



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Approval of Board Minutes for the months of December 2024 and January 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Griselda Rodriguez /Maribel Villarreal **OF:** Office of Superintendent

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: February 12, 2025

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the UISD Board of Trustees approve the Board Meeting Minutes for the months of December 2024 and

1. Regular Board Meeting – December 18, 2024
2. Regular Board Meeting – January 22, 2025
3. Special Called Meeting – January 30, 2025

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:
No Budget Impact

POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student Activity Complex, Auditorium / 5208 Santa Claudia Lane / Laredo, Texas 78053

Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, December 18, 2024 6:00 PM

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Gilbert Aguilar, Michelle Molina, Aliza Oliveros, Ramiro Veliz, Javier Montemayor, Dianelle Martinez, and Rudy Gonzalez

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Gerardo Cruz, Rebecca Morales, Mike Garza, Bobby Cruz, Melissa Y. Cruz, Rene Cruz, Manuel Menchaca, Alfonso Pena, Cordy Flores-Jackson, Sam Flores, Rosa Cabello, Felipe Jimenez

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

Board President Javier Montemayor takes roll and calls meeting to order at **6:00 PM.**

II. Pledge of Allegiance

A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

III. Recognitions:

A. UNITED ISD'S MVP PARENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2024

B. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL 2023-2024 AP SCHOLARS

C. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM - 30-6A Champion

D. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS TEAM - Regional Semi-Finalist, Sweet 16

E. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY - District 30-6A Individual Champion

F. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL 2023-2024 AP SCHOLARS

G. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS TEAM - Bi-District Champion, Area Champions, Regional Quarter-Finalist

H. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY - District 30-6A Champion

I. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL 2023-2024 AP SCHOLARS

- J. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM - District 30-6A
Champion
- K. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS TEAM - District 30-6A
Champion, Regional Semi-Finalist, Sweet 16
- L. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY - Regional
Qualifier
- M. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY - Regional
Qualifier
- N. LYNDON B. JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL 2023-2024 AP SCHOLARS
- O. LYNDON B. JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY - Individual
Regional Qualifier
- P. LYNDON B. JOHNSON BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY - Individual Qualifier

IV. Public Comments:

Public comment forms must be submitted to the Board Secretary no later than 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of the meeting by the person who will be providing public comment. Only one public comment form may be submitted per person. The public comment form must be fully completed to be considered. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except that non-English speakers requiring a translator are limited to six minutes. The presiding Board officer may modify or waive these time limits as appropriate. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks or use insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding Board officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding individual District employees, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in Board Policy BED (Local). Pursuant to section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public regarding an item that is not listed on this agenda, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Laura De Los Santos, executive director of United ISD's Special Education department, shares budget information related to the department's annual Spring Special Olympics event that after several meetings and conversations, the City of Laredo has so graciously committed to sponsor. She says that the Sames Auto Arena rental fees can amount to close to \$15K. Ms. De Los Santos states that for years students and staff who have attended these events including students and parents have had to endure the sudden climate changes and temperatures. Ms. De Los Santos thanks the individuals who made this possible and mentions city councilman Gilbert Gonzalez and Mike Chavez.

Miguel Chavez, overseeing planning of the Special Olympic events, inviting LISD, Jimm Hogg, and other districts around South Texas. Mr. Chavez thanked Gilbert Gonzalez and all city council members for their generosity.

Jorge Mendoza inquires as to what is the balance of maintenance tax notes. He is seeking a response on how much the district would be paying on amortization. "I would like to know," said Mr. Mendoza. He also asks for a balance on the fund balances.

Edward De La Garza: Speaks on superintendent's duties and responsibilities. Mr. de La Garza, a father of a victim referring to a hazing incident at a UISD high school. Mr. de La Garza states that a notice was sent to UISD and the school board, for a total of 15 district employees, submitted by parents, and claims that only three people have responded. A week has passed and claims that the Principal of UHS has not addressed the bullying, racial and sexual discriminatory actions. Mr. de La Garza requested the resignation of principal Salazar. He states that a formal complaint has also been sent to the Office of Civil Rights. Lastly, Mr. de La Garza, reminds the board of trustees that they have taken an oath, and calls for any victims to please come forward.

