

No. _____



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC Board Minutes

SUBMITTED BY: Karen Winch **OF:** Board Secretary

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: July 25, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

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

- June 12, 2007 - Special Called Meeting
- June 20, 2007 - Public Hearing
- June 20, 2007 - Regular Board Meeting
- June 26, 2007 - Special Called Meeting

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

June 12, 2007

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Tuesday, June 12, 2007, in the United ISD – Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Road, Laredo TX 78045. The meeting was called to order by President John Bruce at 7:30 p.m.

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce – President
Ricardo Molina – Vice President
Juan Molina – Secretary - absent
Pat Campos – Parliamentarian - absent
Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez – Member
William "Bill" Johnson – Member
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. An announcement was made by the Board President calling the meeting of the United Independent School District to order. The record showed that a quorum of Board Members was present, that the meeting was duly called, and that notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

III. Action Item

A. Renewal of District Health Insurance Plan

Mr. Robert Chapa, Director of Risk Management, thanked the Employee Benefits Committee (EBC) for all their work in pursuing negotiations and coming up with recommendations. He said for the coming year and based on the losses the District had Blue Cross Blue Shield was making a recommendation of renewal at 13.7%. They were able to bring it down to 9.8%. This represented an increase of \$1.8 million. The EBC felt they could make some changes and reduce this amount. Two of the recommendations were that the plan's annual deductible will increase from \$200/\$600 to \$300/\$900 which is more in keeping with most plans. The second was to increase the emergency room co-pay from \$75 to \$150 which would be waived if the person were admitted. The Committee felt these were good recommendations because it would reduce the costs of approximately \$700,000. Mr. Chapa said there is a balance of 6.1% which represents \$1.1 million, and he was asking that the Board consider this.

Mr. Bruce said they are recommending that the District pick up the \$1.1 million, and they haven't had a budget workshop yet. He asked if that would be a feasible number. Mr. Santos,

Superintendent of Schools, and Ms. Laida Benavides, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, said that the District would be able to cover that amount.

Mr. Santos said they would like to have a budget workshop the last week in June. Mr. Bruce said he wanted to point out that we would be hit pretty hard in the loss of some oil and gas revenue. Ms. Benavides responded that we will probably see a substantial reduction of about 5% in revenues and not the 11% the District received previously.

Mr. Bruce asked about a three-year contract. Mr. Chapa responded that insurance companies are no longer doing that.

Mr. Santos said the recommendation is that the District could pick up the proposed amount without a problem.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Gonzalez

Seconded by: R. Molina

Discussion: None

In favor: Unanimous

The Board thanked the Employee Benefits Committee for their work on the part of the District.

Mr. Gonzalez said our insurance is one of the factors why people come over to our District and said it is very important that we keep this up.

Mr. Bruce offered an opportunity for a public comment by Mr. Mario Zaragoza who came before the Board as an employee of LISD and as a concerned citizen.

Mr. Zaragoza said that, first of all, I want to say that U.I.S.D. is on the right track, and I commend the Board for creating a new...the Blue Ribbon Committee and having interactive and active participation from community members in town hall meetings. He thanked the Board president for allowing the community members to be active. Mr. Zaragoza said he had noticed, that just like many community members, U.I.S.D. does prioritize their needs based on their needs compared to years ago. He asked that the Board consider the cost of living index for the next budget workshop and for the next regular board meeting.

Mr. Zaragoza commented that we need to keep up with inflation. He said the budget will be constrained due to the outcome of the last bond election since no additional monies will be provided for projected student enrollment growth. He said the Board must continue prioritizing the children's needs and leave the pay raises for the end. Also, he asked that the Board continue focusing on the facilities and also to leave the employee pay raises to the end.

