



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Approval of Board Minutes for the Months of March and April 2021

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

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: May 18, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the USD Board of Trustees approve the Board Meeting Minutes for the Months March and April 2021

1. Special Called Meeting – March 4, 2021
2. Special Called Meeting – March 23, 2021
3. Special Called Meeting – April 10, 2021
4. Special Called Meeting – April 13, 2021
5. Special Called Meeting – April 19, 2021
6. Regular Board Meeting – April 27, 2021

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

POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

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

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

March 4, 2021

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

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

Javier Montemayor, Jr., Vice-President – PRESENT

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary – PRESENT

Ricardo Molina Sr., Parliamentarian – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Member – PRESENT

Aliza Flores- Oliveros, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Member – PRESENT

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

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

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

If you would like to view a live-stream of the meeting, please click on the the following Youtube link:

https://youtu.be/Zl_QyOddCWk

Two-way communication to the Board meeting may be accessed by clicking on the following zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858404670?pwd=RGV0MUVkVnd5NDdIMW01cWVKedNoQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 5840 4670

Passcode: 346717

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

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

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

Mr. Ramiro Veliz calls roll and establishes a quorum at 6:01 PM.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Public Comments

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except Non-English speakers who require a translator are limited to six (6) minutes. The presiding officer may waive or modify these time limits as appropriated. The speaker will be informed when he or she has one (1) minute remaining. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees, or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks, or use insulting, profane, threatening, or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding employees, public officials, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in BED (LOCAL). Pursuant to 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Jose Ovando: In regards to the appointments of school principals. It is of my opinion that, pretty soon, we are going to have a new superintendent. That is a fact. But, it is my opinion that every superintendent should have the opportunity to succeed. And to do so, they should have all the tools that we give or make available to him or her when she comes into the position. And I believe that, the principal of a school is a key position and we should wait until that a new superintendent that is going to be working directly with these principals, should choose that principal. I know that there are different points of view on this and I understand and respect those, but let us not lose focus here. The focus of the school district; my kid, all our kids. It's not a personal thing and that takes me to the second issue, is I have had comments that there is for example a trustee that has a personal relationship with one of the candidates and if that is the issue that they want to push one candidate for that position that's the wrong thing to do. Even if that person is the best qualified, now their casting a doubt in the qualifications. The best thing the person could do if they do have a personal relationship is to recuse themselves from any selection of principal for that school. I could continue to go on, on how many scenarios that have been happening, but let's not forget what happened with Washington Middle School, and this does not (inaudible) have to become a circus. We can take control of this right now or, rather the board can take control of this right now. That is all I have to say and take the time to do it.

Mr. Ramiro Veliz takes a moment to thank Mr. Ovando; "Thank you for your comment and we appreciate you taking the time to go in person to the boardroom sir".

Mr. Ramiro Veliz, welcomes board member Juan Roberto Ramirez present at 6:05 pm.

V. Items for Information Only

A. Consolidated Summary Report of UISD Districtwide Facilities Damages Resulting from Extreme Inclement Weather Experienced During the February 13 – 19, 2021 Winter Storm URI

Enrique Rangel: Mr. Rangel provides the board a presentation on a summary consolidated report of all the district damages that occurred during the February 13 – 19th as a result of severe winter storm. "Over 127 damages have been recorded so far and half of those have already been completed and repaired".

Starting with the elementary schools, they have a total of \$27K, in damages, the majority being water lines, pumps, sprinkler systems. Some HVAC, air conditioning units that had water that were damaged. In the middle schools, it increases even though there are fewer campuses, there are more conflicts and larger facilities, total amounts to about \$58K on materials and damages. The high schools and 9th grade campuses, have an estimate of \$64K in damages and the other departments such as UISD administration building, the SAC, Krueger field, transportations North and South, the Police dept., child nutrition, support services and facilities

incurred a total of \$118K. These expenses include our Food Production Center (Child Nutrition) that sustained the largest damage on the boiler system. Which is really the heart for food preparation. Mr. Rangel continues to elaborate on the sustained damages for our district. The grand total being close to \$268K, to date.

Ricardo Rodriguez: These are all being repaired as we speak, right?

Enrique Rangel: Yes, about half of them have already been repaired. The other half, we might not have materials in order. But whatever has not been repaired, we made arrangements to ensure that we have a back-up system, or a portable unit or generator or another rerouted line to ensure that every facility is back on line.

Ricardo Rodriguez: The \$268K, did that come out of the budget?

Roberto J. Santos: It's out of the budget. Laida will have to make some adjustments. For example some departments do not have enough money to take care of those needs so Laida and Sam are looking into our General Fund.

Javier Montemayor: The insurance wouldn't cover this?

Roberto J. Santos: We are getting all the documentation to visit with FEMA. Insurance also is involved; our insurance. And you'll see some of the pictures and stuff from Mr. Rangel and the Risk Management Dept. So we're going different areas to see if we can cover this, but I think FEMA is also one area. But I think all buildings are now functioning.

Enrique Rangel: Correct. Yes, we are working closely with Risk Management, the County and City to ensure that all these damages and repairs are documented and submitted for builders insurance, for government coverage. Now, like Mr. Santos mentioned, our priorities during the storm of course a lot of damages throughout the city. The power outage for four, almost five days caused also a lot of damages throughout. So what we were is, working as best as we could and to ensure that Monday the 22nd (February), when staff, teachers and students were scheduled to be back at their campus, that we had everything going. But mentioned all of our campuses had water, heaters in good operation that were safe and ready to go for the 1st day of school when they came back. But we continue repairing. Materials in all honesty they are in great demand throughout the state. Locally, it's hard to find any plumbing. Plumbers right now make more money than lawyers and doctors.

Frank Castillo: I'm sorry. Coming back to Mr. Rodriguez's question, I also want to know, is this money coming out of the operating budget?

Roberto J. Santos: Yes, it is. Yeah, General Funds. General Funds operating budget.

Frank Castillo: Our buildings are not ensured like homeowners..

Roberto J. Santos: They are insured, but obviously, there is a deductible, but these repairs have to be taken care of right now, we have to pay. We have to buy equipment, supplies and we're trying to see if we can get reimbursed with insurance.

Frank Castillo: That makes sense.

Enrique Rangel: We want to thank; we are very grateful that the administration gave us a lot of support to ensure that we get all the parts. We were fortunate that a lot of the materials we had in stock, so we were able to take care of the major damages throughout the district. So I want to take this opportunity to thank all the support personnel that really came through. They were ready, willing and able to go even in low temperatures in the 20's, were out there fixing stuff. Because we try to minimize and cap and put a stop before it got worse. So, I wanted to thank.

Frank Castillo: I would like to compliment you, because I think it's very important that you were out there and facing temperature that your staff you know. And I know that the administrators were out there to.

Enrique Rangel: Yes, we have had a lot of assistance from UPD. Because UPD was all over when we had that power outages, many campuses did not have electricity, no lighting. So they were out there ensuring the buildings were secure and safe and anything they notices, water or whatever they notified the administration immediately and we had our crews in gear to get going to repair everything get materials as best as we could. So it was about 40 different traits and I want to thank also all our custodians at the campuses. Many administrators went out there at one or two in the morning to help get everything under control. So it was a team effort. Also, the City of Laredo, AEP were really working 24 hours a day to try to get us back online. Everything was very successful for Monday, February 22nd. We were up and running.

Ricardo Rodriguez: I'm glad it all played out well. Was the overtime included in all this?

Roberto J. Santos: Well, what it is, that's what we're looking at now because we really paid all the employees 40 hours you know whether they worked or not that week that the board had approved. And we are looking at this particular group of employees because they were out there on a real hazardous circumstance so, to respond to you; Yes. We're going to address that. Actually all the employees that were out there. We had many hourly employees, I think going back to what Enrique said; We had a lot of custodial staff there, facilities, food service, everybody all over the place to respond. So we're going to deal with that.

Ricardo Rodriguez: Especially if they get overtime because with this crisis that we went through, they deserve it.

Roberto J. Santos: Yes. Especially they were out there sending us pictures by text of water leaks and broken lines. We were getting copies of those at 2, 3 am and that helped us a lot. It helped facilities to see where they had some issues and immediately address it. So really police had a lot to do with keeping us abreast and the other item is keeping the buildings safe, because there was no power. No alarm system or video system.

Enrique Rangel: This was a once in a lifetime event, all over Texas of course but I think here, I mean I had never seen anything lasted that long and to the extent. So we were fortunate that we were able to get everything back on line for Monday.

Juan R. Ramirez: I would like to congratulate all of your employees, because they are on call a lot of the time and their always responding to whatever need the school district needed and they responded very good. Just like the marines.

