



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC** Board Minutes

**SUBMITTED BY:** Alejandra Salinas **OF:** Board Secretary

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** April 20, 2011

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees take action to approve Board Meeting minutes:

Special Called Meeting – March 3, 2011  
Regular Board Meeting – March 23, 2011  
Special Called Meeting – March 28, 2011

**RATIONALE:**

State law requires the Board to prepare and keep minutes of its open meeting. Govt. Code §551.021. The minutes are public records available for public inspection and copying upon request to the Superintendent or his designee. Govt. Code § 551.022.

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION:**

No Budget Impact

**BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:**

This is in compliance and in accordance with Board Policy BE and BE (LOCAL).

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

March 3, 2011

**In Attendance**

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

**Board of Trustees**

Pat Campos – President  
Juan Molina – Vice President  
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Secretary  
Ricardo Molina, Sr. – Parliamentarian – Absent  
Judd Gilpin – Member  
Javier Montemayor – Member  
Ricardo “Rick” Rodriguez – Member

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United I.S.D. was held Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the United ISD Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building Room #2 – 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, TX 78045.

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

**II. An announcement was made by the Board President, Pat Campos, calling the meeting of the United Independent School District to order at 6:08 p.m. The record showed that a quorum of Board members was present, that the meeting had been duly called, and that notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.**

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Action Items:**

**1. Discussion/Action: The Board will review and take possible action on Administrative Recommendations of Phase One of the District’s Cost Cutting Measures**

Mr. Santos stated this is the third meeting held with the Board of Trustees looking at the estimated shortage of funds from the state. He mentioned there will be reassignments and until we get a definite number on the estimated shortage of funds, which could be anywhere between \$5 million to as much as \$50 million, we will continue to meet with staff and the community to inform them and get input as well. He stated that the district has identified savings of about \$19 million in Phase I and Laida Benavides will present more information. He also stated that the ultimate goal at UISD is for everybody to keep their jobs and noted that if the shortage from the state is \$50

million, then we have a crisis but the district will plan to make sure we are able to function even with less funds from the state which also means all of us are expected to do more in our jobs.

Laida Benavides presented the 2011-12 Budget - Proposed Cost Cutting Measures. She explained the incentive that was offered to all employees who were retiring or resigning from the district. Professional employees were offered \$1,000 and paraprofessional and auxiliary employees \$500 to submit their notice of separation by the deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup>. This was done to help the district identify where there will be vacancies for next year and about 70 people took advantage of this incentive.

Judd Gilpin asked if those 70 positions are being eliminated. Mr. Santos explained that those are vacancies for next year which include teachers, paraprofessionals, principals, etc. at campuses and stated some of those may not be filled. Mr. Gilpin requested a projection on savings on these positions. Mr. Gilpin stated he would rather not fill these vacancies than have employees lose their jobs. Mr. Santos responded that once we look at staffing ratios we will know how many of these vacancies will or will not be filled. He also stated that they are estimating 70 teaching positions may not be filled for next year. Mr. Gilpin asked if we can hire on short term contract and Mr. Santos responded yes and we can hire substitutes at teachers pay rate. He also stated that once they look at staffing ratios, the information will be presented to the Board of Trustees.

Juan Roberto Ramirez expressed concern that students will be affected especially in the math and science areas, by not filling those 70 teaching positions and also mentioned we need qualified teachers especially with the new tests coming up. Mr. Santos responded that everything the district is doing will affect students somehow and agreed that Math and Science teachers are difficult to find but also stated we have a good pool of substitutes qualified to cover those areas. Mr. Ramirez asked if we can inform the public that it is the state cutting funds and not the district and Mr. Santos agreed to do so.

Javier Montemayor asked if the \$8 million projected budget savings included cutting overtime now. Laida Benavides responded yes and explained about freezing positions. She also stated that Mr. Eduardo Zuniga was working with the directors in his area to reduce overtime and Finance dept. is reviewing all purchase requisitions before orders are submitted. Mr. Montemayor asked when the reduction in overtime started and Ms. Benavides responded since January and stated as an example Facilities Dept. has different shifts now to avoid overtime. Mr. Santos stated the reduction in overtime started since September. Mr. Montemayor asked if by eliminating permanent subs would they be reducing the quality of education for students. Mr. Santos responded no and stated that we have a large pool of qualified substitutes including students from TAMIU that have graduated but can't find jobs.

