



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC:** Approval of Board Minutes for the month/s of March and April 2024

**SUBMITTED BY:** Griselda Rodriguez **OF:** Secretary to Superintendent

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** June 19, 2024

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees discuss and take possible action to approve the following board minutes for the months of March and April 2024.

Regular Board Meeting – March 19, 2024

Public Hearing / TAPR – March 19, 2024

Special Called Meeting – April 10, 2024

**United Independent School District**  
**United ISD Bill Johnson Student Activity Complex, Auditorium**  
**5208 Santa Claudia Lane – Laredo, Texas 78043**

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**March 19, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Administrators in Charge - Laida Benavides, Mike Garza, Rebecca C. Morales

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ramiro Veliz, III, President – Present  
Aliza Flores Oliveros, Vice-President – Present  
Michelle Molina, Secretary – Present  
Francisco “Frank” Castillo – Present  
Gilbert Aguilar, Jr. – Present  
Javier Montemayor, Member – Present  
Ricardo Rodriguez, Member – Present

**LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:** Stephen Trautmann

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**III. Recognitions:**

A. 2024 DISTRICT WIDE SPELLING BEE (ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL)

B. 2024 MATHCOUNTS - MIDDLE SCHOOL

C. WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR - RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

D. UNITED MIDDLE SCHOOL - 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR - GRAND CHAMPION

E. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL - LAREDO ICON AWARD - VOLLEYBALL

F. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL - GIRLS BASKETBALL - DISTRICT 30-6A CHAMPIONS - AREA CHAMPIONS - REGIONAL QUARTERFINALIST

G. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL - BOYS BASKETBALL - DISTRICT 30-6A CHAMPIONS

#### **IV. Public Comments:**

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 regarding an item that is not listed on this agenda, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

*The following community members / parents spoke regarding Item VIII – A:*

*All 16 speakers listed below were opposed to the negotiation and execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to the property owned by La Bota Ranch Development Company, Inc. located along the eastern property perimeter of Muller Elementary School. They all expressed their concerns regarding the safety of students and staff at Muller Elementary due to the heavy traffic that would be created and would be worse than what it already is. Several stated that purchasing the property in question and building a warehouse would create even more traffic and put students in danger. Some recommended purchasing the lot across from Elementary School and asked the board to do the right thing for the students and staff of UISD.*

*Memo Castro, Salo Otero, Blanca Valdez, Karina Villalba, Sarah Palacios, Eleazar G. Varela / Grizelda Varela, Sandra Garza, Efrain Loza, Bella Dianely, Ruben Garza Jr. / JoAnn Piland, Myrna G. Montemayor, Raul Garza, Vanessa Perez, Valentin Ruiz, Thomas LaFleur, Lydia Proa*

*Leticia Juarez – addressed the board regarding STAAR Scores and TIA. She stated there must be an easier way for the public to understand the STAAR data. She also mentioned that the TIA report was very difficult to analyze. She asked that*

*district administrators do a better job finding answers on how to assist the teachers and meet the academic needs of a diversified classroom.*

**V. Consent Agenda Items for Approval as Presented:**

A. Monthly Disbursements

B. Property Tax Refunds for the month of February 2024

C. Missed Instructional Day Waiver for United Independent School District for January 16, 2024

D. Missed Instructional Day Waiver for Lamar Bruni Vergara Middle and Veterans Memorial Elementary for February 6, 2024

E. Extension of the Financial Advisor Services Agreement with Tijerina, Galvan, Lawrence LLC, as United ISD's financial advisor through April 30, 2028

F. Resolutions in support of grant applications submitted to the Governor's Public Safety Office

G. Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications and Extensions

H. Employment Contracts, Addendums, Letters of Assurance for 2024-2025 School/Work Year

I. Resolution Approving an Expenditure of Funds for an Interlocal Memorandum of Understanding with Laredo College to Create Employment Opportunities for Future UISD Bus Drivers