Roberto J. Santos: You're right Mr. Ramirez, you know when Mr. Rangel made the call, there was no hesitation from the employees. Same thing at the schools campuses departments. I mean they rose to the occasion and really I think there's a lot of money, because had we not been able to address those issues on the freeze, honestly it would have probably been double or triple on those expenses.

B. Update on Damages sustained by Fire Alarm System Water Line Break at the FPC and Power Outages at the Campuses and Food Service Production Center

Mr. Rangel and Ms. Ariana Valdez finalize the presentation by providing photo/video images of damages at the Food Production Center, which incurred a loss of \$124,654.55 of food loss alone.

Ricardo Rodriguez: On the damages amount on the food loss, that was not included on the damages total?

Ariana Valdez: No. The \$66K was for the food loss alone. And at the schools, they had to do inventory of what was lost from I think 17 schools that lost power. With all the schools combines we lost \$57K. So, the combined total on food loss was \$124,654.55.

The Food Production Center was able to donate food items to the City of Laredo, to provide for the community at the LEA such as 5,700 snack items and 2,100 juices. And were able to distribute food to the colonias, community centers and school teachers and administrators all helped out to deliver 832 dozen servings of tamales and 3,097 pints of assorted milk.

Javier Montemayor: How are you all doing now?

Ariana Valdez: We're doing good, our staff is back at work. They went in Monday. They went in at 5 in the morning to serve the grab-and-go meals. The numbers have been very good and I think it's because a lot of people did lose power so there was not enough groceries at the stores. We had a high participation all this week. We had like 17K breakfast and 17K lunches are currently being served at the schools.

Javier Montemayor: You're not at a hundred percent?

Ariana Valdez: No, we aren't nearly where we're at in a normal school year. Normally we serve (depending on the menu item) up to sixty thousand, fifty five thousand. So, we're a little bit less than half what we normally serve. But it has been very steady for our Grab and Go meals and our staff has been working really hard in the cold weather even like right before the freeze.

Javier Montemayor: What do you anticipate, like when you will get back.

Ariana Valdez: I think it would be when the students go back to school.

Roberto J. Santos: Yes, one hundred percent back to where we were?

Javier Montemayor: Yes, back to...

Roberto J. Santos: It'll probably be when we go the whole district face to face. That's the only time I think with publicity, letting people know that the Grab-N-Go is available.

Ariana Valdez: Right.

Roberto J. Santos: And we just have not hit the numbers that we had. They've been going up slowly.

Ariana Valdez: The only reason that we have these numbers right now is because we were operating under the summer service program. Normally they have to eat at the campus. But since they did a waiver, USDA and TDA, so their allowing them to take the food home. So, I think that's why our numbers have been good. But then you have a lot of working parents maybe you know, cannot send somebody to go pick up.

Javier Montemayor: And damage wise, how are you on recovery?

Ariana Valdez: We're are doing very well. Obviously, we lost all those food items. We did send everything to Risk Management so they can claim the insurance. But we've been operating every day since you all said we're back at work. And we were back actually the staff went in Thursday and Friday of that week to get ready.

Javier Montemayor: And that's part of Mr. Rangel's presentation.

Roberto J. Santos: The damages but this amount is separate because this is strictly on food.

Ariana Valdez: Right. The information Mr. Rangel was equipment, the water lines and what we need to repair. And this is just on food.

Frank Castillo: Do you have to store the spoiled food for evidence?

Ariana Valdez: We just did video documentation and then we right our reports. We had to fill out certain information for TDA saying what was damaged, why it was damaged and then we submit that.

Frank Castillo: And then we can dispose of it..

Ariana Valdez: Right we can dispose of it.

Frank Castillo: I'm wondering also, since it was very cool weather. Did all the food get spoiled?

Ariana Valdez: The things that got spoiled it was only the water damage. So our freezer is always at zero degrees so, it can last up to 10 days without other food... so if there wouldn't have been a water line break even though our department our production center did not have power, we would have been fine. We would not have lost anything.

Frank Castillo: So the water is what caused the damage.

Ariana Valdez: Right. And at the schools the freezers and refrigerators obviously are smaller. It's not this giant warehouse of a freezer, those only last a few days. So, being out that week we did lose quite a bit of ...

Juan R. Ramirez: On those freezers; was there damage to the food that was in the freezers?

Ariana Valdez: Yes, that's what was thrown out. So, wherever the water was dripping on to other cases and saturated the boxes so obviously it did not meet the temperature that was required for us to serve the students, that was thrown out. And if you have been to our facility, we added a new section to the freezer so all the first section of the freezer, everything we had stored there was fine. And then everything that was closer to the first part of the freezer that didn't get any water damage we were able to salvage as much as we could that met the temperature that was required and that didn't have any water damage.

Juan R. Ramirez: Is there any insurance in to those damages?

Roberto J. Santos: Well, absolutely. We're doing a combination of all expenditures that we had during that week. Working through our Risk Management Dept. and at the same time we're also working with FEMA and I know we're trying to see if they can help us out too. So we're in all areas and we try to get some support there.

Juan R. Ramirez: One thing that comes to my mind is, let's try to look in to getting some sort of transformers/generators, so that when the light goes out for those warehouses especially the food department in some areas, whenever the line is cut off completely so we can have those (inaudible).

Roberto J. Santos: We have them. What happened there Mr. Ramirez, is that, had they not have had the water leaking, everything would have been salvaged. It would not have been an issue. Because of the temperature that they froze. All three freezers at the food production center can last up to 10 days without any electricity their going to hold these temperatures .

Ariana Valdez: And if you all haven't been here and you want to take a tour of it, just let Mr. Ramirez or myself know. We'll schedule something so you can actually walk through the facility. I know some of you have been out there. But maybe if you all would like to go and see. But the freezer yeah, had it not been for that water line break. We wouldn't have lost (inaudible)...

Frank Castillo: Another question I have is, do we have (inaudible), or police presence?

Roberto J. Santos: No, we don't. Well, I mean police was all over the place but what happened when the power went out that's the issue it went out all over the place.

Ariana Valdez: And we did have police go, and we thank them obviously because when you have the water line break they have to have what you call a fire watch. So they have to be there checking on the building to make sure that, there is no fire.

Juan R. Ramirez: How many days were you without (inaudible)

Roberto J. Santos: About a whole week.

Ariana Valdez: Yeah, on Monday is when we lost power to the food production center and on Thursday is when it came back. And on Tuesday evening to Wednesday morning is when we had the water line break.

VI. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

This meeting goes into Closed Session at 6:29 PM.

**A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting**

- 1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities**
- 2. Discussion Regarding Appointment of United High School Principal**
- 3. Discussion Regarding Appointment of Borchers Elementary School Principal**
- 4. Discussion Regarding Revisions to Board Policy BE (LOCAL)**

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

The meeting is reconvened from Closed Session at 7:41 PM.

A. Action Regarding Appointment of United High School Principal

Roberto J. Santos: My recommendation for the Principal of United High School is Jessica Salazar.

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

MOTION PASSES

B. Action Regarding Appointment of Borchers Elementary School Principal

Roberto J. Santos: My recommendation to the Board is to table this agenda item.

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

MOTION PASSES

C. Discussion/Action to Establish the United South High School Early College Academy

David Gonzalez: At this time, we bring this item from the department of Curriculum and Instruction. Requesting board approval for implementing an Early College Academy at United South high school beginning the next school year (2021-2022) for incoming 9th graders. An academy that will provide other students the opportunity to earn an associate's degree 60 hours upon graduation. I've asked Angie Sanchez, director to join us in a four slide (brief) presentation.

Angie Sanchez: Good afternoon, I am Angie Sanchez the Career and Technical Education Director and I also oversee the Early College Programs. The Curriculum and Instruction High School Dept. is requesting approval to expand our associate's degree program in partnership with Laredo College at United South high school. With board approval, United South Early College Academy, will be UISD's third early college. Students in the program will earn college hours upon high school graduation. In terms of the specifications, we plan to start in August of 2021 for 9th grade students entering high school for the 2021-2022 school year. And as I mentioned it would be an associate's of arts degree. 100 students could be selected per cohort and selected on a performance blind lottery, like we do our LBJ students. The recruitment breakdown would also be of the 100 students 76 students from united south high school feeder pattern and 24 from the remaining feeder patterns which it would be 8 from Alexander, 8 from LBJ and / from

United High School. In terms of the Administrative personnel, the principal would assign a current assistant principal to oversee the program. One counselor and one clerk would be needed in the second year of operation, which is the 2022-2023 school year in order to successfully monitor support and guide the students towards high school graduations in both institutions. What you see here is the list of the 21 courses that would be needed for the associate's degree. Students in the 1st year would be 10 hours, second year would be 15 hours. Their junior year would be 15 hours and of course their senior year would be the 20 hours needed to complete the program. In terms of their adjunct staff; for the exception of the Spanish, which they currently have a vacancy, United South has the credential faculty to offer all the college courses listed in the programs. This would be a savings to the district, in terms of tuition. Based on our MOU (memorandum of understanding), it would cost the district; it usually costs us \$5,500.00 to graduate 1 student with an associate's degree. So if you multiply that times 100, we are actually saving the district or not incurring the expense of \$550K / 100 students in the cohort. And this is, can be attributed to UCAN program which started back in 2017. That allows our district to grow our own adjunct faculty. The district is now beginning to see the results of that program. And it is currently being monitored and overseen by Mario Rosales, under the Advanced Academic Dept.

