

No. _____



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC _____ Board Minutes _____

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

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____ December 17, 2008 _____

RECOMMENDATION:

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

- Special Called Meeting - October 27, 2008
- Special Called Meeting - October 28, 2008
- Special Called Meeting - November 13, 2008
- Regular Board Meeting - November 18, 2008
- Special Called Meeting - November 24, 2008
- Board Workshop - November 24, 2008

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 Board Meeting
October 27, 2008

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

The Board of Trustees of the United Independent School District met in a Special Meeting on Monday, October 27, 2008 in the United ISD Board Room, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045. President John M. Bruce called the meeting to order at 6.00 p.m.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce, President
Pat Campos, Vice-President
Juan Molina, Secretary
Ricardo Molina, Parliamentarian
Juan Roberto Ramirez, Member

Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez was absent. A quorum of the Board 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. Closed Session

The Board adjourned into closed session at 6:04 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Open Meetings Act:

551.071 – Consultation with Legal Counsel

- Board shall deliberate and consult with legal counsel regarding due process hearing legal issues related to Esther K. Firova

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:08 p.m. No action was taken in Closed Session.

The President recessed the Board meeting at 6:08 p.m. for Tuesday, October 28, 2008

John M. Bruce, President

Juan A. Molina, Secretary

Special Board Meeting
October 28, 2008

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

The Board of Trustees of the United Independent School District met in a Special Meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 in the United ISD Board Room, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045. President John M. Bruce called the meeting to order at 6.03 p.m. from the recess of the Board Meeting of October 27, 2008.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce, President
Pat Campos, Vice-President
Juan Molina, Secretary
Ricardo Molina, Parliamentarian
Juan Roberto Ramirez, Member

Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez was absent. A quorum of the Board 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. Closed Session

The Board adjourned into closed session at 6:04 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Open Meetings Act:

551.074 – Personnel
551.084 – Exclusion of Witness From Hearing
551.071 – Consultation with Legal Counsel

- Board shall conduct due process hearing of Esther K. Firova
- Board shall deliberate and consult with legal counsel regarding due process hearing legal issues related to Esther K. Firova

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:05 p.m. No action was taken in Closed Session.

Bill Johnson: Mr. President, after due consideration of the evidence and matters officially noticed, the following Findings of Fact are made:

1. UISD duly proposed the discharge of Esther Firova;
2. Esther Firova received sufficient notice of her proposed discharge;
3. Esther Firova timely requested, on October 2, 2008, a hearing on her proposed discharge;
4. UISD scheduled Esther Firova's hearing to commence on October 25, 2008;
5. UISD accommodated Esther Firova's request for a hearing date by rescheduling the hearing date to no later than November 1, 2008;
6. UISD attempted to reasonably accommodate Esther Firova's further requests for new hearing dates, however, Esther Firova and her counsel failed to show sufficient evidence or reason warranting additional continuances of the hearing date, that is, Esther Firova has failed to sufficiently show why or how any medical conditions or procedure affecting her will interfere with her appearance at the hearing, and failed to sufficient show why preparation for the hearing or representation of Esther Firova at the hearing could not be otherwise performed by other lawyers affiliated with Esther Firova's counsel's office;
7. Esther Firova received reasonable opportunity to appear at a hearing to contest her proposed discharge;
8. Pursuant to UISD Board policy DFF (local), UISD properly applied and conducted a Reduction in Force, that is, due to a Program Change, the position of Coordinator of Community Partnerships was the affected employment area, thereby requiring the elimination of said position and necessitating the discharge and employment contract termination of the employee assigned to said position;
9. UISD notified Esther Firova of her opportunity to apply for any open UISD position, but to date, Esther Firova has failed to apply for any open positions.

After due consideration of the evidence, matters officially noticed and the Findings of Fact, the following Conclusions of Law are made:

1. Rudiments of the process due in this matter have been met;
2. UISD is not legally obligated to offer a position to an individual who has not applied or interviewed for an open position;
3. UISD' Board has the legal authority to finalize the discharge and termination of Esther Firova and her employment contract;

4. The basis for the discharge of Esther Firova and termination of Esther Firova's employment contract is duly supported by the evidence, that is, reduction in force due to a program change as set forth in UISD Board policy.

