



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Approval of Board Minutes for the Months of August 4, 2021, September 2, & 15, 2021
And December 16, 2021

SUBMITTED BY: Griselda Rodriguez & Alejandra Salinas **OF:** Office of Superintendent

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: February 16, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve the Board Minutes for the Months of August, September and December 2021.

- Special Called Meeting – August 04, 2021
- Special Called Meeting – September 2, 2021
- Regular Board Meeting – September 15, 2021
- Regular Board Meeting – December 16, 2021

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

**Special Called Meeting
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb**

August 4, 2021

In Attendance

David H. Gonzalez, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Javier Montemayor, Jr., President – PRESENT

Aliza Flores- Oliveros, Vice President – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Member – ABSENT

Francisco "Frank" Castillo, Parliamentarian – PRESENT

Ramiro Veliz III, Member, - PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Ricardo Rodriguez, Member – ABSENT

Ricardo Molina Sr., Member – PRESENT

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Wednesday, August 4, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM in the UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045.

BOARD MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE DUE TO THE COVID-19

Based on Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-23 and the City of Laredo Amended Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Health Orders, the District will ensure social distancing protocols are practiced to the greatest extent possible thus limiting the number of persons physically present in the UISD Boardroom. Therefore, in an effort to conduct public business in a transparent manner, the District will live stream this Board meeting.

Two way communication to the Board meeting can be accessed by clicking on the following zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88630006946?pwd=aldXOCtWVnhtRjVvQ3ZaZGsxYmhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 886 3000 6946

Passcode: 701569

If you would like to view a live-stream of the meeting, please click on the following Youtube link:
<https://youtu.be/BrRMq6F2LkI>

Public Comments may be submitted to: Gloria Rendon at grendon@uisd.net prior to the Board Meeting. Public comments must pertain to agenda items only.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum

II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to Order. Let the record show that a quorum of Board Members is present, that this meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Mr. Javier Montemayor, calls this meeting to order and establishes quorum at 6:02 PM.

IV. Public Comments

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except Non-English speakers who require a translator are limited to six (6) minutes. The presiding officer may waive or modify these time limits as appropriated. The speaker will be informed when he or she has one (1) minute remaining. 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 officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding employees, public officials, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in BED (LOCAL). Pursuant to 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

V. **Discussion With Dr. Treviño (City of Laredo Health Authority) Regarding Reopening of Schools and UISD Health and Safety Protocols**

The meeting discussion begins at **6:02 PM**.

Juan Cruz, legal counsel makes the board and audience aware that administration met with Dr. Treviño regarding the reopening protocols. He goes on to say that Mr. Castillo was instrumental in putting this meeting together.

Francisco Castillo: The reason that I asked for this meeting is because I wanted to have Dr. Victor Treviño present with us because I think it was important to let our community know our standards and to let them know a little bit about what we are facing as we begin a new school year. So, I want to start off by thanking Dr. Treviño for being here present with us. I started to receive calls from the public again, parents and constituents about how we will prepare for next year. Many of you are aware that the rising numbers of positive covid cases and the rising numbers of variants are also bringing a concern to many of us. So, I do have a list of questions.

Javier Montemayor: Let us hear from Dr. Treviño; good evening Dr. Treviño, welcome to our UISD boardroom.

Dr. Victor Treviño, Health Authority for the City of Laredo: Good evening board members and audience. Thank you for having me.

Javier Montemayor: So, we are here and we are getting ready to open up the new school year and bringing our kids back to our campuses. I understand maybe you have some comments and perhaps share some protocols that would help us this coming year.

Dr. Treviño: First of all let me reiterate what has already been known for some time, that Laredo Medical is underserved. It is an underserved community, which means that we do not have enough doctors and nurses. And it has been like that for some time, But it is accentuated with pandemia. And we do not have enough hospital beds as well. Primarily intensive care units for a community our size. Additionally, we are absent a pediatric care unit, so critical pediatric patients are transferred to a higher level of care facility out of town. If they become greatly ill. Currently hospitals are going on diversions on and off and are in a critical level with zero ICU beds for the entire city for the last two days. And this is very concerning. On the local infection front, even before school starts out of the last 680 active cases reported yesterday, 252 were in the age of 0-19 years old. Which is consistent with the national data where it covered 19 cases in children and teens have gone up 84% in a week. And the Delta virus which is the more contagious and infectious variant. It is now accounting for 93% of the cases in the last two weeks of July. But this is important information. When it comes to covid-19 since the pandemic began, children represented 14.3% of the total accumulating cases. And for the weekend in July 29th, children were

at 19% of the reported weekly covid cases. And among state reporting children have ranged from 1.3% to 3.5% of the total cumulative hospitalizations and 0.1% to 1.9% of all the child colon cases resulting in hospitalizations. And with the reality of schools opening, the number one question is, I get all the time is whether schools are safe and which is better answered by how well the risk of covid-19 transmission is mitigated and handled at schools. Just like it is currently unsafe to go to the mall or grocery stores without a mask, it would be the case to go to school without a mask. The creation of special consideration for immune compromise and populations with comorbidities or underlying health conditions is also important. Now this is a conversation that parents need to have with their doctors and if their child fits into this category. So, the recommendations I would say right now would be, you offer vaccinations to eligible students. Surveillance testing of staff and students, enhanced ventilation, mask and face shield usage in highly density classrooms, isolation and quarantine protocols in order to stop large outbreaks. Proposed proper protocols in food service agents with a strong recommendation to avoid large gatherings of unvaccinated populations and cafeterias. And I would also recommend serving individual plated meals in the classrooms. And even when everything is done correctly there may need a (inaudible) a mandatory quarantine based on case by case basis to ensure that the community at large is protected. This is my introduction I stand by for any questions.

Javier Montemayor: Dr. Treviño, I know you have reviewed our health and safety protocols for United ISD. How do you view those health and safety protocols. Are they in line with what you are recommending to the public right now.

Dr. Treviño: Yes, all the protocols you have done, I really commend you for them. They are really in-line with CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommendations. Remember, CDC recommendations are the minimum requirements. I think everything is in-line. We have to look at the cafeterias because we know that the CDC has recommended like large gatherings, especially in cafeterias in schools. It is a high-risk area for transmission of covid-19. So that is why the recommendation is to serve the meals in the classroom. Now, I do not know what kind of logistics that would pose but that is the recommendation from the CDC, especially because we have unvaccinated populations.

Ricardo Molina: What about the booster. I was watching CNN and they mentioned that they were probably going to start putting the booster.

Dr. Treviño: There has been information that there will probably be a booster out there. It has not been authorized, and as an authorized physician to administer vaccine we have not gotten that authorization yet, but studies are pointing for that direction. And this cancer reason that viruses mutate, just like the flu virus where you have to get a flu shot every year because the virus mutates and at that capacity. So, this is a virus we have been studying and the CDC has been studying and where or when does the booster will be required will come and when it comes we will be sure to recommend it. So, this booster is especially important for immunocompromised patients. Patients that are undergoing immunosuppression that medications to diminish their immune system

because of transplants or certain cancers. These are the patients that would be most vulnerable. So we have to just be aware that as it is for the general population the current vaccines are still holding and they are still able to protect you from severe illness and/or hospitalization. So a condition called immune senescence is also something to be aware of. Immune senescence is the natural deterioration of the immune system as we age. So the older we get, the less strong your immune system gets. So, this would probably hold true for people that are immunocompromised and maybe the person that the first people that would require, would be the patients that are immune senescence.

Javier Montemayor: I have a question, in two parts. I had covid and I know a lot of people who suffered through the covid and it comes in different, there are different symptoms and there is different reactions for everybody. What are some of the symptoms of this new variant, the Delta variant. What are some of the symptoms, that we need as parents that we need to look for in our children. I understand it may not be the same as the original covid. And what about our special populations for example those kids who are going into your special ed units who may suffer from underlying conditions, maybe obesity, or diabetes or some other type of immune disease type issues that we have. We have a huge population of that in our schools. How would we be able to make it safer for them. And what symptoms do our parents and our teachers need to look for.

Dr. Treviño: Yes, well the Delta virus is basically the coronavirus but it has mutated and it has become much more contagious. The symptoms are basically respiratory and multi-inflammatory symptoms but the main ones are respiratory. Now the difference between the Delta and original coronavirus is the acuity of the rapidity of the progression of the disease. This progresses much faster and the type of symptoms are much worse or worse progression of the disease can cause rapid hospitalization and we have seen patients that we have un a med-surge unit, progressed rapidly into the intensive care unit and it was not like that before with the coronavirus initially started. So that is the problem with the Delta virus. It has become more aggressive, more contagious and it is the progression of diseases. It is worse. Now in regards to the special needs kids, a lot of them are immunocompromised and the special attention has to be taken for those children. Now for general instructions or the mitigations that we mentioned a while ago apply to everyone, but it is more important to these children because they have a tendency to be immunocompromised. So that is a very good point. So N95 masks are very important if they can get a hold of N95 masks. Or if they can double mask (double cloth mask), or double surgical mask and face shield would also help. Now, the mask initially was the single most important thing to prevent the contamination of the virus when we did not have vaccines. And now we have learned that the virus does not travel in a straight line. It travels in like a wave pattern. And if you have a double mask, it is much more difficult for the virus to pass a double layer because of that how the way they move and is measured in microns. So, all these things are important and if we keep them in mind I think we can do mitigation with knowing the scientific data before. I wanted to hold off on that question because I was also concerned about the special education population and special

needs population. When you say possibly double masking as well as full face mask, do we include also the professionals that work alongside of them?

Dr. Treviño: That would be a great thing to do because we know that a single layer mask may not be enough to stop all the virus. It stops maybe some of it or half of it. But the best thing to do is to wear a double mask or an N95 mask. These are the masks that are 95% effective instead of stopping the virus. And another important thing is that vaccinated individuals can also carry the virus. We thought initially that if you were vaccinated that you would not carry the virus. But now studies have shown that even if you are vaccinated you can still carry the virus enough to infect a non-vaccinated person. So, that is why it is very important for everyone to use masks in indoor gatherings.

Francisco Castillo: If a student is in close contact with another student diagnosed with covid, how long should the student with close contact be out of school? Is there a recommendation from you.

Dr. Treviño: If somebody is in close contact with somebody that is positive and if the person was there for more that 15-20 minutes continuously in fragments, then the quarantine has to be done with the other person that has been in contact with a positive. And the quarantine is 10 days. Now the reason for that is because there is an incubation period. Even though initially the other person that was not positive and was in contact, will not develop symptoms until an area of about four or five days. So that is why it is said that the person that was in contact needs to be in quarantine for 10 days. Currently the CDC guidelines do say 10 days. Or, after five days with a negative test.

Juan Cruz: Also, doctor just to jump in; the CDC I think on Thursday sends an updated guidelines that if both kids are wearing masks then at that point you know then that quarantine period does not have to be there. I think they just updated that last Thursday evening if I am not mistaken. So if both kids are wearing masks which is why we are recommending masks, that would avoid that quarantine period you know for those kids in question.

Dr. Treviño: Well, remember the CDC guidelines are the minimum things. So, I would suggest otherwise in this situation. Because, we cannot determine if the other child is in an incubation period and will develop the disease. Especially if unvaccinated, which are children below the 12 years old would be the unvaccinated. So, at this point science is evolving and recommendations are given by the CDC, if we follow them we can do more than minimal recommendations. But, we should not be doing less.

Javier Montemayor: So, on that question, and given the situation here at United, Let's say a child in a classroom with 25 other children is positive, then the entire classroom must be quarantined. Or, a sports team or a part of the band, or if there is a large group of people, given those scenarios which would probably be more realistic to us. Without the quarantine the entire group of kids....

Dr. Treviño: That will go on a case-to-case basis and if the children are vaccinated it is not needed. But, if everybody is unvaccinated then we have to go and do it on a case-by-case basis. Remember we do not have a pediatric intensive care unit locally. So we have to look at the situations where they were outdoors or indoors. How distant they were. What kind of ventilation there was. A lot of things that come into play. But that is the reason why we are there to help. The health department is there and I am the health authority and these questions can be asked, and I would be glad to help you in a case-to-case situation. Remember, no one shoe fits all. There is a lot of ins and outs. There is a lot of scenarios where the contact would be different and the age of the children and a lot of things. But, I would be there to help, if you have any of these questions that you contemplate a quarantine or that somebody was positive, how many children you have to quarantine. Or, if you have to quarantine the whole classroom. All these things would be on a case-to-case basis and we would be glad to help you with that.

Francisco Castillo: So, I had questions brought to me and one of the first ones was regarding your roll and responsibility as the Health Authority. Can you expand as to what the roll is.

Dr. Treviño: Yes, the role of a Health Authority is a dual reporting role. And I am an officer of the state, appointed by city council. I report to city council and report to the state officials on the level of infection. The roll of a health authority is for prevention of diseases. Quarantine of outbreaks and food and water-born diseases. And basically it is the whole provision of contagious diseases in the whole city. And when these situations arise the health authority is there to help and mitigate and even quarantine an area that has had an outbreak. An outbreak is defined as two or more people breaking out with the same illness. Now, it is difficult sometimes to instill a quarantine but a quarantine is not meant to punish anybody. It is to help mitigate and to help them learn what the infection measures are. And, sometimes people can, our entities can self-quarantine with the guidance of the health department and the health authority. So that is basically the main roll that we have.

Francisco Castillo: If you determine there is an outbreak in a campus, how will you determine and base your decision to convey that information perhaps to us or to the parents. How would that happen Dr. Treviño?

Dr. Treviño: Yes, my role is also information to the public, information to the entities and I would provide all this information. Contact tracing and school officials would be have to be notified of this along with a parent. So everything is dealt with transparency and absolute guidance into how to get out of quarantine and how to proceed with these cases. And sometimes these are case-to-case basis because not everything is the same like we said a while ago.

Francisco Castillo: So you could have that authority to tell a campus, "you do need to shut down, temporarily perhaps, or for 10 days", because of an outbreak.

Dr. Treviño: That is one of the measures, there is other measures but that would be one.

Francisco Castillo: So, when would the families and I guess this also includes questions to, through our administration; when do the families become aware that it is okay to come back to school.

Dr. Treviño: They would be informed and I would provide that information. The health department to aid with that. This is a coordination with school officials and the health department and the health authority.

Mr. Castillo apologizes to Dr. Treviño for the manner in which the questions were written or presented and expresses the importance of answering the public's concerns.

Francisco Castillo: I think our protocols are safe, I think they are very good. But still the parents particularly and perhaps staff might have questions. To continue with some of the other questions that were brought to my attention; so how do we actually know when a student for example or a staff member has the symptoms that has started covid or being positive for covid. Is there any guidance you can provide on us or what symptoms to look for.

Dr. Treviño: Sure, initially testing is very important. Because sometimes there are no symptoms and the test becomes positive from there we can start working. But if the child has not been tested the respiratory symptoms is one of them, fever, malaise, coughing, abdominal pains. Children do not have as many respiratory symptoms as adults. So, younger children also below the age of eight do not have severe symptoms. So, you need to keep that in mind. I do get several children with stomach pains. So, the main symptoms are gastrointestinal, abdominal, so it is not necessarily respiratory. This would apply to children below the age of 10 that would present not as many respiratory symptoms as older children.

Francisco Castillo: What do we tell the parents to look out for in any student. Particularly the age group of 11 and below. Is there any specific information for them. Anytime they start having fever, or respiratory or abdominal symptoms, they need to go to the doctor and have them checked off. So another words, do not send the child to school if they have any signs of illness because coronavirus presents in many ways. Respiratory, intestinal and sometimes mild fever. The symptoms are very similar to other respiratory flus, colds and coughs. So because we are in a pandemic right now, it is very important to decipher whether it is related to the corona or not.

Francisco Castillo: So, would it be advisable that the parents observe these symptoms at home, that they also alert the school personnel.

Dr. Treviño: It is a good idea to say, "my child is sick, I am going to take him to the doctor he has a fever". So, the school already knows when the child comes back if he was evaluated or the doctor gave him clearance. That he does not have any signs of symptoms for the coronavirus.

Francisco Castillo: Would that clearance need to be in writing.

Dr. Treviño: It would have to be a doctors excuse to return back to school.

Francisco Castillo: Do you have data as to how many hospitalizations are currently in Laredo for kids under 12 years old or younger.

Dr. Treviño: We do not have a pediatric intensive care unit here. All children that require hospitalizations due to covid usually pneumonia and require intensive care unit and pediatric intensive care unit. So, those children are sent out of town. To other hospital university or driscoll (children's hospital). So here locally we do not have any children hospitalized with what is going on.

Francisco Castillo: But would they report this to you as a health authority for this area.

Dr. Treviño: Yes, it is reported mostly to the health department to the epidemiologists to keep track of all the infections depending on ages and time frames and all that.

Mr. Castillo inquires again about who tracks the number of cases for kids 11 and under.

Francisco Castillo: Who is tracking that and would we have access to those numbers.

Dr. Treviño: Yes, it is the health department and Richard Chamberlain, is the health director that keeps tabs on all those numbers. Basically, keeps the immunology group. Also has all the data.

Francisco Castillo: I want to ask a couple of questions regarding the mutation, the variants. How dangerous are those.

Dr. Treviño: The more the new virus mutates or becomes contagious between one person and another, usually unvaccinated people, the stronger it gets, the more aggressive the more virulent and deadlier of course. So the virus mutates and it adapts to conditions. That is what viruses do. So we have to keep ahead of the virus and that is why we urge, we constantly urge everyone to get vaccinated. Because the virus thrives on the unvaccinated people. Every time that it goes from one person to another unvaccinated it gets stronger, get more resistant and more aggressive. So, this is very important for the unvaccinated population because it is not the same disease as that when the corona or covid virus came about in the beginning last year. This variant is much stronger, more contagious and actually more deadly. Now, children tend to do better. We know that children do not get as sick as adults. But things are changing, especially because the variants now children are getting sicker. And we see it on the data. We see young adults are also dying that we did not see before. All we saw before was elderly and middle age. Now, we see younger adults dying from coronavirus. And this is very concerning. The other thing we do not want to see is the children

dying. We have seen in the United States that there are a little bit over 500 children that have died from coronavirus. So, we have not seen that here yet and we do not want to see it here.

Ricardo Molina: Dr. Treviño, how do you see the 12 and under vaccine coming out in the future.

Dr. Treviño: I hope it comes out pretty soon and they had announced it was coming at the end of September, early October but this is not a for sure. But we are anticipating the vaccine and as soon as it comes we are going to emphasize that everyone needs to be vaccinated. Everyone that qualifies for the vaccine.

Mr. Javier Montemayor recognizes Mr. Veliz.

Ramiro Veliz: Dr. Treviño, for the record Mr. Veliz, board member for district IV. Thank you for joining us today sir and for sharing your thoughts. My thing is concerning the masks. I know the district, we highly encourage the use of masks and for our community and have spoken about it right now but I think at the end of the day, their reality is that the mandate of wearing masks is not something that we... it is supported by the state. Has there been any dialogue from your partners/staff or with other health authorities from the state concerning the issues that we are facing in our community. Because there is not a mask mandate. I know that is something that we cannot right now enforce because of the state. Because of information they put forward. So, has there been anything from your part that you have offered to the state "you know what, this is where we are at right now. I think mandating masks would be beneficial for our community for our returning students".

Dr. Treviño: Yes, absolutely. We are constantly requesting that. I talk to the Texas health commissioner, Dr. Ellis Ted. And these concerns are brought up. But these sort of executive orders and actually that is the law. I cannot change that, but we can recommend. And what we are doing is recommending, strongly recommending and also one thing that is very important. You may not be able to mandate the mask, but there is one thing. The communication with the parents. That we can recommend to the parents to teach their children that they need to wear the mask. And it comes also from responsibility from the parents. The parents could help us tremendously. If they talk to their children and tell them you know, "you have to keep you mask, or else you will get sick". Or get everybody sick here at home. That would help tremendously. I know your role is limited in regards to mandating it or even asking them to put the masks back on, but if they already primed at home by the parents that really would be very helpful. Just like wearing your seatbelt. If we wear the seatbelt, I mean it is the law and we have to wear them. And that comes from education. And now we put them on automatically. Nobody has to tell us. So, this is something where we can prime out children at home and the responsibility and the parents would help a lot.

Aliza Oliveros: Thank you doctor for joining us. I do not know if you are at liberty to say but, if you can, would you just tell us what the youngest age was of hospitalized patient with covid and if you are at liberty to say, what is the youngest age of a person who is now deceased. Because...

Dr. Treviño: Yes, well, we have seen children down to three months. Getting infected with covid. So, we have transferred children out of town. An eleven month old child with covid. And we have seen children intubated. Not here locally, we have to send them because we do not have that pediatric intensive care unit. But these are situations that do happen. So, not they are only eleven months or three months precludes them from infection they can still get infected. But, I am at liberty to say everything. I try not to say names, but this is something that we can surely confirm that the children below a year, do get frequently infected. And, especially if the mothers infected or other family members are infected, they will get infected also.

Ricardo Molina: Dr. Treviño, I heard this morning on CNN that president Biden criticizing Texas governor and Florida governor. If they do not pay attention to the president, do you think they would pay attention to the city or to the school board. That is my comment.

Dr. Treviño: But we have to educate. We have to persist and continue with the same message and do not deviate, We have to be transparent and continue saying the same information. We have to base ourselves on medicine and science. We know there is a lot of politics involved but we try to not focus on that. Our duty is the medicine and the science. And I do want to emphasize that no plans are perfect and we have to sacrifice sometimes and so we have to just continue.

Javier Montemayor: We have a few more questions doctor and then perhaps maybe administration. But we have some closing statements.

Francisco Castillo: I'll just continue here with a few more questions. And, that is exactly the point is that we are here to educate the public, our constituents and of course our parents, students and staff. The covid test that we have right now, can it detect any variant at this time.

Dr. Treviño: The test detects the positivity that the virus is there. To confirm the variant it has to be sent for a special lab for sequencing. That is another more tedious task and it takes longer. The ones that we do here, is the antigen test which is a rapid test and PCR which is a molecular test. That is a confirmatory test. So these are two tests that are available here.

Francisco Castillo: So I do have now my final question. Mental health, very important that of course children, students have some social interaction. We are trying to balance that with the safety of our community and our students. Do have any recommendations regarding how schools should address the mental health needs of our students and staff.

Dr. Treviño: In regards to attendance to school, I am an advocate that children need to go to school. I mean, that is for their development, for their social development and their mental health. It is very important that children go to school. We have to balance this with public health and sometimes situations are difficult like right now, I know that your situation is difficult. But, we have to do our mitigation in order to proceed forward. So, the regulations I gave, these are the ones of

vaccinations, surveillance, mask and shield, isolation quarantine and proper protocols in food areas. These, are the ones that we need to focus on. And the mental health in regards to children is very important and we no help is with this situation. We need to empower and evaluate the parents of the students to help us with this situation.

Ricardo Molina: Dr. Treviño, how about the nursing homes and others. What are they doing to look into like the elderly and like the retama (retirement homes) and all these other places. They do not get a lot of attention from anybody.

Dr. Treviño: Well, we actually had a very, very intense situation when we started to see that a lot of residents were getting infected at the nursing home. And it was through a public health order that we gave that we mandated that one nursing home become an all-covid nursing home. So, we know these are special populations and I have been a medical director for one of the nursing home for about 35 years. We mandated one nursing home to become an all-covid nursing home and transfer all the covid positive cases to this one covid nursing home. This really helped us tremendously because it made other nursing homes be free of covid infections. And the one that was all covid we concentrated on one nursing home. And there we continuously tested them and treat them and transfer them back into the hospital if needed. But the concentration of one covid nursing home, really helped out the situation that the nursing homes faced.

Javier Montemayor: I believe we have some staff questions also. Our superintendent David Gonzalez is present.

David Gonzalez: Dr. Treviño, it is gratifying that you recognize the importance of education students so I thank you for the work you have been doing in our community. We, also thank you in behalf of our community. You mentioned a while ago how your data indicates that there is a correlation with individuals that have not gotten the vaccine. How the virus tends to go with them. That the correlation is stronger with students and people who do not take a vaccine. And by the support of our community and our board members, at this time 90% of our employees have been vaccinated within UISD, We have been very fortunate that we are going to continue to promote the wearing of masks every single day. We are providing training to all our employees. All our employees are going to be required to complete the employee safety training on the covid mitigation strategies. We are creating specific modules for that. And I know it is all in the protocols that our staff under Gloria Rendon have been working on for weeks now. This is a working document, it is not something set in stone. We continue to get guidance from CDC, obviously from the state. And we want to thank you for the guidance we have gotten from you Dr. Treviño. But as a district we are going to continue to have or offer every single student in UISD, a desk shield, as well as our teachers. As far as indoor air quality enhancements (you talked about that as well), we installed the Merve-13 High-efficiency air filters in HVAC systems. We have also, as a district, increased fresh air intake through our HVAC systems. There is no need to open the windows for that. And the district is in the process of purchasing the UVC equipment for HVAC systems to assist in killing, diminishing viruses mold and bacteria. Specifically with that, we are looking at all

our special ed units, our most vulnerable students. And, as well as our nurse clinics. By this fall semester we will have the ability with these systems to eliminate as far as the viruses and germs and so forth. And the goal is to have them obviously in all our classrooms. We are going to continue as a district to offer vaccines. I am glad to hear that, we are hoping that the vaccine comes in for eleven years and younger, sooner rather than later. We are going to continue to do everything in our power to enhance the safety of every single student and individual at UISD. I want to thank you for your time. I know we have other individuals here. I know Mr. Garza is here with some other items and Gloria Rendon.

Mike Garza: Mike Garza, assistant superintendent for the record. I just wanted to share with everybody because I do not want everybody to believe that we are just doing them “minimum” that the CDC recommends. We are actually doing above and beyond that. Mr. Gonzalez shared some of the items that we have in place. But just from a testing perspective so that you all can understand where we are at. There are over eleven hundred school districts as you may know, eight hundred decided to participate in the testing program that is being offered by the state. The binex testing is what it is called. UISD right now as it stands, we are the fourth largest testing district in the state of Texas. So that tells you how much we are putting an emphasis on actually testing our students. As far as our extracurricular activity it is a mandatory requirement to be a part of our extracurricular to actually get tested. We are currently testing every three weeks for every single extra curricular activity. We had at one point done it every two weeks, We have extended it to three weeks because it is a massive undertaking. You are talking thousands and thousands of test kits that we are doing on a bi-weekly or in this case every three weeks. We have been doing other things. We have been doing. The vaccine drives the most recent ones, and everybody knows this, the city of Laredo has done a great job of vaccinating all it’s population. So, the numbers are diminishing. To the point that Curractive which is a city vendor is no longer offering vaccines at their sites. Know they are just doing strictly testing. So the districts have taken on that responsibility to be able to do that. But just to give you a couple of examples, the last couple of vaccine drives that we have had, we had a maximum of about 170 individuals sign up. So the demand, or the want for it is not there in our community. We are making it available but it is not as high as we had prior to it when we were starting with over 1000 individuals that we were vaccinating. We do have a drive scheduled for this Monday. It would be a “second dose” drive for the one from 21-days ago. In addition, we would do a “first dose” drive on that particular day as well. Then of Friday right before school starts we have another second dose clinic and we will do that as a “first dose” as well. So we will combine those so that we are able to include those individuals. Today for Monday we only have about 125 people signed up. So we are making the opportunity available for everybody. In addition, our custodial staff has been well trained over the last school year to making sure that we are doing the enhanced cleaning measures that go beyond the CDC recommendations. So really, I just want to let everybody know especially the public that we are going above and beyond, all the minimum requirements that are being available out there as well.

Juan Cruz: Mike, I think it is good for the media especially listening to this for us to emphasize the percentage of the UISD employees that have been vaccinated.

Mike Garza: Yes sir, at this time we have over 90% of our UISD employees vaccinated. At this point quite frankly anybody that has not been vaccinated is because they have chosen not to be vaccinated. It has not been for lack of availability, it has not been for the opportunity. Or, if somebody wants to get vaccinated as they get hired, they can go to our health services department and our director or nurse will vaccinate them on the spot. So it is critical that we let the public know that we have that available to us. One more quick note, also at the start of the year, we were anxiously awaiting the... obviously when the vaccines came out, it was available for 16 and above, right. So we were anxiously waiting for the 12 and over vaccination. Which was at the time, told to us that it would happen sometime in August. So we were anticipating right before school start, to be able to vaccinate those individuals. Well, thankfully they advanced that to May. So we were able to vaccinate 12 and over, prior to the end of school. In addition, they have talked about the 5 and over vaccination opportunity by the end of the year, which is in December. We are hoping as Dr. Treviño mentioned that, that gets advanced to September just like the 12 and over has. Just to put everybody at ease, we have over 7,000 vaccines available right now in our possession, to be able to as soon as we get the word, we are able to vaccinate by the next day. So we are prepared to do that we have the infrastructure, we have the staff and we have everything set up to be able to it within the next day.

Francisco Castillo: Would you be able to tell us what is the actual number of employees. You said 90%. I am trying to figure out what would be more less what would be the number.

Mike Garza: Just to give you a rough estimate, we have over 6500 employees so 90% would probably put us around 5800-6000 vaccinated individuals.

Javier Montemayor: Which is more than the average.

Juan Cruz: Also, there are some employees that do not get the vaccine because of medical reasons as well.

Javier Montemayor: Doctor I know you are short on time but we will probably wrap it up with in the next five-ten minutes. We appreciate your patience.

Gloria Rendon: Good evening, board members, Dr. Treviño; to emphasize the covid teams. I know Mr. Castillo and other board members you were asking with regards to quarantine issues and need to know basis for individuals who are exposed to a positive or individuals who are positive. So what we are looking at is, our nurse will do the assessment. Every campus has an RN. And so that the public knows that every campus is staffed with an RN. And we are looking at health techs in addition to that. So that they can assist with the covid intakes and the mitigation practices, So, the individuals at the campus level who would show symptoms of covid whether they be respiratory,

fevers, or stomach issues, they will be isolated into another area or another room and the parents will be called. So, they would be in this holding area away from everybody else with regards to moving the individual as to not infect any other individual. And so, the nurse again would make the contact, parents will hopefully pick up the student, take them to the doctor and that is when the doctors clearance of course would come in (that Dr. Treviño mentioned). If they do test and test positive, of course that is when they start the intake information with regards to contact tracing. Because that is important. Who was around the student. And so you ask, would we shut down an entire class. We would look at, we asked teachers to do their seating charts in their particular areas, who was exposed longer than 15 minutes or so, were there desk shields up, were they wearing a mask. And so, it is on a case by case basis. And we would only notify the parents in this case of the individuals who were in close contact. And that is something that we need to work on. We are in the process of establishing our covid team. Mr. Gonzalez did approve three additional nurses or a total of four nurses to join our health services department because they will be doing the contact tracing. Four health techs or four clerks and we are going by feeder pattern. If we need to, we would supplement those individuals, other individuals in that area if the work load gets a little bit too massive for contact tracing and so forth. So, they are the ones that would keep track. They are the ones who would clear. The campus cannot accept anybody back until that child is actually cleared through 14-days out. Or an alternative method, or an alternative diagnosis is determined by the health service department. That it is approved by a doctor and so forth. That they bring us something else so that we may clear those individuals to come back. So, I hope I answered your question with regards to how we bring these individuals back. We have to wait, if they are positive it is through PCR test that we would require that they would be cleared until they return back.

Francisco Castillo: Well you have done excellent work Mrs. Rendon and thank you Dr. Treviño also for accepting our invitation.

Javier Montemayor: Doctor I'll just make a few comments for everybody who is listening. The district operates obviously under the Texas Education Agency, and they have mandated the opening of schools for face-to-face education. The district has been working hard since covid first hit you know. When Mr. Veliz was president he did an outstanding job and we met consistently, continuously to address every single scenario, every single issue with covid, dealing with our employees, our students, how to make our campuses safe. This plan was not just born last week, this plan has been in play for some time and we worked with Dr. Treviño and we worked with the city health department, county officials, everybody has been involved, our employees have done an outstanding job. The virtual technology, even though our students you know learn better face-to-face, our virtual technology was a success. Every single employee but not only that and Dr. Treviño you could probably talk about this but bringing back our students, and Mr. Castillo mentioned it a bit, they are also going to be going through some type of perhaps mental health situations. Perhaps they have experienced loss of a family member, maybe they experienced academic regression, social-emotional effects are going to be also there. It is not going to be quite that easy to bring everybody back. This pandemic has taken a lot from our community and it has taken a lot from families. These students have been affected. And so, every department has

psychologists that are employed by our district that are also going to be addressing these needs as well. So again, we are going to do anything we can doctor. We appreciate your help and we appreciate your guidance and I am really glad that you had the opportunity to address some of the members of the public who have questions. And we are going to make sure that everything, that in the classroom, at the campus is as safe as possible and we ask the parents to cooperate. In fact, we urge the parents to help UISD in making the campuses and facilities safe. So, with that doctor I give you the final word.

Dr. Treviño: Yes, thank you. And yes, absolutely. I do commend the board for doing what their doing. Information sharing is very important and having a consistent message of safety first and transparency to the public. Always has been the best practice to avoid any panic of outbreaks. I think the public would appreciate and do appreciate your information and your transparency. So with that in mind, I will stand up for any information or any help or guidance that you need. And, I do want to thank you for extending this invitation to me for discussing pressing matters on covid-19 in our community and how it may impact school and health safety.

VI. Adjournment

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Francisco Castillo
Seconded By:	Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion:	NONE
All In Favor:	Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

*There being no further business of the UISD Board of Trustees, this Special Called meeting of August 4, 2021 is adjourned at **6:56 PM.***

Javier Montemayor Jr., President

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary

These Minutes were completed by Griselda Rodriguez, and submitted for approval by the UISD Board of Trustees at the February 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

Special Called Meeting
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb

September 2, 2021

In Attendance

David H. Gonzalez
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Javier Montemayor, President – PRESENT
Aliza Flores Oliveros, Vice-President – ABSENT
Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary – ABSENT
Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Parliamentarian – ABSENT
Ricardo Molina, Sr., Member – PRESENT
Ricardo Rodriguez, Member – PRESENT
Ramiro Veliz, III, Member – PRESENT

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Thursday, September 2, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045.

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/SJTSDqgmzZmk>

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89371570726?pwd=NndJazZsc203djBWWE9QSjhpS01mQT09>

Public Comments may be submitted to Gloria S. Rendon at: grendon@uisd.net at any time prior to the Board Meeting. Public comments must pertain to agenda items only.

- I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

- II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to order **at 6:36 p.m.** The record showed that a quorum of Board Members was present, that the meeting had been duly called, and that notice of this meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

- III. Pledge of Allegiance
 - A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to Thee, Texas, one State under God, one and indivisible.

Mr. Javier Montemayor asked for a motion to move up Agenda Item VI

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Javier Montemayor

Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

- IV. Public Comments: Comments shall be limited to current Board Agenda Items, student recognitions or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except those 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 comments shall not be used for personal attacks or use of insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the president 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 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, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific information.

No Public Comments

- V. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals, and Qualifications

Carlos Garcia presented information on RFP 048-2021 Disinfecting Services for Various District Facilities

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ramiro Veliz, III

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion: None

Abstain: Ricardo Rodriguez, Javier Montemayor

In Favor: Ricardo Molina, Ramiro Veliz, III

MOTION PASSES

VI. Items for Information Only

A. Report from District Administration Regarding Covid Mitigation Measures and Protocols

Mike Garza – stated that to-date we have approximately 45 employees who have been identified as covid positive and about 108 students which is a slight reduction from last Saturday's presentation of 111 that we had covid positive. He stated that covid handbook is online and available to the public and it has all the mitigation measures that UISD is using. Mr. Garza mentioned the district has some additional public service announcements that will be shared with the board. He said we do have disinfecting protocols at all our facilities, that we have a shortage of employment applicants and added that we have about 25 custodial positions that have not been filled. Because of that, the district looked at other measures for example some security guards have agreed to work after hours for pay as custodians. He stated the demand we are asking of our staff is great in terms of the amount of disinfecting that needs to be done and we are getting a great effort from all of the individuals at UISD. Mr. Garza explained that we do have some numbers in terms of what we represent as either mild or extreme cases. He added that when we look at the different percentages, we factor leading into a mild range of about 5% which is usually the protocol that they use with the CDC in terms of a percentage based on 100,000 individuals so that is kind of the category that we are trying to use. Last week it was based on a number of four students per campus regardless of whether they had 300, 600 or 3,000 so we just want to have a better standard to work with.

Ramiro Veliz, III – You mentioned a number of 108, is that active currently and we don't have those students at the campus?

Mike Garza – replied yes and explained that we have a process of Intake reporting that keeps track of those individuals whether employees or students. He mentioned we have a dedicated group of eight staff members working in collaboration with nursing staff to keep track of these reports. He also mentioned they look at individuals with symptoms and immediately test them on site, if students with parental consent and if employees, we ask them and they have to voluntarily agree to the testing or they are asked to test outside and report their results.

Ramiro Veliz, III – asked how many days they are out of the campus once they test positive.

Mike Garza – replied there is a 10-day minimum requirement and the district does remote conferencing for them so they do not miss instructional time.

Javier Montemayor – stated one of the biggest concerns has always been the cafeterias for example, rough estimate, United High School has 3,000 students and three lunch periods, which is 1,000 students per lunch period. He asked how the district is dealing with those situations.

Mike Garza – explained that they have reduced the number of students in the lunchroom by allowing some students to eat in their vehicles on-site, they also have an outdoor dining area and those students who do not eat lunch are sent to the gymnasium, the larger gym in order to spread out.

Javier Montemayor – stated it is a big concern and added he's sure they have seen the pictures

David Gonzalez – stated that was troubling and it was the first day of school and that every day we do a better job and improving the protocols. He added that nothing is perfect but stated our objective is to make sure we do everything possible to keep our students safe.

Javier Montemayor – mentioned other options, maybe staggered days, morning and afternoon, A&B schedules and asked if they are considering any of these options before the numbers get higher

David Gonzalez – stated we are looking at other options with transportation being one of the biggest entities and the district is on it and willing to take on other options. He added we are looking at Senate Bill 15, virtual learning which right now is at 10% but there is parameters and it is sitting on the governor's desk and obviously, that will help us.

Emma Leza – explained that we have to make sure the students are getting the 600 minutes of instruction and that is what is holding us to keeping our schedules and keeping the students on campus in order for them to be able to meet those minutes of instruction as mandated by the state. She added that they did submit a proposal for hybrid learning and that would have given us more options but that was killed by the legislative session.

Javier Montemayor – stated he just wants the public to be aware that those options still exist and are not "dead" so to speak and that they will be considered should numbers increase or things change and also that we are adjusting to this situation and improving and modifying as we go along.

Emma Leza – stated she was at United High School and got to see the lunch periods and did see where they had a smaller number of students in the cafeteria, there was enough spacing and they were zig zagged and all the students that were in the hallways were masked and during passing the students are masked. She added that mitigation factor we are using is helping to keep the numbers small.

Javier Montemayor – stated he has seen a lot of cooperation from the students wearing their masks.

Ramiro Veliz, III – added that they want to keep going to school and most of the students that he has been able to interact with are thankful that the school year has gone back to some normality.

Javier Montemayor – has had some friends do informal surveys middle and high school and ask their students whether they prefer virtual instruction or face-to-face instruction and the overall majority was in favor of face-to-face instruction. He added that social relation is important to their mental health. He mentioned the survey was 80 / 20 and the 20 that was not in favor of face-to-face were because they were afraid of contracting the virus and bringing it home to their parents.

Ricardo Molina – stated that United High School has 3,500 students and the media and the city have to understand that the school was built for a normal 3,500 kids to be in the classrooms, the halls, and the cafeteria and never planned on there being a pandemic so the district is doing miracles trying to divide the kids at all the high schools. All the high schools were built for normal times not for this difficult time we are having. He congratulated all administrators that have been working day and night to handle the situation we are in.

Dr. Victor Treviño – thanked the board for inviting him to the meeting and added he had great respect for all educators for their valuable effort throughout this pandemic. He thanked the district for taking part in the litigation to preserve the mask mandate in our community because we know that it is critical that the mask mandate remain for the unvaccinated population. Dr. Treviño explained to the board, the infection environment we currently find ourselves in. He stated Laredo does not have a pediatric intensive care unit, and we have 1/3 of the amount of primary care physicians our size and our hospitals are on diversion for several days during the month of August and reporting zero ICU beds for the 24th day. He added this is an addition to increasing pediatric cases in Texas. He mentioned that in May, we had 85 pediatric cases, in June we had 107, in July 552 and now in August we are reporting 1,056 pediatric cases and stated this is the largest number of pediatric cases since the beginning of the pandemic. He stated seven pediatric cases had to be transferred out and have very scarce access to pediatric beds and data shows we are about to enter an apex in pediatric cases. Dr. Trevino explained the role of the health department in regards to communicable diseases and quarantine. He stated he looks forward to working in collaboration with the district to move forward during these challenging times. He explained the difference between isolation and quarantine.

Ricardo Molina – addressed Dr. Trevino and said Dr. Trevino talks about the health and authority for the city of Laredo and mentioned that he passed by the LEC and they had a full, sold-out concert on Saturday and Sunday at Casa Blanca they had a sold-out event and asked what is the City doing about that. Mr. Molina added told Dr. Trevino he's supposed to be looking over the city and looking over the school district but how about all the dances and added that the kids are getting covid because those people and the city is not controlling or not

enforcing the law and yet you suggested closing thirteen schools. He asked what about the LEC, the Casa Blanca and all those places that are open and are packed with people.

Dr. Victor Treviño – stated that is a good point comparing the large gatherings to schools. He said he has always recommended against large gatherings and environments of high transmission. However even though these two situations have their problems, this is a faulty comparison because one population has about 80% vaccination that protect them, 25-fold against hospitalization, the other has 50% vaccination and no pediatric ICU so care would be delayed and dependent on hospitals out of town. He added there is a difference here but he does get his question and does have concerns on that.

David Gonzalez – stated that during an emergency meeting we had Dr. Trevino mentioned that his intention was not to close any of our schools.

Dr. Victor Trevino – replied that is correct and was focused on areas only.

Javier Montemayor – commented to Dr. Trevino that he has visited our data site, has seen our protocols, the information we receive on a daily basis, how we deal with the intakes, how we are responding to positive cases, close contacts and exposures and asked Dr. Trevino if he could give UISD a grade on their performance on trying to minimize the spread. He also asked him if it is fair to say we are doing a good job.

Dr. Victor Trevino – commented that he has seen all the efforts and all the time it takes to do the work and stated he is very appreciative of all the work and added that this is information that he can use tremendously at the health department for getting numbers and information that they do need. He added that they are working on other recommendation to be put out so we can get out of this quarantine. He reiterated that all the information is very good and added that he would like to recommend that universal surveillance for both staff and students, continue mitigation of cafeteria and other areas of potential transmission, surveying the student population for vaccine rates to minimize the impact of quarantine of fully vaccinated individuals, testing of extra-curricular activities with high contact, cohorting the students, when possible, to reduce the spread of covid 19.

Ricardo Molina – stated to Dr. Trevino that he did not answer his question about what he is going to do with the LEA, Casa Blanca and all those places and asked if he is going to shut down or separate them, as he wants at the schools. He added that the city is not doing anything about those people and the LEA belongs to the city so it falls under his jurisdiction.

Dr. Victor Trevino – stated they are having a city council meeting and will address all these concerns.

Mike Garza – added that UISD has a very robust self-testing program with part of the Binax testing that the state has provided us and we are the fourth largest testing entity in the state of

Texas. He stated we have received approximately 80,000 testing kits, we are mandatory testing all of our extra-curricular students at least once every three weeks, and in some cases at some schools they test once a week.

Ricardo Molina – stated that he had read in an email that the district was going to cancel out of town cheerleading or band and extra-curricular activities.

David Gonzalez – replied no but we are being more careful as far as checking our students and taking other measures and at this time, we are allowing out of town trips.

Mike Garza – added that we are recommending that they test prior to leaving on the trip.

Javier Montemayor – thanked Dr. Trevino, commented that we are all on the same page, and mentioned to the public that at no time do we want to jeopardize the life of anybody, not a student, not a parent, not a teacher or staff. He added that as Dr. Trevino noted, UISD is working very hard and the districts locally and across the state are in a difficult position. We have been ordered to open up and bring our students back to school with face-to-face instruction and we are doing everything that we can. Mr. Montemayor added that it has been a very trying time for UISD and stressful but we are doing everything we can and appreciate his suggestions and working with the district and mentioned we remain available for any other guidance he can give us.

Dr. Victor Trevino – thanked the board and stated that these are very difficult times for all of us. He said he will continue to give recommendations, and appreciates all the help the district has given him and anticipates that we can collaborate further in the future.

Ricardo Molina – suggested to Mr. Montemayor for Dr. Trevino to meet with TEA to see what they can work out together since TEA is the one that funds the district not the city.

Dr. Victor Trevino – stated he appreciates the TEA information that those are the rules that govern the district. He added that he works for the state, for the Department of State and Health Services and they do look at the rules that TEA has for the schools. Dr. Trevino said he know we are bound by some of the rules and added that he has to look at things from a public health point of view and his position in preservation of life is paramount. He stated he is pretty sure he can work together and decipher this.

Javier Montemayor – stated we recognize that under the health and safety code, he has the authority to take action and we appreciate it.

Richard Raymond – congratulated Mr. David Gonzalez on being superintendent and appreciates his leadership. Mr. Raymond stated that he and Dr. Trevino have been working on this covid issue since it began last year. He stated his appreciation and admiration for Dr. Trevino who has spent many hours, days, months and now years working on this. He added

that through the years he has worked with Dr. Trevino and knows he is not an alarmist but he cares about people living not dying. He stated to Mr. Molina that Dr. Trevino did try to answer his question explaining the differences between the situations. He said he also believes that we shouldn't have concerts. He talked about his experience with an Ebola virus outbreak in 1993 when he first started and added that he knows about viruses and how they can spread and he said he has dealt with the CDC and with foremost doctors in the world. He added that he wanted to come today because he knew Dr. Trevino was going to be present and expressed that when it comes to situations like these, loss of life, we have to put politics aside as much as you can. He mentioned that part of what he appreciates about Dr. Trevino is that they put politics aside when they make their assessments and recommendations. Mr. Raymond recommended to Mr. Gonzalez and to the board to work with other associations and other school districts to come to us and say we need help. He added that we need for flexibility in virtual learning and not lose money as a result of it. He said he needs to hear from the superintendent and from the board members as they move forward. He commented that 45% of Texans have not gotten a vaccine and knows where we are headed with this because the Delta variant is more contagious than covid 19. He added that he admires what the district is doing and said this is the hardest thing they have to deal with in terms of running the schools, trying to teach the kids, trying to keep the teachers safe, keeping the kids safe and those kids going back to their homes to their parents and grandparents. He thanked the district for all they we are doing and in the next two weeks, once we see how things are developing, we have to tell him what we need. He read a statement from Commissioner of Education stating that community spread is so rapid that it is pretty much guaranteed that someone with an active infection can walk into a school campus. He added that when the commissioner makes a statement like that to his board, then we know it is a very precarious point that we are at. Mr. Raymond thanked the board again and told them not to hold back in telling him what we need. He asked if anyone knew how many of our students had flu like symptoms three or four years ago.

Ricardo Molina – stated to Mr. Raymond that 90% of our employees were vaccinated and commented that United is taking care of United and the City can take care of....(inaudible).

Richard Raymond – stated that Dr. Trevino is looking out for the people and he has seen how much he has done to help the people in the community. He added that his cell phone is available and he can be reached any time of the day or night.

Mike Garza – stated that the flu numbers was very low last year because of the fact that we were wearing masks and mentioned that we do have in house clinics at all the campuses that test for flu, for strep in addition to covid test.

Javier Montemayor – said he knows there is a large amount of our student population that are vaccinated, with one exception being the 12 and under which is of main concern, but they do not have the vaccine available yet. He added that he wants to make the board aware that Judge Lopez has ruled in UISD's favor and the City of Laredo's favor and upheld our mask

resolution and went against the governor so we can require masks in all UISD facilities and mentioned that we are now looking at the appellate process and see what else we can do.

Richard Raymond – stated that the reason we have better public Ed funding is because it took us going to court and it took years of losses. He added that you cannot be afraid of that because sometimes, because there is a lot of political forces moving things in a certain direction, sometimes you have to go to court and cannot be afraid if you feel that you're in the right and you feel that you're doing what is right for the community, the schools and the students. He stated that if they had not gone to court you could be in a worst situation. He added that he agrees with what they did and stated that the governor should understand that, since he is an attorney general and was always fond of suing people.

Ricardo Molina – stated he wanted to thank Judge Lopez on behalf of the board for speaking up for us and added that he is very proud of him and everybody that is working to achieve the safety of our children and everybody.

David Gonzalez – stated he wanted to recognize our board president for testifying today on behalf of Ms. Gloria Rendon and myself, thank you for testifying today.

Javier Montemayor – thanked Representative Raymond and Dr. Trevino for their good words.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Javier Montemayor adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Special Called Meeting of September 2, 2022 was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Javier Montemayor, President

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary

Minutes submitted by: *Alejandra Salinas*, Secretary to Deputy Superintendent

Regular Board Meeting
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb

September 15, 2021

In Attendance

David H. Gonzalez
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Javier Montemayor, President – PRESENT
Aliza Flores Oliveros, Vice-President – PRESENT
Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary – PRESENT
Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Parliamentarian – PRESENT
Ricardo Molina, Sr., Member – PRESENT
Ricardo Rodriguez, Member – PRESENT
Ramiro Veliz, III, Member – PRESENT

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United I.S.D. was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, in the United ISD – Bill Johnson Student Activity Complex, Auditorium, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, TX 78043.

- I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order
- II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to order at **6:05 p.m.** The record shows that a quorum of Board Members is present, that the meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
 - A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one State under God, one and indivisible.
- IV. Public Comments: Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. 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 comments 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, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific information.

Jose Ovando – My name is Jose Ovando and I am here to speak to you on the issue of legal services. I would like to read to you a case that has already been sent to you that is titled John Doe, Plaintiff vs. Juan J. Cruz, Defendant. The attorney had the good sense to add this. Notice to school districts employing Juan J. Cruz. Defendant Juan J. Cruz holds himself up high, a school law expert dealing with minor children. Any school district that has Juan J. Cruz employed as general counsel, is hereby on notice of his deviant proclivity to have homosexual intercourse and sexually assault minor children and should take appropriate action to protect their students from defendant Juan J. Cruz. It is my understanding this was already sent to you all. I hope that you take this in all seriousness. I hope that you also side with the children and not with this person right here. It is my understanding that, this is important and I understand that this is supposed to be litigated, there might be errors or something different but right now I think the most important thing is to protect the children. Your duty is to the children. Your duty is not to a contractor, not to a compadre, it's not to a deviant. I hope it's not to a deviant, it's not to a service provider, it's to our children. And that standard of care to our children is the highest standard of care that you should have to anyone, most importantly, our children. In the past, I have brought other issues before the board. I did bring an illegal relationship between an employee and a student and nothing was done. I have also brought issues between relationships of board members and employees and nothing was done. Next thing that is going to happen is that our human resources person is going to be accused of something and the human resources department is supposed to be in charge of protecting the employees. I place this issue at the feet of the board particularly, the president of the board. You have the power and I hope you have the guts to move to sever any and all relationship with this service provider right now, not to go over there in the back and mingle and have a coke and have lunch while we're over here wobbling for marranadas, porque esto es lo que es, marranadas. I don't have the whole three minutes but if I read this whole page, which I'm not going to read it because I know there's kids right here. You should side with our children not with one individual, with one sick individual. Thank you.

Juan Cruz – I want to respond to that. I want to say to you Mr. Ovando that that petition is a bunch of lies and I want to say to you that you should reserve your judgement until it is proven in a court of law. You wouldn't like it if I made allegations against you that were untrue. I will rely on my friends, I will rely on my family and I will rely on my God to get me through this evil thicket of lies and I implore you Mr. Ovando to find comfort and love and not hate because until I have been proven guilty, I am innocent. Thank you.

Jose Ovando – Thank you for your lecture, sir.

V. Recognitions

A. † Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza

VI. Superintendent's Report

David Gonzalez – On the first day of school, which was August 16, as you all, know we started at 31,996 students. We were 9,342 students short. As of today, we are at 38,279, we're still short 3,030.

The difference between the first day of school and today is 6,283. Just to let you know how we're doing on Covid with our students, as we contain and do everything with our protocols to protect our students and our staff. As of Sunday, we have 27 positive students and just today, it was four. As far as our staff, this week alone we have four positive covid cases. We will continue to give you updates as they come in but I would like to recognize our staff doing a good job. I know Ms. Gloria Rendon and her staff working on the protocols and working with all of our campuses; our execs and all other departments doing this for the safety of our students and all our staff at UISD.

VII. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements
- B. Approval of Budget Amendments
- C. Resolution to Approve the 2021 Appraisal Roll as the 2021 United ISD Tax Roll
- D. Approval of Internal Audit Plan for 2021-2022
- E. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications
- F. Approval of Implementation of Pilot Program for Transportation and Child Nutrition 187-207 Day Hourly Employees
- G. Approval of Additional Appraisers for the 2021-2022 School Year
- H. Approval of Sale or Disposition of Salvage Furniture and Equipment

Mr. Montemayor asked for a motion regarding the consent agenda items.

Ricardo Rodriguez – made a motion to approve items A through H

Motion: So Move
Moved by: Ricardo Rodriguez
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VIII. Items for Individual Consideration

- A. Nomination of Candidates to the Board of Directors of the Webb County Appraisal District

Juan Cruz – Can we reserve that until after closed session please?

Javier Montemayor – I'll make a motion to move this for after

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Javier Montemayor
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Returned to VIII-A after Closed Session

Juan Cruz – the nominations for the Board of Directors of the Appraisal District are Mr. Juan Roberto Ramirez and Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Monica Madrigal – In the November board meeting we will bring the resolution to allocate the votes.

B. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Campus Improvement Plans (CIP's) as presented

Emma Leza – Just wanted to let you know that you got the links for every campus improvement plan so that you can study them at your leisure.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina
Seconded by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. First and Final Reading of FFH (EXHIBIT) FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION

Gloria Rendon – we bring this agenda item for your approval on a first and final reading because of some changes in the organization of our district, so the first one is FFH (EXHIBIT) which replaces Melissa Cruz as the 504 Coordinator with the new 504 Coordinator Cynthia Rodriguez.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez
Discussion: None
Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. First and Final Reading of FB (EXHIBIT) EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Gloria Rendon – it's the same thing basically but it's another exhibit. This is for employee section equal educational opportunities. The Section 504 Coordinator also Cynthia Rodriguez who replaced Melissa Cruz.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

E. Approval of Class Size Waivers

Gloria Rendon – The state of Texas requires that class size be at 22-1 ratio, now starting this year. It used to be kinder to 4th grade, starting this year it's from pre kinder to 4th grade. We monitor the class sizes for every elementary campus. The information that is in your packet is actually incorrect, it was updated. We got some new class size waivers added. We have a total of 10 class size waivers. Two 2nd grade classes at Malakoff, two 3rd grade classes at San Isidro, one 1st grade class at Col. Santos, three kindergarten classes at Fasken Elementary, one kindergarten class at Ruiz, and one 4th grade class at Santos Elementary. A total of 10. We did present this information to the DEIC committee on Monday as required by the Texas Education Agency and that was approved. Just for the record Mr. Castillo, we don't go over 26 or 27 students. It's usually one student in each class, 23 or max 24.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

F. Emergency Item: Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Remote Conferencing Waivers with the Texas Education Agency

The above item is necessary due to the necessity to immediately address COVID-19 related measures and budgetary expenditures that are necessary for the health and well-being of UISD students.

Emma Leza – This waiver is for requesting those students that are currently remote conferencing that only have 20 days approved by the state. If they go past 20 days, either for a medical reason or because they have been multiply exposed to Covid, we need to submit a waiver. This approval will allow us to submit waivers throughout this first semester as it becomes necessary for our students. Currently we have about five medically fragile reports that are waiting for us to submit a waiver.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

G. Approval of Board Travel for the Month of September 2021 to attend the TASA/TASB Convention in Dallas, TX

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Seconded by: Ramiro Veliz, III
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

H. Approval of Requests from Board Members in re: Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Various Campuses and Departments

Mike Garza – presented the following additional requests for use of discretionary funds: Alexander HS sponsored by Mr. Rick Rodriguez for consulting services for band for July August and September for the amount of \$4,620.00; Alexander HS sponsored by Aliza F. Oliveros for consulting services for the band for \$5,000.00; STEP Academy sponsored by Ricardo Molina for student incentives for school year 2021-2022 for PBIS attendance for the amount of \$2,000.00; United HS sponsored by Javier Montemayor for club and organization banners with club logos through vendors ESM Sports for the amount of \$2,500.00; United HS sponsored by Rick

Rodriguez for digital radios for the amount of \$3,000.00; United HS sponsored by Ramiro Veliz for perfect attendance incentives for the amount of \$2,000.00; Prada Elementary sponsored by Ricardo Molina for student incentives in the amount of \$3,000.00; Muller Elementary sponsored by Juan Roberto Ramirez for homework planners for the amount of \$2,587.50; Federal and State Programs sponsored by all seven board members in the amount of \$1,000.00 each.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- I. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Naming of a District Facility in Memory of Lance Corporal, David L. Espinoza

Mr. Juan Cruz stated that Item VIII-I will be moved to after closed session.

Javier Montemayor made a motion to move Item VIII-I to after closed session

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Javier Montemayor
Seconded by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Returned to Item VIII-I after closed session

Javier Montemayor made a motion to table with discussion.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Javier Montemayor
Seconded by: Francisco Castillo
Discussion: Javier Montemayor – *I think this is a good item so I'd ask the Superintendent to come up with a plan of what facility we're looking at, what the costs are, to bring back to the board what kind of recognition options exist out there, whether it be a sculpture or a building or a school or whatever the options are. I move to table for the next board meeting in October.*
David Gonzalez – *We'll work on something. I already heard your request and we'll come up with something for the next board meeting.*

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- IX. 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 6:25 p.m.

- A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel; Closed Meeting
1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities
 2. Discussion, including Consultation with Legal Counsel, Regarding Pending Litigation in the Case Styled *City of Laredo and United ISD v. Greg Abbott*, In his Official Capacity as the Governor of Texas, Cause Number 2021CVK001517D1, Pending in the 49th District Court before the Honorable Judge Lopez, and Corresponding Accelerated Interlocutory Appeal filed by Greg Abbott in the Fourth Court of Appeals, and Matters Incident Thereto
 3. Discussion Regarding United ISD's Legal Services
- B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting
1. Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding TxDot Possible Condemnation of UISD Food Production Facility Property, Relocation of Food Production Center Facility and Matters Related Thereto
- C. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting
1. Discussion Regarding Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument
 2. Discussion and take Possible Action Regarding Updates/Revisions to the Resolution of the United ISD Board of Trustees Mandating the Use of Face Masks in District Facilities and Buses
 3. Discussion Regarding the Appointment of Ruiz Elementary Principal
 4. Discussion Regarding the Appointment of Freedom Elementary Principal
 5. Discussion Regarding the Appointment of Trautmann Middle School Principal
 6. Discussion Regarding the Appointment of Gonzalez Middle School Principal

D. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.076 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits; Closed Meeting

1. Student Activity Funds Audits: Elementary Schools – Borchers, Ruiz and Malakoff
2. Student Activity Funds Audits: Middle Schools – Los Obispos MSD and Herrera MS
3. Student Activity Funds Audits: High Schools – United HS, JBA 9th Grade, and USHS 9th Grade
4. Attendance Accounting – Secondary Campuses
5. UCAN Program
6. Employee Health Insurance Benefits
7. Transportation Fuel Inventory
8. Accounts Payable Process
9. Bilingual Program Eligibility
10. Kronos Editing and Approval Procedures
11. Region One GEAR UP Partnership Grant
12. Status of Ongoing Audits

X. 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 7:50 p.m.

Mr. Juan Cruz stated they need to go back to Item VIII-A for the Board of Directors of the Appraisal District.

- A. Discussion and Possible Action, Including Authorization to Legal Counsel, Regarding Pending Litigation in the case styled *City of Laredo and United ISD v. Greg Abbott*, In his Official Capacity as the Governor of Texas, Cause Number 2021CVK001517D1, Pending in the 49th District Court before the Honorable Judge Joe Lopez, and Corresponding Accelerated Interlocutory Appeal filed by Greg Abbott in the Fourth Court of Appeals

The recommendation is to grant authority to legal counsel to defend the appeal by Governor Greg Abbott in the Fourth Court of Appeals as discussed in closed session

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Juan Roberto Ramirez

Seconded by: Ramiro Veliz, III

Discussion: Aliza Oliveros – *I will support this item for unity but I have to say for the record that I don't think it's necessary because if we look at our sister school district, Laredo Independent School District, they are bound to the orders by the health authority so they don't have to do what we're doing. I think it's unnecessary but I support the mask mandate and I will support this board's decision to enforce it but we already fall under a mandate so I just wanted to say that for the record.*

Ricardo Molina – I almost agree with you but Laredo started all of this and we're not Laredo, we're United so it's up to us to protect our children, not the city of Laredo or anybody else.

Aliza Oliveros – it's redundant, it's like creating a law under a law that already exists but to be in unison with the board, I am for the mask mandate, it's unnecessary for us to do this. It creates litigation that our tax payers don't need but I'll support the board.

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Action to Approve Extension of District's Face Mask Resolution

Juan Cruz – the recommendation is to approve the extension of the face mask resolution through December 31, 2021.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ramiro Veliz, III

Seconded by: Francisco Castillo

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Juan Cruz – Mr. Montemayor, you still have the naming of the facility, agenda item VIII-I for the Lance Corporal

C. Action Regarding the Appointment of Ruiz Elementary Principal

David Gonzalez – my recommendation for principal of Ruiz Elementary School is Ms. Monica Cepeda

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina

Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez
Discussion: Francisco Castillo – *Mr. Gonzalez, are you able to give us the top three finalists, would that be proper?*
David Gonzalez – I don't have the packet. I know you were given the packets and it should've been in there.
Francisco Castillo – it just has the complete list but doesn't give us the finalists
Gloria Rendon – Monica Cepeda, Martinez, and Diana Escamilla
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. Action Regarding the Appointment of Freedom Elementary Principal

David Gonzalez – at this time I am recommending for Freedom Elementary School, Stephanie Michelle Silva

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: *Gloria Rendon – Stephanie Silva, Mr. Jonathan Martinez, Ms. Mauricio from Kennedy Zapata*
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

E. Action Regarding the Appointment of Trautmann Middle School Principal

David Gonzalez – at this time my recommendation for Trautmann Middle School Principal is Mr. Gilbert Moreno

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: *Gloria Rendon – Jonathan Martinez, Gilberto Moreno and Raquel Madrigal*
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

F. Action Regarding the Appointment of Gonzalez Middle School Principal

David Gonzalez – at this time my recommendation for Gonzalez Middle School is Araceli Garza and the finalists were Jonathan Martinez, Johnny Herrera from LBJ

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: Francisco Castillo – *so it was Ms. Garza, Dr. Martinez and Juan Herrera, correct?*
David Gonzalez – yes sir

In Favor: Ricardo Molina, Ramiro Veliz, III, Juan Roberto Ramirez, Javier Montemayor, Aliza F. Oliveros, Ricardo Rodriguez
Against: Francisco Castillo

MOTION PASSES

XI. Adjournment

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Rodriguez
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Board Meeting of September 15, 2021 was adjourned at 7:59 PM

Javier Montemayor, President

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary

Minutes submitted by: *Alejandra Salinas*, Deputy Superintendent's Secretary

A Regular Board Meeting
Of United ISD
The State of Texas
County of Webb

December 16, 2021

In Attendance:

David H. Gonzalez, Superintendent

Board of Trustees:

Ramiro Veliz, III, President - PRESENT

Aliza Flores-Oliveros, Vice President – PRESENT

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary – PRESENT

Ricardo Molina, Sr., Parliamentarian – PRESENT

Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Member – PRESENT

Ricardo “Rick” Rodriguez, Member – PRESENT

Javier Montemayor, Jr., Member – PRESENT

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Wednesday, December 16, 2021, beginning at 6:10 PM in the UISD Student Activity Complex, Auditorium, located at 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 one at one time.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

Mr. Ramiro Veliz calls this meeting to order at 6:21 PM. Quorum is established.

II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to Order. Let the record show that a quorum of Board Members is present, that this meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Public Comments

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. 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 Comments 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 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Joe Ovando: Hello, my name is Jose Ovando and I am here regarding a possible action to retain and enter into legal service contract with the general legal counsel. Just recently, we also had a conversation about this at a town hall meeting. That fiasco ended with the board members sending a letter to one of the parties who complained, or one of the taxpayers who complained at that meeting. He sent a letter to the employer of this person and I am just wondering if this is going to be what should be expected at the future. That if you don't like our speech, the content of our speech that we should be expecting retaliation from you. Is this what we should be expecting? Because it was sent with UISD letterhead. So, I would understand that it is in agreement with all the board, with the superintendent's approval, and probably even with the advice of the attorney to do so. I hope this is not something that is going to be concurrent or that is going to be happening in the future. And I hope that you strongly acknowledge the board member who did this, unless of course you are in agreement with that. Not only with that but I was very surprised that the board member took the position to defend the attorney at that moment by claiming something about due process. Probably does not have the minimal understanding between substantive and procedural due process but in his legal investiture he decided "I'll just make a name of myself and throw due process in there". No. Negative. My child had rights. It is not due process. He does not have no due process it is my child's rights first. If someone comes in here screaming and yelling, it is not freedom of speech. First it is my children's speech, my children's rights then somebody else's rights. It is first my children,

that is why you were elected as a board. Maybe you do not have kids and you do not care. I have kids and I do care. To finalize this let me remind you that all those dark voices that come and speak to you in the dark and tell you to retain services of this person, they are not here today. I am here. I am here in the open, in public, speaking for my children. But those that speak on behalf of this person, are they here? They do not want their name attached to that. Have you seen the pictures. I am happy to share it with you because it is public information. You can just go down to the court and request them. Have you seen the (inaudible), I can share them with you if you want because they are public information if you want to see them, or I can get them for you. But, if you do not have children, you probably do not care. If you had children would it be different. I am asking you to take a vote today, to remove this person from here. Thank you. (Interrupted by the audience).

Ramiro Veliz: Mr. Ovando go ahead if you still have something to say you have about 30 seconds. I just hope that you have this vote in the open. So that everybody knows where you stand on this position. And, on that board member, please take serious note of that you should be acknowledging that board member unless of course you are backing him up on what he did. That was just wrong. Thank you.

Victor M. Vasquez: Good evening, my name is Victor Vasquez I am going to talk about the same subject. And, I think it is time to move forward. I expect you to do what is correct for us, and move forward and put this all behind us. You need to go.

Aurora Barrios: Good evening, my name is Aurora Barrios I am a substitute teacher. For the last three years I have been working with the district and we have not had any increase and on September 30th, I sent an email to Mr. Montemayor asking the possibility to get an increase in our salary. However, Mr. Montemayor never replied to my email. Then, later we decided to write a letter of petition. Sign a petition from all my other staff or other staff working in the district. I sent it on November 1st, and again Mr. Montemayor never addressed our concern. Then I referred with Ms. Gutierrez, she is the one in charge of the substitutes. She commented that we cannot get an increase or we cannot get the stipend, the one that employees are receiving right now because we are part-timers. But according to the law, part-time is considered 20-hours and on September the 20th through October 15th, I was covering a vacancy. Which it was 20 days (inaudible) to hours, that is 160-hours. So, how are we considered part-time, when sometimes we cover a vacancy for a month. In addition, the cost of living has increased f5%, starting with gas. On a national average the gas is from November of last year, it was \$2.20 a gallon. And now, this year November 2021, it is \$3.49. That is also a \$1.29 increase. However, our salary remains the same. As a substitute teacher, for non-priority campus we are getting \$80/day, which is now you have a system that is tracking our hours. So, if you are counting by hour, that is \$10.00/hour. If we are subbing at a priority campus, which is the south, it is \$95.00/day. That would be \$11.87/hour. Considering the minimum wage which is \$7.25, we only get \$275. I received an email that the district received a grant from the Biden administration for

\$127M. And, we were not considered for any payment or any stipend. My question is, why we cannot get an increase. I would refer with Mr. Montemayor, because Ms. Gutierrez said he was the acting president. And now, I saw in the website that Mr. Veliz, you are the president. And I checked that you (inaudible) like one or two years. I was not aware that now you are back as president. So now we are requesting \$20 increase from a salary. We do not want the one-time payment or the stipend that other employees receive. We are requesting \$20.00 because I think it is fair. What we do cover a teacher we are acting as a teacher and some of us we have a degree. We have an associate, we have a bachelors, and yet, we sometimes, do not get the respect from the students because they use, most of them profane language, which is very sad. But, we stay working with the district because we like it, I love my work. I enjoy what I do. Therefore, I am asking, do consider an increase for all the subs, regardless of the time. One month, two months, I think we can (inaudible) at least \$20.00 an increase for our salary. That would be all. Thank you sir.

Rene De La Viña: (After greeting the audience and the administration) First, I would like to thank on behalf of TSTA I want to thank you for that big bonus that you all gave the employees. We are very appreciative. Thank you so much. I am here also to, ask for your support for item VII.G, which is Public Comments. Where public comments do not have to be agenda related anymore. I want to thank you for jumping on it. Mr. Montemayor and Mr. Veliz, we appreciate it very much. I think it is a good idea because when I was a board member at the college for 12 years, we did not you know, we could not let anybody say what they wanted but we did have a policy and you can do it here, where if anybody becomes disrespectful toward a board member, you can have him escorted out the first time. The second time ban them permanently from the board meeting that is it. Simple. We did that at the college, it worked real good. LISD has it, the city of Laredo has it, Webb County has that, so, you have nothing to worry about. Just do what you have to do, you are the police here, so not a problem. So having said that, I think it is good. It is transparency it is what you want. And, we are here to support you. I have always told you have a good board. I believe in 42 years that I have been saying this, I have never ever, myself been disrespectful toward a board member. I always attack the issues not the person. Thank you very much, merry Christmas and God bless everybody.

Claudia Lanese Garcia: And I am speaking here today in defense of Mr. Juan Cruz, not because he asked me to, and not because he is obligated to. I am doing so simply because it is the right thing to do. I am a mother of two former UISD students. I am an attorney and I am a friend of Juan Cruz for over thirty years. Since we were students at Nixon high school. I cannot sit at home anymore knowing that strangers continue to slander and malaise Mr. Cruz in this form without any support from this UISD board or administration, his client of 20 years. Let me remind you who Mr. Juan Cruz is. He is an expert in school law. Professionally he is accomplished, ambitious, generous to all of his employees and their families and above all Juan Cruz, is loyal. On a personal level Mr. Juan Cruz is godfather to 10 of our friends children. He is a devoted son, a cherished

brother, an exemplary uncle and the best and most selfless friend to all who are close to him. Mr. Cruz and I graduated from law school at the same time. But I never had the laser focus he did. To build a law firm from the ground up. I remember clearly, the day he received an offer to work as school law firm in San Antonio. He would go in at 5 am in the morning, and everyday, he was always the last one to leave. He was never satisfied to just do the assignments given to him. Instead, he became an expert in school law. Having authored at least nine published legal articles since 1998. And, he has been a featured lecturer at over six dozen legal seminars and courses in his career. He cultivated his own clients, UISD included. And he does not settle to work the clients given to him or even coach the clients once he left his prior firm. As a personal accolade he can boast that he is the first Hispanic to chair the school law session of the Texas State bar. Under his unmatched expert legal counsel, UISD only has three lawsuits pending. A personal injury case and two employment disputes. Now compare that to other political subdivisions in our city that employ less persons than UISD. LISD also has three pending law suits. The city of Laredo, 34 pending lawsuits with half of UISD's population. And Webb County has 8 pending law suits with less than half of UISD employees. So, what does this mean, it means that Mr. Cruz gave you, solid legal advise that left no room for error or interpretation to convince any attorney that he might actually have a basis for a lawsuit against you. Sometimes however, in Mr. Cruz's case, baseless and groundless case is filed and the person sued like Mr. Cruz has no choice but to defend it, due process. I say this with confidence. Mr. Cruz, is falsely accused of a terrible crime and he will prove that in court. But month after month you have heard those baseless accusations repeated here that disparage, malaise and slander Mr. Cruz's stellar reputation. This lawsuit has nothing to do with his legal representation of UISD. But it was filed as a result of his representation of UISD. And each of you, know what I am talking about except for Mr. Castillo. How do I know, well, I was a parent of the subject group for which Mr. Cruz successfully defended dozens of complaints dating back to 2014 upon your instruction. Mr. Cruz won every single one of those dozens of matters that you instructed him to defend. Now, as Mr. Cruz himself has claimed in his own defense in court. It is that personal vendetta against him, that is the dragging force behind that lawsuit. The truth certainly is not. There is no criminal complaint against Mr. Cruz. There is no employment complaint against him either. Instead there is a civil lawsuit requesting over a million dollars of damages for accusations that have no merit. Back in October, senior district judge Susan Reed, who is presiding over Mr. Cruz's case, did comment in open court about the allegations made against Mr. Cruz.

Mr. Ramiro Veliz informs Ms. Lanese Garcia that her time is over and that he would allow her to finish.

Claudia Lanese Garcia: As a courtesy not to me, M. President but as a courtesy any consideration of the 20 years of service to Mr. Cruz. I respectfully thank you for that. If I could just get a minute more. She said and I quote, directed to the attorney who filed the lawsuit, " I think you were drafting those to you know, crucify the defendant before he has

ever had his day in court publicly". I mean that is what you have done. I mean the pictures, all that little stuff that is in there. That is ridiculous. And now, with UISD's potential termination of Mr. Cruz's legal services you too, are crucifying him. Without giving him at the very least the benefit of the doubt. Much less the opportunity to defend himself. For 20 years he has represented UISD with skill, expert knowledge, integrity, ethics, professionalism and loyalty. And in return, you oust Mr. Cruz. The only expert in the field of school law in the city of Laredo. Because two people for the last three months have repeated what judge Reed called ridiculous.

Ramiro Veliz: Your time is up Ms. Garcia. We appreciate your comments. Thank you very much. Next individual is pastor Jorge Tovar.

Pastor Jorge Tovar: Thank you. Thank you very much for your time, board and superintendent and all who is present here. I stand before you and there is an item. Item VII.F, before I start my three minutes may I have some clarity on that. Is it a motion, or for discussion and possible action.

Aliza Flores: It could be a motion.

Ramiro Veliz: There could be discussion, a motion and a possible vote on it depending on the motion.

Pastor Jorge Tovar: Is this to replace legal counsel, or what is it?

Ramiro Veliz: It would have to be until that item comes up at that point. You are more than welcome to stay. Do you want to comment on it..

Pastor Jorge Tovar: Yes, I want to comment on that. My name for the record is pastor Jorge Tovar, of Jordan River Church, a local church here in Laredo, Texas. It is my concern, we have been (when I say "we", I mean the local spiritual leaders from this city. We have been concerned of the LGBTQ ideology coming into our schools. So, we have been fighting that for the last two or three years. My concern today is that there are allegations of the attorney of UISD that have arose. My question is, what are the procedures that you all take. I just hear a testimony that it is not proven. That his day in court is still to come. We are not accusing, or judging, or condemning a person. We are about the allegations that have been brought up, are serious. The word of God in Romans 13:1 says, everyone must submit to governing authorities, for all authorities come from God. And those in position of authority have been placed there by God. So we believe as spiritual leaders that every one of you are placed by God. Every one of you. With the sole purpose of not doing the right thing, but doing the righteous thing according to Gods word. So anything that you do will reflect on your reputation. So, anything that the school board does reflects on the reputation of UISD, the school district. So, there is a concern of the

allegations that is concerning. So, we are asking you to do what is common to do. What you have practiced in the past to do. If it can be held or tabled as to renew the contract until those allegations are passed and are left behind. And if it has come clean I mean, you proceed with what you know, however you need to do. But, the concern is that the reputation of the school is at stake because of these allegations. So, I am asking you to do the right thing, the righteous thing. And one more scripture to end this is in Proverbs, chapter 29, verse 2; "when the Godly are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked are in power, the people suffer". Therefore, I appeal to you, to reach down to the deepest part of your heart and do the righteous thing according to Gods word. God bless you thank you.

Rosalina Botello: Hello, I'm a bit nervous so please bare with me. I just finished retiring, May 28th with UISD. I worked at the Cherish Center and this man, knows me very well. I just retired but because I love teaching, I love working with UISD and I love working with children, I decided to substitute. And, It is my joy to substitute. And, I am here to support all substitutes so that you know that, I just don't get up and do the job, I do the job because I know that the school district needs us. We are the second hand for the teacher. I get calls from time to time, saying "we need help, can you come?" I say "yes", "just give me like an hour, I will be there". I try to accommodate every school as I can. But because you like the prices of gas, the economy, I would really appreciate if you could give us a little bit of a raise. It is not just because of the money, I do it because of the love of the children. And just to make it a short story; I enjoy working with kids. I worked 25 years in the Del Rio school district. I came here to Laredo, fell in love with a man here. I worked 5 years with LISD, and the rest of the years I finished up here. In total of 33 years that I worked in the education system. And I enjoy working with the education system and I just want you all to take into consideration perhaps some type of incentive to go along with our jobs. I will continue to substitute regardless. Because I love working with the children. Merry Christmas, happy New Year and God bless you all.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. Recognitions

A. United Middle School All Region Orchestra

B. 2021 Top Scholars

*** Lyndon B. Johnson High School**

*** United South High School**

* John B. Alexander High School

* United High School

C. Lyndon B. Johnson High School Band – 2021 1st Division – UIL Contest and 2021 Area Qualifier

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Missed Instructional Days for Antonio Gonzalez Middle School on September 13, 2021
- B. Approval of Monthly Disbursements
- C. Approval of CSP (Competitive Sealed Proposals) as the Method of Procurement for Various Bond Projects
- D. Approval of CSP (Competitive Sealed Proposals) as the Method of Procurement for the Construction of a New Food Production Center for United ISD
- E. Approval of Cooperative Program Contract Related Fees Report for the 2019-2021 Fiscal Year
- F. Approval of Award of Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Design and Construction of Replacement School for Clark Elementary
- G. Approval of CSP 063-2021 Installation of Synthetic Turf Fields at UISD High School Football Fields
- H. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications
- I. Approval of Second and Final Reading of LOCAL Policies in Update 118

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By:	Ricardo Molina and Ricardo Rodriguez
Any Discussion:	By Javier Montemayor, Ricardo Rodriguez

On Item F, The approval of award of the Guaranteed Maximum Price for design and Construction and Replacement school for Clark Elementary; I am not part of the business committee but, did somebody tell me what that price is, Mrs. Benavides.

Laida Benavides - Yes, you should have it in the language.

Ramiro Veliz: Yes, it is here. (Mr. Veliz reads the entire amount: \$19,027,517.00), which includes a project contingency allowance of \$400K, and engineering civil and traffic study fees.

Javier Montemayor - inquires as to when this project will begin.

Mrs. Cordelia Jackson - informs Mr. Montemayor that after tonight's approval a letter will then be awarded to the vendor to secure the materials. Then we begin working on the contract and project will begin as soon as possible she says.

Mr. Veliz - then reads in the schedule of the design and development of the construction project. "The signed documents should be completed by February 2022". "Construction activities are to begin April/May of 2022 and state of completion by June/July of 2023 and opening in August 2023.

Mr. Javier Montemayor - acknowledges the Clark Elementary staff in the audience.

Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez - I also have a question regarding Item VI.C, which the principal is also present Mrs. Adriana Ramirez. And we would like to include for the record what we/ the campus is getting.

Laida Benavides - I believe it is a, new fine arts facility,

Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez - asks Principal Adriana Ramirez and the facilities associate superintendent to approach the podium so that all that is agreed to is included for the record.

Laida Benavides - Yes, a new fine arts facility, a stand alone building, work on the vocational building (as far as bringing up to standard to be able to handle the electrical equipment), also we will be converting the old band hall (once the students are moved into the new band hall), into class rooms. Hopefully we can alleviate. We also want to update the culinary arts area. And the science and vocational building.

Ricardo Rodriguez - Also if I am not mistaken we were going to have restrooms to where the steppers are.

Laida Benavides - We will look into adding the restrooms sir.

Ricardo Rodriguez - Lastly Mrs. Ramirez, I think we wanted to do a bit of a facelift on the front.

Laida Benavides - Yes, the cost of some repairs will be done in-house. Kind of like converting some of the classrooms into a counseling center, I think that was the discussion.

Ricardo Rodriguez - And I think we were going to add some monies to A. Ruiz and United South middle.

Laida Benavides - Yes, those are the next two bullets, and we put these so that we can go out to competitive seal proposals. We will be working on that with Mrs. Cordy Jackson and her staff. There is renovations at least Ruiz elementary schools, that have to do with upgrading some of the bathroom facilities there and the possibly some science classrooms.

Ramiro Veliz - I think the most important thing that we can take from this, is that we are setting everything in motion. Obviously Clark Elementary, we are voting on that, and then all the projects that we have there at United South high, and upgrades to A. Ruiz and United South middle schools.

Ricardo Rodriguez - How soon can we move on this?

Cordelia Jackson - This particular items is the approval of the procurement method. So, once you approve this, we are going to bring to you the approval of the consultants that are going to design these and then we would bid them out and then bring them to you to approve the actual project with timeline.

Francisco Castillo - So, Mrs. Benavides, the items that we are discussing right now, Clark middle and United South high, should there be cost overruns, would you have to go back to the bond committee, in case there is a need to finalize this or is this fixed already.

Laida Benavides - Well, the competitive proposals are not fixed, it is the GMP (guaranteed maximum price) that is fixed. Clark Elementary project which is the bigger amount will be fixed. The GMP's we hope that they are competitive. We will arrange them on whether they will be individual projects or maybe a package and hopefully we get some competitive amounts submitted.

Francisco Castillo - I just want to be clear because of course this is all bond money.

Laida Benavides - This is a combination of bond money, and then we do have an item in the rest of the agenda to help us kind of help the bond program. And let me tell you we have always helped out the bond program to complete it and complete these projects.

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Donations

Superintendent Gonzalez asks the board to graciously accept the following donations:

- **A donation was received by the United South high school cheerleaders in the amount of \$8,000.00 from the USHS cheer booster club.**
- **USHS percussion received a donation of \$1380.00 from the health care institute.**
- **LBJ-9th grade campus the cate dept. received a donation of 11 engines from Kohler motor with an estimated value of \$16,500.00.**
And two donations of under \$1000.00 for a grand total of \$26,380.00.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina & Juan Roberto Ramirez
Any Discussion: NONE
All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Discussion Regarding a Plan of Finance and Consideration and Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of United Independent School District Maintenance Tax Notes, Series 2022; Entering into a Bond Purchase Agreement and a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; Delegating to certain District Administrative Staff and Officials the Authority to Approve all Final Terms of the Notes; and Other Matters Related Thereto

Mrs. Laida Benavides make a recommendation to approve the resolution as presented for authorizing the issuance of the United ISD Maintenance Tax Notes, Series 2022; Including entering into a Bond Purchase Agreement and a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement;

Delegating to certain District Administrative Staff and Officials (being the superintendent, the chief executive officer and the board president) the Authority to Approve all Final Terms of the Notes; and Other Matters Related Thereto

Mrs. Benavides reads in the amount being requested of \$22,500,000.00 and make the board aware that this is to be used the following 2-3 years to complete various projects. Such as the turf for all four high schools, the irrigation systems for LBJ and United South high schools, new furniture for new schools and other projects. She presents Mr. Robert Tijerina to answer any questions the board may have regarding this recommendation.

Robert Tijerina - Good evening for the record Robert Tijerina the school district financial advisor. And quickly; the plan of finance to move forward with the maintenance tax notes, Mrs. Benavides described it perfectly, we cannot add any kind of slab to an existing building, build new projects, add a new floor. All of this, is just renovating, improving existing facilities. So again what we are proposing here is issuing \$22M maintenance tax notes and we are estimating a 20 year payout, an interest rate of about 3.85%. Assuming interest rates kind of go up here in the next couple of months (but if we were in the market today it would be closer to 3.3%). The average annual payment is \$1.6M beginning fiscal year ending 2023. So the first payment would be February 2023 followed by the August 2023. (Mr. Tijerina provides additional dates to start the issuance and the closing dates). The financing team we have issuer, United Independent school district financial advisor. Counsel/paying agent, underwriters as discussed with your staff (Mr. Flores and Mrs. Benavides). If there are any questions for myself or Mr. Dan Martinez.

Ramiro Veliz - Not at the moment Mr. Tijerina, we thank you and appreciate your presence for making the trip out here. So I guess it is a good time considering interest rates are low, to go ahead and proceed.

Robert Tijerina - Yes, the interest rates are low, Omincron actually caused the rates environment to go down. Possible rate increases in 2022 and 2024. So it is the best time to move forward with this particular financing. And again, you are borrowing money that only requires board approval.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Juan Roberto Ramirez, Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By:	Aliza Oliveros, Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion:	NONE
All In Favor:	Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Consideration and Approval of a Resolution Declaring Intention to Reimburse Certain Expenditures

Mrs. Laida Benavides - recommends approval of a Resolution declaring the intent to reimburse certain expenditures (such as furniture for Molina middle school) and free up monies to complete the bond projects.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Seconded By: Aliza Oliveros
Any Discussion: NONE
All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. Approval of Update Tabulation for RFP 042-2021 Milk & Juice that includes adjusted costs due to third party extraordinary changes and inflation costs. This RFP was approved on September 15, 2021 at the Regular Board Meeting

Ramiro Veliz - This is just an adjustment, correct.

Cordy Jackson - Recommendation is to approve the 2-6% adjustment

Ramiro Veliz - They sent a pretty detailed breakdown.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE
All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

E. Discussion and Possible Action to Adjust the Perfect Attendance Exception Program for District Bus Drivers, Bus Monitors and Specific Food Services Personnel

Mr. David Garcia asks the board to consider an exception to the perfect attendance program for bus drivers, bus monitors and other specific food service personnel who choose to take leave on the dates of the 20th and 21st of this month (Dec.2021), that it not count against them. What happened was that the calendar was changed to allow the staff

to work remotely from home. And employees that fall within this category and their perfect attendance if they choose to be absent during those days, it was going to conflict with the present adopted guidelines by the board.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina

Any Discussion: Ramiro Veliz

Ramiro Veliz - I think it is a great idea Mr. Garcia, we have many employees that adhere to this program.

Mr. Garcia make the board aware that financially the employee would lose \$300/per semester or \$600/year.

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

F. Discussion and Possible Action to Retain and Enter Into a Legal Service Contract with General Legal Council

David H. Gonzalez: It is the recommendation by administration that the district retain and enter into a Legal Service Contract with Trautmann and Garcia Attorneys at Law PLLC for the General Legal Council Service. Over the past three months, Mr. Trautmann and Mr. Garcia have managed the district legal affairs and that of district administration and we are comfortable with both Mr. Trautmann and Mr. Garcia and their legal expertise. I have actually worked with both gentlemen, Mr. Trautmann for the last 10 years and Mr. Garcia for the last 5. Together they have nearly 16 years of combined experience in school law and I find them to be trustworthy, competent and professional. Not only are they UISD products but they were also inducted into the District's League of Legends in 2018, which gives me my reason for recommendation to retain and enter into a legal contract for general legal counsel services with Trautmann and Garcia attorneys at Law. In addition, I am recommending to enter into a legal service contract with Castillo, Reyes and Del Rio for all Special Education Legal Matters;

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina

Any Discussion: **Francisco Castillo:** What are you recommending MR. Gonzalez, again, specifically?

David Gonzalez: Sir,

Aliza Oliveros - From what I understand you are recommending, two law firms.

David Gonzalez - Yes ma'am. Trautman and Garcia Attorneys at Law for our general legal council services and for services in Special Education, the Castillo, Reyes and Del Rio.

Francisco Castillo - The reason being? What is the reason? I know that you sponsored this item. And Mr. Veliz you sponsored the item. Can we get the reasons why.

Ramiro Veliz - It is just to add legal service team to our district.

Francisco Castillo - Adding, legal services?

Ramiro Veliz - Right.

Francisco Castillo - So we are still going to retain Mr. Cruz?

Ramiro Veliz - Of course.

Aliza Oliveros - And that was going to be my comment.

Mr. Juan Cruz - requests permission to address the board to thank them for providing him the opportunity to provide some comments. Initially Mr. Cruz thanks his friends that are present for personal support. "From the bottom of my heart, you are my rock and I cannot be here without your support". Says Mr. Cruz to a beloved friend who knew him since he was a teacher at Clark Elementary.

Juan Cruz - To the mislead individuals who showed up today to make public comments against me, as much as I do not know anything about you, you also have no idea who I am. You have read a piece of paper and perhaps have received information that some people with devious intentions to form conclusions about me without ever having the chance to even get to know me. Or hear my truth. I do want to say, that no administrator today should be verbally attacked or assaulted at a community event. All administrators at the district treat people with dignity and respect. And they should be given the same deference. I have always stated to district administrators in our yearly Legal Training, that they should treat others the way they would like to be treated. Which is

why at UISD we have never imposed an adverse employment action on an individual without an investigation. I want to be clear, that I do welcome any investigation by a third party or via the discovery processing court. This much I know, the thicket of lies against me cannot be proven true. The claims against me, and my law firm are without merit and I am very confident that the court process will vindicate me and my law firm.

There are countless lawsuits that are filed in court on a daily basis. In the U.S. we are taught to Serve judgement and let the matter go through the court process. I should be given the same right as everyone else in this community as appropriate due process, instead of a belief allegations that have yet to be proven true. Yet because they are written in a petition, they are thought to be true. As the board chooses a new general counsel tonight, I would like to give special thanks to many, many board members that I have had the pleasure of working with for over 30-20 years, as I have represented UISD. I am proud that even after some board members got off the board, we remained friends. Because I always treated everyone with dignity and respect. The 3 board members that are no longer with us who I do remember fondly, are Hector Rodriguez, my classmate from high school Juan Molina and the late Bill Johnson, who warned me about representing the district, I always held close to heart. Which were "Do not tell me what I want to hear, give us advise that is going to keep us out of trouble". I wish this district a good working relationship with whichever firm you end up with. As sitting in this chair and doing the work Monday through Sunday a I have done, which is no easy task. Dealing with UISD is not only showing up to a board meeting, it is actually doing the homework behind the scenes to be knowledgeable about the latest trends in the education of law. Such as the topics I presented yesterday at the education service center in Corpus Christi on the critical race theory, the legal issues of pulling books from school libraries and the aspect rules on abandonment contract that were passed by the aspect board last Friday, December 10th. If people feel that this job is an easy one, that is because they have not done it and do not understand the scope that it takes to not only keep the client informed of the personal legal issues. But also to remain ahead of the state and nation wide cutting edge education law statues regulations and cases to help the district avoid litigation. It is very easy to criticize a lawyer or law firm but there is a complete lack of understanding of the subject matter. My group of lawyers deals with on a daily basis and I want them to hear, this job is not done by one person. It takes a team of lawyers to be able to deliver high quality legal services to the largest employer in our area, with an array of legal issues. In conclusion, I wish this district the very best and thank everyone that I have met along the way for your support and friendship, God bless you.

Francisco Castillo - I did want to mention one other thing, I do not know if I heard your reason for sponsoring this item Mr. Veliz. I do not know if it is the same as Mr. Gonzalez, he just wants to get it done. I do want to say to the public that we do need to understand that there is due process for everybody. Everybody deserves to be heard. And so, I rest on the rest of the shoulders of the rest of the board members. Ok, thank you.

Javier Montemayor - I just want to add, I have worked with Juan since I have been here

(2010). Together we handled over 100 frivolous claims that were filed by the same individual that filed the one against him. And, if it is a pattern of anything if anything it has been seen as that. It is just malicious. And every single individual that came in here and spoke about that and spoke about Juan, all had some type of previous relationship where they were either disgruntled, denied their grievances, denied or either their wife or them themselves were denied because of the legal work that Mr. Cruz had performed. I find it hard to swallow that, when there is no, law enforcement agency that has ever investigated these claims, when there is no criminal indictment, there is no criminal investigation pending, that any person can come in and file a lawsuit and allege all sorts of allegations against at something like Mr. Cruz, it could happen to any of us. I find it really hard to swallow that. It get us to this point now, where we are going to terminate a 20-year relationship. I understand the concerns, but this is not a UISD issue, this did not happen on UISD premises. Mr. Cruz is not somebody that ever even goes to the campuses, ever attends any of the functions for UISD other than the board meetings. And so, I rest on that. I think the board through Mr. Gonzalez perhaps wants to go a different direction, I recognize that, but Juan, I applaud the work that you have done. You have represented this board and this school district with all honor and respect so, I will rest on that.

Aliza Oliveros - Just for the record, we are giving Mr. Cruz his day in court. We are not here, you know, stamping him guilty because everybody deserves due process. We have to listen to both sides. We always have to listen to the pros and the cons. What we cannot do, is silence people. And that is what I am against, silencing people. So, I am against that letter that went out. But, Mr. Cruz's contract from what I understand it is not being terminated. We are just adding counsel.

Javier Montemayor - Just for clarification the motion is to hire Castillo, Reyes and Del Rio for Special Education services and Trautmann and Garcia for general legal counsel.

All In Favor: Ricardo Rodriguez, Aliza Oliveros, Francisco Castillo, Ramiro Veliz, Ricardo Molina and Juan Roberto Ramirez

Abstain: None

No motion By: Javier Montemayor

MOTION PASSES

G. Approval of Addressing Public Comments not be Limited to Current Agenda Item

Mrs. Oliveros - expresses the reason why she sponsored this action item. Being an employee of Webb County and having sat in the audience and not being able to address concerns because they were not on the agenda is an issue. "We do have what it takes to

control anything that gets out of hand” she says. She reminds us that safeguards have been put in place and that it is the peoples right. “A taxpayer has the right to come in here and disagree with us. They have the right to come in here and tell us they do not like us, they want to replace us. That is their right. They do not however, have the right to come in and disrespect us. But that being said, we cannot censor anyone”.

Motion: **So Move**
Moved By: **Aliza Oliveros**
Seconded By: **Rick Rodriguez**

Any Discussion: **Javier Montemayor**

This item, I think we were approached in the past, we were approached recently again and I supported it. I am about transparency. Everything on top of the table. It does not work any other way. We are a government entity. We represent taxpayers. It is not about us. If they have a grievance to come and air. They certainly use this form to come and do it. Whether it is on the agenda or not. It would be better if it is on the agenda so that I can at least prepare. Or, I can at least know you what to comment. I can know how to respond if need be. But it is open government. That is why I supported this.

Francisco Castillo: So we stand here for you and we do not take kindly to people attacking our district employees. I don't. Particularly if they are personal. And so, that should be addressed appropriately at that time. No one stops anyone from making comments. It is a right. We enjoy it, we like to hear the diverse comments. But never let it be said that we will tolerate personal attacks, confrontations when employees are in place. I will support the employees because they deserve respect. Additionally, as employees in the school district, you also need to speak up at that moment and take actions that protect you. If you need to do it, do it. And you need to also be careful even as we speak among each other, that we address things professionally and in a way, that does not attack a person that should not be attacked. Because as employees you are in many ways subservient to what we want you to do. And so, I want to make sure that, my colleagues understand, no one is being censored. What they are doing is reminded of etiquette and professionalism that should be displayed when speaking before us. That is all, thank you.

Ricardo Molina addresses Mr. Castillo and makes him aware the reason why this item had been set in place.

Aliza Oliveros: You are correct, and we have been attacked before. And I have seen people being escorted by police. And so, I have to be careful when I judge that, is that them attacking me or is that them, freely expressing their opinion of me. If they are telling me something that I absolutely do not like, I signed up for this job, nobody signed up for me. So that is the difference between being censored and attacked. Attacked, we have

been there, we have been through that. But not liking what they say, that is a different story.

Ricardo Molina: Before we would have people escorted all the time. This had been set in place to protect us. This is a good board right now, and we have not had any problems for a while. But, before it used to be pretty bad. (Inaudible)

Francisco Castillo: And not only that but we need to make sure that our staff is protected. We cannot just sit here and say well, it is there problem,

Ricardo Molina: We, have to take care of it.

Francisco Castillo: So, I stand with the staff, especially when they are making those comments. Confrontational, no.

Ricardo Molina: We are here to censor attacks, not censor the people or their comments. And we are here to respect everybody. That is it.

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

H. Approval of Request of Board Members in re: Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Various Campuses and Departments

Mike Garza: I am presenting two additional requests in addition to the information in your packets.

- From Arndt elementary, Ms. Juanita Zepeda, sponsored by Mr. Ricardo Molina, Sr. Perfect attendance Pk-5th grade for lunch at Peter Piper Pizza, for the 3rd, 4th and 5th six weeks for a total of \$3,000.00
- USHS, Mrs. Adriana Ramirez, principal for Varsity football team incentives and luncheon, Sponsored by all board members for a total of \$4,512.63.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

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 7:28 pm.

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

1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsible

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

- 1. Legal Consultation and Consideration of Possible Action with respect to final negotiations of and execution of the Purchase and Sale Agreement Regarding the acquisition of a tract of land approximately 10.77 Acres out of a 53.40-Acre Tract of Land, which itself is out of a tract of Land, described in the deed recorded in Volume 1089, Pages 586-587, Deed Records, Webb County, Texas. The Tract is situated in Porcion 28, E. Martinez, Abstract 241, Webb County, Texas, such property being in the vicinity of the intersection of Saunders Blvd. and Loop 20 in Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The acquisition of said aces will be from L9 BC Properties, LLC.**

Legal Consultation and Consideration pertaining to the possible execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement regarding the possible acquisition of one of the following described properties:

- 2. Legal Consultation and Report on a schematic from AEC Engineering, LLC regarding access through a portion of Santa Monica St. to property adjacent to the Student Activity Center with such adjoining property being south of Santa Claudia St, on UISD property and east of Santa Monica St. on UISD property**

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

1. Discussion and Legal Consultation Regarding Adopting One-Time Employee Retention for Eligible Part-Time District Employees Through the 2021-2022 School Year

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

Mr. Ramiro Veliz: Reconvenes from closed session at 8:37 pm.

Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez requests that Item VII-B be brought back for review or approval.

Mr. Javier Montemayor makes a motion to recall Item VII-B.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Javier Montemayor
Seconded By:	Ricardo Rodriguez
Discussion:	NONE
All In Favor:	Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Mr. Javier Montemayor make a motion to rescind the original vote on Item VII-B.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Javier Montemayor
Seconded By:	Ricardo Rodriguez
Discussion:	NONE
All In Favor:	Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Mrs. Aliza Oliveros makes a motion: To modify and approve the discussion regarding a plan of finance and consideration and approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of United Independent School District Maintenance, Tax Note Series Series 2022; Entering into a Bond Purchase Agreement and a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; Delegating to certain District Administrative Staff and Officials the Authority to Approve all Final Terms of the Notes; and Other Matters Related Thereto as presented by modified Cobon(inaudible) by Winstead PC and Lawfirm of Castillo, Reyes and Del Rio

Motion:	So Move
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Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Discussion: NONE
All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

A. Possible action with respect to the execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement regarding the acquisition of a tract of land of approximately 10.77 acres out of a 53.40-Acre Tract of land, which itself is out of a tract of land, described in the deed recorded in Volume 1089, Pages 586-587, Deed Records, Webb County, Texas. The tract is situated in Porcion 28, E. Martinez, Abstract 241, Webb County, Texas, such property being in the vicinity of the intersection of Saunders Blvd. and Loop 20 in Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The purchase of said acres will be from L91 BC Properties, LLC

Kenny Valls: The recommendation is to continue with a contract negotiations.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Seconded By: Aliza Oliveros

Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Possible Action with respect to the possible execution of a purchase and sale agreement regarding the possible acquisition of one of the following described properties:

- An approximately 12 acre tract of land north of Hoom'em Horns Blvd., Survey 2155, Gus Duran, Original Grantee, Abstract 3282 and out Track "K-1" conveyed to Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd. As described and recorded in Volume 540, Pages 632-634, Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas. Such property is owned by Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd.

Kenny Valls: On the 12 Acre Tract, north of Hook'em Horns, the recommendation is to take no action at this time.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez

Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- An Approximately 12 acre tract east of Bob Bullock Loop and south of East Del Mar Blvd. and west of the intersection of Dream Big Rd. and San Ignacio Rd. Such property owned by Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd.

Kenny Valls: On the Acre Tract east of Bob Bullock Loop and south of East Del mar Blvd., the recommendation is to take no action at this time.

Motion: So Move

Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez

Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- An approximately 12 Acre Tract on the north side of Clark Blvd., east of Chacon Creek and west of Bob Bullock Loop and west of the Walmart Supercenter. Such property is owned by Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd.1

Kenny Valls: With regard to the 12-acre tract, north side of Clark Blvd., east of Chacon Creek and west of Bob Bullock Loop and west of the Walmart Supercenter, the recommendation is to initiate contract negotiations.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez, Aliza Oliveros
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- **An approximately 11.8 Acre Tract at the intersection of Cheyenne Dr. and Dorel Dr. north of Highway 359 and west of Bob Bullock Loop. Such Property is owned by ORV Moreno Land Development, LLC**

Kenny Valls: With respect to the 11.8 acre tract at the intersection of Cheyenne Dr., and Dorel Dr., north of Highway 359 and west of Bob Bullock Loop, the recommendation is to take no action.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- C. **Possible Action with respect to schematic from AEC Engineering, LLC facilitating access through a portion of Santa Monica St. pertaining to the real property adjoining the UISD Student Activity with such properties being south of Santa Claudia St. on UISD property and east of Santa Monica St. on UISD property**

Kenny Valls: The recommendation was to provide no objection to the effort of AEC Engineering and the landowner to present a schematic in a proposition to the City of Laredo with respect to a large agreement between the United Independent School District and the landowner with respect to the re-plating of a section of Santa Monica Blvd.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Aliza Oliveros
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. Approval of Resolution Adopting One-Time Retention Payment For All Currently Active Part-Time District Employees Through the 2021-2022 School Year

A motion is made to adopt a One-Time retention payment for all Eligible Part-Time district Employees through the 2021-2022 School Year in the amount of \$375.00.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Francisco Castillo
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez
Any Discussion: NONE
All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

IX. Adjournment

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Juan R. Ramirez
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business before the United ISD Board of Trustees, this Regular Board Meeting of December 16, 2021 was Adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Ramiro Veliz, III, Board President

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Board Secretary

*Minutes completed by Griselda Rodríguez, Secretary,
Submitted for Approval at the February 2022, Regular Board Meeting.*