



**AUGUST 20TH, 2025 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, GALLATIN GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT #35**

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the Gallatin Gateway School District #35 met at 6:00 P.M. on August 20th, 2025, in the Gallatin Gateway School Library and via Google Meet. Trustee Tim Melton presided and called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Aaron Schwieterman, Board Vice Chair, Tim Melton, Board Chair, Brian Nickolay, Luke Hancox

Google Meet: Carissa Maus

TRUSTEES ABSENT

None

Google Meet: None

STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Henderson, Superintendent; Hannah Hancox, District Clerk.

Google Meet: None

OTHERS PRESENT

Lesley Gilmore, Lain Kay; Jacki and Erik Yager
none on Google Meet

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting attendees recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

PRESIDING TRUSTEE'S EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES

Board Chair Tim Melton explained the public comment process to be followed for addressing the Board in accordance with Gallatin Gateway School policy. He noted: 1) that prior to a vote the public may comment on agenda items; 2) there will be time for public comment on non-agenda items; 3) public comment periods are not intended to be a question and answer session.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON AGENDA ITEMS

● **Public Comment**

- Lain Kay requested more communication from the board.

- She suggested that GGS should pursue a levy.
- She expressed concern that the board has not been transparent with the community regarding finances.

- **Historic Register Discussion**

- Lesley Gilmore began the process to have Gallatin Gateway School considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- In 2023, Lesley submitted a draft National Register form to SHPO.
- SHPO returned the draft, noting the nomination may not be approved due to additions made to the building.
- SHPO suggested the school emphasize information about the school's growth rather than focusing solely on architecture.
- Even without applying for the National Register, the school would remain eligible for state grants.
- The board decided to place this topic on the next meeting agenda for a decision.

Motion: Trustee

Seconded: Trustee

Public Comment: None

For: Hancox, Maus, Nickolay, Schwieterman, Melton

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously 5-0

- **Gallatin Gateway School Window Project**

- Lesley Gilmore presented options for addressing the school's windows.
- Two recommendations were provided:
 - Window restoration
 - Window replacement
- The project would be divided into three phases, with about 11 windows addressed per phase to spread costs across multiple years.
- The windows need attention soon.
- This topic will be added as an **action item**.

Motion: Trustee

Seconded: Trustee

Public Comment: None

For: Hancox, Maus, Nickolay, Schwieterman, Melton

Opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously 5-0

- **Superintendent Report**

- 117 students are currently enrolled.
- 162 Open Ed students are waiting to be enrolled.
- An additional 25 Open Ed students were emailed to Kelly on August 20, 2025.
- At this time, OPI noted that Open Ed had not completed the proper application process to become a distance learner.
- Open Ed was working to finalize approval at the OPI meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

- **Old Business**

- The board discussed adjusting the number of community committee meetings.
 - Decision: All community committees will move to **quarterly meetings**.
- The school walkthrough will be moved to the September board meeting, with both the Board and Facilities Committee required to attend.
- Kelly introduced a packet outlining school finance roles and responsibilities.
 - The board agreed the packet provides adequate delineation of duties.

Motion: Trustee
Seconded: Trustee
Public Comment: None
For: Hancox, Maus, Nickolay, Schwieterman, Melton
Opposed: None

- **MTSBA Policy Review**

- Motion made by Luke Hancox and Brian Nickolay to review MTSBA policies.
- Policy changes were presented, with deletions shown as crossed out and additions in lighter font.
- Most changes involved language updates.
- The board agreed to **amend Policy No. 3**, excluding it from board policy practices.
- **Policy 2234** changes regarding language options were adopted.

- **MTSBA Poll**

- Kelly read the vote options and the board was asked to cast their votes.
- Results were largely consistent with last year's votes.
- Kelly reviewed the MTSBA principles; all were approved except one.
- The board chose to **abstain** from voting on the principle regarding MTSBA's revenue and expenditure choices, citing insufficient information to make an informed decision.

Motion: Trustee

Seconded: Trustee

Public Comment: Lain Kay does not approve of religious content

For: Hancox, Maus, Nickolay, Schwieterman, Melton

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously 5-0

- **Trustees Financial Summary & 2026 School Budget**

- The board reviewed the Trustees Financial Summary and the 2026 School Budget proposal.
- **Decision:** Both the TFS and budget proposal were approved.
- Reports were signed by **Tim Melton** and **Hannah Hancox**.

Motion: Trustee

Seconded: Trustee

Public Comment: None

For: Hancox, Maus, Nickolay, Schwieterman, Melton

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously 5-0

- **Adjournment**

- Chair Tim Melton adjourned the meeting at **7:58 p.m.**

Action Items

- Historic Register nomination discussion to be added to the next board meeting agenda.

- Window Project to be listed as an action item for follow-up.
- School walkthrough rescheduled for September board meeting with Facilities Committee present.