David H. Gonzalez: One thing Angie has not mentioned also is the fact that with these students, the magnet school at United South will continue and those students would also be part of the Early College Academy as well, with the lottery. So, it kind of goes both ways. As far as the stipend in cost for the first year, it would be \$49,300.00. That's really a million textbooks and when go on our second year, their \$69K. Then the 4th year we are looking at \$144K. We are looking at by that, have the potential of 100 students getting an associate's as well as the active diploma. Finally, the timeline is there. If we get it passed today, we will start our projected timeline so we can begin classes in August. Again, I would like to thank the board for all your support. In addition, I will tell you as far as the other high schools we are looking at Alexander and United at this point it is an avenue for us to continue with our instruction beyond this high school to help with our students mainly the south and eventually start at the north.

Javier Montemayor: I congratulate you. I think LBJ was successful, is successful, I think United South would be successful..

Angie Sanchez: Mr. Montemayor, if I can make a comment. LBJ is on track to graduate 169 students with an associate's degree this May. So, this is the toughest year for them but they do have 169 that are headed that so hopefully we'll have those numbers by May.

Javier Montemayor: I think these programs have the ability to change the base of the community, where their located and it improves Laredo, it improves United. I'll be

breathing down your neck (laugh) to get Alexander and United. But I congratulate you and (inaudible)...

Frank Castillo: You said there was three, is this the third one?

David Gonzalez: Yes; there's two at LBJ. The Early College high school and then we have then there is the Blizia program at LBJ. That's two early college high school. And the third one is for United South high school.

Frank Castillo: Which is the Blizia is for the medical field more involved with science. I'm all in support. Like Mr. Montemayor was saying; this is excellent. We need to change the community. I don't go to Alexander too much but we need to do something about the magnet program. It's been spread out too much. In my opinion, we need to do something to concentrate and do some more things at the magnet like health and science at Alexander. Many people are interested in the health career. And this pandemic has taught us that. That's just my comment.

David Gonzalez: And just for the record, we've already met with multiple parents with LC (Laredo College). A person we spoke to Dr. Solis. And I'll be going to their board meeting next month for (inaudible) our findings for the early colleges at LBJ. And hopefully this approval will also be advising them of our commitment to continue working with the college.

Roberto J. Santos: One of the items that I know Ms. Sanchez shared with you, but she didn't emphasize it enough is I think that what's making these programs good for us, is, the board had approved in 2017. To be able to get our teachers to start going back, to get our masters in their content area. When they do that and they teach the early college, we don't pay any tuition and that has made the difference. So, I think it was board support, we got those people going to TAMU, getting their masters. And we have a little contract that Mr. Cruz did for us, that they have to stay with us so many years to be able to recoup the amount that we're paying for the information, but I think that's been the key.

Ricardo Rodriguez: I think it's all a win-win situation.

Roberto J. Santos: Absolutely.

Ricardo Rodriguez: I congratulate what you are doing Mr. Gonzalez and your staff

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Ricardo Rodriguez

Seconded By: Frank Castillo
Any Discussion: Mr. Veliz: Mr. Gonzalez, we appreciate the information. Thank you for the hard work. And Mr. Santos I know it's a collaborative effort. So, obviously our United South students and other students from other high schools will greatly benefit. So, we look forward to establishing and implementing the program there.

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. Adjournment

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

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business of the USD Board of Trustees, this Special Called meeting of March 4, 2021 is adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Ramiro Veliz, III, President

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary

These Minutes were completed by Giselda Rodriguez, and submitted for approval by the USD Board of Trustees at the May 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

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

March 23, 2021

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Ramiro Veliz III, President, - PRESENT

Javier Montemayor, Jr., Vice-President – PRESENT

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary – PRESENT (Via Videoconference, arrived during Closed Session)

Ricardo Molina Sr., Parliamentarian – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Aliza Flores- Oliveros, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Francisco "Frank" Castillo, Member – PRESENT

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Tuesday, March 23, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM in the UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045.

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

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

Two way communication to the Board meeting can be accessed by clicking on the following zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87328394702?pwd=amg0WTRUVVAvckdrVGk3Q1c1SytUQT09>

Meeting ID: 873 2839 4702
Passcode: 677355

If you would like to view a live-stream of the meeting, please click on the following Youtube link:

<https://youtu.be/vvbdZnYq-Kg>

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

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Mr. Ramiro Veliz, calls this meeting to order and establishes quorum at **6:01 PM**.

IV. Public Comments

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except Non-English speakers who require a translator are limited to six (6) minutes. The presiding officer may waive or modify these time limits as appropriated. The speaker will be informed when he or she has one (1) minute remaining. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees, or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks, or use insulting, profane, threatening, or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding employees, public officials, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in BED (LOCAL). Pursuant to 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Tina Treviño: Hello, good evening everyone. Board members, thank you for giving us the opportunity to visit with you. TASB representatives thank you for participating in such a good direction for our district. Just a quick "FYI". I think you are aware that, I was a UISD board Member for nine years. So, this means a lot to me and TASB was a part of my life during that time as well.

First of all, I'd like to start off with board members, please I know you're planning to make some decisions on who you will be interviewing. I just would like to remind you that the educational code says "the superintendent is the instructional leader of the district". Instructional Leader meaning the guiding of the district it's "job" in education. I took the opportunity led by TASB to observe both sessions of the community committee, committee's influence. And I thought about it quite a lot. And I also, have reflected on my thoughts and how it integrates with the others and we're very, very similar. 99.9% of the individuals of the community advisory committee stated that they wanted to see a superintendent with experience number one, being able to make crucial decisions when needed. And, in 2020 boy oh boy has this district needed to make crucial decisions. Thank God we had a leader in Mr. Santos and that was important but now we have to find another leader. Who can do that kind of a job.

Secondly, the community committee also emphasized the need to have someone who's been in the classroom. Who's gone through the process. A role who knows how to roll their sleeves up get over wash the windows mop the floors for those kids, Say good morning and be excited that they are with those children. The committee again said, they wanted to see someone who could make very good decisions. In the best interest, particularly in 2020 of safety protocols and making sure, they were adhered to. They also stated, they felt like safety was of the ultimate criteria not just for the children. But for the teachers and for the staff and they wanted an individual who thought for everybody not just one particular component. Teachers want something, someone who they can respect. Someone who would be proactive and not reactive. Don't wait until there is a problem. If you anticipate, something is going (inaudible), address it, before it goes down over the bridge. The committee also stated that it was looking for someone who had experience in administration and demonstrated thoughtful and intelligent decisions and directions. Which for UISD I'm happy to say led to educational gains for the children and again in 2020 that's not an easy task because this virtual stuff is no fun. I can't imagine that it's fun. As a teacher or a child and a lot of them follow me, I'm sorry to say.

I think we need to consider the person that you are going to interview. To be someone who has been there day after day in the trenches. Hand in hand with the chief instructional officer. Someone with experience. Review all the applicants. We want the best. But, we want all of these criteria I have addressed. But this is what the community wants. This is what the community have stated to you all. This is our advice to you to take care of our children and for you to make the right decision. One, an individual who would represent the community, the teachers, the students, and the staff and all their needs. Thank you so very much and good luck on your search.

Javier Montemayor: Mrs. Oliveros appears to be having technical difficulties.

Ramiro Veliz: Mr. Molina and Mr. Ramirez, can you hear?

After ensuring other board members are able to listen, Mr. Veliz welcomes Mr. Altgelt.

George Altgelt: For the record my name is George Altgelt, I'm a citizen, I'm a taxpayer and a father of two UISD students. I also have worn a couple of different hats in the community. I know I don't really need an introduction to you all because one of the things we've collaborated, we've been on opposite sides of fights, we've been on same sides of fights. And I think generally holistically we are all champions for teachers and children in our own different ways. And so, in that respect I know we all have a lot more in common than what we do differently.

I also served in the same committee as the previous speaker and previously I was a council member that was part of a city manager search. And that search, there is a lot of parallels between that search and this search. And what we did as a council, I mean frankly we window dressed the whole search committee and process so that it gave the appearance to the public like we were taking this really deep dive into finding you know the best, you know city manager that money could buy. And what we ultimately ended up doing is we sold ourselves short, we sold the city short and the citizens short. We ended up choosing, and not I but collectively as a council (inaudible), we ended up choosing politics instead of people. And unfortunately, it's had mixed results and history will be the ultimate judge there. But, you know when you are behind the scenes you kind of know "como corre el agua". And there is just so many things that we could have done better. We could have chosen a technician who doesn't have political baggage and I think that is really at the heart of what your decision is.