I move that the above findings of fact and conclusions of law made in the Esther Firova discharge hearing be approved and adopted by the Board in support of its action in the matter, such action being to finalize, effective immediately, the discharge and termination of Esther Firova and her employment contract, respectively.

Board Moved to Approve the Motion 5-1 with Juan Roberto Ramirez voting against the motion.

The President adjourned the Board meeting at 8:10 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2008.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan A. Molina, Secretary

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

November 13, 2008

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

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

After the oath of office was administered for newly elected Board members, the two members took their seats on the Board.

Judd Gilpin – member
Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez - member

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. The Special Called Meeting of November 13, 2008 was held in the UISD Administrative Offices – Board room at 201 Lindenwood 78045. An announcement was made calling the meeting of the United Independent School District to order at 6:30 p.m. 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.

Mr. Bruce recognized members of the audience who included Juan Narvaez, City Councilman; Martin Cuellar, Sheriff elect; and Ruben Reyes, Constable.

III. Action Items:

A. Order Canvassing the November 4, 2008 Trustee Election Results

Ms. Norma Farabough, UISD Tax Assessor-Collector read the results of the November 4, 2008 Board of Trustee elections. (See attached)

Juan Cruz, UISD General Counsel, advised the Board that the recommendation was to approve the election results.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos

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

B. Statement of Elected Officer

Ms. Farabough asked that the two newly-elected Board members, Judd Gilpin and Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez, and returning Board members, Juan A. Molina, Jr. and Ricardo Molina step forward to make their statements as elected officers.

Judge Oscar Martinez had the members repeat the Statement of Elected Officer.

C. Administer Oaths of Office and Present Certificates of Election

Judge Martinez then administered the Oats of Office to the newly-elected and returning Board members. Ms. Santos presented them with a framed "Certificate of Election."

Ms. Campos then replaced Mr. John Bruce, out-going President, asked Ms. Pat Campos to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Campos recognized Gene Balmares, City Councilman who was attending the meeting.

D. Election of Officers

Mr. Johnson moved to nominate the following Board members as officers:

Pat Campos – President
Juan A. Molina – Vice-President
Juan R. Ramirez – Secretary
Ricardo Molina - Parliamentarian

Moved by: Johnson
Seconded by:
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

V. Informational Items

A. Appointment of Business/Instructional/Student Transfer Appeals/Student Expulsion Appeals/and Standardized Dress Exemption Committee Chairs and Members by Board President

Ms. Campos then announced the committee chairpersons and members for 2008-09

Instructional Committee

- Juan a. Molina – Chairperson
- Juan Roberto Ramirez –
- Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez

Business Committee

- William B. Johnson – Chairperson
- Ricardo Molina, Sr.
- Judd Gilpin

Budget Committee

- William B. Johnson, Chairperson
- Pat Campos
- Juan a. Molina, Jr.

Student Expulsion Appeals Committee

- Juan a. Molina, Jr. – Chairperson
- Judd Gilpin
- Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez

Student Transfer Appeals Committee

- Ricardo Molina, Sr. – Chairperson
- Juan Roberto Ramirez
- Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez

Standardized Dress Exemption Committee

- Juan Roberto Ramirez, Chairperson
- Judd Gilpin
- Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the Special Called meeting of November 13, 2008 was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Pat Campos, President

Juan Roberto Ramirez - Secretary

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

November 18, 2008

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Pat Campos – President
Juan A. Molina, Jr. – Vice President
Ricardo Molina, Sr. – Parliamentarian
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Secretary
Judd Gilpin – Member
William "Bill" Johnson – Member
Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez – Member

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Tuesday, November 18, 2008 in the United ISD –Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. 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.

Item VII-A – Board Recognition

Item VII-A-E was considered before Public Comments.

A. Mr. Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez, former UISD Board Member was presented with an award by President Pat Campos.

Ms. Pamela Juarez, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented the following students with outstanding accomplishments to the Board of Trustees.

