

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees

Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District

The Board of Trustees met to conduct the Regular Meeting on February 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm in John H. Harrell Auditorium, 1 Coyote Trail, Uvalde, TX 78801.

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

A. A roll call and establishment of a quorum.

Members present: Luis Fernandez, Rob Fowler, Laura Perez, Javier Flores, Anabel White, Cal Lambert, JJ Suarez

Staff present: Ashley Chohlis, Anne Marie Espinoza, Cash Keith, Pam Bendele, Norma De la Fuente, Zeke De la Fuente, Niki Henderson, Jennifer Griffin, Victor Baron, Dr. Hector Lopez, Priscilla Sanders, Margaret Tarski, Christy Perez, Sart Perez, Jorge Cerna, Patricia Merlos, Mario Rodriguez, Karen McCarty, Russell Lee, Wade Miller, Sandra Gonzales, Rodney Harrison, Dr. Bryan Perez, Weson Clark, Dr. Andrea Guerrero

Guests present: Frances Mireles, Frank Mireles, Nicole Ogburn, Jeanelle Ortiz, Ariana Castro, Juan L., Alynna House, Mia Aguilar, Stephanie Castro, Adrian Aguirre, Lorena Flores, Tracey Parker, Carlos Arce, William Klein, Christina and Diego Ovalle, Kelly McCL, Clarissa Menchaca, Elizabeth Phillips, Hannah Mc Caslin, Evelyn Torres, Maria Perez, Travis Johnson, Trevor Waddell, Anthony Juarez, Monica Martinez, Ramon Castro, Erika Ayala Munoz, Ava Vaughan

Media present: Sofi Zeman (ULN)

B. Moment of Silence

There was a moment of silence.

C. Invocation was led by Rev. David Bachelor, Uvalde Methodist Church.

D. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas were led by Cadet Seaman Apprentice Miguel Rivera and Cadet Petty Officer third class Joshua Sanchez.

E. Board Recognition

BBQ Cook-Off Teams Qualify for State

UHS BBQ Team Smokin' Yotes consists of the following:

Jaxon Parker

Devere Willis

William Klein

Wyatt Hughes

Under the leadership of

Charlie Black, Katrina Besa and Justin Urrabazo

UHS Saucy Lady Lobos consists of the following:

Mia Aguilar

Grayce Castillon

Mia Castro

Akira Castro
Arianna Castro
Adison Cruz
Carolina Flores
Alynn House
Abigail Lopez
Hannah McCaslin
Under the leadership of:
Stephanie Castro and Anika Barbosa

Business Professionals of America State Qualifiers

Ava Vaughan 1st Place Advanced Spreadsheets
Evelynn Torres 1st Place Medical Coding
Reilly Mize 1st Place Health Administrative Procedures
Clarissa Menchaca 2nd Place Fundamental Desktop Publishing
Elizabeth Phillips 3rd Place Fundamental Spreadsheets
Hope Dube 3rd Place Business Law and Ethics
Ava, Reilly, Elizabeth, and Hope 3rd Place Administrative Support Team
Under the leadership of:
Roy Torres: rtorres4187@uvaldecisd.net

Construction Management II Class SkillsUSA State Qualifiers

The UHS Construction Management Team includes:

Luis Juarez
Ryan Menchaca
Trevor Waddell
Under the leadership of:
Albert Nevarez

Mariachi State Festival

Lezley Boites
Isabella Bueno
Daniel Chavez
Nicolas Avila
Grayce Castillon
Luis De La Cruz Reyna
Aiden Hernandez
Sophia Talavera
Jayro Del Valle
Kamila Martinez
Mayumi Montiel Roman
Nikte Montiel Roman
Arianna Ovalle
Tommie Guerrero
Angelina Brooke Jones
Jeanelle Ortiz

Under the leadership of:
Mariachi Director Albert Martinez
Assistant Director Daniel Perez