The speaker commented that the Board should go with the students first and then the facilities, He said they could then look into pay raises for administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals in no particular order. Mr. Zaragoza said his recommendation to the Board would be 3% for administrators, 3.5% or close to \$2000 for teachers, and also 6% for paraprofessionals who are the educational staff support personnel.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the Special Called Meeting of June 12, 2007 was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan Antonio Molina, Jr., Secretary

Public Hearing
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb

June 20, 2007

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce – President
Ricardo Molina – Vice President
Juan Molina – Secretary -absent
Pat Campos – Parliamentarian
Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez - absent
William "Bill" Johnson – Member
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member - absent

A Public Hearing meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Wednesday, June 20, 2007, beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the United ISD – Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, TX. 78043.

I. United Independent School District held a Public Hearing on the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Information on the district's Technology Protection Measure and Internet Safety Policy.

Mr. Hector Perez, Executive Director Information Technology, advised the Board he was there to discuss the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which was signed into law in 2000. He said tonight would constitute our second hearing on the issue. Mr. Perez said they had advertised in the newspaper on June 10th and 17th as required by law. He said the Board has adopted CC (Local) in keeping with the law.

Mr. Perez offered the legal requirements of CIPA. He said under the Children's Internet Protection Act, the District must, as a prerequisite to receiving universal service discount rates, implement certain Internet safety measures and submit certification to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Districts that do not receive universal service discounts but do receive certain federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must, as a prerequisite to receiving these funds, implement certain Internet safety measures and submit certification to the Department of Education.

Mr. Perez explained "Harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

The speaker said that "Technology protection measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access.

Ms. Campos commented that in this protection we have for the Internet, she knows we have had several parents tell her that kids still go into this kind of website. She said she didn't know if it was true or not, but they just put in www.unblock and the name of the website and they have access.

Mr. Perez responded that there have been some students who have been able to get into the sites. He said several months ago they had purchased software that had helped them detect this type of activity. He said one student can pass it to another, so with the software, they have been able to block them immediately.

As no other action was required, Mr. Bruce called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. R. Molina moved for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan Antonio Molina, Jr., Secretary

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

June 20, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Wednesday, June 20, 2007, in the United ISD –Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043. The meeting was called to order by President John Bruce at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce – President
Ricardo Molina – Vice President
Juan Molina – Secretary - absent
Pat Campos – Parliamentarian
Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez – Member – arrived 6:37 p.m.
William "Bill" Johnson – Member
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member - absent

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

An announcement was made by the Board President calling the meeting of the United Independent School District to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of Board Members was present, the meeting was duly called, and notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bruce made an announcement that they would change the format of the meeting because of the possibility of severe weather.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Santos advised the Board that the report had been presented at the Instructional and Business Committee meetings and asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

VII. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Johnson addressed the Board saying the Finance Committee had met and was recommending approval of the following consent agenda items.

A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements

B. Approval of Budget Amendments

- C. Approval to Designate Norma Farabough to Calculate 2007 Tax Rate**
- D. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications**
- E. Approval of RFCQ 011-2007 "Audit Services of Police Department"**
- F. Approval of the District's Membership in the U.S. Communities Purchasing Cooperative**
- G. Approval to Renew the district's Membership in the Buyboard Purchasing Cooperative**
- H. Second Reading of Policy DP (LOCAL): Personnel Positions**

Moved by: Johnson
 Seconded by: R. Molina
 Discussion: None
 In Favor: Unanimous (with the exception that Mr. Gonzalez abstained from Item VII. D.)

VIII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Board Minutes

- 1. Regular Board Meeting 5-16-07**
- 2. Special Called Meeting 5-22-07**

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Johnson
 Seconded by: R. Molina
 Discussion: None
 In Favor: Unanimous

B. Donations

Mr. Santos read the list of donations totaling \$24,611.00 and asked that the Board of Trustees graciously accept the donations.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
 Seconded by: R. Molina
 Discussion: None
 In Favor: Unanimous

C. First Reading of Revised Policy DC (LOCAL): Employment Practices

Mr. Bruce advised the Board that no action was necessary as this was a first reading.

