there is a current bus driver staffing shortage that is affecting districts across the state.

Ms. Garibay shared information related to the following:

- Bus Routes
- Annual Mileage
- Transportation History

- Traversa Student Transportation Software Implementation
- Electric Bus Project
- In-service and Staff Meeting Schedules
- Safe Bus Operations for Upcoming Winter Weather
- Fire Extinguisher Training

OTHER REPORTS

**1. City And Schools Together (CAST)**

Lois Yount reported the last CAST meeting was held on November 13, 2023 with trustees Casey Raboy and Katherine Harper attending. She provided a summary.

The Galt Joint Union High School District (GJUHSD) is in the process of reviewing its graduation requirements. Currently, they have more credit requirements than other high schools. They also recently held an Arrive Alive presentation for students and families to raise awareness about fentanyl use and shared the increased need for mental health counseling services.

The City of Galt received a hiring grant of \$125,000 to be spent over three years. The grant specifically helps the City pay their portion of a third School Resource Officer (SRO). The City is also considering additional mobile cameras within the city limits.

On November 20, 2023 council meeting there will be a report on commercial cannabis. At their December meeting they will provide a Walker Park update.

The City also shared 163 residential permits have been pulled to date which is an increase from last year. The Liberty Ranch project is graded for 700 lots. The project has space for 1400 homes. However, there is no home developer yet.

**2. School Calendars**

School Administrators shared events from their December school calendars.

**H. Routine Matters/New Business**

**232.435** Casey Raboy made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Annette Kunze. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consent  
Calendar**

- a. Approval of the Agenda
- b. Minutes
  - October 18, 2023
- c. Payment of Warrants
  - Vendor Warrants: 2443842-24443913; 24445035-24445105; 24447258-24447350
  - Payroll Warrants: 10/31/23
- d. Personnel

<b>Resignations/Retirees</b>	
------------------------------	--

Name	Position	Effective Date	Site
DeRouen, Katie	Instructional Assistant	10/20/23	Valley Oaks
Navarro, Rosalba	Instructional Assistant, Special Education	10/31/23	Vernon E. Greer
Usher, Claire	Yard Supervisor	10/16/23	River Oaks
<b>Leave of Absence Requests</b>			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Site
Castillo, Carlos	Principal	10/25/23	McCaffrey Middle
Debastiani, Janine	Instructional Assistant, Special Education	10/30/23	Fairsite
Keane, Char	BFLC Technician	10/30/23	Vernon E. Greer
Nelson, Heather	Teacher	10/30/23	McCaffrey Middle
Purcell, Jillian	Instructional Assistant, Special Education	11/6/23	Valley Oaks
Romero, Rachelle	Health Assistant 2	10/2/23	Valley Oaks
<b>New Hires/Reclassifications/Status Changes</b>			
Name	Position	Site	
Anaya, Jonathan	Bilingual Office Assistant	River Oaks	
Buonauro, Maricel	Classified Substitute	N/A	
Chavez, Christina	Yard Supervisor	McCaffrey Middle	
Doty, Ursula	Certificated Substitute	N/A	
Fontana, Christopher	Classified Substitute	N/A	
Gonzalez-Martinez, America	Registered Behavior Technician	District Office	
Harrison, Haylee	Yard Supervisor	McCaffrey Middle	
Herrera Vaca, Clarisa	Bilingual Office Assistant	Valley Oaks	
Madrigal, Guadalupe	Food & Nutrition Assistant 1	Vernon E. Greer	
Martinez-Ferguson, Adriana	Food & Nutrition Assistant 1	Lake Canyon	
Rodriguez Martinez, Miriam	Instructional Assistant	Lake Canyon	
Teixeira, Paul	Classified Substitute	N/A	
Torres, Maria (Status Change)	Instructional Assistant, Special Education	Vernon E. Greer	
Usher, John	Yard Supervisor	River Oaks	
Wilmoth, Sherri	Instructional Assistant, Special Education	Vernon E. Greer	

e. Donations

<b>232.437</b>	Katherine Harper made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9: Authorizing the Filing of Documents Under the State School Facility Program and Establishing District Representative(s), seconded by Casey Raboy. The motion carried unanimously.	<b>Res. 9 SSFP Dist Rep</b>
<b>232.438</b>	Traci Skinner made a motion to approve the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) Between the California School Employees Association and its Galt Chapter #362 (CSEA) and the GJUESD Pertaining to the Creation of the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Position, seconded by Casey Raboy. The motion carried unanimously.	<b>MOU CSEA SLPA</b>
<b>232.439</b>	The Board of Trustees shared a Public Notice/Sunshine (Proposal) from the California School Employees Association (CSEA) and its Galt Elementary Chapter #362 to the GJUESD for 2023-24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article IX Leaves</li> <li>• Article XVIII Professional Growth Program</li> <li>• Article XIX Fringe Benefits</li> <li>• Article XX Wages</li> </ul>	<b>CSEA PUBLIC NOTICE</b>
<b>232.440</b>	Traci Skinner made a motion to Establish December 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Galt City Hall Chamber as the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District Board of Education Annual Organizational Meeting and Regular Monthly Meeting per Education Code §35143, seconded by Katherine Harper. The motion carried unanimously.	<b>Annual Org Mtg Date</b>
<b>232.441</b>	A First Reading of the following Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR) was held: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BP 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities</li> <li>2. BP 1160 – Political Process</li> <li>3. BP/AR 1312.2 – Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials</li> <li>4. BP/AR 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures</li> <li>5. AR 1312.4 – Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures</li> <li>6. BP/AR 1330 Use of School Facilities</li> <li>7. BP/AR 3311 – Bids</li> <li>8. BP 3312 – Contracts</li> <li>9. BP 3460 – Financial Reports and Accountability</li> <li>10. AR 3541 Transportation Routes and Services</li> <li>11. BP/AR 3551 – Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund</li> <li>12. BP 4151/4251/4351 – Employee Compensation</li> <li>13. AR 4217.3 – Layoff/Rehire</li> <li>14. BP 5131.9 – Academic Honesty</li> <li>15. BP 5145.3 – Nondiscrimination/Harassment</li> <li>16. BP/AR 6143 – Courses of Study</li> <li>17. BP 6154 – Homework/Makeup Work</li> <li>18. AR 6154 – Homework/Makeup Work – Rescind</li> <li>19. BP/AR 6161.1 – Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials</li> <li>20. BP 6161.11 – Supplementary Instructional Materials</li> <li>21. BP 6162.5 – Student Assessment</li> <li>22. BP 6163.1 – Library Media Centers</li> </ol>	<b>FIRST READING</b>

23. BB 9124 – Attorney

Annette Kunze, Board Member, stated that when Assembly Bill 1078 was first introduced, she brought it forward to the Board because of its potential impact on school districts. Generally speaking, local school Boards have broad powers over local decisions. She is not sure the public realized how this particular bill took away that decision making authority from school Boards. She encouraged the Board and the public to look at the changes because it took away a lot of local authority.

Ms. Kunze added that the provisions in the law run up against other protections for children that the courts will need to clarify in the end. The democrat supermajority in California passed this without a lot of questions that may have been asked in a different type of forum. Ms. Kunze suggested the Board implement a mindful, intentional approach to these changes in order to make sure they are protecting students and the school district.

**I. Public Comments** for topics not on the agenda

*Public comment is limited to three minutes or less, pending Board President's approval.*

**J. Pending Agenda Items**

1. Acceleration Blocks

**K. Adjournment** 8:45 p.m.

**Board Approved: December 20, 2023**