J. Interlocal Memorandum of Understanding with Laredo College for Use of UISD School Bus(es) and Tuition Assistance for CDL Certification for Future UISD Bus Drivers

*A motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented was made by Aliza F. Oliveros and seconded by Gilbert Aguilar. Motion was unanimously approved.*

**VI. Items for Individual Consideration for Discussion and Possible Action:**

A. Donations for the Month of March 2024

*Ms. Rebecca Morales read the donations into the minutes for a total of \$19,145.89. She thanked the community for supporting our district and our schools.*

*A motion to approve the donations as presented was made by Aliza F. Oliveros and seconded by Gilbert Aguilar. Motion was unanimously approved*

B. Request(s) from Board Member(s) in re: Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Various Projects/Campuses

*Mr. Mike Garza read the following additional requests for Discretionary Funds:*

*Washington MS – sponsored by Michelle Molina for Drill Team National Championship travel expenses in the amount of \$1,600.00.*

*Veterans Memorial Elementary – sponsored by Gilbert Aguilar for student travel and transportation expenses in the amount of \$2,000.00*

*Los Obispos MS – sponsored by Gilbert Aguilar for LOMS Dream Team expenses in the amount of \$1,000.00*

*LBJ High School – sponsored by Gilbert Aguilar for travel expenses for Dream Catchers Dance Team in the amount of \$3,500.00*

*United South HS – sponsored by Gilbert Aguilar for USHS Soccer Team expenses in the amount of \$1,000.00*

*A motion to approve the Board Discretionary Funds as presented was made by Aliza F. Oliveros and seconded by Javier Montemayor. Motion was unanimously approved*

C. Discussion and possible action to rescind Board resolution and corresponding Board actions approved on June 8, 2023 regarding District Two Trustee in its entirety.

*A motion to approve Item VI-C was made by Javier Montemayor and seconded by Aliza F. Oliveros.*

*Francisco Castillo stated to legal counsel that he wanted to make sure there was nothing pending that they might have to answer to later.*

*Stephen Trautmann stated they had confirmation from the District Attorneys Office that a pre-trial diversion program was successfully completed and is confident that the incident from last May is dismissed in its entirety.*

*Motion was unanimously approved.*

**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 7:28 p.m.*

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

1. Administrators in Charge Duties and Responsibilities

2. Consultation with legal counsel regarding Superintendent vacancy and matters incident thereto.

B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting  
TGC 551.072 Deliberation regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting

1. Legal consultation and report regarding the possible negotiation of a purchase and sale agreement regarding the real property along the eastern property perimeter of Muller Elementary School along Muller Memorial Boulevard and related issues pertaining to Muller Memorial Boulevard
2. Report on the analysis of the documentation sent by the City of Laredo Utilities Department with respect to replacing the existing sanitary sewer lift station located behind Gonzalez Middle School with the installation of a replacement 12 inch wide gravity sewer line from the current lift station site to the existing sewer line along the Kansas City Southern railroad track north of the United Independent School District Activity Complex (SAC) property. The City of Laredo would be granted a 20-foot wide utility easement from the sanitary sewer lift station site running north through the SAC property to the current 21-inch wide gravity sewer line that runs alongside of the Kansas City Southern railroad track. The City of Laredo is also requesting a temporary Construction Access Easement and Permanent Access Easement through the UISD Student Activity Center.
3. Legal consultation and report on the status of the lawsuit filed by Potential Holdings, LLC against the United Independent School District ("UISD") regarding the UISD Student Activity Complex/Educational Support Center Plat filed of record in Volume 21, Pages 43-44 of the Webb County Plat Records, and the UISD Las Cruces School Plat filed in Volume 18, Page 55, of the Plat Records of Webb County, Texas, and Santa Claudia Lane and Santa Monica Drive within the UISD SAC Plat and matters incident thereto, including legal options available to UISD. The suit was filed in the District Court of the 111<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Webb County Texas, under cause number 2023CVG000151D2.