D. Approval of 2007-2008 Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook (Bus Rider Handbook & Technology Use Guidelines)

Mr. Santos advised the Board that Ms. Sandra Cavazos, Executive Director Student Services, and Ms. Annette Perez, Director of Student Relations/Discipline Management, had presented the information to the Business and Instructional committees.

Ms. Cavazos said they were still waiting to hear about final changes from the legislature to see if anything needed to be added. She said that Ms. Perez had served as chairperson on the district-wide committee that worked on the *Code of Conduct* and handbook.

Ms. Campos said she had a question on cell phones. She said she had a problem with students using cell phones with cameras. Ms. Campos commented that there are a lot of pictures being put on the phone like fights and then they are sent through the Internet. She added that the next thing is the students will be taking pictures in the showers. Ms. Campos said she did not want camera phones allowed in the schools.

Mr. Bruce commented that he understood the parents' need for communication in case of an emergency. However, he said camera phones create a new problem. He said, if the student needs a phone for emergencies, let them use an older phone with no camera. He said he would rather not take action right now until the Governor has gone through with all the bills. Mr. Bruce said the Board could have a special called meeting the next day.

Mr. Cruz said the Governor did finish his veto bill. He said they were in the process of gathering all the laws and putting them in an appropriate format to see how all was going to fit in. Mr. Cruz said he knows the vendor needs to print all the documents. Ms. Perez said they do have a deadline for the publisher.

Mr. Santos commented that they probably need to have a Board workshop on the budget the coming week. He said they could come to the full board with revisions and still get it out in July with a special called meeting. Mr. Santos said they would follow up on the cell phone issue.

Motion: Motion to table.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

E. Approval of Boundary Changes for the Deer Ridge Subdivision Effective 2007-08 School Year

Mr. Mike Garza, Director of Support Services, said they had made the presentation at the Instructional and Business Committee meetings the previous week. He said the area in question had construction underway, but had no residences yet. Mr. Garza said he felt it would be good to make the area part of the Borchers attendance boundary, and he projected the boundary including Deer Ridge. The speaker commented that they had had an interactive presentation at the committee meeting and indicated the distance traveled will be through International Blvd. through Denmark Street heading toward Borchers Elementary School.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

D. Discontinuation of On-Site Child Care Services for Pregnancy, Education and Parenting Program (PEP)

Mr. Enrique Rangel, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities/Construction/Student Services, addressed the Board saying they had brought this item before them to propose the outsourcing of daycare services from private licensed daycare facilities. He said this would result in the students having services more convenient and near their homes. Mr. Rangel said it would also reduce transportation time. In addition, he said it would reduce administrative costs.

Mr. Bruce clarified that they would not be doing away with the PEP Program, but would just be making arrangements with an approved childcare facility or parent or grandparent. He said we would continue to transportation to the childcare facility.

Mr. Rangel responded that the student would receive services and there would be no cost. He said they were proposing this action because a new state law would be coming into effect allowing relatives who do not live in the same home to provide daycare services and receive reimbursement by the State. Mr. Rangel commented that many student would prefer that their relatives care for the babies rather than a daycare center. He added that an additional benefit would be that the portable buildings now used by PEP could be utilized elsewhere in the district.

Mr. Bruce clarified that the staff currently assigned at the PEP program would be reassigned to another position in the district and that no one would lose their job. Secondly, he said the students would continue to receive services including daycare, transportation, or reimbursement for parent(s) or grandparent(s) taking care of the children. Mr. Rangel responded that it could also be an uncle, aunt or sibling. Mr. Santos said that, in addition, the Director, the counselor, and the clerk would still work in the program providing student services.

Mr. Rangel added that some of the transportation time would be reduced more an hour as some of the daycare centers are within a few blocks of the high schools. He said some of the students participate in extra-curricular activities, and the daycare centers have extended operating hours up to 7:30 or 8:00 p.m. The cost would be picked up by the state.