Victor Vazquez; speaking on the superintendent's duties and responsibilities. Addresses Dr. Cruz directly stating he is going down as a "rollercoaster". Investigations, lawsuit, taunting the staff stating he does not know how some staff members still have a job and says that investigations look more like a cover up. He makes claims of not getting the documentation he requested.

Diana Garcia, here to speak on behalf of the Johnson HS students selected for the study abroad. She thanks the board and administration for supporting the study abroad. "This is not just a trip but a door to new opportunities and challenges", said Ms. Garcia. Ms. Garcia shares a fun fact: Salamanca is also known as the "dorarda" or the Golden City. She thanks all who made this possible. Thank you for this opportunity and have a great night.

Sergio Garcia, is here to thank the board. Mr. Garcia, parent of a student selected to the study abroad, elaborates on the application process and the monetary challenges they faced. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart", said Mr. Garcia.

Mr. Davila Jr. a youth minister at San Martin de Porres Catholic Church. To discuss the policy or guideline. He points out discrepancies in the guidelines, such as monetary donation do not count, towards community service hours. He said the guidelines may have to be reviewed and provided the board a copy. "Faith does not mandate", he said. The students choose to give their time, just as in football, or academics. Some students are giving up their time helping others, and yet these community service hours do not count. A student can meet their community service requirements and these hours should count. Mr. Davila asks the board to revisit the guidelines.

Gutierrez, a junior at USHS, speaks on the difficulties of living in a border city, and being able to attend college. He expresses gratitude and thanks the board for their support and says that this will help him in continuing his education.

Clarissa Fraga, speaks on superintendent's duties and responsibilities. Ms. Fraga states that she is here to address the ongoing harassment. She said that she researched, and interviewed individuals, requested records including resignations and made the claim that most employees have left for fear of retaliation. Ms. Fraga says that the district has had

over 1,000 resignations in the past couple of years and asks the board, "if they will do something about it?"

Isabella Lasso, a junior at AHS, says she is honored to represent her school. She thanks the board of trustees for their support of the study abroad program. She was accepted and expresses how she applied and how she is looking forward to it. "This will expose us to challenges, receive education from another country and prove and exercise problem solving skills."

Maria Lara, to voice a deep concern regarding the recent incident of bullying and hazing. "Hazing is not just an action of misconduct", said Ms. Lara. "For the families of the children involved, I urge the board to take action and regardless of age, some fall on deaf ears". She asks that the board review the Student Code Of Conduct to ensure that administrators expand additional counseling, and increase police presence to avoid such incidents from happening again.

Edna Olmeda, here to express her concern, on recent embarrassing coverage (referring to the UHS student incident). She addresses the accountability and the lack of responsibility on the district's part for the incident. Ms. Olmeda specifically names the UISD chief of police for not keeping the students safe and reads all the district's vision goals and gives her personal rating/assessment. She asks the superintendent to do better, or "step down".

Elizabeth Ayala, junior at UHS. Is here with her parents to express her gratitude to the UISD Board, administration and her parents for their support of the study abroad program. She says that she cannot wait to embark on this new adventure. Ms. Ayala closes by also sharing a fun fact. She states that the University of Salamanca was founded in 1218 by King Alonzo.

V. Items for Information Only:

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cruz welcomes the newly elected board members and states that a comprehensive board member orientation will be provided to them. This orientation will serve as an introduction to the structures and operations of the district as well as an overview of departments duties and responsibilities.

He congratulates this month's United Cares Champions. He announces and brings awareness to the Vaping Task Force and says its focus is to create a safe and healthy environment for Dr. Cruz assures the implementation of rigorous measures for teachers to ensure a successful testing process and tutorials and intervention sessions to support student academic success.