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

1. Discussion, including consultation with legal counsel, regarding termination of Classroom Teacher/Assistant Band Director's Term Contract, and matters incident thereto.
2. Discussion, including consultation with legal counsel, regarding proposed nonrenewal of Nurse's Term Contract, and matters incident thereto.

**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 8:56 p.m.*

A. Possible action regarding the negotiation and execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to the property owned by La Bota Ranch Development Company, Inc. located along the eastern property perimeter of Muller Elementary School.

*Mike Garza addressed the audience and stated the following:*

*As United remains steadfast in its dedication to the education and safety of our students, we understand the importance and proactive measures to address the evolving needs of our school district. In June of 2023, as part of our regular efforts to monitor these needs, our administration began considering the possibility of acquiring the property east of Muller Elementary School. This consideration was prompted by several factors, including the presence of portable buildings at Muller, on the school site and concerns regarding traffic congestion within the school traffic loop. Separate from our routine monitoring efforts, residents of La Bota Ranch Subdivision reached out to various members of our administration expressing concerns about potential traffic issues stemming from industrial traffic on Muller Memorial Blvd. Responding to these concerns, the board convened for a Special Called Meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. As part of the meeting agenda, the board adopted a resolution aimed at fostering collaboration between the City of Laredo, La Bota Homeowners Association, and Guba Green Industrial LLC. This resolution sought to address UISD's traffic and safety concerns related to Muller Memorial Blvd. through cooperative efforts among relevant stakeholders. At United, we are committed to transparent communication and proactive engagement with our community. We recognize the importance of addressing concerns and exploring opportunities to enhance educational environments for all of our students.*

*Mr. Garza thanked the board for always continuing to look after the students of UISD and our staff and we continue to make those efforts.*

*A motion to table item VIII-A was made by Javier Montemayor and seconded by Michelle Molina.*

*Stephen Trautmann clarified that the motion is basically to table negotiations regarding the property owned by La Bota Ranch Development Company, Inc. located along the Eastern property perimeter of Muller Elementary School and to proceed as discussed in closed session.*

*Motion was unanimously approved.*

B. Possible action on executing the documentation submitted by the City of Laredo Utilities Department with respect to facilitating the replacing the existing sanitary sewer lift station located behind Gonzalez Middle School with the installation of a replacement 12 inch wide gravity sanitary sewer line from the current lift station site to the existing twenty-one inch wide gravity sanitary sewer

line along the Kansas City Southern railroad track north of the United Independent School District Activity Complex (SAC) property and the granting to the City of Laredo of a 20-foot wide utility easement from the sanitary sewer lift station site running north through the SAC property to the current 21-inch wide gravity sanitary sewer line that runs alongside of the Kansas City Southern railroad track. Possible action on a temporary Construction Access Easement and on a Permanent Access Easement through the UISD Student Activity Center.

*Stephen Trautmann stated his recommendation is to authorize legal counsel to proceed as discussed in closed session.*

*A motion to approve legal counsel's recommendation was made by Javier Montemayor and seconded by Francisco Castillo. Motion was unanimously approved.*

C. Possible action with respect to the lawsuit filed by Potential Holdings, LLC against the United Independent School District ("UISD") regarding the UISD Student Activity Complex/Educational Support Center Plat filed of record in Volume 21, Pages 43-44 of the Webb County Plat Records, and the UISD Las Cruces School Plat filed in Volume 18, Page 55, of the Plat Records of Webb County, Texas, and Santa Claudia Lane and Santa Monica Drive within the UISD SAC Plat and matters incident thereto, including legal options available to UISD. The suit was filed in the District Court of the 111<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Webb County Texas, under cause number 2023CVG000151D2.