Juan Roberto Ramirez read highlighted statement in reference to first year budget shortfall and stated he hopes the state will use their rainy day funds to cover the shortfall. Mr. Santos explained that before this year's budget is approved they will go to the board. Also there is a study being conducted by TASB so they will be looking at secondary staffing and if there is another shortage for next year then they will do the same as far as freezing positions and look at staffing ratios. He also stated that if we can get through this year's budget then it will give us more time to have a good plan of action for next year.

Pat Campos stated she has received calls from parents complaining about the increase in temperature and that kids are getting sick, the computer labs get very hot and asked Mr. Santos to look into that. Mr. Santos responded that he would have Cesar Trevino look at those areas.

Mr. Javier Montemayor asked if items 1 and 3 of Phase Two could be moved to Phase I. After consulting with legal counsel, Sonia Garcia, it was agreed to move those two items to Phase I

Ms. Campos asked for motion to approve Phase I.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Javier Montemayor

Seconded by: Juan Molina

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

## **2. Discussion/Action: The Board will review and take possible action on Administrative Recommendations of Phase Two of the District's Cost Cutting Measures**

Laida Benavides presented information on the cost cutting measures for Phase II.

Mr. Gilpin requested that they wait on approving item 2 of Phase II until Ricardo Molina is present since it deals with his schools. He also requested more information on staffing ratios before approving Phase II.

Phase Two was tabled until further information is presented to the Board of Trustees

Ms. Pat Campos asked for motion to table Phase II.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Judd Gilpin

Seconded by: Juan Molina

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

Mr. Gilpin requested staffing ratio information as soon as possible. Mr. Santos responded we can probably get this information by the end of the month. He explained that boundary changes can have an effect on the staffing numbers but hopefully by the last week of March or 1<sup>st</sup> week of April they can present information to the board.

Before adjourning, there was one person who signed up for public comments.

Mr. Alejandro Obregon addressed the board with concerns about the buses and routes. He explained that buses are getting damaged because of the roads on Hwy. 59 and is concerned that

because of these damages the kids sometimes get to school late especially during rainy days. He has gone to the County to request help to repair these roads but has not gotten any help. He and other families are willing to do the work themselves as long as they get donations from the public and assistance from the district.

Ms. Pat Campos asked Mr. Santos if the district has met with the county before on this issue and Mr. Santos explained they did meet with the county but were told those are private roads and they can't get in to those areas. Mr. Joe Aranda has also visited with the county and Judge Valdez.

Ms. Pat Campos requested that Mr. Santos try and set up another meeting with the county.

#### **V. Adjournment**

**There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Special Called Meeting of March 3, 2011 was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.**

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Pat Campos, President

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Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary

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

March 23, 2011

**In Attendance**

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

**Board of Trustees**

Pat Campos – President  
Juan A. Molina, Jr. – Vice President  
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Secretary  
Ricardo Molina, Sr. – Parliamentarian  
Judd Gilpin – Member  
Javier Montemayor, Jr. – Member  
Ricardo “Rick” Rodriguez – Member

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**III. A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Wednesday, March 23, 2011, in the Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043. President, Pat Campos made an announcement calling the meeting of the United Independent School District to order at 6:05 p.m. The record showed that a quorum of Board members was present, that the meeting had been duly called, and that notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.**

**IV. Public Comments: Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Board Parliamentarian will be the timekeeper and will inform the speaker when they have one (1) remaining minute. No more than three (3) persons will be allowed to speak on any side of an issue. Should there be more than three (3) people who wish to speak on a particular issue they need to select not more than three (3) representatives to speak for them. Comments must address items listed on the agenda. The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether a person who wishes to address the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively. If not, the person shall be directed to the appropriate policy, as noted in BED (LOCAL), to seek resolution before bringing the matter to the Board at a subsequent meeting. 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. When a speaker comes to the podium, please indicate what agenda item you will be addressing. Furthermore, please refrain from mentioning any employee's name and any complaint about any employee's duties or responsibilities should be channeled through the appropriate grievance policy.**

Three people signed up for Public Comments:

1. Miriam Silva – representing Summerwind Subdivision - spoke against the boundary changes. She said she feels discriminated against because UISD has a policy where employees are given a choice to take their children to UISD schools and they don't have a choice. She also mentioned they feel violated

of their rights because UISD employees who live in LISD boundary take their children to UISD schools and don't pay taxes to UISD. Also asked Board members to lead by example and mentioned that they are residents of UISD and they exercise their right to vote and asked board members to fight for their rights as well. Ms. Silva asked them to please take her concerns into consideration before making a decision.