B. J. B. Alexander High School – AP Scholar with Distinction Award

Margaret Freeman

Hyunji Lee

Marcus Wong

C. AP Scholar with Honor Award

Wei Yang – J. B. Alexander High School
Rebecca Hernandez – United High School

D. J. B. Alexander High School – AP Scholar Award

Rosa Cortez
Ruchitha Goonatilake
Laura Huacuja
Robert Huynh
Elizabeth Lopez
Anuron Mandal
Graciela Sarabia
Eduardo Silveyra

E. United High School – AP Scholar Award

Eriberto elizondo
Amanda Garza
Santos Gomez
Andrew Howland
Jose Melero
Valeria Reyes
Gilberto Villarreal
Marlon Villareal

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 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.

No one came forward to speak during Public Comments

Ms. Campos recognized the two newest board members, Mr. Judd Gilpin and Mr. Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez.

V. Closed Session: The Board adjourned into closed session at 6:57 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

A. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney

B. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney

551.074 Discussion of Personnel or to Hear Complaints against Personnel

- 1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities**
- 2. Internal Auditor's Duties and Responsibilities**
- 3. Board President's Duties and Responsibilities**

C. 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 and discussion of possible action pertaining to the Trautmann Middle School Detention Facilities and Agape Subdivision Storm Sewer Facilities Design Construction, Maintenance and Monitoring Agreement recorded in Volume 2653, pages 486-502, Webb County Official Public Records as the progress of Homeland Builders with respect to the completion of improvements as called for by the Agreement and the possible termination of the right of Homeland Builders, L.C. to drain onto the Trautmann Middle School Detention Pond**
- 2. Report on and discussion of possible action pertaining to extending the deadline of Four Winds, Ltd. To obtain final platting of the road on the west side of Lot 1, Block 1 in the Cuatro Vientos subdivision.**

VI. The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. and took appropriate action as necessary as discussed in Closed Session.

A. Report on and discussion of possible action pertaining to the Trautmann Middle School Detention Facilities and Agape Subdivision Storm Sewer Facilities Design Construction, Maintenance and Monitoring Agreement recorded in Volume 2653, pages 486-502, Webb County Official Public Records as the progress of Homeland Builders with respect to the completion of improvements as called for by the Agreement and the possible termination of the right of Homeland Builders, L.C. to drain onto the Trautmann Middle School Detention Pond

B. Report on and discussion of possible action pertaining to extending the deadline of Four Winds, Ltd. To obtain final platting of the road on the west side of Lot 1, Block 1 in the *Cuatro Vientos* subdivision.

Ms. Campos advised the Board that Items VI-A and B would be tabled until the next meeting.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. Business Committee's Report to Board Pursuant to SAS 114

Mr. William B. Johnson, Business Committee Chairperson, read the Business Committee's Report to the Board.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Johnson stated that the Business and Instructional Committees had met the previous week and were recommending approval of the following items:

A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements

B. Approval of Tax Refunds

C. Approval of Bids, Proposals and Qualifications

D. Approval of Designation(s) of General Fund Balance

E. Approval of Request from Juan A. Molina for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Perez Elementary for \$3,435

F. Approval of Request from Juan A. Molina and Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez For the Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for United South High School for \$20,000.

G. Approval of Request from Pat Campos for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Alexander High School for \$24,990, STEP Academy For \$9,784.06 and Gutierrez Elementary School for \$10,000

H. Approval of Request from Ricardo Molina, Sr. for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Kennedy-Zapata elementary for \$15,000

I. Approval of Request from William B. Johnson for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Trautmann Elementary for \$16,746.00

J. Approval of Sale of Salvage Equipment

K. Second Reading of LOCAL Policies and Update 83.

- 1. DGBA (LOCAL): Personnel Management Relations Employee Complaints/Grievances**
- 2. FNG (LOCAL): Student Rights and Responsibilities-Student and Parent Complaints / Grievances**
- 3. FOC (EXHIBIT): Student Discipline-Placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Educational Setting**

4. GBAA (EXHIBIT): Information Access – Request for Information

5. GF (LOCAL): Public Complaints

L. Second Reading of Policy CAA (LOCAL): Fiscal Management Goals and Objectives: financial Ethics

M. Second Reading of Policy CCG (LOCAL)- Local Revenue Sources Ad Valorem Taxes

Motion: So move.