Mr. Campos clarified that the PEP Coordinator would stay in the position. Mr. Rangel said she would as the program entails much more than just dealing with the babies. Ms. Campos said she wanted to make sure that someone was tracking the students making sure that they continue with school as we have problems with the drop-out rate and didn't want this adding to it. Mr. Santos said that is where the counselor and Director would work with the students.

Ms. Campos asked if this did not work, could we bring the program back? Mr. Rangel said that is always an option, but that they have full confidence that it will work.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Johnson

Seconded by: R. Molina

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

X. 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 on policy or agenda items will be heard in open session. Complaints and concerns against employees or regarding students shall be directed through the appropriate channels. 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 formal information.

Chris Halloran. Mr. Halloran said he was there on behalf of an RFP that was submitted. He said theirs was one of two companies in town that provide elevator maintenance. He said they submitted a proposal that was due by 2:30 p.m. on the 31st. He said they had been guaranteed delivery by 10:30 a.m. by UPS, but it did not show up until 3:14 p.m. He said he was there to ask that their proposal be considered with the other proposals.

Mr. Cruz advised the speaker that the Board cannot make a decision, but that he would be happy to speak to him as soon as the Board entered into Closed Session.

IV. The Board entered into Closed Session at 7:08 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

- A. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney**
- 551.074 Discussion of Personnel or to Hear Complaints Against Personnel**
- 1. Consultation with Legal Counsel in reference to Legal Issues Concerning revisions to Board Policies BED (LOCAL): Board Meetings: Public Participation and GF (LOCAL): Public Complaints**
- 2. Consultation with Legal Counsel on legal issues pertaining to an Authorization to coordinate a request for an opinion(s) from the Texas Attorney General regarding authority of School District to Expend and share costs/profits with Webb County arising from The County School Lands/Permanent School Fund and authority Authority of School district to expend resources in connections with Real estate contracts entered prior to the enactment of TEX Educ. Code 11.168**
- 3. Discussion in reference to proposed suspension without pay of Classroom teacher for the 2007-08 school year**
- 4. Consultation with Legal Counsel pertaining to an authorization to Coordinate a request for an opinion from the Texas Attorney General regarding clarification on outstanding issues pertaining to AG Opinion GA-0535**
- 5. Consultation with Legal Counsel re: Status of U.I.S.D. v Satterfield**

And Pontikes, et. al., in the 406th Judicial District Court

- B. 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 status of negotiations for the purchase of approximately 46 acres in several tracts in the Cielito Lindo Subdivision and within The Cielito Lindo Master Plan in Webb County, Texas from Cielito Lindo, Ltd.**
 - 2. Report on status of negotiations for the purchase of approximately 13 acres in the D & J Alexander Subdivision in Webb County, from Alexander Residential Development Co., L.P.**
 - 3. Report on the offer of donation of 10 acres from one of two sites From San Isidro Northeast, Ltd. In the San Isidro Northeast area north of Bob Bullock Loop 20 in the vicinity of the extension of International Boulevard North of Loop 20 as set forth on Exhibit "A"**
 - 4. Report on the offer of donation of an approximately 12,000 square Foot tract of land between the 30 acres the United Independent School District acquired from San Isidro Northeast, Ltd. For the new United High School and the extension of International Boulevard North of Loop 20 to be used as an additional exit from the New United High School as shown on Exhibit "B" by cross-hatching**
 - 5. Discussion pertaining to the acceptance of the donation from Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd. Of Lot 20, Block 12 in the Ponderosa Subdivision in Webb County, Texas**
 - 6. Discussion pertaining to the United Independent School District Exercising the Option to Purchase from Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd., the Charco 20 Acre Tract, the Quiote 20 Acre Tract, the Quiote 12 Acre Tract, and the Shiloh 12 Acre Tract as identified on Exhibits "C," "D," "E," and "F," attached hereto.**