Lastly, Dr. Cruz addresses allegations of student misconduct and states that the district takes "all reports of misconduct, seriously". He informs the community that these allegations have been investigated as required by law and any disciplinary action will be followed as per the student code of conduct. Furthermore, he invites the community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity and wishes everyone a joyful 2025.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

On a motion moved for discussion, made by Michelle Molina and seconded by Aliza Oliveros.

- A. Monthly Disbursements
- B. Plan of Finance
- C. Resolution declaring Intention to Reimburse Certain Expenditures
- D. Resolution regarding Review of Investment Policy and Strategies
- E. Awarding Bids, Proposals, Qualifications and Extensions
- F. JOC 005-2024 Replacement of HVAC Equipment at Various Campuses
- G. TIPS JOC 23010402-5196 Clark Building Roof Restoration
- H. Resolution regarding employee compensation for emergency closure due to waterline repairs on November 18, 2024, at Clark Middle School
- I. Adoption of 2025-2026 Academic Calendar

This motion is amended by Aliza Oliveros, seconded by Michelle Molina to approve the consent agenda items VI-B, C, D, E, H and I, and move items VI. A, G, and F to individual consideration. Motion is passed unanimously.

VII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Donations

Dr. Cruz reads in the following donations:

*UHS of Delaware Inc., donated \$6,000.00 for the 2024 Golf Tournament.

*Mr. William Rodriguez of J.R, Inc., donated a set of mockup furniture(value \$5000)

*Curriculum & Associates donated \$1,500.00 (in amazon gift cards) for the Reading Intervention Teachers

*Trautman & Garcia Attorneys at Law, PLLC, donated \$5,000.00 for the UISD's Study Abroad Program

*Laredo College donated \$3,000.00 to go towards 2024 UISD Golf Tournament

*Grand Canyon Education Inc. donated the amount of \$2,000.00 for principal's appreciation month

*UHS Football Booster Club donated \$1,260.00 for the Student Athletic Trainer's Activity Account

*Argosy Foundation Hardship Grant donated \$1,000.00 for the UHS Robotics Team

*Tornado Bus Company donated \$800.00 for the Student's Golf Tournament

Grant total \$24,060.00

On a motion moved for discussion of this months donations, made by Michelle Molina, and seconded by Aliza Oliveros.

Discussion by Dianelly Martinez, as to the process of donations with regards to a dog.

Legal states that donations of over \$1,000.00 get read into the record. Regarding the K-9 situation, legal states that based on the information provided, he is confident that the district was lawful and has investigated the matter.

Ms. Martinez presses her inquiry, and specifically asks that if the dog was worth over \$1,000.00, would it have been reported to the district.

Legal states that the policy does not state the specific dollar amount but rather it has been something that was put in practice.

The board moved to approved this motion and was passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Board minutes for the month of September 2024

On a motion moved by Michelle Molina and seconded by Aliza Oliveros to approve the board minutes for the month of September 2024, the board passed unanimously.

C. Request from Board Members in re: Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for various campuses and departments

Mike Garza states that there are no additional requests. With a motion moved by Michelle Molina to approve the Board Discretionary Funds as presented, and seconded by Oliveros, the board unanimously passed.

Item VI.A Monthly Disbursements

On a motion moved by Michelle Molina and seconded by Aliza Oliveros for discussion.

Dianelle Martinez addresses her concern of food purchases made, the Title IX Coordinator, only 4 Licensed Specialists the Security Service company, and newly created positions.

Sam Flores responds by elaborating on the Monthly Disbursement process and says that the board is given ample time to review. The trustee can then email the department which will then reply in a timely manner or via Friday packets. The reason that the district does not elaborate during the meeting is because it would be impossible to address thousands of items. Furthermore, any requests would be looked into and additional information can and will be provided to all board members.

Dr. Cruz interjects to clarify that the campuses and departments meet to address staffing needs. The district then evaluates the needs assessment and staffing ratios and this is when those decisions are made by determining the funding source, but thanks Ms. Martinez and says the district will take her comments into consideration.

The board moves to pass this motion, 6 for to 1, abstention by Martinez.