*Stephen Trautmann stated his recommendation is to authorize legal counsel to proceed as discussed in closed session.*

*A motion to approve legal counsel's recommendation was made by Javier Montemayor and seconded by Michelle Molina. Motion was unanimously approved.*

D. Possible action to finalize the termination of Classroom Teacher/Assistant Band Director's Term Contract.

*Mike Garza stated that pursuant to board policy DFB (Legal) and Chapter 21 of the Education Code, term contract employee David Ortiz was provided written notice of the proposed termination of his employment contract in writing on February 29, 2024, at his address of record with the district. More than 15 calendar days have passed since the date of delivery and Ortiz did not file a written request for a hearing pursuant to section 21.253 of the Education Code. As such, administration recommends that the board take final action to terminate David Ortiz's term employment contract for good cause and direct the district's counsel to provide written notice to David Ortiz of same.*

*A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Javier Montemayor and seconded by Michelle Molina. Motion was unanimously approved.*



E. Possible action regarding proposed nonrenewal of Nurse's Term Contract, designation of Board-Appointed attorney to conduct nonrenewal hearing, and authorization to Administrators in Charge to send notice of same to affected employee.

*Mike Garza stated the recommendation is for the board to propose the non-renewal of nurse Jessica Durant's term contract of employment and to designate Jose Maldonado, Jr. to conduct the non-renewal hearing and to authorize the Administrators in Charge to send notice of same to the affected employee, Jessica Durant*

*A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Javier Montemayor and seconded by Gilbert Aguilar. Motion was unanimously approved.*

#### **IX. Adjournment**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Javier Montemayor and seconded by Francisco Castillo. Motion was unanimously approved.*

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Board Meeting of March 19, 2024 was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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Ramiro Veliz, III, President

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Michelle Molina, Secretary

Minutes Presented for Approval: June 19, 2024

Minutes submitted by:  
*Alejandra Salinas*, Secretary to Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Policies

**United Independent School District**  
United ISD Bill Johnson Student Activity Complex, Auditorium  
5208 Santa Claudia Lane – Laredo, Texas 78043

Public Hearing - TAPR  
March 19, 2024  
5:15 p.m.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Administrators in Charge - Laida Benavides, Mike Garza, Rebecca C. Morales

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ramiro Veliz, III, President – ABSENT  
Aliza Flores Oliveros, Vice-President – ABSENT  
Michelle Molina, Secretary – PRESENT (Arrived at 5:15 p.m.)  
Gilbert Aguilar, Jr., Member - PRESENT  
Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Member – PRESENT  
Javier Montemayor, Member – PRESENT  
Ricardo Rodriguez, Member – ABSENT

**LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:** Stephen Trautmann

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

*Javier Montemayor called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.*

**II. Open Public Hearing**

*Javier Montemayor asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing. A motion to open the Public Hearing was made by Francisco Castillo and seconded by Gilbert Aguilar. Motion passed unanimously*

A. Texas Education Code §39.306 and §39.362 Presentation of United ISD's Annual Report Including the TAPR (Texas Academic Performance Report) and PEIMS Financial Standard Report, describing the District's Educational and Financial Performance

*Ms. Christina Cabello presented the information on the TAPR Report to include the following sections: (TAPR Report available upon request)*

- 1. 2022-23 Texas Academic Performance Report (PDF TAPR)*
  - a. For the District and each Campus in the District*
- 2. PEIMS Financial Standard Report (2021-22 Financial Actual Report)*
  - a. For the District and each Campus in the District*
- 3. 2022-23 District Accreditation Status*
- 4. Campus Performance Objectives*
- 5. Report on Violent or Criminal Incidents on Campuses*
- 6. Student Performance in Postsecondary Institutions*
  - a. For each High School Campus in the District*
- 7. 2022-23 TAPR Glossary*

**B. Public Comments**

*No Public Comments*

**C. Close Public Hearing**

*Javier Montemayor asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing. A motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Francisco Castillo and seconded by Gilbert Aguilar. Motion passed unanimously*