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

X. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Board Minutes

- 1. Regular Board Meeting – October 15, 2008**
- 2. Special Called Meeting – October 23, 2008**

Motion: Madam Chair, I moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting of October 15, 2008 and the Special Called Meeting – October 23, 2008.

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

B. Donations

Mr. Santos read the donations totaling \$15,733.47 into the record and thanked the donors for their gracious contributions to the District. He commented that they would copy the check and letter from the campus for the Board.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Ramirez
Seconded by: J. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

B. Discussion/Action re: Report to be produced to Board of Trustees by the Regular Board meeting in December concerning current bond construction Projects

Mr. Johnson noted that no action was necessary as this item would be presented at the December meeting.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. J. Molina seconded to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Pat Campos, President

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary

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

November 24, 2008

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Pat Campos – President
J. A. Molina, Jr. – Vice President
Ricardo Molina, Sr. – Parliamentarian - absent
Juan Roberto Ramirez — Secretary - arrived 6:14 p.m.
Judd Gilpin – Member
William B. Johnson – Member
Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez – Member – arrived 6:05 p.m.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. The Special Called Meeting of November 24, 2008 was held in the UISD Administrative Offices – Board room at 201 Lindenwood 78045. An announcement was made 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 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 Items:

A. Consideration for Approval of Receipt and Review of Bids for UISD Public Property Finance Contractual Obligations, Series 2008

Mr. Eduardo Zuniga, Associate Superintendent for Student Support Services, advised the Board members that Action Items III. A-C were related to the contractual obligations. He said UISD, through the office of its financial advisory firm would receive bids for the issuance of approximately \$7,365,000 of Public Property Finance Contractual Obligations (PPFCOs), Series 2008.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Zuniga to explain why the District needed to use this rather than our bond funds to bring down our debt. Mr. Zuniga stated that the issuance of PPFCOs was to purchase buses, classroom furniture/equipment, vehicles, library books and technology equipment. He added that it would be included in the budget through an approved budget amendment.

Ms. Laida Benavides, Associate Superintendent for Business and Finance, addressed the Board members saying our Financial Advisor, Robert Tijerina - Estrada, Hinojosa and Company, Inc.

was available to present an overview of the contractual obligations and transactions. Mr. Tijerina, Senior Vice-President then introduced Mr. Juan F. Aguilera, Bond Counsel – Escamilla and Poneck, L.L.P. Mr. Tijerina provided the Board with a handout indicating the financial transactions in presenting his overview. He said the bid they were recommending provides the best value to the District in terms of the most favorable effective interest rate is recommended. The bond counsel said they went to eleven (11) institutions. Mr. Aguilera said a number of banks did not even respond.

Mr. Aguilera added that those banks that did not comply with the bid specs and passed on submitting a bid were as follow:

Bank of America – pass
Wells Fargo Bank – pass
Stern Brothers - pass
Zions First National Bank – pass

The Bond Counsel named the banks that did submit a bid included:

Compass Bank
Consolidated Financial
Frost Bank
Government Capital
IFC Credit
Kingwood Capital
TIB Bank
Wachovia Bank

He emphasized that passing is not a reflection on the school District. He clarified that a lot of the banks were not willing to pay out the funds in order to protect themselves.

Mr. Aguilera identified the winning bid as Capital One Public Funding. He said if accepted, Estrada Hinojosa and Escamilla & Poneck would work to close the transaction and deliver the funds to the District by December 23, 2008.

Mr. Juan Cruz, UISD General Counsel, advised the Board that the recommendation was for the Board to approve the bid of Capital One Public Funding, LOC, with an interest of 5.490%.

Motion: So move.

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

B. Consideration and Approval of an Order Authorizing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of United Independent School District Public Property Finance Contractual Obligations, Series 2008, and Approving Other Matters, Incidents Related Thereto

Mr. Cruz said the approval of the order authorizing the sale and delivery of UISD Public Property Finance Contractual Obligations, Series 2008 and approving other matters related thereto.

Motion: So move.
Moved by: J. Molina
Seconded by: Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

C. Consideration for Approval of Budget Amendment

Mr. Zuniga explained that the amendment was to show what the District was spending with the loan proceeds.