2. Open Forum

Nicole Ogburn: Consider more mental health days

3. Superintendent's Report

1. Safety & Security Update

a. DOJ Report Response to UCISD Recommendations

- i. Senior Staff has completed their first Incident Command System (ICS) Course through FEMA. ICS is a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective.
- ii. Chief Gutierrez is looking into the process and requirements for UCISD PD to obtain accreditation.
- iii. School Safety & Security Meeting - February 22nd, 2:00 PM, Harrell Auditorium
 1. Meeting agenda will be posted in the same manner as our board meetings, 72 hours in advance and will be open to the public. Items not appropriate for public discussion, such as details of emergency operations plans, will be listed as closed session items as necessary.
 2. Sub-committees
 - a. Requirements: documented quarterly meetings prior to quarterly School Safety & Security Meeting, documented group communication method, appropriate MOUs, documented plan including roles & responsibilities, as appropriate.
 - b. UCISD staff will be responsible for establishing contact and appropriate requirements: Chohlis-Joint Command sub-committee, Chief Gutierrez-Operations sub-committee, Ms. Espinoza-Joint Information sub-committee, Mr. Baron-Reunification sub-committee, Mr. Keith & Ms. Henderson-Liaison/Notification sub-committee, Mr. DeLaFuente-Logistics sub-committee.
 - c. The Goal: to work through the appropriate UCISD recommendations by sub-committee and systematically put best practice measures in place for the district. In a year from now, I want UCISD to be the gold standard for emergency response planning/preparedness.

b. Response to the weapon being found on MJH Campus

- i. First, I want to apologize for not addressing the situation faster and more directly. Second, thank you to everyone who reached out to me and gave me the opportunity for open dialogue. In those conversations you truly helped understand what parents and caregivers want and need from me as a leader when those types of issues arise. I appreciate your honesty and I will work hard to earn your trust with every word and deed. As someone who came here with a heart for service, I hope that you will continue to give me feedback both when I hit the mark and when I don't so I can continue to tailor my leadership to my new community.
- ii. As far as what we were doing about it:
 1. The 2 students directly involved will not be back on campus this year and a portion of next year.
 2. The district PD filed criminal charges on the parent from whom the weapon was unknowingly obtained.
 3. Students who saw it and didn't report it, were disciplined.
 4. I want to be clear that UCISD will take full advantage of our administrative and legal rights to hold accountable individuals who create dangerous situations for our students and staff.
 5. Ms. Merlos will be discussing possible campus solutions such as uniforms, clear bags, etc. with her site based decision making committee.

6. Mr. DeLaFuente, Chief Gutierrez, and I are looking at weapons detection systems that may be feasible.
- c. Removal of microwaves, refrigerators, heaters and coffee makers
 - i. These items are ultimately a safety hazard for students, staff, our facilities, and our financial stability.
 - ii. The electric load these items put on our elderly electrical systems is a safety concern.
 - iii. With 380 teachers, and conservative use, these items likely cost the district \$60,000 worth of electricity annually. Over the course of 5 years, that's \$300,000, in 10 years, it's \$600,000. Little things add up.
 - iv. We are looking at where to install additional large refrigerators, coffee makers, and additional microwaves in common areas.
 - v. That being said, we will consider cases by individual need.
2. Update on Construction of the New School
 - a. UMFF executed an agreement with Satterfield & Pontikes as of 2/7/24 and a notice to proceed with construction as of 2/8/24. There will be a pre-construction meeting on 2/15/24 with all the people who will be involved with construction. We expect construction to begin (fencing, placement of trailers, etc.) the week of February 19th.
 - b. The foundation has contracted with a grant writer to explore government grant funding opportunities and will be presented with a plan from the grant writer February 26th.
 - c. The foundation is continuing to collect letters of support that will be included in a Community Project Funding application through the House appropriations committee. The funding portal opened March 10 last year, so we want to be ready if and when it opens this year for FY25.
 - d. Dr. Miller, Beverly, and I had a meeting with the Crescent Growth Capital team last week to discuss how a new market tax credit structure would work with the foundation, school district, and another entity that would need to be set up to make it all work. CGC is putting together some draft documents and we will be meeting with President Fernandez, Ms. Bendele (the UCISD CFO), in the next couple of weeks to discuss it in more detail.
 - e. Now that the construction contract is signed, the UMFF will be meeting with George Pontikes about Houston fundraising opportunities.
 - f. UMFF is working up new marketing materials that will be shared on the website, social media, meetings, and other events. For example, I'm traveling to DC at the end of the month and need new materials to share with people who are involved in the appropriations process who I'm working on meeting with.
3. Realignment Decision
 - a. I know everyone has been awaiting the decision regarding whether we will realign grade levels/campuses or not. I appreciate everyone's willingness to give us feedback as we contemplate the matter. I want to stress that while from the beginning, there were more pros than cons for realignment, the human factor weighs heavily on my heart, therefore this was not an easy or predetermined decision. I make every decision with thoughtful consideration of the moral obligation I owe everyone I lead. From the kids to the teachers and parents, to the greater community, I fully understand the decisions I make must be made with a vision for the future of each student and our community in mind.