I know you guys are getting tugged different ways. I know as elected officials, it's tough you know. Your being in this like in the middle of these opposing forces. But I think that if you are going to truly be advocates of students, parents and teachers, it's a simple decision. And so, if you search your mind, you know, your brain gives you all those technical reasons for or against a particular candidate but if you push all that to the side and you search right here (pointing to chest) in your heart. It's a really simple decision. It's not complicated. I think each one of you knows exactly what the right decision is. And the decision it comes down to, well who do I want to be the head instructional leader for my child. If you just put your dad or you mom hat on. Or, for those of you who maybe don't have children or your children have already grown up. You just kind of, you put that like what is best for my kids. And, what's best for your kids, ultimately is that leader who's already among us. Who's already you know, she's already earned her stripes. And, you know the committee when we were going through our analysis, kind of that generally TASB framework.

Okay we need a strong instructional leader. We need someone who has classroom experience. We need someone who's reputation is beyond reproach and we need someone that the public is confident about. Think about this, I mean I'm sure you all get this all the time. Well the biggest part of the bill of the tax bill is UISD right? And we all complained a lot, and still do. But when the performance metrics for the past couple of years, we're way up here you know we're getting some bangs for our buck. We are competing with other districts in the state you know. So, "lo barato sale caro y lo bueno cuesta". And, I think a lot of us we don't mind paying if there's value. Right now we're paying and since there is such value because of the hard work and leadership of you all, being able to really set the politics to the side to the extent that you can. And let the professionals the academic and the curriculum you know "maestros". Teachers practice their craft without that political meddling.

You've been able to insulate the institution from all of that, that's plagued south Texas over our history so much. And specifically the city I mean, we are the first ones you know, they're really kind of muddling things up in my humble opinion. And so, here you all are now thrust upon the horns of a dilemma of do we take the hard right, or the easy left. And the hard right for the elected official could very well mean, I might not get elected. And I'm here to tell you after having you know voluntarily shown myself the door, it's not that bad of a deal. It's actually quite liberating if you end up going the way of the "ex-politico". But if you take that hard right, what you do is you are going to define the trajectory and the growth and the history by which you all will be judged by. In which our district and our citizens and our community will be judged by. That hard right, is choosing that leader that your heart already has told you, who that right person is. And so, I'll just end with this.

Nobody in the committee said you know (inaudible).. we need someone that understands the "patron system". No one in that committee said, we need a well-connected, well-heeled guy that's going to further the individual agendas of certain board members. And I'm not saying that that exists but that's just some of the hyperbole that's out there. No one in that committee has called for that. And I would venture to guess that teachers who have reached out to you have said "hey, we need a good politico". I would venture to guess that, none of the parents or admins that have been cultivated and curated over the years, have come forward and said "hey, we need someone that understands you know "como corre el agua" you know in Laredo, no. Everybody is telling you all what you already know. Which is bring us the best and bring us the best instructional, curriculum, public administration manager that we can find. That's the task that you have before you. Anything short of that very best among us is failure. And it is failure in many ways but most importantly it's failing the children that are going to be taking care of us. When we're elderly. That is all I have for you. I wish you God's grace in your deliberations and thank you for listening to me.

IV. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

This meeting goes into Closed Session at 6:18 PM.

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

1. Consultation With Legal Counsel Regarding Prospective Superintendent's Employment Contract Review and Discuss Superintendent Candidate Applicants

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

The meeting is reconvened from closed session at 7:46 PM.

A. Discussion / Action Regarding Superintendent Candidate Applicants

Frank Castillo: I make the motion, to interview the applicants for the position of superintendent as discussed in closed session.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Frank Castillo
Seconded By: Javier Montemayor and Ricardo Molina, Sr.
Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

V. Adjournment

At this time, I make a motion to adjourn and I would like to thank Mr. Garcia and the TASB representatives for the information, for the time and for being present, thank you.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Frank Castillo
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business of the USD Board of Trustees, this Special Called meeting of March 23, 2021 is adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Ramiro Veliz, III, President

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary

These Minutes were completed by Griselda Rodriguez, and submitted for approval by the USD Board of Trustees at the May 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

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

April 10, 2021

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Ramiro Veliz, III – President – PRESENT
Javier Montemayor, Jr. – Vice-President - PRESENT
Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez – Secretary – PRESENT
Ricardo Molina, Sr. – Parliamentarian - PRESENT
Francisco "Frank" Castillo – Member – PRESENT
Aliza Flores Oliveros – Member – PRESENT
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member – PRESENT (Arrived During Closed Session)

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Saturday, April 10, 2021, beginning at 8:30 AM in the United ISD Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building – Room #2, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, Texas 78043

- I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order
- II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to Order at **8:48 a.m.**. The record showed that a quorum of Board Members was present, that this meeting was duly called, and that notice of this meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
 - A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.
- IV. Public Comments: Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except that non-English speakers requiring a translator are limited to six minutes. The presiding Board officer may modify or waive these time limits as appropriate. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks or use insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding Board officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or

security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding individual District employees, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in Board Policy BED (Local). Pursuant to section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Cynthia Conchas – I am Cynthia Conchas, a retired educator. I dedicated 43 years of my teaching profession as a teacher, assistant principal, elementary and high school principal and central office administrator at LISD. By the way, I did my student teaching at Nye Elementary School. Both of my children are products of UISD, and my grand daughter currently attends United Middle School. Thirty three years ago I had the honor and pleasure of working with Gloria Rendon. I was her first boss, her principal at Honore Ligarde Elementary School, a campus located in south Laredo. In the two years that she served as a second grade teacher, she exhibited qualities of leadership, team work, organization, dedication, professionalism and a contributor to high student performance. I recall that very well because we always tend to remember exceptional people that make a difference in a school setting. I have followed her career through the years and have seen how she continues to excel at every level. As I stand here before you, I know you have a difficult and very important decision to make that will impact the school district and the community for years to come. Gloria Rendon is a proven, visionary leader who sets high goals and expectations for herself and others, embraces data driven practices and technology innovations, communicates and elaborates well with others. She is a risk taker, problem solver, instructional leader and is able to manage district operations in an effective and efficient manner. She has the ability to empower all the district and campus employees to improve student performance and always remember the mission We Are United. We need Ms. Rendon, she is amazing, to continue the legacy that Bobby Santos is leaving behind. She is the beacon of hope for UISD to continue in its quest for educational excellence. Give her the opportunity to lead the way for UISD and maintain the district's exemplary TEA "A" rating. Gloria Rendon is the right person for the job. She will continue to hold high academic standards and prepare our students for a successful future. School board members, I urge you to make the right choice; select Gloria Rendon as the next Superintendent for United Independent School District. She's ready! Thank you.

- V. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 8:53 A.M.

- A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting

1. Board Will Conduct Interviews of Superintendent Applicants

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

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 4:57 P.M.

- A. Discussion/Action Regarding Further Interviews of Superintendent Applicants and/or Name Finalist(s) for Superintendent Position

Ramiro Veliz, III - At this point there is no Action to be taken.

VII. Adjournment

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina

Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Special Called Meeting of April 10, 2021 was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Ramiro Veliz III, President

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary

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

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

April 13, 2021

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

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

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Saturday, April 13, 2021, beginning at 12:00 PM in the United ISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Dr., Laredo, TX 78045

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

Due to the ongoing health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 coronavirus, this meeting will be conducted by video conference or telephone call as permitted by Governor Abbott's March 16, 2020, temporary suspension of certain open meetings requirements. At least a quorum will be participating by videoconference or telephone call in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.125 or 551.127 of the Texas Government Code that have not been suspended by order of the governor.

Two way communication to the Board meeting may be accessed by clicking the following zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87458914095?pwd=TLcwU0hWTHd4U3RPblBWbnl3U1dnZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 5891 4095
Passcode: 567829

If you would like to view a live-stream of the meeting, please click on the following Youtube link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOsyMD_vIT0

Public Comments may be submitted to Alejandra Salinas at axsalina@uisd.net at any time prior to the Board Meeting. Public comments must pertain to agenda items only.