2. Carlos Velasco – representing Summerwind Subdivision – mentioned that schools in north Laredo are of better quality and parents have made a sacrifice to purchase homes in north Laredo so their children can attend these schools. He also spoke about student-teacher ratio and students being moved to schools located in neighborhoods that are 30-60 yrs. old and with these neighborhoods that are aging and deteriorating and blue collar businesses everywhere, the safety of their children is in question. Also, the quality of education is lower and they are not in agreement with their children being in this kind of environment. He also stated that all homeowners in Summerwind have the best of interest in north Laredo and their children should enjoy their rights of being a part of north Laredo. They should not be disenfranchised and be expelled to central Laredo to deteriorating schools which could pose a danger to their children. Mr. Velasco also stated that just one child could go astray and possibly end up with drug abuse, needing counseling or broken families. The more they can prevent that would be better. He asked to consider other options like putting pre-kinder students in another facility to leave the upper grades there or to also consider addition of temporary buildings.

3. Jorge Sobrino – representing Fasken Elementary School – mentioned this is the fifth meeting he attends. His children attend Fasken, they have rights, obligations and they are the future. He mentioned he does not want any more meetings, but a solution. They are working parents, they help their children with their homework and the only thing they want tonight is a solution. He asked the board to move the new incoming students to the other schools and let their children stay. He mentioned they will not leave until they get a solution.

#### **V. Recognitions:**

The Board recognized the following organizations, students and employees for outstanding accomplishments:

- A. Sheriff Martin Cuellar – for his commitment to the safety of the UISD students and employees.
- B. Mr. Fernando Salinas (posthumously) – for his generous donations and commitment to the children of UISD
- C. Mr. Humberto Gonzalez Betancourt – for his support of the migrant families and Migrant Education Program during the holidays and his pledge of \$5,000 for migrant scholarships for the next five years
- D. United High School - The College Board - Exemplary AP Program - Spanish Language
- E. UISD Public Relations Department - TSPRA Conference Awards
- F. UISD Instructional Television (ITV) Department – TSPRA Conference Awards
- G. Region One ESC - Child Find Art Contest- Kimberly Romero, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at United South High School won 1<sup>st</sup> place, Amando Chapa, Art Teacher
- H. Alexander High School - State Swim Competition – Martin Martinez, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Alexander High School won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Regional Swim Meet, Eugene Watson, Coach
- I. Trautmann Middle School Cheerleaders - Southern Cheer National Championship Competition – First Place
- J. United High School Cheerleaders - First Place - Florida National Cheer Competition

## **VI. Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements**
- B. Approval of Tax Refund**
- C. Renewal of District Paid Life Insurance Program**
- D. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications**
- E. Approval of Official Ballot to cast votes for Region One ESC Board of Directors for 2011**
- F. Approval of Board Travel for the Month of March 2011**
- G. Approval of Requests from Ricardo Rodriguez for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for United South High School for \$3,222 , Killam Elementary for \$7,000 and Salinas Elementary for \$6,708.56**
- H. Approval of Requests from Javier Montemayor, Jr. for Use of Board of Trustees discretionary Funds for United Middle School for \$6,500 and Clark Middle School for \$5,733**
- I. Approval of Request from Ricardo Rodriguez and Juan Antonio Molina, Jr for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for LBJ High School for \$32,867**
- J. Approval of Employment Contracts, Addendums, Letters of Assurance for 2011-2012 School/Work Year**
- K. Approval of Application for Low Attendance Day Waiver for Thursday, February 3, 2011**
- L. Approval of Application for a Missed Instructional Day for Friday, February 4, 2011**
- M. Approval of Request for Maximum Class Size Waiver Exception for 2010-2011 School Year**
- N. Adoption of Elementary Textbooks for 2011-2012 - Pre-Kinder, Handwriting, Spelling, ELA/SLA and ESL**
- O. Adoption of Secondary Textbooks for 2011-2012 - Spelling, ELA 6-8, ESL 6-8, ELA I-IV**
- P. Second Reading of Policy EIC (LOCAL): Academic Achievement - Class Ranking**
- Q. Second Reading of Policy FDA (LOCAL): Admissions - Interdistrict Transfers**
- R. Second Reading of Policy FM (LOCAL): Student Activities**
- S. Second Reading of (LOCAL) Policies in TASB Update 89**