Do scores factor in? Yes, they're a factor because we want our kids to have the knowledge and skills necessary to graduate from UCISD and be college, career or military ready. Does money factor in? Yes, because we're obligated to our taxpayers to be fiscally responsible so the district and its facilities are operational into the future securing the education of generations to come. Have no doubt, the biggest consideration is what's best for the children themselves.

Ultimately, I have decided it is best for our students to move 6th grade to MJH, and to consolidate 3rd & 4th grades at Uvalde ES with 5th grade at the Flores ES Campus. This decreases a transition in our system for students, provides more opportunity for vertical curriculum alignment, creates space for Crossroads and DAEP to be in one place and gives us the opportunity to open a JJAEP, strengthens our

fine arts programs by allowing our 6th grade students readily available access to art, band, and choir classes, and creates an opportunity for cost avoidance in some areas thereby increasing our financial stability.

- b. These shifts will not affect 6th grade at Batesville School nor UDLA.
- c. We will be having a staffing discussion with Ms. Christy Perez, who will be the principal of Uvalde ES at the Flores Campus, on February 20th. At that time we will present her with the projected student numbers, staffing plan, and timeline for execution. After that, She will schedule a meeting with all staff and roll out the plan.

Dr. Bryan Perez has done an outstanding job and we are all thankful to him for his exceptional leadership at Flores ES. I'm pleased to say he will be returning to his position as Director of Federal Programs full time as of June 1st.

- d. We feel confident that locally funded people, whose jobs may be affected by the consolidation, will be able to shift into other comparable roles. Ms. Perez will be given the process for decision making at the 2/20 meeting.
- e. We will be communicating with our community formally later this week or early next week.

4. Grants

- a. Congratulations to Ms. Gonzales and Batesville School and Ms. Merlos and MJH, for each receiving the School Redesign Rural P-20 System Grant from TEA, which is \$185k for each school in the planning phase. Our first meeting with TEA is 2/26. Collegiate Education (CEN) will be assisting in the planning and design of our model.
- b. We've also received a Strong Foundations Grant in the initial amount of \$380k to assist with the implementation of high quality instructional materials in math, K-12. Region 20 will be assisting in planning and implementing. Last week was a good week with \$750k in grant funding coming in...it's a good start.
- c. We're currently in communication with the Greenlight Foundation which assists districts in writing federal grants. I've shared with them our vision for empowerment of our students, staff, and community and the multitude of ways I want to bring that vision to fruition through training in communication, design thinking, advocacy, agency, and service learning to name a few, and they are eagerly awaiting the announcement of the 2024 federal grant cycle which should happen in March. There are several grants they believe would be a good fit. Stay tuned.

5. Save The Children Update

- a. Karnes City ISD site visit
 - i. A team of administrators visited the receiving site and adult education facility at KCISD then went and saw the literacy tutoring program in full swing at both KCISD and Pawnee ISD. They came back with a vision for what our partnership could look like, which is exciting because we have 5 of the 6 literacy tutors being processed through HR to start training this Thursday on Renaissance Learning to begin working with identified students at DES, UES/FES, and BS, on March 1st.
- b. I'd like to invite everyone to join us for our district wide spring family engagement event, Fall in Love with Reading, tomorrow evening at MJH from 5:30-7PM. We will have fun activities for families, snacks, a visit from a parenting pro author, you can get a look at our new Save The Children receiving site, and receive a free book! We look forward to seeing you there.

- 6. For awareness, I have a Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting - February 21st and will be traveling to DC 2/27-3/1 to both do some advocacy work to try and help close the gap in funding necessary to complete the new school and serve on a panel at a mental health consortium.

- 7. Next Board meeting - Monday, March 25th

4. Consent Agenda:

- A. Amended Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees Held on December 18, 2023.
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees Held on January 11, 2024.
- C. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees Held on January 15, 2024.
- D. Item of Information regarding Maintenance and Operations.
- E. Item of Information regarding Transportation.
- F. Item of Information regarding SFE.
- G. Item of Information on the district's investment activity for January 2024.
- H. Item of Information on the district's credit card activity for January 2024.
- I. Item of Information for Revenues and Expenditures as of January 2024.
- J. Item of Information on the tax collection activity for January 2024.
- K. Item of Information for the district's Federal program activity for the month ending January 2024.
- L. Item of Information on Student Attendance.
- M. Item of Information on Student Discipline.

The motion was made by Rob Fowler and seconded by Javier Flores to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. Items of Division of Administration & Operations:

- A. Discussion and possible action to approve the private resale of property account no. 14053.