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

- II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to Order at 12:01 p.m.. The record showed that a quorum of Board Members was present, that this meeting was duly called, and that notice of this meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

- IV. Public Comments: Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except that non-English speakers requiring a translator are limited to six minutes. The presiding Board officer may modify or waive these time limits as appropriate. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks or use insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding Board officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding individual District employees, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in Board Policy BED (Local). Pursuant to section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Becky Palomo – President Veliz, members of the board, thank you for having me here today and thank you for the service that you provide to all families at UISD. Although my husband and I are products of LISD, we have chosen to join the UISD family and to raise our boys within UISD. Five of our boys have gone through the system. Two of our boys have gone off to college but I still have three boys in UISD so I come to you as a mother to make public comments today. To make sure that everyone here understands that because of my profession, I am prohibited by law of making any recommendations. I am not precluded however from sharing with you my account with a specific individual. In this case, I come before the board today to share my experiences with Ms. Gloria Rendon during the time that my boys have been at UISD and during my tenure as a judge in different programs and in my capacity when I go to UISD to speak with your students and our students in the classroom. Ms. Rendon has always shown me, during her entire tenure that I've known her, she has always shown me to be a visionary. Ms. Rendon has practical solutions to all problems and all issues concerning the students and the entire school district and that is something that I find to be very...

Ramiro Veliz, III – We lost connection. We'll see if she logs back in. I don't see any more public comments.

Juan Cruz – Did Mr. Castillo log in?

Francisco Castillo – Yes, I am present. I apologize for my delay.

Becky Palomo – As I was saying, Gloria Rendon has shown me to be a visionary with practical solutions to everyday problems in all the gamut surrounding student and academics. She is multi-skilled, she's an effective communicator. She's shown me that she has the academic knowledge and she has the administrative temperament to sit down and resolve issues with parents and with teachers and something

very important that I'm sure this board is going to consider. And last, but not least, I think one of the most important characteristics Ms. Rendon has exhibited to me, both as a mother, a family of UISD and as a professional, and community stakeholder in Webb County, is that she's a leader. She understands the law related to Texas schools and to children, and that is invaluable. As many of you know, Ms. Rendon has been a part of UISD for over 30 years. She started in the classroom and she has worked her way up. She's always been involved in administration in the last years of her tenure, even before Mr. Santos became Superintendent, Ms. Gloria Rendon was working in the background ensuring that UISD continued it's A Rated level across the state which is an impressive feat that I congratulate all of you for being a part of and also for the Superior financial rating that UISD boasts each and every year. It is something invaluable that our students can receive this each and every day in their academics and that's why I have chosen, my husband and I, we've chosen to raise our boys within the UISD family. As you know, I am a big component of progressing women in all industries. With all due respect to every board member, and I say this very carefully, but I think it does need to be said. As a proponent, helping women and ensuring that women continue succeeding in all aspects, the professions and all industries across Texas, I encourage you to look at the fact that UISD has not had a female Superintendent for years and other school districts within and surrounding communities have female superintendents. To see a woman working behind the scenes and getting things done and succeeding and getting A1 ratings and getting financial superior ratings is impressive. But to bring that woman to the forefront and see what she can do, is something that I would like to see done and from the conversations that I've had with many of your parents, and many families, they would also like to see this done. As board members you are faced with making very difficult decisions, and as you know, it is something that I do in my profession and I have to consider many things including the law. I have to consider the evidence and everything that is before me and I'm confident that as board members, you will consider everything that Ms. Gloria Rendon has to offer. The needs of the community, the success that she has already been able to accomplish under your leadership, behind the scenes and helping Mr. Santos ensure that UISD succeeds. At the end of the day, it's about the academic performance of the student. There's a learning environment where students feel comfortable and feel that they are invested in and that they can grow and prosper. And that is my concern as a parent; is that we're going to have someone at the head of the helm that knows how to do that, that has done it before and will continue to do it. Thank you for your time and for your service as board members. I am confident that you will make the right decision.

Ricardo Rodriguez – I would like to make a motion, to be transparent. We have been transparent in all of our meetings. If we can do our decision here, to make the vote to be transparent and not go into closed session.

Ramiro Veliz – Mr. Rodriguez just made a motion not to go into Closed Session and to do the deliberation of the three candidates in Open Session.

Aliza Oliveros – I have a second with discussion.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Seconded by: Aliza Oliveros

Discussion:

Aliza Oliveros – Mr. Cruz, would we be able to say the names of the candidates as this point?

Juan Cruz – No. They are private but you can refer to them as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 in the order that you interviewed them on Saturday. So if you're talking about number one you know who that was from Saturday.

Ricardo Rodriguez – I don't recall.

Aliza Oliveros – I don't think it's possible for us to do it in Open Session if we cannot even mention their names. I think that's counter productive and somebody might get confused with numbers and this is too important of a decision to take that risk.

Ricardo Rodriguez – I just feel that we owe it to our constituents, to our tax payers and I think TASB has done very good work or organizing it together so that's the only reason why I want to do it like this so the people can actually see what we want to do so there's no hidden agenda. I know we can't mention their names now but I can give them the numbers.

Aliza Oliveros – That's risky.

Ramiro Veliz, III – We have a motion not to adjourn into Closed Session

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion:

Aliza Oliveros – You need to give me a moment. I need to put in my head the order. This is very risky. I don't agree with this at all.

Ricardo Rodriguez – I think Mr. Castillo wanted to go through the whole process of it, of giving all the candidates a chance so that way he can review a little bit more on it.

Javier Montemayor – Let me make a counter motion.

Juan Cruz – First of all, we need to take a vote. You have three votes in favor of proceeding. Is there any other vote to.....

Aliza Oliveros – I'm against.

Ramiro Veliz, III – So in favor it's myself, Rick and Mr. Molina, three

Francisco Castillo – I am not going to agree at this time because it's completely unexpected. I thought we would go through closed session because we do need to discuss personnel matters and I don't know if that's governed by law Mr. Cruz. So it's something where you might need to give us your opinion.

Juan Cruz – Sure. Mr. Ramirez, how do you vote?

Juan Roberto Ramirez – I go against.

In Favor: Ricardo Rodriguez, Francisco Castillo, Ricardo Molina
Opposed: Aliza Oliveros, Francisco Castillo, Juan Roberto Ramirez, Javier Montemayor

MOTION DOES NOT PASS

Javier Montemayor – I make a counter motion that we move into the second round of interviews and then discuss which candidates in closed session. My motion is that we go to the second round of interviews.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Javier Montemayor
Seconded by: Francisco Castillo
Discussion:

Ramiro Veliz – we have a motion by Mr. Montemayor to proceed to the second round of interviews with deliberation in closed session of who the candidates will be.

In Favor: Javier Montemayor, Francisco Castillo, Aliza Oliveros, Juan Roberto Ramirez, Ricardo Molina, Ramiro Veliz
Opposed: Ricardo Rodriguez

MOTION PASSES

- V. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 12:17 p.m.

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

1. Discussion Regarding Superintendent Applicants

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

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 12:45 p.m.

A. Action Regarding Naming of Superintendent Finalist(s) and / or Selection of 2nd Round of Interviews of Superintendent Applicants

Ramiro Veliz, III – Right before going into Closed Session, Mr. Montemayor made a motion, we voted on it and we approved that we are going to proceed to the second round of interviews. Do we have a motion regarding any action?

Ricardo Rodriguez – Yes, I would like to vote number 1, number 2 and number 5 to come for the interviews for the second round of interviews

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Seconded by: Javier Montemayor

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VII. Adjournment

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Roodriguez

Seconded by: Javier Montemayor

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Special Called Meeting of April 13, 2021 was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Ramiro Veliz III, President

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary

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

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

April 19, 2021

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

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

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Saturday, April 19, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM in the United ISD Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building – Room #2, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, Texas 78043

- I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order
- II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to Order at 5:35 p.m.. The record showed that a quorum of Board Members was present, that this meeting was duly called, and that notice of this meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
 - A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.
- IV. Public Comments: Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except that non-English speakers requiring a translator are limited to six minutes. The presiding Board officer may modify or waive these time limits as appropriate. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks or use insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding Board officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or

security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding individual District employees, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in Board Policy BED (Local). Pursuant to section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Claudia Gonzalez – Today I stand before you as a student, parent and educator. Mrs. Rendon was my 2nd grade teacher. As an ESL, migrant, spanish speaking student, I was scared. Mrs. Rendon, back then Sandoval, made me feel safe, welcomed and nurtured. I learned. She provided a safe, learning environment for me to grow. Any parent can agree, this is what you want daily when leaving their children in your hands. As a parent, knowing my children are in the care of a leader like Mrs. Rendon, I can confidently say, they are receiving the best education with endless possibilities as UISD always strives for. As a former administrator, I always felt I could count on a knowledgeable, well rounded and empathic leader for this district. The student's best interest is always at the forefront of her mission and daily decision making. There was always support no matter how small or big the task was at hand. Her knowledge, vision and relentless composure, even through the most challenging times are a great asset to this district. Thank you for your time.