**Motion:** Mr. Juan Antonio Molina advised the Board that the Business and Instructional Committee Members had met and were recommending the approval of the above items:

**Moved by:** Juan A. Molina  
**Seconded by:** Juan Roberto Ramirez  
**Discussion:** Juan Cruz – on Item E, for clarification on the casting of the votes for Region One Board of Directors, he stated votes would go to Dora Ruiz as agreed at the Business Committee Meeting. Juan Roberto Ramirez asked to see the ballots and Mr. Juan Cruz read the names of the individuals on the ballots and mentioned they can also vote individually. The ballots were handed to the board



members for them to vote. Mr. Cruz stated they can vote by affirmation meaning all votes go to same person or they can vote individually. Board decided to vote individually. Mr. Cruz stated all items will be approved with the exception of Item E which would be voted on individually by the board members.

In Favor: Unanimous

## **VII. Items for Individual Consideration**

### **A. Board Minutes**

#### **1. Regular Board Meeting – February 16, 2011**

Motion: So move

Motion by: Juan A. Molina  
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez  
Discussion: None  
In Favor: Unanimous

### **B. Donations**

Mr. Santos read the donations into the minutes and requested that the Board accept the generous donations to UISD totaling \$2,599.72.

Motion: So move

Moved by: Juan Roberto Ramirez  
Seconded by: Juan A. Molina  
Discussion: None  
In Favor: Unanimous

### **C. Approval of 2011-2012 District School Calendar**

Mr. David Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, stated that administration had presented different calendar options with details identified necessary to establish a calendar for the District. He stated employees were allowed to vote on the different calendar options. The votes were cast and information was received with votes totaling 39 for Option I and 19 for Option II. He requested that the Board approve calendar option I.

Motion: So move

Moved by: Javier Montemayor  
Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez  
Discussion: None  
In Favor: Unanimous

### **D. Approval of Proposed Boundary Changes for School Year 2011-2012**

Motion: Judd Gilpin requested to table Item VII - D

Moved by: Judd Gilpin  
Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez  
Discussion: None  
In Favor: Unanimous

**E. Consideration and Possible Approval of recommendation to Consolidate United D.D. Hachar Elementary School into Juarez-Lincoln Elementary School**

Motion: Ricardo Molina requested to table Item VII - E

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

Juan Cruz, Legal Counsel, asked if these will be brought back at a future board meeting and Ms. Campos responded yes.

**F. Adoption of Resolution re: Rainy Day Fund**

Mr. Juan Cruz stated there is a meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> coordinated by the Texas Association of School Boards that board members from UISD will be attending. He stated the purpose of the resolution is to have board members meet with legislators on items that they stand behind. He explained that the rainy day fund has a fund of \$9 billion dollars in cash reserves. The resolution states that UISD Board stands behind and suggests that the legislature, including Governor Perry, use the rainy day funds in order not to make the deep cuts that are being disseminated through the news media. He recommended that the Board approve the resolution concerning the Rainy Day Fund.

Motion: So move

Moved by: Judd Gilpin  
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina  
Discussion: None  
In Favor: Unanimous

Mr. Juan Roberto Ramirez asked legal counsel how long they have to make a decision on the boundary changes. Mr. Santos explained that the sooner the better so that administration can start to look at staffing on those two items that were tabled.

Ms. Campos requested a Special Called Meeting for next week. Juan Roberto Ramirez agreed. Mr. Javier Montemayor stated he personally would have liked for the board to make a decision tonight. He stated that the teachers at the campuses where students are being moved to are excellent teachers. He also stated he studied the numbers and TAKS scores at these campuses and the curriculum programs offered are excellent and he sees no issues or any effect on the education of the children. He mentioned the District and the schools are recognized and urged the board to hold a Special Called Meeting as soon as possible.

Mr. Ricardo Molina commented that the District is making these boundary changes to save money. He stated that money is tight and that there is no favoritism between north and south. His schools in Rio Bravo are also being affected by these changes but we have to do what is best for the District.

A parent interrupted the meeting and Ms. Campos explained that they were already allowed their time to speak during public comments.

Mr. Juan Cruz addressed the parents and stated that as per Board Policy, no signs are allowed inside the boardroom.