The motion was made by Javier Flores and seconded by Anabel White to approve the private resale of property account number 14053. The motion was carried unanimously.

- B. Discuss and Consider the recommendation that the district not employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain to provide support, services, and programs for students at this time. This does not prohibit chaplains from going through the volunteer training program to volunteer for any programs we provide such as reading to students.

The motion was made by Rob Fowler and seconded by Javier Flores to approve the resolution stating the district not employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain to provide support, services, and programs for students at this time. This does not prohibit chaplains from going through the volunteer training program to volunteer for any programs we provide such as reading to students. Luis Fernandez voted "yea", Rob Fowler voted "yea", Laura Perez voted "yea", Javier Flores voted "yea", Anabel White voted "yea", Cal Lambert voted "yea", and JJ Suarez voted "yea" The motion was carried unanimously.

- C. Discussion and Consider approval of TASB Update 122.

The motion was made by Rob Fowler and seconded by JJ Suarez to add, revise, or delete (LOCAL) policies as offered by TASB Policy Service for consideration and according to the Instruction Sheet for TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 122 with at change to FL(LOCAL) listed at the end of the list::

CQB(LOCAL): TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES - CYBERSECURITY

CSA(LOCAL): FACILITY STANDARDS - SAFETY AND SECURITY

DC(LOCAL): EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

EHB(LOCAL): CURRICULUM DESIGN - SPECIAL PROGRAMS

EHBC(LOCAL): SPECIAL PROGRAMS - COMPENSATORY SERVICES AND INTENSIVE PROGRAMS

EHBCA (LOCAL): COMPENSATORY SERVICES AND INTENSIVE PROGRAMS - ACCELERATED INSTRUCTION

FEA(LOCAL): ATTENDANCE - COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

FFAC(LOCAL): WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES - MEDICAL TREATMENT

FFB(LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - CRISIS INTERVENTION

FL(LOCAL) School-Sponsored Purposes - For the following school-sponsored purposes — all District publications and announcements — directory information shall include student name; address; telephone listing;

electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; degrees, honors, and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent educational institution attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; enrollment status; and student identification numbers or identifiers that cannot be used alone to gain access to electronic education records.

The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Discuss and Consider Approval of RFP for Network Upgrades.

The motion was made by Rob Fowler and seconded by Javier Flores to approve the award of RFP 240006927 to Stacklynk for network upgrades in the amount of \$302,757.06. The motion was carried unanimously.

E. Item of Information to Discuss Intruder Audit Findings.

Mrs. Chohlis reported that in January Crossroads and UDLA passed the audit. No one was able to gain access however the administrators did not have access to the weekly door sweep checklist.

6. Items of Division of Business and Finance:

A. Consider approval of accounts payable checks for January 2024.

The motion was made by Cal Lambert and seconded by JJ Suarez to approve the accounts payable checks for January 2024. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Consider approval of Budget Amendment #3.

The motion was made by JJ Suarez and seconded by Javier Flores to approve Budget Amendment #3. The motion was carried unanimously.

C. Discussion and Consider approval to contract with Enterprise Fleet Management for the Lease of White Fleet Vehicles.

The motion was made by Anabel White and seconded by Laura Perez to authorize the Superintendent to execute the contract and documents with Enterprise Fleet Management to start a vehicle replacement program. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Discussion and Consider approval of contracting with Schneider Electric for an Investment Grade Audit.

The motion was made by Anabel White and seconded JJ Suarez to authorize the Superintendent to execute the contract with Schneider Electric for an Investment Grade Audit. The motion was carried unanimously.

E. Discussion and Consider approval of Garza/Gonzalez & Associates as the district's Auditor for the year ending August 31, 2024.

The motion was made by JJ Suarez and seconded by Javier Flores to approve the Garza/Gonzalez & Associates as the district's Auditor for the year ending August 31, 2024. Anabel White abstained. Luis Fernandez "yea", Rob Fowler "yea", Laura Perez "yea", Javier Flores "yea", Cal Lambert "yea", JJ Suarez "yea"

7. Items of Division of Curriculum and Instruction:

A. Discussion and Consider approval of the Uvalde CISD 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.

The motion was made by Rob Fowler and seconded by Anabel White to approve the 2024-2025 Uvalde CISD Academic Calendar as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Item of Information on Dual Credit entity options.

Victor Baron presented information.

8. Adjournment

The motion was made by Rob Fowler and seconded by JJ Suarez to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously.

Board Secretary

Date

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.