Diego E. Vasquez – Good evening members of the school board. Thank you for allowing me speak of my experience with Mr. David Gonzalez as well as the impact he has made on my personal life and professional life. As a child I lived a military life, traveling with my family from Puerto Rico to Germany, Georgia and Texas. May God bless my father for his service and for being one of the two most important authority figures in my life together with Mr. Gonzalez who was my previous principal at Washington Middle. Both of them have been heros to me. My father for saving lives and fought in combat and Mr. Gonzalez for helping me and my classmates to be guided through one of the roughest most confusing phases of our lives in middle school. I will never be able to repay him for working closely with my parents to educate and take care of me during my middle school years. As my father bravely fought for our country and my mother selflessly worked for the district as an AP Spanish teacher at United South High. As far as my memory to middle school may be today, I can perfectly remember feeling extremely stressed since I was being constantly bullied and peer pressured at school. Not to mention the culture shock that I was experiencing from recently moving into a border town. I proceeded to act out and I misbehaved. I became self destructive and did not have the healthy to express myself or to seek guidance during that phase. Mr. Gonzalez was that helping hand who guided me throughout my life. His character, his skills and his comments as an educator is exactly what I needed to hear to change my whole perspective as my own worth as a human being and my life. Some of the lectures and pep talks I received from Mr. Gonzalez still inspire me today. He treated my like his own son and know how to discipline me and encourage me so that I could succeed. I thank God everyday for bringing me my father back home to me. But in case he wouldn't have made it back, I knew that Mr. Gonzalez would have helped me pursue my education. I am pleased to see that you appointed my middle school principal, Mr. Gonzalez to Associate Superintendent and one of the top inspiring leaders for TASA. I would like to continue seeing his growth and I fully trust Mr. Gonzalez to supervise a school district that currently employs my mother and my girlfriend and a district that has educated my siblings and me to be the successful productive individuals that we have become. My

wish is for me to be able to share with the community, the impact Mr. Gonzalez has had on me and for him to begin a path that may enable him to impact as many lives as possible. I believe that becoming Superintendent of UISD, he will transcend every expectation and providing an education and a safe and caring environment for our community, which deserves no less. If UISD truly strives to create a sense of belonging, development and achievement for the students, then there is no one better than David Gonzalez. With him I can truly say that we belong, we evolve and we achieve.

Mimi G. Lacy – Mesa directiva del distrito escolar independiente unido, maestros, señoras y señores tengan ustedes muy buenas tardes. Mi nombre es Mimi Garcia Lacy y tengo el placer de conocer a la señora Gloria Rendon por 27 años. Soy orgullosamente madre de dos estudiantes graduados de United ISD. He trabajado como padre de familia en diferentes comites, con varios superintendentes, varios directores, varias mesas directivas de padres de familia en diferentes escuelas desde primero hasta doceavo y esto es lo que me trae aqui. Porque la decision que van a tomar ustedes afecta no nomas a ustedes, principalmente afecta para las personas que los pusieron en este lugar. Ustedes estan representando a toda la juventud de Laredo de United y deben de hacer lo que es mejor para los estudiantes no para ustedes mismos porque ustedes nos estan representando. Lo primero que les pido es que sean sinceros con ustedes mismos.

Ramiro Veliz, III – Ya se acabo el tiempo. Quiere terminar?

Mimi G. Lacy – Si quiero terminar.

Ramiro Veliz, III – Le doy unos cuantos segundos mas Señora Lacy.

Mimi G. Lacy - Los padres de familia exigimos que nos den un lider con un record impecable que nos guía a nosotros y a nuestros hijos con invocaciones futurísticas. El mundo esta cambiando a un ritmo muy acelerado y nuestros estudiantes necesitan mas tecnologia para competir. No podemos competir fuera de Laredo. No podemos competir en Houston. Nuestros hijos no pueden ir a Rice a Yale; seran primero aqui en sus casas pero alla estan mejor con lo mejor de Estados Unidos. Tienen que ver por los estudiantes y permitame seguir.

Ramiro Veliz, III – Señora Lacy tenemos mucha mas gente.

Mimi G. Lacy – Yo se, pero no se van a morir por dos segundos mas. Todos sabemos que solamente el 20% de los graduados terminan sus estudios universitarios y el otro 80% que pasa? Se quedan aqui en Laredo, haciendo que? Nada. No tienen una vida digna y sin dignidad un hombre no es un hombre y una mujer no es una mujer. La señora Rendon es la lider que posee las cualidades necesarias para guiar este distrito a base de muchisimos años de experiencia.

Laura Fernandez (for State Representative Richard Raymond) - I am here on behalf of State Representative Richard Raymond. He states "I'm sorry I could not be with you today as I am in Austin working at the State Capitol. It is my understanding you will soon decide who will succeed my good friend Bobby Santos as Superintendent. Normally I would not ask

to address you on the search for Bobby's replacement. I am aware you will interview three very capable candidates. However, there have been some who publicly stated I have passed legislation changing requirements for the Superintendent. For the record, that is not true. Plain and simple, I respectfully ask that you make a decision based on truth, not rumor. That is what we should strive to teach our students. I respect people's rights to express their opinion and if I would cast a vote today, I would do so for Mike Garza because I have worked with Mike for well over a decade on issues of importance to Laredo. I believe he would be an exceptional Superintendent but I do not have a vote so it is up to you and only you as a board to decide. Please know whoever you choose will have my full support as we work on solving education issues in Laredo, Texas. Good luck and God bless you administrators, teachers, children and parents.

Raul G. Salinas – I come before you to highly recommend my friend and former colleague, Mike Garza for the position of Superintendent of UISD. I have known Mike for almost two decades. I first met him when I was running for Mayor, years ago, and although he was supporting my opponent, we became good friends and we worked very well together for the betterment of the City of Laredo. And, by the way, he gave me war on the campaign. But on a serious note, during my two terms as mayor of this great city, I had the opportunity to work with Mike on numerous projects for the City. Mike was an exceptional council member, hard working, dedicated, accessible, responsible, pro-active, caring, always putting people first. He had an open door policy and constantly hosted town hall meetings with his constituents. He was definitely a hands-on council man who truly cared about the people and their needs, especially the poor. He held many toy, food and clothing drives for the less fortunate in his district. He has a big heart and he cares about people, he cares about students. Among his accomplishments, let me just say, he was instrumental in the construction of a much needed public library in south Laredo. The first state of the art recreational center and the much needed cuatro vientos extension which is important to UISD. Ladies and gentlemen, Mike has twenty three years of high level administrative experience in various departments. He's an exceptional mediator, accessible, transparent, respectful, kind-hearted, loyal, of high integrity and a true leader. He is a problem solver and gets the job done. Thank you for the opportunity to address you all.

Olivia Infante – Me presencia aqui es para apoyar a Mr. David Gonzalez. Brevemente les dire que es una persona responsable. No se cuantos años de experiencia tenga, pero quince años en este circulo de educacion especial me han sido suficientes para decirles con seguridad que el señor Roberto Santos se puede ir y dejar su trabajo a una persona responsable, inteligente, convive con los padres y con los hijos. Se va a los salones a ver que estan haciendo, se involucra demasiado. Mi hijo ahorita esta saliendo de high school asesorado por el, del Cherish esta saliendo. Es un niño con autismo de 22 años con miras al colegio y nadamas no es para mi, es para todos los que estan en el circulo. Le aseguro señor Roberto Santos, que mejor que el no van a encontrar. El es una persona adecuada para este puesto. Muchas gracias.

Armando Picasso, III – It is with much pleasure and confidence that I recommend Mr. Joseph Michael Garza for the position of United Independent School District Superintendent. Mr. Garza's twenty three years in education administration have given him a broad range of experiences that have prepared him well for this new challenge. He is a person with strong

communication skills, problem solver, self disciplined, self motivated and a visionary. I am most grateful for his involvement in the establishing of the public library in south laredo; a facility my three children and countless others continue to benefit from to this very day. Having attended United Independent School District himself, I have no doubt that Mr. Garza will be an asset that will continue to seek the enrichment of our education system. It is for these reasons that I and many others, recommend Mr. Garza for the position of Superintendent. Thank you.

Jose Arreazola – I am a very proud Finley Phantom, Washington Bobcat and United Longhorn, a product of United ISD. Today I am here to talk on behalf of a man who needs no introduction. Not only that, I am also here to talk about a generation of students that have been impacted by the leadership and mentorship of this great man. Mr. David Gonzalez was my principal at George Washington Middle School and ever since then he has always followed me in my educational journey. He has celebrated victories with me and mourned losses with me. As a guide and as a mentor, has always been there for me. Mr. Gonzalez was there for me when I graduated and walked the stage in 2018. I shared that moment of victory with him and as a student, that was the nicest way to wrap up my public education experience. The man who welcomed me as a little 11 year old boy on my first day of middle school and who pushed me to become the best version of myself handed me my diploma that day. I am here to state clearly what parents, teachers and students want. I am here to highlight the people's choice, the choice for students and the choice that will inspire generations of leadership. I see him in that position because he cares for the students and not the chair or the title. If this position were to be given to him, our school district would be completely reimaged for the next 15 to 20 years. We need a new vision with new ideas; but not only that, someone with a record of success. His love for students goes way beyond the position. Something that has always resonated with me is his passion and dedication for our special education students. He created the Meet in the Middle Initiative at GWMS, something that later became (inaudible). He always was and continues to be a champion for education and our children. Choose someone who believes in our students and the power to accomplish your dreams. Choose Mr. David H. Gonzalez. Thank you.