Mr. Juan Roberto Ramirez agreed to hold a meeting as soon as possible so as not to put the parents or administration on hold any longer. He suggested that new students coming in 2011-2012 be moved to other campus and that they leave the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to finish at their present campus and that this would have to be implemented district-wide from now on. He suggested for them to make a decision tonight.

Mr. Ricardo Molina stated that is what they have been trying to do for two months already but every time there is a meeting, other concerns come up. He also stated that Mr. Mike Garza has already presented information on savings to them and now the District has to do what they have to do other wise every time they have a meeting, other concerns will come up and no agreement will be reached.

Ms. Pat Campos moved on to Item VII-G because they already voted on this issue to have a Special Called Meeting at a later date.

**G. Adoption of Resolution re: Proposed Legislation that would assist Public School Districts affected by State Budget Cuts**

Motion: So move  
Moved by: Javier Montemayor  
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina  
Discussion: None  
In Favor: Unanimous

**VIII. Closed Session: Board adjourned into Closed Session at 7:09 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act:**

**A. 551.071 Consultation with the Board's Attorney**

1. Proposed settlement in the matter of UISD v. Carlos Gutierrez & Heirs of Guadalupe Soto Gutierrez, Cause No. 2008-TXA-000706-D1

**B. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney  
551.074 Discussion of Personnel or to Hear Complaints against Personnel**

1. Discussion, including consultation with legal counsel, re: Grievance Hearing of Mario Molina
2. Discussion, including consultation with legal counsel, re: proposed non-renewal of classroom teacher(s) term contract(s)
3. Consultation with Legal Counsel re: Resignation Agreement and Release in the matter of UISD v. Gilbert Sanchez, TEA Docket No. 058-LH-0211

**C. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney  
551.072 Discussion on the Purchase, Exchange, Lease or Value of Real Property  
Discussion of Proposals for Sale and/or Acquisition of Real Property**

1. Report on the status of the feasibility study pertaining to a 10 acre tract of land located in the Las Blancas Subdivision, Unit 2, located in Webb County, Texas comprising all of Lot 2, Block 1, (approximately 3.1305 acres, and adjoining property in the approximate amount of 6.86 acres) to be conveyed by Home Mart, Inc.
2. Consideration of acquisition and possible negotiations pertaining to a 20 Acres of unplatted property, for school sites located in the Las Blancas Subdivision, and being Lot 1, Block 1, Las Blancas Subdivision – West, Unit 1, along Highway 359 to be conveyed by Home Mart, Inc.
3. Report on the status of negotiations pertaining to a Purchase and Development Agreement with EG Ranch, Ltd. pertaining to 40 acres located off Hwy. 359, south of City of Laredo Landfill.

4. Report on the status of ongoing negotiations and consideration of terms of conveyance and development pertaining to a tract of up to 28 Acres of unplatted property, in Cuatro Vientos Norte located east of Ejido Street and at the termination of Avenida de Mexico to be conveyed by Laredo Four Winds, Ltd.
5. Report on the status of ongoing negotiations and consideration of terms for consideration of conveyance of up to 35 acres of unplatted and undeveloped property, with such property located south of FM1472 and adjacent to Killam Boulevard and Aquero Drive. The property to be conveyed by International Bank of Commerce
6. Report on the status of negotiations pertaining to a Development Agreement to a tract or tracts of up to 165 Acres of unplatted and undeveloped property, for several schools with such property located on Las Tiendas Road, west of IH-35 off Farm to Market Road 1472. The property to be conveyed by Las Tiendas Development, Ltd.
7. Report on status of negotiations and consideration of terms of purchase pertaining to a 33.64 acre tract of unplatted property, located north of the existing Student Activity Center to be conveyed by Hurd Ranch Company, Ltd.

**D. 551.074 Discussion of Personnel or to Hear Complaints Against Personnel  
551.076 Considering the deployment, specific occasions for, or implementation of security personnel or devices**

1. Nye Elementary Student Activity Fund
2. Accounts Payable Cycle
3. UHS Construction Close-Out
4. Status of On-going Audits

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

- A.** Action re: propose non-renewal of classroom teacher(s) term contract(s) and authorization to Superintendent to send notice to employee(s)

Mr. Roberto Santos stated his recommendation is to propose the non-renewal of contract for Mr. Elias Montemayor for the reasons stated in closed session and to authorize him to send notice to Mr. Montemayor.