C. 551.074 Discussion of Personnel or to Hear Complaints Against Personnel

- 1. Internal Auditors Duties, Responsibilities and Evaluation**
- 2. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities**

V. The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 9:20 p.m. and took appropriate action on items as, necessary, and as discussed in Closed Session

- A. Action in reference to proposed suspension without pay of classroom Teacher for the 2007-08 school year, as discussed in Closed Session**

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to suspend without pay, Hector Ramirez, classroom teacher, for the 2007-08 school year, as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

B. Action to Direct Legal Counsel to proceed with revisions to Board Policies BED (LOCAL): Board Meetings: Public Participation and GF(LOCAL): Public Complaints, as discussed in Closed Session.

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that there was no recommendation with respect to Item V-B.

C. Action to authorize Legal Counsel to coordinate a request for a(n) opinion(s) from the Texas Attorney General regarding authority of School District to expend and share costs/profits with Webb County arising from the County School Lands/Permanent School Fund and authority of School district to expend resources in connections with real estate contracts entered prior to the enactment of TEX Educ. Code 11.168

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to authorize Legal Counsel to coordinate a request for an opinion from the Texas Attorney General regarding authority of School District to expend and share costs/profits with Webb County arising from the County School Lands/Permanent School Fund and authority of School district to expend resources in connections with real estate contracts entered prior to the enactment of TEX Educ. Code 11.168, as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

D. Action to authorize Legal Counsel pertaining to an authorization to Coordinate a request for an opinion from the Texas Attorney General regarding clarification on outstanding issues pertaining to AG Opinion GA-0535

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to authorize Legal Counsel to coordinate a request for an opinion from the Texas Attorney General regarding clarification on outstanding issues pertaining to AG Opinion GA-0535, as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Gonzalez
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

E. Approval of Internal Auditors Annual Evaluation

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to approve the Internal Auditors annual evaluation as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

F. Discussion and possible action concerning executing an Earnest Money Contract for several tracts totaling approximately 46 acres in several tracts in the *Cielito Lindo* Subdivision and within the *Cielito Lindo* Master Plan in Webb County, Texas from *Cielito Lindo, Ltd.*

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to authorize school officials and administration to execute an Earnest Money Contract for several tracts totaling approximately 46 acres in several tracts in the Cielito Lindo Subdivision and within the Cielito Lindo Master Plan in Webb County, Texas from Cielito Lindo, Ltd., as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

G. Discussion and possible action concerning executing an Earnest Money Contract of approximately 13 acres in the D & J Alexander Subdivision in Webb County, from Alexander Residential Development Co., L.P.

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that there was no recommendation, at this time.

H. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the acceptance of the donation from San Isidro Northeast, Ltd. of an approximate 10 acre tract of land from one of two Tracts in the San Isidro Northeast area north of Bob Bullock Loop 20 in the vicinity of the extension of International Boulevard North of Loop 20 as set forth on Exhibit "A"

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to authorize district officials and administration to take action in the acceptance of the donation from San Isidro Northeast, Ltd. of an approximate 10 acre tract of land from one of two Tracts in the San Isidro Northeast area north of Bob Bullock Loop 20 in the vicinity of the extension of International Boulevard North of Loop 20 as set forth on Exhibit "A", as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: Gonzalez
Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

I. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the acceptance of donation of an approximately 12,000 square Foot tract of land between the 30 acres the United Independent School District acquired from San Isidro Northeast, Ltd. For the new United High School and the extension of International Boulevard North of Loop 20 to be used as an additional exit from the new United High School as shown on Exhibit "B"

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to authorize school district officials and administration to take action to accept the donation of an approximately 12,000 square Foot tract of land between the 30 acres the United Independent School District acquired from San Isidro Northeast, Ltd. For the new United High School and the extension of International Boulevard North of Loop 20 to be used as an additional exit from the new United High School as shown on Exhibit "B" as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

J. Discussion and possible action on the acceptance of the donation from Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd. Of Lot 20, Block 12 in the Ponderosa Subdivision in Webb County, Texas

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to authorize school district and administration to accept the donation from Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd. Of Lot 20, Block 12 in the Ponderosa Subdivision in Webb County, Texas, as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Gonzalez
Seconded by: Campos
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

K. Discussion and possible action on the United Independent School District exercising the Option to Purchase from Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd., the Charco 20 Acre Tract, the Quiote 20 Acre Tract, the Quiote 12 Acre Tract, and the Shiloh 12 Acre Tract as identified on Exhibits "C," "D," "E," and "F," attached hereto.