Ana C. Gutierrez – I am here this evening to voice my support for an individual that I have a lot of respect for; this is Mr. Mike Garza. Mr. Garza has served our community in city council for two terms and worked with millions of dollars and brought lots of money to our community. He also is a product of UISD and is a current Assistant Superintendent and works with departments that are very important; especially Attendance which brings in money for our district. He has 20 years plus experience and I think he's up for the challenge and I urge you to consider Mr. Garza as your next Superintendent and he will take us to the next level of excellence in education for United Independent School District. Thank you.

Joe Cruz – I come to you as a parent, as a booster club president. I've been around this school district for a lot of years, working hand in hand with teachers, with students and the parents. Mr. Mike Garza has brought a lot to our district, especially to my wife that is a teacher, my brothers and my sisters in law; they are educators. He has always been there for us. Like everybody else has said, he has brought a lot of money, opened parks. He has done a lot for the children and that is what we need; somebody that looks out for the children. Somebody that is going to follow his steps. It is a great foundation that you guys

have. We need a little bit of reinforcement. I think Mr. Mike Garza is that man. Thank you so much.

Jose and Erika Iznaola – I am here to speak about Ms. Gloria Rendon. As parents of a special education child, we have always worried about the future of our son. All the teachers that have touched his life have been extremely helpful in his development. However, Ms. Rendon, even though she is part of UISD's Administrative Team, has also played an important role in his academic development. As a district administrator, she has helped us make sure that our son receives appropriate academic services and in talking to other parents, we know that she has the best interest of the students at heart. For that reason, we were happy to hear that Ms. Rendon has been considered as one of the finalists for the position of Superintendent of UISD. Hopefully, she gets the opportunity to serve the students and parents of our community. Thank you.

Miguel Silva – It gives me great pleasure to recommend Mr. Michael Garza for the position of United Independent School District Superintendent. I've had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Garza due to me being a resident of District 1. I have nothing but the highest respect for Mr. Garza. In addition, he has great skills that make a great leader and I believe that those skills will help him flourish as the Superintendent. Furthermore, he has a multitude of educational administrative experience and he has served in other positions throughout the district. For example, one of his most important accomplishments has been the forefront of education and outreach that has led to millions of dollars in total district fundings since 2003, enabling the district to keep on growing. Additionally, Mr. Garza was a city council member for Laredo for eight years in which he did an amazing job for South Laredo. I have no doubt that Mr. Garza is the Superintendent needed in order to keep United Independent School District as one of the best districts in Texas. Thank you for your time.

Rubi L. Chapa – Me presento aqui ante ustedes como madre de familia, miembro de esta gran comunidad del distrito escolar. Mi presencia aqui es para apoyar al señor Mike Garza como futuro superintendente de este distrito. El señor Mike Garza ha servido nuestra comunidad del distrito de una manera etica, responsable y admirable. Su experiencia en el sector provisto y su excelente manejo administrativo que ha desempeñado los ultimos 23 años de carrera aqui en United lo hace el candidato perfecto. El estar al mando de importantes departamentos del distrito como son el departamento de asistencia, el departamento de servicio de apoyo a los alumnos, el departamento de compras, el departamento de enfermeria, especialmente durante estos tiempos de pandemia, ha jugado un papel muy importante para que el distrito siguiera funcionando sin interrupciones. Bajo su liderazgo se le ha proveido al distrito de importantes sociedades de los cuales se ha podido llevar a cabo la vacunacion y exámenes de Covid en nuestras escuelas a beneficio de nuestros niños y empleados del distrito. Tambien me gusta su trayectoria como voluntario de la preparatoria United South para los niños de la banda y diferentes deportes. Por todas esas cualidades y muchas mas que seguro tiene el y que en este momento se me olvidaran, yo apoyo al señor Mike Garza como el siguiente superintendente de este distrito. Tambien les quiero dar gracias porque por dos años estuvimos fuera por cuestiones personales de mi familia y mis hijos estuvieron compitiendo con otros estados y tambien salian sobresalientes y todo fue por las bases que tomaron mis hijos aqui en el distrito. Por eso me preocupa mucho por el nuevo superintendente que vaya a quedar. Quiero que sea

alguien que sea responsable y que sea dedicado hacia los niños y simplemente les quiero dar gracias porque ellos supieron sobresalir en los niveles del estado de Memphis y de Nuevo Mexico. Muchisimas Gracias.

- V. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:02 p.m.

- A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting

1. Conduct Second Round of Interviews of Superintendent Candidates and Discussion Regarding Naming of Finalist

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

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 8:15 p.m.

- A. Action Regarding Naming Finalist for Superintendent of Schools

Ricardo Rodriguez – my motion for Superintendent would be David Gonzalez

Ricardo Molina – I second that

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion:

Javier Montemayor – I have a sub-motion. I make a motion that we appoint as our next Superintendent, an individual who has been a teacher, a counselor, an administrator, an assistant with the school district, has served under three superintendents and is currently serving as our Deputy. This individual has handled issues, including academics, safety and security, all our issues concerning the pandemic. She is basically the go-to for all principals, she is the go-to for the two co-applicants. She handles the implementation of the district's plans, including our academics and our academic programs. I think it is time to show our girls in our community that if they work hard, if they have integrity and they have discipline, that they can accomplish their goals. My recommendation to this board is that we hire Gloria Rendon.

Aliza Oliveros – As the only female on this board, I will second that.

Juan Cruz – Just to be clear, the motion is for both Mr. Rodriguez's and Mr. Montemayor's motion, as Finalist for Superintendent of Schools. There is a waiting

period of 21 days and then the board has to come back and then actually approve that person as Superintendent so this is going to be for naming the finalist.

Aliza Oliveros – We are voting on what right now?

Juan Cruz – Naming the finalist

Aliza Oliveros – On which motion?

Juan Cruz – Mr. Montemayor's, the second one.

Aliza Oliveros – I would like to say that all three applicants were excellent. There is no doubt in my mind that anyone of the three applicants would be an excellent Superintendent and I want to thank the three applicants because it takes a lot and I know we put you through a lot. Some of the questions were difficult and I commend you for that and if you are not selected today, know that in my mind you have all the qualities that it takes to be a Superintendent for United Independent School District. Unfortunately, we can only select one today but please know that I hold you all three in high regard.

Juan Roberto Ramirez – I concur with what Ms. Aliza said.

Francisco Castillo – I think the person that represents teachers, families and parents, that's who I chose, in my opinion and I will vote for, to be able to be that leader. I think it is something where we are fortunate to have three local leaders before us to make this decision. While it's not an easy decision to make, it's actually a very good decision so I concur that we have excellent candidates and I think all of them deserve our admiration. Thank you.

Ramiro Veliz, III – I want to thank Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Rendon, Mr. Garza for applying for the vacancy. It's going to be a real hard decision for us as board members but I think as other board members have mentioned, all of you are extremely qualified, experienced and are really capable to lead this district forward. With that said, any other comments? We will vote on the sub-motion by Mr. Montemayor and Ms. Oliveros for Ms. Rendon as the finalist to be the next Superintendent for UISD.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Javier Montemayor

Seconded by: Aliza Oliveros

Discussion: None

In Favor: Javier Montemayor, Aliza Oliveros

Opposed: Ricardo Molina, Ricardo Rodriguez, Juan Roberto Ramirez,
Francisco Castillo, Ramiro Veliz, III

MOTION DOES NOT PASS

Ricardo Rodriguez – I am going to state my motion again. My vote goes to Mr. David Gonzalez for our next Superintendent

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion: None

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

Opposed: Javier Montemayor

MOTION PASSES

VII. Adjournment

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina

Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Special Called Meeting of April 19, 2021 was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Ramiro Veliz III, President

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary

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

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

April 27, 2021

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

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

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Saturday, April 13, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM in the United ISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Dr., Laredo, TX 78045

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

Due to the ongoing health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 coronavirus, this meeting will be conducted by video conference or telephone call as permitted by Governor Abbott's March 16, 2020, temporary suspension of certain open meetings requirements. At least a quorum will be participating by videoconference or telephone call in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.125 or 551.127 of the Texas Government Code that have not been suspended by order of the governor.