Item VI. F JOC 005-2024 Replacement of HVAC Equipment at Various Campuses

On a motion moved by Gilbert Aguilar and seconded by both Michelle Molina and Aliza Oliveros, to approve for discussion;

Dianelle Martinez inquires about the difference between the JOC and TIPS.

Legal counsel clarifies that this is one of the procurement methods and TIPS is an additional method used for certain job orders/contracts. Additionally, aside from the procurement process it is brought up for board approval due to the dollar amount.

Ms. Martinez also adds that Leyendecker Construction was one of those businesses who placed a Bid and the only business who responded to it.

Legal counsel states that indeed this business was the only one to respond.

District staff clarifies the process and reiterates that Leyendecker Construction was the only one of 6 businesses to respond within the 29 day period.

Ms. Dianelle Martinez continues discussion asking when was the last time these HVAC Units were replaced.

Manuel Menchaca replies starting with Arndt Elementary, units last installed was in March 1999, Centeno Elementary in March 2004, Lamar Bruni-Vergara las replaced in February 2006, Los Obispos MS was in November 1995, Roosevelt Elementary in October 1995, Cuellar Elementary in January 1999, Trautman MS in October 1995 and Zaffirini Elementary in May of 1999.

Javier Montemayor chimes in to mention that the district is constantly evaluating campus needs, department needs, whether its technology, HVAC systems, buses etc. and works to prioritize the immediate needs. "It has nothing to do with transparency or lack of, it has to do with assessing the moderate needs and assessing the ones that can wait another year." Montemayor said that there is always a need at our campuses. He takes a moment to appreciate the staff's presentation.

After no further discussion, this motion passes unanimously.

Item VI. G TIPS JOC 23010402-5196 Clark Building Roof Restoration

On a motion to approve made by Ramiro Veliz and seconded by Aliza Oliveros, the board moves to discussion by Dianelle Martinez.

Ms. Martinez inquires what the old Clark Elementary building will be used for and the process that was used for the restoration proposal, labor and materials.

Alfonso Peña director for facilities and construction replies that the building will very likely be used for teacher staff development and elaborates on the cooperative used for the proposal.

After discussion this motion is passed unanimously.

VIII. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

The board adjourns into closed session at **7:47 PM.**

A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting

1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities
2. Discussion, including consultation with legal counsel, regarding *Victor Vazquez v. Gerardo Cruz, in his individual and official capacities, Aaron Salazar, in his individual and official capacities*, Case: 5:24-cv-00164 filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division
3. Discussion, including consultation with legal counsel, regarding Board Policy DGA (Local), possible revisions to same, and matters incident thereto

B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.072 Deliberation regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting

1. Legal consultation and report on the status and possible resolution of the lawsuit filed by Potential Holdings, LLC against the United Independent School District ("UISD") et. al. regarding the UISD Student Activity Complex/Educational Support Center Plat filed of record in Volume 21, Pages 43-44 of the Webb County Plat Records, and the UISD Las Cruces School Plat filed in Volume 18, Page 55, of the Plat Records of Webb County, Texas, and Santa Claudia Lane and Santa Monica Drive within the UISD SAC Plat and matters incident thereto, including legal options available to UISD. The suit was filed in the District Court of the 111th Judicial District of Webb County Texas, under cause number 2023CVG000151D2
2. Legal consultation and report on the status of the analysis of current and future use and possible sale of the property that is a 165.00-acre tract of land wrapping the northwest corner of Las Tiendas Road and Rancho Penitas Road, 2.5 miles north of the Mines Road and 7.5 miles northwest of Loop 20 and the best manner of accomplishing same
3. Legal consultation and report on the possible negotiation of a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the purchase of an approximate 15-acre tract of land from Killam Ranch Properties Ltd, located west of United High School on East Point Drive just south of the intersection of East Point Drive and the United Avenue extension

C. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting

1. Discussion regarding the appointment of Assistant Principal at Lyndon B. Johnson High School

D. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.076 Deliberation regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

1. Discussion, including consultation with legal counsel, regarding the TEA District Vulnerability Assessment review

IX. Reconvened from Closed Session, the Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in Closed Session

The board reconvenes from Closed Session at **9:30 PM.**

- A. Possible action regarding First and Final Reading of Board Policy DGA (Local)

This is to improve the language, and streamline district protocols as it relates to elected officials during a general run-off election.