Motion: So move.
Moved by: J. Molina
Seconded by: Rodriguez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

D. Consideration for Approval of Resolution Authorizing Board Officers and United ISD Personnel to Make Deposits and Withdrawals with Compass Bank

Mr. Zuniga advised the Board that since there had been a change in the makeup of the Board, this resolution would allow the new Board members and other UISD personnel to approve deposits and withdrawals with Compass Bank.

Those to be approved:

Pat Campos – UISD Board President
Roberto Santos – Superintendent
Laida Benavides – Associate Superintendent for Business and Finance
Sam Flores – Director of Accounting
Rosa Cabello – Accounting Manager

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Ramirez
Seconded by: Gilpin
Discussion: None
In Favor: Campos, Gilpin, J. Molina, Ramirez, Rodriguez
Abstain: Johnson

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the Special Called meeting of November 24, 2008 was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Pat Campos, President

Juan Roberto Ramirez - Secretary

Board Workshop
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb

November 24, 2008

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Pat Campos - President
Juan A. Molina, Jr. – Vice President
Ricardo Molina, Sr. – Parliamentarian
Juan R. Ramirez – Secretary
Judd Gilpin - Member
William "Bill" Johnson – Member
Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez – Member

A Board Workshop of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Monday, February 11, 2008, beginning at 7:20 P.M. in the United ISD -Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. An announcement was made by the Board Vice-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. Board Workshop - Presentation of DATE Grant

Ms. Laida Benavides, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, addressed the Board saying they were bringing the Board an update on the DATE Grant. She said the acronym stands for District Awards for Teacher Excellence. Ms. Benavides explained that several of our campuses have received various teacher incentive grants. She said if the Board moves forward with the grant, it would have financial implications because of the requirement for matching funds.

Mr. Santos, Superintendent, said that one of the concerns they always have is the "matching" part of any of the grants.

Ms. Edie Landeck, Director of Grants Administration, presented an overview of the DATE grant. She said that the purpose of the grant was to come up with a district-wide plan in order to award incentives to individual teachers that are selected either based on targeted campuses, grade level, subject area or other criteria developed by the District. Ms. Landeck said the criteria and

descriptions for the grant are evolving. She said she had received an e-mail that afternoon regarding the matching funds. It indicated that the award would be approximately \$1.7 million and matching funds would be \$265,000 or 15% each year. Ms. Landeck said earlier projections of the percent of matching funds were much higher at 35%.

Ms. Landeck presented a chart indicating the grant criteria. She said they were looking at a short timeline as they must get a plan developed, approved, presented to the public and approved by the Board of Trustees by April 8, 2008. Ms. Landeck said they had concerns as this is the first year, and the grant is still evolving and involves teachers receiving incentive awards. Ms. Landeck referred to a problem with another grant where one teacher received her incentive in supplies instead of funds like the other teachers. She said this will be very difficult, and administration is leaning toward allowing this grant to go by until they are able to see what other districts are doing. She said there is going to be a conference soon where districts can share ideas on how to be fair to everyone.

Mr. Molina said it sounds like it is coming up very fast, and he felt that nothing that you do too fast is good. He said with the amount of money involved, it would not be good. Mr. Molina said he remembered that previously some people got money and others didn't, and it caused a problem.

Ms. Santos said we do not have all the information in order to move forward. Ms. Landeck asked how we could come up with a quarter of a million dollars so quickly. Mr. Santos said our recommendation was to look at Cycle II of the grant so we can have time to look at what other districts are doing. Mr. Molina commented that we should invest the \$250,000 in something that is working before we put it into a big conflict that we don't need.

Ms. Landeck commented that some campuses had already received funds from the District through other awards, and it might not be fair to others who had not received anything.

B. Post School Year 2008-2009 Budget

Ms. Benavides said they were looking at issues in the budget process and asked for feedback from the Board as to whether they had initiatives they would like in the budget for the coming year. Ms. Campos commented that she would like to see is Communities in Schools. Mr. Santos responded that they had just received the report that day, and they would review the report and get back to the Board.