*Public Hearing was closed at 5:59 p.m.*

**III. Adjournment**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Gilbert Aguilar and seconded by Francisco Castillo. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.*

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Public Hearing of March 19, 2024 was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Ramiro Veliz, III, President

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Michelle Molina, Secretary

Minutes Presented for Approval: June 19, 2024

Minutes submitted by:  
*Alejandra Salinas*, Secretary to Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Policies

**UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Student Activity Complex Rm. #2, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, Texas 78043**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**April 10, 2024**

**11:30 A.M.**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez, Michelle Molina, Aliza Oliveros, Frank Casillo, Ramiro Veliz III, Gilbert Aguilar, Jr. (arrived during closed session)

**STAFF PRESENT:** David Canales, Chief Salazar, Rita Garner, Laida Benavides, Rebecca Morales, Mike Garza

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

Board President Ramiro Veliz, calls meeting to order at **11:42 A.M.**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**III. Public Comments**

No Public Comments.

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

*The Board adjourns into closed session at **11:43 A.M.***

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

- 1. Conduct Board Policy DGBA (Local) Level Three appeal hearing for Linda Garza, and matters incident thereto**

2. Conduct Board Policy DGBA (Local) Level Three appeal hearing for Sandra Carmona, and matters incident thereto

**B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting**

1. Consultation with legal counsel regarding Board Policy DGBA (Local) Level Three appeal hearing of Linda Garza, and matters incident thereto
2. Consultation with legal counsel regarding Board Policy DGBA (Local) Level Three appeal hearing of Sandra Carmona, and matters incident thereto

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

The Board reconvenes from closed session at 12:58 P.M. No action was taken during Closed Session.

**A. Possible action regarding the Board Policy DGBA (Local) Level Three appeal hearing of Linda Garza**

*Due to the grievant withdrawing her appeal prior to this meeting, the recommendation is to take no action.*

*On a motion to take "no action", motion made by Aliza Oliveros and seconded by Michelle Molina, the board approved unanimously.*

**B. Possible action regarding the Board Policy DGBA (Local) Level Three appeal hearing of Sandra Carmona**

*The board president motions to affirm the Level Three decision and recommend that when non-contract employees are given supervisory duties, the administration consider allowing other employees to apply for that said position. Motion seconded by Michelle Molina.*

*Gilbert Aguilar, commends the UISD police chief and says that he believes the department is moving in the right direction. As a peace officer himself, he says the district is moving forward with this recommendation.*

*Aliza Oliveros mimics Mr. Aguilar's comments and adds that the board would be overreaching to open a position for a certain department. Ms. Oliveros also recommends that administration should open up a position, "should there be a need for it". Lastly Ms. Oliveros states, "we do not micromanage, that is not our job".*



*Mike Garza addresses the board and says the district will move forward with their recommendation and commends Mr. Bondoc for being a very good employee. He adds that it was just the process that was followed and assures the board that they would do better on that moving forward.*

*Gilbert Aguilar echoes Mr. Garza in not just commending Mr. Bondoc but the K-9 officers including Ms. Carmona and asks that they please continue serving the kids and to keep the safety of our school district.*

*Aliza Oliveros commends Ms. Carmona for having a positive attitude around coworkers and supervisors and reminds everyone that at the end of the day, we are here to serve the students.*

*Francisco Castillo adds that he reminds everyone to treat people fairly in everything we do. "Equal treatment is very important", said Mr. Castillo.*

*This motion is passed unanimously.*

## **VII. Adjournment**

*With a motion to adjourn by Michelle Molina and a second by Aliza Oliveros the board unanimously passed this motion.*

**There being no further business before the USD Board of Trustees, this Special Called Meeting of April 10, 2024 was adjourned at 1:03 P.M.**

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**Ramiro Veliz, III**  
**Board President**

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**Michelle Molina**  
**Board Secretary**

**Minutes approved on:\_\_\_\_\_**  
**Completed by Griselda Rodriguez**