Two way communication to the Board meeting may be accessed by clicking the following zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88197544965?pwd=VTcrY0krTmo5ZzA4dnVIREdjc3A0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 881 9754 4965
Passcode: 303791

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

Public Comments may be submitted to Alejandra Salinas at axsalina@uisd.net at any time prior to the Board Meeting. Public comments must pertain to agenda items only.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

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

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Mr. Ramiro Veliz, III at 6:01 p.m.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Public Comments: Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except that non-English speakers requiring a translator are limited to six minutes. The presiding Board officer may modify or waive these time limits as appropriate. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks or use insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding Board officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding individual District employees, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in Board Policy BED (Local). Pursuant to section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

No Public Comments

V. Informational Items

A. Finance Division Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Sam Flores, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance presented information on the Monthly Financial Report

B. Budget 2022 Update

Mr. Sam Flores, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance presented an update on the 2022 Budget

C. Voluntary Group Benefits Insurance

Ms. Ofelia Dominguez, Risk Management Director, presented information on the Voluntary Group Benefits Insurance

D. United ISD's Participation in the Texas Education Agency's Year 2 Resilient School Support Program

Mr. David Gonzalez, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction presented information on the TEA's Year 2 Resilient School Support Program

E. Construction Progress Update Report for Ricardo Molina Middle School

Mr. Ignacio Alaniz presented an update for Ricardo Molina Middle School

F. On Campus Off-Season Plan for Fine Arts and Athletics

Mr. Gerardo Rodriguez, Director of Fine Arts and Mr. Bobby Cruz, Director of Athletics presented information

G. Presentation from Dr. Armando Gonzalez Regarding Athletic Injuries, Treatment and Services

Dr. Armando Gonzalez presented information regarding athletics injuries, treatment and services

H. United Independent School District Management Fellows Program

Mr. Frank Castillo, UISD Board Member presented information regarding the UISD Management Fellows Program

VI. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements

Mr. Sam Flores presented information on the Monthly Disbursements

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Francisco Castillo

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Approval of Property Tax Refunds for the Month of March 2021

Mr. Sam Flores Presented the Property Tax Refuhds for the Month of March 2021

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina

Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Approval of Adoption of Health Self Insurance Resolution

Ms. Ofelia Dominguez presented information on the Adoption of Health Self Insurance Resolution

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina

Seconded by: Aliza F. Oliveros

Discussion:

Mr. Francisco Castillo asked Ms. Dominguez if she had a ratio of how much is the percentage for board contribution versus employee contribution.

Ms. Ofelia Dominguez stated she could give him the monthly breakdown on employee per member per month. The contribution by the board is \$425 per month. She added we currently have two health plans which is the core plan and the core plus plan. On the core plan it's \$81.12 per member per month. On the core plus per member per month it is \$107.62

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. Approval of District Group Health Insurance Rates, District Contributions and Plan Changes

Ms. Ofelia Dominguez presented information on the Group Health Insurance Rates, District Contributions and Plan Changes

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina

Seconded by: Aliza F. Oliveros

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

E. Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) submitted by Leyendecker Construction of Texas, Inc. in the amount \$24,087,922.00 for Design and Construction of Juan Roberto Ramirez Middle School (Located on Aqueros Subdivision, Mines Rd.)

Ms. Cordy Jackson presented the GMP information

Ms. Jackson lost connection. Mr. Roberto J. Santos proceeded to present the information on this item

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina

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

MOTION PASSES

- F. Discussion and Possible Action to Extend RFP 005-2017 District Wide Copiers & Digital Duplicators with Dahill Office Technology Corporation beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022

Ms. Cordy Jackson presented the information on RFP 005-2017

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

- G. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize, by Resolution, the Extension of the District's Depository Contract for the 2021-2023 Biennium

Ms. Cordy Jackson presented the information on the extension of the district's depository contract

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

- H. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications

Ms. Cordy Jackson presented the information on the bids, proposals and qualifications

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

- I. Approval of Resolution Decreeing the Continued Implementation of COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Protocols and Use of Masks for Students, Staff, Parents and Visitors

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented the information on the resolution

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

- J. Approval of Expedited Waivers for the 2021-2022 School Year

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented the information on the expedited waivers for 2021-2022 school year

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

Mr. Juan Cruz stated items K, L, M and N are basically the same MOU just different schools and stated Ms. Gloria Rendon can address them at one time

Mr. Ramiro Veliz, III stated we will be doing Items K, L, M and N which is approval of Memorandum of Understanding between United ISD and Webb County Head Start at Ruiz Elementary, Finley Elementary and Zaffirini

Mr. Juan Cruz stated also the last one at Cuellar

Ms. Gloria Rendon proceed to present the information regarding these MOUs

- K. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the United Independent School District and Webb County Head Start at Ruiz Elementary
- L. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the United Independent School District and Webb County Head Start at Finley Elementary
- M. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the United Independent School District and Webb County Head Start at Zaffirini Elementary

- N. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the United Independent School District and Webb County Head Start at Cuellar Elementary

Ms. Aliza Oliveros asked for clarification from legal counsel for the record if she had to abstain

Mr. Juan Cruz stated she did not have to abstain because she does not own Webb County Head Start, she is an employee there and clarified for the record that she could vote

Mr. Ramiro Veliz asked if they needed to vote individually or if they could vote once for K, L, M and N at once

Mr. Juan Cruz clarified that they could do one vote for all four MOUs

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

- O. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between United Independent School District and Border Region Behavioral Health Center

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented information on the MOU

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

- P. Approval of Renewal of Employment Contracts and Addendums for Professional Employees for the 2021-2022 School / Work Year

After reconvening from Closed Session the Board addressed this item.

Mr. David Garcia presented information regarding the renewal of employment contracts

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina
Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez
Discussion:

Mr. Juan Cruz noted that this is the recommendation as discussed in Closed Session

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Q. Approval of Board Minutes for the Month of February 2021

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

Mr. Francisco Castillo asked if they were going to vote on Item P

Mr. Juan Cruz stated that would be discussed in Closed Session

Mr. Ramiro Veliz, III clarified that Item P was going to be moved to Closed Session

R. Approval of Donations

Mr. Roberto J. Santos read the donations into the minutes for a total of \$8,550 and thanked the supporters for their donations

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

VII. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 7:23 p.m.

- A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
- TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting

- 1. Superintendent Duties and Responsibilities

2. Discussion Regarding Internal Auditor's Annual Evaluation and Contract
 3. Consider Appointment of Director of Alternative Education Program - S.T.E.P. Academy
 4. Consider Appointment of Principal for Los Obispos Middle School
 5. Discussion Regarding Non Chapter 21 Contract(s) of Non Certified Professional(s) Not Offered for the 2021-2022 School Year
 6. Discussion, Including Consultation with Legal Counsel, Regarding Offer of Employment to Prospective Superintendent and Matters Incident Thereto
- B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Session
TGC 551.076 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits; Closed Meeting
1. Student Activity Fund Audit: L.B. Johnson High School 9th Grade
 2. Child Nutrition Community Eligibility Provision
 3. Police Department - Police Report Procedures
 4. Status of On-going Audits

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

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 8:21 p.m.

A. Action Regarding Approval of Annual Evaluation and Extension of Employment Contract

Mr. Juan Cruz stated the recommendation is to approve Marta Stahl's Annual Evaluation and extend her employment contract through 2023

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

Mr. Juan Cruz asked to go to Mr. Garcia's item VI-P which is the approval of renewal of employment contracts

B. Appointment of Director of Alternative Education Program - S.T.E.P. Academy

Mr. Roberto J. Santos stated his recommendation for Director of Step Academy is Mr. Joseph Lopez

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Francisco Castillo
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Appointment of Principal for Los Obispos Middle School

Mr. Roberto J. Santos stated his recommendation for Principal of Los Obispos Middle School is Olga Cantu

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

D. Action Regarding Non Chapter 21 Contract(s) of Non Certified Professional(s) Not Offered for the 2021-2022 School Year

Mr. Juan Cruz stated the recommendation is to approve Administration's recommendation not to issue a Non Certified contract to Monica Palizo for the 2021-2022 school year as discussed in Closed Session

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Molina
Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez
Abstain: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Ricardo Molina, Ricardo Rodriguez, Ramiro Veliz,III, Aliza F. Oliveros, Francisco Castillo

MOTION PASSES

E. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the District's Legal Counsel to Submit Offer of Employment to Prospective Superintendent

Mr. Juan Cruz stated the recommendation is to authorize legal counsel to submit an offer to David Gonzalez, prospective Superintendent of Schools for United ISD as discussed in Closed Session

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

II. Adjournment

Motion: So Move

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

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2021 was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Ramiro Veliz III, President

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary

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