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to authorize school district officials and administration to exercise the option to purchase from Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd., the Charco 20 Acre Tract, the Quiote 20 Acre Tract, the Quiote 12 Acre Tract, and the Shiloh 12 Acre Tract as identified on Exhibits "C," "D," "E," and "F," attached hereto, as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.
Moved by: Gonzalez
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2007 was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan Antonio Molina, Jr., Secretary

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

June 26, 2007

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Tuesday, June 26, 2007, in the United ISD –Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043. The meeting was called to order by President John Bruce at 6:05 p.m.

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce – President
Ricardo Molina – Vice President
Juan Molina – Secretary - absent
Pat Campos – Parliamentarian
Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez – Member
William "Bill" Johnson – Member- absent
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. An announcement was made by the Board President calling the meeting of the United Independent School District to order. The record showed that a quorum of Board Members was present, that the meeting was duly called, and that notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

III. Action Item

A. Approval of the 2007-2008 Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Bus Rider Handbook, and Technology Guidelines

Mr. Juan Cruz, U.I.S.D. General Counsel, addressed the Board saying that the review of the Student Code of Conduct being discussed would limited only student discipline and student handbook matters. He said the legislative changes have already been incorporated into the Student Code of Conduct. Mr. Cruz described the changes including HB121 – Dating Violence which would be effective in the 2007-2008 school year. Another change was HB 776 – Release of Child in Custody to School Campus which outlined if a student is released after arrest, then a law enforcement officer could take that child back to the campus. Mr. Cruz then described HB2112 – Use of a Fire Arm and outlined the consequences if a student exhibits, uses or threatens to exhibit or use a firearm in a manner intended to cause alarm or personal injury. In addition, he said that the student could not have the firearm in any part of the school campus including the parking garage.

Mr. Cruz said that HB2151 was the Graffiti Accountability Act of 2007 which said the judge can order the child to pay for damages or do community service. He then discussed HB2532 which

allows expulsion of a student who is charged with or arrested for a felony offense and not necessarily convicted. Mr. Cruz said he did not matter if the event occurred on campus or not. In addition, if the student commits a serious offense his freshman year, he or she could be put in JJAEP until his or her senior year. The Board, however, must reimburse the JJAEP for any expulsions. The speaker said the students in JJAEP must go through an academic growth assessment if they are going to be in JJAEP or STEP longer than 90 days.

Mr. Cruz then discussed registered sex offenders who must be removed from the regular classroom. If the offender is under court supervision, the school district must put the student in JJAEP or STEP. After the student has been assigned to JJAEP or STEP for one semester, a committee must be convened to determine if the student should remain in the alternative setting or return to the regular classroom. In addition, Mr. Cruz advised the Board that they must reimburse the County of Webb if a student is sent to JJAEP. In addition, if the student is no longer a registered sex offender, he/she must be put back in the regular classroom. The Superintendent must notify all instructional personnel within 24 hours that the student is a registered sex offender.

Another legislative change, HB 2884 – Probation and Restitution, forbids a judge to send a student to JJAEP because they have not come to school. SB230 – Notification of Transfer Student Probation or Parole requires that the Superintendent or designee must be notified by the probation officer who has jurisdiction of a student who transfers from a school and returns to a school other than where he was originally enrolled. The Superintendent must then advise instructional and support personnel.