On a motion moved by Aliza Oliveros, and seconded by Javier Montemayor, the board approved unanimously.

- B. Possible action with respect to the lawsuit filed by Potential Holdings, LLC against the United Independent School District ("UISD") et. al. regarding the UISD Student Activity Complex/Educational Support Center Plat filed of record in Volume 21, Pages 43-44 of the Webb County Plat Records, and the UISD Las Cruces School Plat filed in Volume 18, Page 55, of the Plat Records of Webb County, Texas, and Santa Claudia Lane and Santa Monica Drive within the UISD SAC Plat and matters incident thereto, including legal options available to UISD. The suit was filed in the District Court of the 111th Judicial District of Webb County Texas, under cause number 2023CVG000151D2

The recommendation is to authorize legal counsel to proceed as discussed in Closed Session.

On a motion moved by Aliza Oliveros, and a second by Gilbert Aguilar, motion was unanimously approved.

- C. Possible action with respect to the analysis of current and future use and possible sale of the property that is a 165.00-acre tract of land wrapping the northwest corner of Las Tiendas Road and Rancho Peñitas Road, 2.5 miles north of the Mines Road and 7.5 miles northwest of Loop 20 and the best manner of accomplishing same

The recommendation is to allow legal counsel to proceed as discussed in Closed Session.

On a motion moved by Rudy Gonzalez and seconded by Gilbert Aguilar, the board approved unanimously.

- D. Possible action with respect to granting legal counsel authority to negotiate a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Killam Ranch Properties Ltd for the purchase of the approximate 15 acres of real property located west of United High School on East Point Drive just south of the intersection of East Point Drive and The United Avenue extension

The recommendation is to allow legal counsel to proceed as discussed in Closed Session.

On a motion moved by Aliza Oliveros and a second by Gilbert Aguilar, the board unanimously approved.

E. Possible action regarding the appointment of Assistant Principal at Lyndon B. Johnson High School

The recommendation for Assistant Principal at Lyndon B. Johnson High School, is Ms. Nancy Brondo.

With a motion made by Gilbert Aguilar and a second by Rudy Gonzalez, the board unanimously approved.

X. Adjournment

On a motion moved to adjourn. made by Aliza Oliveros and a second by Javier Montemayor, the board unanimously approves.

There being no further business of the UISD Board of Trustees, this Regular Board Meeting of December 18, 2024, is adjourned at **9:34 P.M.**

Javier Montemayor, Jr.
UISD Board President

Michelle Molina
UISD Board Secretary

Minutes for January 22, 2024 Regular Board Meeting United ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Wednesday, January 22, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in the United ISD - Bill Johnson Student Activity Complex, Auditorium, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, Texas 78043.

The subjects to be discussed or considered are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

Call to order: 6:01 P.M.

Board Members Present:

Javier Montemayor Jr., President

Ramiro Veliz III., Parliamentarian

Aliza F. Oliveros, Vice President

Rodolfo "Rudy" Gonzalez - Member

Gilbert Aguilar, Member – arrived at 6:40 P.M.

Michelle Molina, Secretary – arrived at 6:40 P.M.

Dianelle Martinez, Member - arrived at 6:40 P.M.