Motion:	So move
Moved by:	Juan A. Molina
Seconded by:	Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion:	None
In Favor:	Judd Gilpin, Ricardo Molina, Pat Campos, Juan A. Molina, Ricardo Rodriguez, Juan Roberto Ramirez
Abstain:	Javier Montemayor

- B.** Action re: USD v. Carlos Gutierrez & Heirs of Guadalupe Soto Gutierrez, Cause No. 2008-TXA-000706-D1

Mr. Juan Cruz stated there is no recommendation, no action to be taken on this item at this time.

**C. Action re: Grievance of Mario Molina**

Motion: Judd Gilpin moved to deny the grievance of Mario Molina as discussed in closed session

Moved by: Judd Gilpin  
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina  
Discussion: None  
In Favor: Unanimous

**D. Action re: Resignation Agreement and Release in the matter of UISD v. Gilbert Sanchez, TEA Docket No. 058-LH-0211**

Mr. Juan Cruz stated the recommendation on this item is to approve the Resignation Agreement and Release in the matter of UISD v. Gilbert Sanchez, TEA Docket No. 058-LH-0211 as discussed in Closed Session

Motion: So move

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

- E.** Discussion and possible action concerning the feasibility study pertaining to a 10 acre tract of land located in the Las Blancas Subdivision, Unit 2, located in Webb County, Texas comprising all of Lot 2, Block 1, (approximately 3.1305 acres, and adjoining property in the approximate amount of 6.86 acres) to be conveyed by Home Mart, Inc.
- F.** Discussion and possible action to enter into negotiations and possible execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement and Purchase Order pertaining to a 20 acre tract of land located in the Las Blancas Subdivision, and being Lot 1, Block 1, Las Blancas Subdivision – West, Unit 1, along Highway 359 to be conveyed by Home Mart, Inc.
- G.** Discussion and possible action to enter into a Purchase and Development Agreement pertaining to 40 acres located off Hwy. 359, South of City of Laredo Landfill
- H.** Discussion and possible action to continue ongoing negotiations and possible execution of conveyance and development pertaining to a tract of up to 28 Acres of unplatted property, for an elementary school site in Cuatro Vientos Sur and Cuatro Vientos Norte located east of Ejido Street and at the termination of Avenida de Mexico to be conveyed by Laredo Four Winds, Ltd.
- I.** Discussion and possible action to continue ongoing negotiations and consideration of terms for consideration of conveyance of up to 35 acres of unplatted and undeveloped property, with such property located south of FM1472 and adjacent to Killam Boulevard and Aquero Drive. The property to be conveyed by International Bank of Commerce
- J.** Discussion and possible action to enter into negotiations pertaining to a development agreement to a tract or tracts of up to 165 Acres of unplatted and undeveloped property, for several schools with such property located on Las Tiendas Road, west of IH-35 off Farm to Market Road 1472. The property to be conveyed by Las Tiendas Development, Ltd.
- K.** Discussion and possible action to enter into negotiations and consideration of terms of purchase pertaining to a 33.64 acre tract of unplatted property, located north of the existing Student Activity Center to be conveyed by Hurd Ranch Company, Ltd.

Mr. Juan Cruz stated his recommendation on items E, F, G, H, I, J, K is to authorize legal counsel and district administration to continue negotiations on said properties as listed on the board agenda.

Motion: So move

Moved by: Juan A. Molina  
Seconded by: Javier Montemayor  
Discussion: None  
In Favor: Unanimous

**X. The Board returned from Closed Session at 8:30 p.m. No action was taken in Closed Session.**

Before adjourning, Mr. Santos requested to have a Special Called Meeting on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 at the SAC to address two very important issues. One item is the boundary changes being recommended and second item is the consolidation of United D.D. Hachar and Juarez Lincoln.

Ms. Campos agreed to schedule that meeting.

Mr. Ricardo Molina addressed the public to thank the board members and staff members for their support during the time he was feeling under the weather.

**XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2011, was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

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Pat Campos – President

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Juan Roberto Ramirez – Secretary

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

March 28, 2011

### **In Attendance**

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

### **Board of Trustees**

Pat Campos – President  
Juan Molina – Vice President  
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Secretary (Arrived at 6:12 p.m.)  
Ricardo Molina, Sr. – Parliamentarian  
Judd Gilpin – Member  
Javier Montemayor – Member  
Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez – Member

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United I.S.D. was held Thursday, March 28, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the United ISD Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building Room #2 – 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, TX 78045.