Mr. Cruz then described SB673 – Participation in Graduation relating to Special Education students who must be allowed to walk across the stage. They do not receive a diploma, but do receive a certificate. HB208 – Dual Enrollment Eligibility allows students who fail a college-level course can still participate in UIL. Mr. Cruz advised the Board that SB8 – Random Testing for Illegal Steroid Use is one that UISD is already doing. SB1517 – No Pass – No Play Eligibility does not pertain to honors/AP classes in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Economics or language other than English and if the student fails, they can still participate in UIL.

The attorney then outlined HB2176 – Parenting and Paternity Awareness Program in which the District must now teach students in the responsibilities of parenting including money management, parental responsibilities, and marriage preparation. The SB530 – Physical Fitness Requirements increase physical activity to a minimum of 30 minutes of rigorous daily activity for K-5 for the 2007-08 school year and extend through 8th grade in 2009. Mr. Cruz said in 2007-08, the District must assess the students' physical assessment in grades K-12.

Mr. Cruz said HB2383 – Subsidies for Students Receiving Trade and Occupation Licenses states that if students take a certification exam, they can get the fees reimbursed by the state of Texas. The speaker described HB3826 – Automatic Admission to College now requires a student who graduates in the top 10% to produce documentation that the student completed the advanced courses. SB282-Required Notification of College Credit Opportunities requires that the District must post the courses that are available for college credit.

HB1059-Immunization Awareness Program will be effective in 2007-08 and requires notice in English and Spanish of the immunizations that are required for admission into the school. HB1098 – Human Papilloma Virus Immunization was reversed by the legislature saying even if the student does not have the HPV vaccine, they can still participate in a primary and secondary school campus. Mr. Bruce asked what HPV was. Mr. Cruz responded that it was a virus that caused ovarian cancer.

HB3678 – Student Expression of Religious Viewpoints says school events must provide a limited forum that is not discriminatory for religious viewpoints. Mr. Bruce said we do not have speakers any more, but Mr. Cruz said we must have speakers now, and students may express their viewpoints. He said this was a very detailed legislation. Mr. Cruz added that the legislation outlines a model policy where students who have attained special positions in the school district may speak such as captains of sports teams, class officers, etc.

Mr. Cruz then described SB7 – Automatic External Defibrillators where school districts must purchase these devices. Another change was targeting the defrauding of a child to use his/her information for personal use/gain which is now a violation of the Texas Penal Code. HB3117 – Older Students Can Enroll in School to Complete Graduation Requirements states that students can enroll, but may not be put in a regular classroom if they, for instance, are 25 and have not been in the school for three years.

HB2455 – Excused Absences says that students must be given an excused absence if they are appearing in court or if it is a religious activity. In addition, the time going to and from the religious activity must also be excused.

The final HB314 – Classroom Placement of Multiple Birth Siblings allows for parents to request in writing that siblings to be placed within the 14th day following enrollment in the same or separate classrooms. The District must honor the request unless it requires the school to add an additional class. However, Mr. Cruz said the school could change the classroom after the first grading period if there is a disruption to the classroom.

Mr. Bruce called for a motion to accept the Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Bus Rider Handbook, and Technology Guidelines as discussed.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Gonzalez

Seconded by: R. Molina

Discussion:

Ms. Campos said she wanted to go on record that she is opposed to the use of camera phones in the schools

In Favor: Unanimous

B. Revisions 2007-08 School Calendar

Ms. Gloria Rendon, Assistant to the Superintendent, addressed the Board regarding the 2007-08 school calendar. She said the Legislative changes in SB 1031 impacted our previously approved school calendar and they were recommending the following changes:

Feb. 19-22nd testing window – moved to March 4-7th
Staff development on March 7th moved to March 24th staff development
April 22-25th testing window – moved to April 29-30th and May 1st-2nd
Omit the early release date on April 30th for students

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Gonzalez

Seconded by: Ramirez

Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the Special Called Meeting of June 26, 2007 was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan Antonio Molina, Jr., Secretary