UISD Staff Present: Dr. Gerardo Cruz, Superintendent of Schools

Legal Counsel Present: Jaime Garcia

II. Pledge of Allegiance

A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

III. Recognitions:

A. Board Recognition Month

B. United ISD's MVP Parents for January 2025

C. Elias Herrera Middle School Honors Band

- National Winner - The Foundation of Music Education Mark of Excellence Project

D. Lyndon G. Johnson High School Marching Band

- 1st Division - Region 14 UIL Marching Contest

- 2024 Area G Qualifier Conference 6A

E. United High School Marching Band

- 1st Division - Region 14 UIL Marching Contest
- 2024 Area G Qualifier Conference 6A
- 2024 Area G Finalist Conference 6A

F. J. B. Alexander High School Marching Band

- 1st Division - Region 14 UIL Marching Contest
- 2024 UIL State Marching Contest Participant Conference 6A
- 2024 Area G Qualifier Conference 6A
- 2024 Area G Champion Conference 6A

IV. Public Comments: Public comment forms must be submitted to the Board Secretary no later than 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of the meeting by the person who will be providing public comment. Only one public comment form may be submitted per person. The public comment form must be fully completed to be considered. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except that non-English speakers requiring a translator are limited to six minutes. The presiding Board officer may modify or waive these time limits as appropriate. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks or use insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding Board officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding individual District employees, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in Board Policy BED (Local). Pursuant to section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public regarding an item that is not listed on this agenda, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Ten (10) Public Comments:

- *Mr. Joey Tellez spoke about the benefits of purchasing solar lights for all United ISD High Schools.*
- *Mr. Edwin Garcia, UISD Athletic Coordinator and Alexander High School Head Football Coach spoke about the consequences of not having the appropriate lighting at UISD's high school practice fields. He also stated that the possibility of purchasing solar lights would greatly benefit many other extracurricular activities, as well as student and staff safety.*

- *Mr. William Omenski, current senior football player at Alexander High School also spoke about the positive effect that solar lights would have on student's extracurricular activities.*
- *Ms. Claudia Gutierrez Sanchez spoke about field lighting and the flexibility it would provide for scheduling events as well as for the safety and well fare of the students.*
- *Mr. Eduardo de la Garza spoke about the current hazing issues at United High School. He requested that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) be notified by the Board of Trustees that UISD will follow ethical policy and defer the hazing investigation to state law enforcement, which is not to be Webb County, due to several conflicts of interest.*
- *Mr. Onyx Benavides spoke about the benefits that solar lighting would bring to all United ISD high schools. He also expressed his concern regarding student safety and the disappointment that athletes deal with when games/events need to be suspended because there are no lights to continue playing.*
- *Mr. Valentin Ruiz touched base on a previous concern from Molina Middle School that he had spoken about five months ago at a meeting and provided his telephone number (956.679.6770) in case any parent or board member wants to contact him directly.*
- *Mr. Jorge Mendoza spoke on budget and on the selection of the new principal for Alexander High School.*
- *Ms. Kenya Villarreal, President of the Alexander High School Band Parent Association spoke on band related issues and the selection of the new AHS principal.*
- *Ms. Elizabeth Rios, band parent and member of the AHS Band Parent Association thanked Mr. Javier Montemayor and Ms. Aliza Flores Oliveros for their continuous support toward the AHS Band Program. Ms. Rios also asked for the board's careful consideration during the selection process for the new AHS Principal.*

V. Items for Information Only

A. Superintendent's Report

- *Dr. Cruz expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all Board Members for volunteering their time and for their unwavering support towards UISD's students, teachers and staff.*

- *Dr. Cruz congratulated UISD's CARES recipients for the month of January. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to UISD's incredible facilities and custodial staff for their commitment despite the challenges and closures during the recent severe weather events. The Superintendent went on to thank everyone who helped weatherproof the schools by ensuring a safe learning environment during the arctic blast.*

B. Discussion regarding the need and potential for solar lighting of high school football fields and/or band pads

- *Mr. Peña will provide a cost comparison for lighting at the February Board Workshop.*

VI. Consent Agenda Items

A. Monthly Disbursements

- *Discussion under Individual Consideration:
Motion to Approve: Aliza F. Oliveros
Second: Michelle Molina
Danielle Martinez questioned a payment made for a catering service from Iglesia Christiana Misericordia for an event. Rosa Cabello and Laida Benavides provided information on how catering purchases are handled.*

B. Awarding Bids, Proposals, Qualifications, and Extensions

C. Independent Audit Report for the Year Ended August 31, 2024

D. Property Tax Refunds for the Month of December 2024

E. Cooperative Program-Related Fees Report for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

F. Additional T-TESS Appraisers for the 2024-2025 School Year

G. Resolution of Early Notification of Employee Separation from Employment Incentive to Full-time District Employees for the 2024-2025 School Year

- *Danielle Martinez motioned to move Agenda Item VI-A (Monthly Disbursements) for Individual Consideration. Motion to approve agenda items B-G by Michelle Molina, Second: Rudy Gonzalez. Motion carries.*

VII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Donations

- *Motion to Approve: Aliza F. Oliveros
Second: Michelle Molina
Motion Carries*

B. Approval of Board Minutes for the Month of November 2024

- *Motion to Approve: Ramiro Veliz
Second: Michelle Molina
Motion Passes*

C. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of United Independent School District Maintenance Tax Notes, Series 2025: Entering into a Purchase and Investment Letter and Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement and Other Matters Related Thereto

- *Motion to Approve: Michelle Molina*
Second: Aliza F. Oliveros
Motion Passes

D. Resolution to Approve Employee Compensation for the Two-Hour Delayed Start on January 7, 2025, and an Emergency Campus Closure for Clark Middle School on January 9, 2025

- *Motion to Approve: Michelle Molina*
Second: Rodolfo "Rudy" Gonzalez
Motion Passes

E. Request from Board Members in re: Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for various campuses and departments

- *Motion to Approve: Michelle Molina*
Second: Aliza F. Oliveros
Motion Passes

F. Discussion and possible action regarding the Alexander High School student parking requirements and increasing capacity

- *Motion to Approve: Rodolfo "Rudy" Gonzalez*
Second: Gilbert Aguilar
Motion Passes

VIII. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

- *The board adjourned into closed session at 8:02 PM*

A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting

1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities

B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.072 Deliberation regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting

1. Legal consultation and report on the status and possible resolution of the lawsuit filed by Potential Holdings, LLC against the United Independent School District ("UISD") et. al. regarding the UISD Student Activity Complex/Educational Support Center Plat filed of record in Volume 21, Pages 43-44 of the Webb County Plat Records, and the UISD Las Cruces School Plat filed in Volume 18, Page 55, of the Plat Records of Webb County, Texas, and Santa Claudia Lane and Santa Monica Drive within the UISD SAC Plat and matters incident thereto, including legal options available to UISD. The suit was filed in the District Court of the 111th Judicial District of Webb County Texas, under cause number 2023CVG000151D2

C. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting

1. Consultation with legal counsel regarding UISD Board Operating Procedures and matters incident thereto
2. Discussion regarding the appointment of John B. Alexander High School Principal

D. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.076 Deliberation regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

1. Status of Ongoing Audits

IX. Reconvened from Closed Session, the Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in Closed Session

- *The board reconvened from Closed Session at 9:22 PM.
No action was taken during closed session.*

A. Possible action with respect to the lawsuit filed by Potential Holdings, LLC against the United Independent School District ("UISD") et. al. regarding the UISD Student Activity Complex/Educational Support Center Plat filed of record in Volume 21, Pages 43-44 of the Webb County Plat Records, and the UISD Las Cruces School Plat filed in Volume 18, Page 55, of the Plat Records of Webb County, Texas, and Santa Claudia Lane and Santa Monica Drive within the UISD SAC Plat and matters incident thereto, including legal options available to UISD. The suit was filed in the District Court of the 111th Judicial District of Webb County Texas, under cause number 2023CVG000151D2

- *Jaime Garcia recommended to authorize legal counsel to proceed as discussed in closed session*

*Motion to Approve: Ramiro Veliz, Jr.
Second: Aliza F. Oliveros
Motion Passes*

B. Possible Action Regarding Approval of UISD Board Operating Procedures

- *Jaime Garcia recommended to table the item for the next board meeting.*

*Motion to move: Aliza F. Oliveros
Second: Javier Montemayor
Motion Passes*

C. Action Regarding the Appointment of John B. Alexander High School Principal

- *Dr. Gerardo Cruz recommends Ms. Rosanna Arizola for the principalship at Alexander High School
Motion to Approve: Ramiro Veliz, Jr.*

Second: Michelle Molina

- *Discussion by Aliza F. Oliveros and Danielle Martinez*
- *In favor: Ramiro Veliz, Jr., Javier Montemayor, Michelle Molina and Gilbert Aguilar*
- *Against: Danielle Martinez, Aliza F. Oliveros and Rodolfo "Rudy" Gonzalez*
- *Four (4) in favor, three (3) against, motion passes*

X. Adjournment

- *Motion to move: Aliza F. Oliveros*
Second: Gilbert Aguilar

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Board Meeting of January 22, 2025 was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Javier Montemayor, Jr., President

Michelle Molina, Secretary

Minutes presented for approval on February 12, 2025.
Minutes submitted by: Maribel Vazquez, Secretary to Superintendent

UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045

Special Called Meeting
Thursday, January 30, 2025

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Javier Montemayor, Aliza Oliveros, Gilbert Aguilar,
Rudy Gonzalez, Ramiro Veliz and Dianelle Martinez

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Gerardo Cruz and David Canales

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

III. Public Comments:

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items. Public comment forms must be submitted to the Board Secretary no later than 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of the meeting by the person who will be providing public comment. Only one public comment form may be submitted per person. The public comment form must be fully completed to be considered. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except that non-English speakers requiring a translator are limited to six minutes. The presiding Board officer may modify or waive these time limits as appropriate. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks or use insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding Board officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding individual District employees, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in Board Policy BED (Local). Pursuant to section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public regarding

an item that is not listed on this agenda, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Edna Olmeda addresses the public on the deficiencies, lack of transparency and policies by the district. She says she has attended the district board meetings without incident and has used her rights to free speech. She adds that the group has since been retaliated against and this impedes the manner in which they engage the public. Ms. Olmeda also makes reference to the recording policy implementation without proper notice to the public and claims violation of Texas Government Code. She continues to provide scenarios, instances of when she feels the retaliation took place.

IV. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

The board adjourns into Closed Session at **12:10 PM.**

**A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting**

1. Conduct Board Policy GF (Local) Level Three appeal hearing of Ismael Rincon, Victor Vazquez, Clarissa Fraga, Valentin Ruiz, Edna Olmeda, and Patricia Mayers, and matters incident thereto

B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting

1. Consultation with legal counsel regarding Board Policy GF (Local) Level Three appeal hearing of Ismael Rincon, Victor Vazquez, Clarissa Fraga, Valentin Ruiz, Edna Olmeda, and Patricia Mayers, and matters incident thereto

V. Reconvened from Closed Session, the Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in Closed Session

The Board reconvenes from Closed Session at **2:15 PM.**

A. Possible action regarding the Board Policy GF (Local) Level Three appeal hearing of Ismael Rincon, Victor Vazquez, Clarissa Fraga, Valentin Ruiz, Edna Olmeda, and Patricia Mayers

On a motion moved by Aliza Oliveros to uphold the decision at the Level II Hearing with the exceptions that board will review the area designated as the recording area in the regulation to ensure plenty of space, modify the ban imposed on Mr. Ismael Rincon to allow him to attend functions at his children's schools where they are enrolled, for the purpose of attending school sponsored activities. The board will then review the ban on Mr. Rincon in September 2025 for possible consideration. Motion seconded by Gilbert Aguilar and unanimously approved by the board.

VI. Adjournment

On a motion moved by Javier Montemayor and seconded by Aliza Oliveros to adjourn, the board unanimously approved.

There being no further business to come before the UID Board of Trustees this Special Called Level Three Hearing is adjourned at **2:17 PM.**

Javier Montemayor, Jr., Board President

Michelle Molina, Board Secretary

These minutes were completed by Griselda Rodriguez and reviewed for approval on February 12, 2025.