Ms. Benavides said they had received numbers from the student support area and were working on staffing numbers. She said the opening of Killam Elementary necessitated the addition of staff and facilities to the budget. Once the principal was named, they would work with the principal to establish staff and facility needs. She said they would be bringing data to the Board after the Business Committee meeting. She presented the timeline for development of the budget and tax rate.

Mr. Santos commented that they would have the principals and staff present to discuss budgetary needs.

Mr. Ramirez asked what the population was currently. Ms. Benavides responded that it was approximately 39,000 students.

Ms. Benavides said that the campus principals had met with Finance, and Mr. Garza and his staff the previous week on staffing issues. They are looking closely at the high-growth areas in order to ensure that the campuses get the staff they need. Mr. Juan Molina said Mr. Johnson had

asked for a report on the numbers at the magnet schools to see if they are still transporting students to those campuses are not. Mr. Santos said they would get that information for the Board.

Ms. Benavides said staffing meetings would continue that week. She said boundary changes would not affect the middle schools. She said the campus budget training had been held during the past two weeks. Ms. Benavides said they would also be meeting with the departments such as Transportation, Food Services, and Shipping and Receiving as they are quite large. She said the Pre-K grant which brings in \$1.7 million will be continued for one more year, and they had told the campuses that they could staff them with full-day Pre-K. Killam Elementary was also being staffed with full day Pre-K.

Ms. Benavides said there had been an offer to purchase the Instructional building on 359. She said as they were having their budget meetings, they could discuss that issue. She said they would have to budget to either buy or lease it.

Another issue was the opening United High School in 2009. She said furniture and equipment needed to be purchased for a 3000 student campus. Ms. Benavides said Ms. Cordy Flores, Director of Purchasing, would prepare a prototype. Mr. Ramirez asked if the new high school would fall into the new budget. Mr. Santos responded that there would be some things that would not. Mr. Ramirez then asked about the Instructional building. Mr. Santos responded that there was a deadline when we needed to either purchase or not. He said everything that had been given until now was a credit. Mr. Ramirez asked if part of the old United High School would be converted into an Instructional building. Mr. Santos said part of it would be a campus and the other for various other use.

Ms. Benavides said our state revenue projection may grow about \$7 million even being conservative on the special populations and using the enrollment numbers and attendance rates. She said on the tax side, local taxes cannot exceed if they want a rollback election which would be approximately \$4 million. Ms. Benavides said personnel needs are about 80% of the budget, so they need to be aware of that. In the past, the Board set aside approximately \$5 million for land. Ms. Benavides said for this budget we will see \$11 million more and add another \$5 million. She said we still have options because of our adequate fund balance.

Ms. Benavides said another plan they are looking at are buses and portable buildings. She said with rates going down, they have asked how much they can borrow and still keep our payment what it is now. She said this financing may not affect the \$11 million. Mr. Ramirez asked about the Coca Cola funds, and Ms. Benavides said they are almost all committed. She said Ms. Stahl, Internal Auditor, always audits this area. Mr. Ramirez asks if there is some other product out there that might bring in additional funding. Ms. Benavides said we have to be careful that we do not end up competing against our campuses that do fund-raising.

Ms. Benavides said they will bring them a balanced budget and in Friday's packet they will send them the initiatives.

Mr. Juan Molina said he had received calls from a number of teachers saying they had heard that we had stopped construction at the new United High School because we had run out of funds. He asked if we could have the camera on the area like was done at Lamar Bruni Vergara when it was being built. Mr. Hector Perez, Executive Director of Technology, said they do not have a building there where they can put the lines.

Mr. Santos advised the Board that they would be having a Blue Ribbon Committee meeting the coming week. He said the feeling he was getting was that they would support a bond in

November. The Superintendent said they had shared information regarding the six elementary and two middle schools. He said Ms. Juarez would be doing a presentation on the ninth grade campuses. Mr. Santos said he had the feeling the Blue Ribbon Committee would want a "cafeteria" style to the bond. He added that they would have a presentation regarding the cost of building and renovations.

Mr. Ramirez said not to forget the space that was needed for personnel such as the Police Department and Communications. Mr. Santos said that they also needed to look at Shipping and Receiving and Transportation.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Board Workshop of November 24, 2008 was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Pat Campos – President

Juan Roberto Ramirez - Secretary