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**II. An announcement was made by the Board President, Pat Campos, calling the meeting of the United Independent School District to order at 6:04 p.m. The record showed that a quorum of Board members was present, that the meeting had been duly called, and that notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting 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 are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Board Parliamentarian will be the timekeeper and will inform the speaker when they have one (1) remaining minute. No more than three (3) persons will be allowed to speak on any side of an issue. Should there be more than three (3) people who wish to speak on a particular issue they need to select not more than three (3) representatives to speak for them. Comments must address items listed on the agenda. The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether a person who wishes to address the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively. If not, the person shall be directed to the appropriate policy, as noted in BED (LOCAL), to seek resolution before bringing the matter to the Board at a subsequent meeting. 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. When a speaker comes to the podium, please indicate what agenda item you will be addressing. Furthermore, please refrain from mentioning any employee's name and any complaint about any employee's duties or responsibilities should be channeled through the appropriate grievance policy.**

Three people signed up for Public Comments:

Miriam Silva – Mentioned she is basically concerned about the budget deficit currently in the state of Texas and is attending this meeting to fight for the rights of their kids. Ms. Silva mentioned she submitted an open records request to UISD and was provided a list of UISD employees currently taking their kids to UISD schools which they don't belong to and also LISD residents taking their kids to UISD schools. She mentioned this number is the same as the number of Summerwind residents that you want to move to another school and does not think it is fair that LISD residents can take their children to UISD schools when they are not paying taxes to UISD. They, as parents and residents of UISD, are willing to help with the budget deficit in any way possible. They are paying taxes to UISD and they deserve to be treated fairly and with respect.

Carlos Velasco – Spoke on behalf of Summerwind residents and said they are opposed to the boundary changes because of some problems they have seen which in the future can affect the safety of their children and also possibly the quality of education and the standardized testing. He mentioned it's only 23 students that are being moved and does not think this would make such a big impact on the district. He also mentioned poor growth management in the district and city planners. He is not in agreement that other students that don't belong to UISD are taking the place of students who do belong there. He feels employee policies should be analyzed or revised so that Summerwind children, who do belong in that school, are not affected. Mr. Velasco requested from the board the cost saving calculations with this boundary change.

Jorge Sobrino – Addressed the Board and told them that when they are ready to make a decision to please remember the rights of the children and that no political or economic issue should damage the future of the children. He mentioned that it's up to the Board to see these children succeed. He mentioned he and other parents have attended other meetings and have expressed their opinions and asked the board to make the right and fair decision.

#### **V. Action Items:**

##### **1. Consideration and Possible Approval of Recommendation to Restructure Full day Pre-Kindergarten Program to Half day Pre-Kindergarten Program with the exception of Juarez-Lincoln & Kennedy-Zapata.**

Mr. Santos addressed the Board and recommended they approve this item based on the shortage of state funding we are facing. He also mentioned if we do get a grant to fund this program, then we can come back and make another recommendation, but at this point we are not sure that state will be able to fund the full day pre-kindergarten and the savings would be \$1.4 million each year.

Motion: So move

Moved by: Juan Roberto Ramirez

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion: Javier Montemayor asked for how long this would be. Mr. Santos said this would be for about one year and also mentioned that if finances improve to the point where we can afford it, this would be one of the first programs to be reinstated. Mr. Montemayor asked if this would start in the 2011-2012 school year and Mr. Santos responded yes. Mr. Juan Molina asked if all this depends on the state funding and Mr. Santos responded



yes and also said that if our finances are not as bad as we think its going to be then we will come back and reinstate this program. Mr. Santos mentioned this is not good for the students but at this point, based on the information that we have and because of the finances, we have to move forward with this recommendation

In Favor: Unanimous

## **2. Approval of Proposed Boundary Changes for School Year 2011-2012 and Implementation of Option 1 or Option 2.**

Mr. Mike Garza addressed the Board and explained the three options being presented for approval. Option 1 recommends that all students affected by the boundary changes will be moved to the new campuses. Option 2 is recommending that current 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders be allowed to stay at their current campus as transfer students with no transportation provided to them. Also, any new students affected by these boundary changes, will attend the new campuses. One of the issues with this option, if the Board decides to go that route, is the transportation which is needed in certain areas. He feels this issue would be a burden for those individuals. And Option 3 is if the Board decides not to approve the boundary changes.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina moved to vote for Option 1

Seconded by: Juan Molina

Discussion: Juan Roberto Ramirez asked Mr. Mike Garza to explain Option 2 as far as expenses are concerned. Mr. Garza explained that he can only give him information on number of students affected. He mentioned for Option 2, instead of 250 students being affected district-wide there would only be about 170. Mr. Garza also mentioned that for future boundary changes that the district makes, this option would have to be offered because it would be an issue with the parents saying if we did it this year then why not for future boundary changes. He also stated that any change we make would have an impact on the budget and that we are trying to avoid having extra costs either by adding teaching staff or portable buildings. Mr. Javier Montemayor asked what would be the monetary effect to the district if boundary changes are not approved. Mr. Garza explained the reason we do boundary changes is for cost avoidance and not necessarily a savings. He stated for example in the case of Col. Santos Benavides, if we do not make these changes, we would have to add a couple of teachers and possibly a portable building. And in the case of Fasken, we would eliminate some teachers and possibly some portable buildings and we would have a net negative effect by reducing staff so we would actually cut into the deficit that we currently have.

Mr. Santos mentioned that at Perez Elementary, because of high enrollment, we would also have to add portable buildings and stated that Mr. Garza is right as far as cost avoidance is concerned not only this year but it will also have a major effect in the next couple of years if we continue to add portable buildings. Mr. Santos mentioned that every

portable building runs about \$100,000 by the time they do the sidewalks and the cabling and all other necessary items.

In Favor: Unanimous

### **3. Consideration and Possible Approval of recommendation to Consolidate United D.D. Hachar Elementary School into Juarez-Lincoln Elementary School.**

Mr. Santos addressed the Board and stated that due to finances, they are recommending the consolidation of these two campuses. He stated that these two schools in Rio Bravo have done extremely well and he thanked the campus principals for that. He also mentioned that the problem is that these are small campuses with student enrollment under 400 and with the consolidation of these two schools the district is looking at a savings of about \$1.7 million. Mr. Santos also stated that it is a difficult decision to make and it's difficult for teachers and staff also but said that the district is also trying to avoid laying off any employees. He stated that with this consolidation, the district will save some money and still deliver the instruction needed for these students.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina

Seconded by: Juan Molina

Discussion: Mr. Molina mentioned that all these things that we are going through right now, as far as our expenses and trying to avoid expenses, are very hard for the Board but one thing that has come up in the last couple of months is saying that one school is better than another. He stated that this Board has worked real hard to spread the wealth of knowledge and expenses throughout the school district and he believes that all schools, no matter if in the east, west, north or south, are very capable of instructing and graduating our kids.

Mr. Santos agreed with Mr. Molina and mentioned that this past year United was recognized as a district. He mentioned it was a combination of all our campuses doing extremely well with exemplary campuses throughout the district. He also agreed that staff is as good at any campus and students are getting quality education.

Javier Montemayor asked if with this consolidation we are going to close U.D.D. Hachar completely. Mr. Santos explained that at this time they have a special program for the parents in that area and working closely with L.C.C. and another reason we intend to keep U.D.D. Hachar open is the Pre-Kinder and Kinder program. Only one wing will be used for this program and the rest of the wings will be shut down so there will be a cost savings in that area and at the same time continue to provide services to our community. Mr. Montemayor asked about security being provided and Mr. Santos explained that there will be a security guard provided at that campus as in all campuses and there is also UISD police stationed at Salvador Garcia M.S. if needed.

Juan Roberto Ramirez stated he wanted the public to know that UISD is a recognized district and has quality performance in curriculum and that there is no such thing that one school is lesser than the other. He also

praised the people leading the school district and providing our students with good quality education.

Mr. Santos mentioned it is through the leadership of our Board and also commented that all principals, teachers, staff and instructional staff are second to none and extremely capable. Also all other departments, food services, transportation, shipping and receiving, they all do their part in making sure buildings are ready, that students are fed, that instruction is going on and at the end of the day you see the end results at all our campuses.

In Favor:

Unanimous

#### **V. Adjournment**

**There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Special Called Meeting of March 28, 2011 was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.**

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Pat Campos, President

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Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary