

No. _____



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC _____ Board Minutes _____

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

August 20, 2008 – Public Hearing
August 20, 2008 – Regular Board Meeting

RATIONALE:

State law requires the Board to prepare and keep minutes of its open meeting.
Govt. Code §551.021. The minutes are public records available for public inspection and copying upon request to the Superintendent or his designee. Govt. Code § 551.022

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

No Budget Impact

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

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

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

August 20, 2008

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

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

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. Mr. Bruce called the Public Hearing to order at 6:42 p.m. The meeting was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at the United ISD Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, TX 78043. The meeting was duly called and notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Laida Benavides, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, advised the Board that the agenda item had been posted in *the Laredo Morning Times* on Sunday, August 10th as required by law. She advised the Board that the proposed tax rate would be \$1.03009 for Maintenance and Operation and for interest in Sinking, they were proposing 0.154860 cents for a total of \$1.184869 which would be the same tax rate as the previous year.

She said the three funds that needed to be adopted were the General Operating Fund with proposed expenditures of \$290,348,577 million - Debt Service Fund - \$26,273,449 million, and the Food Service Fund which is considered an enterprise fund would be \$19,664,226 million.

III. Public Comments regarding 2008-2009 Budget and Proposed 2008 Tax Rate.

Mr. Bruce called for public comments regarding the budget and proposed tax rate.

Rose Cruz. Ms. Cruz thanked the Board for not raising the tax rate the three cents they were going to raise on debt service. She commented that she knows the District had to change the policy to do so, and a lot of people don't know what happened there and why it went the way it did.

Ms. Cruz said sometimes it is very hard to compare this year's budget with last year's budget. There are the minimum categories that do explain some changes but it doesn't explain them all.

However, she said in looking at it in detail, there were still questions like on the Board members' fees. This miscellaneous cost the member's district... the \$75,000 that's given to each Board member as play money. They are supposed to talk to their principals to see what they want to do with the money. Ms. Cruz commented that there are a lot of principals out there who don't know their board members have \$75,000, and that they supposed to make the requests.

Ms. Cruz then said there was still \$321,000 available from the funds last year. She asked if the money was going to roll over into next year as she saw that they were still budgeting the \$525,000. If the principals did not use the discretionary fund, is it lost?

Mr. Bruce responded that the Board would not respond to questions.

Ms. Cruz said a lot of the principals were totally unaware that there was a form to request money from their board members. She said when the Board was taking away TAKS materials and taking out of the secondary and elementary budgets. She added that people were asking for the TAKS materials She asked if they could do better this year in informing people about the discretionary fund. She said she asked TEA to see if any other district whose Board members have this discretionary fund to play political games. TEA was unaware of any other district having it.

Ms. Cruz then addressed the issue of the RP-47 that came back from the Governor that we be at 65% Instructional. She said we are at 57.5% and have had three years to get to the 65%. She said she had read the resolution as to why you are not there. However, Ms Cruz commented that in the resolution they do not say how they will get to the 65%.

Mr. Bruce commented that it was incorrect to say that principals did not know about the discretionary funds. He said principals have been trained, and they have been taught how to complete the form.

Blanca Balboa. Ms. Balboa asked to speak at both meetings. She introduced herself as the President of Laredo United TSTA. She said she also had a comment regarding the discretionary funds. She said she had been told by several principals that they did not know about the discretionary funds. Ms. Balboa said it seemed to her that this was micromanaging.

No one else came forward to speak during Public Comments.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the Public Hearing of August 20, 2008 was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan A. Molina, Jr. - Secretary

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

August 20, 2008

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

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

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Wednesday, August 20, 2008, beginning at 6:59 P.M. in the United ISD -Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Recognitions

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Santos congratulated the following students and staff on their accomplishments. All were presented with certificates.

**A. United High School – Air Force Junior ROTC Distinguished Unit Award
2007-2008**

B. Youth Entrepreneurship Summer (YES) Camp - TAMIU

- 1. JBA – Martha a. Cavazos – 1st Place**
- 2. UHS – Clarissa Idrogo – 1st Place**

- V. Public Comments: Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Board Parliamentarian will be the timekeeper and will inform the speaker when they have one (1) remaining minute. No more than three (3) persons will be allowed to speak on any side of an issue. Should there be more than three (3) people who wish to speak on a particular issue they need to select not more than three (3) representatives to speak for them. Comments must address items listed on the agenda. The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether a person who wishes to address the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively. If not, the person shall be directed to the appropriate policy, as noted in BED (LOCAL), to seek resolution before bringing the matter to the Board at a subsequent meeting.**

Pursuant to 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Hilario Cavazos. Mr. Cavazos introduced himself as a proud parent, taxpayer, and TSTA Region I President, and LCC board member – Place 7. He thanked the Board and Superintendent Santos for recognizing his daughter (YES Camp winner) and that the school district does a fantastic job in educating our children. Mr. Cavazos also thanked the Board for giving the raise to the employees of UISD. He said the teachers will receive \$1800, but they would have liked to have seen \$2000 to \$2500. He said he realizes that it is difficult with the economy hurting. He added that we have some people there who merit the pay.

Mr. Cavazos said one of the ESP (Education Support Professionals) members had said a board member was attacking TSTA. He said TSTA doesn't do anything. Cavazos said it does not help to bad-mouth TSTA because they are 3000 strong in Laredo. He concluded saying the board member in question is up for re-election, and they know who it is.

Blanca Balboa. President Laredo United TSTA. Ms. Balboa said school employees salaries have fallen behind in relation to the cost of living. She said gas prices are still higher than last year and goods are on the rise. Ms. Balboa commented that they need a pay raise. UISD wants to give administration a 4% pay raise and all teachers only \$1800. She said this was not fair and compared the pay raise for those making a higher salary. The projected pay raise of \$1800 for a teacher making \$50,000 this raise is not fair. She said they believe in a fair pay raise that takes into consideration the pay of all employees. It should not neglect a particular group. Ms. Balboa said they also support fair pay raises for administration, teachers but one that does not benefit only one group. TSTA has identified UISD second for hostile work environment year after year, you forget about the paraprofessionals and auxiliaries. Ms. Balboa reminded the Board that they are public servants. It is not your money.

Ms. Benavides came forward to clarify the Executive Order by the Commissioner regarding utilizing 65% of funds spent for instruction. She said it is not a law, and we are only required to adopt a resolution stating as to why we do not meet the 65%.

Mr. Santos asked Ms. Benavides to expound on other districts meeting the 65%. She said they had begun presenting this to the Board in the budget workshops and contacted Region I to see how many other districts would meet the 65%. She said all but one other district are below, and we are all facing the same issues. She emphasized that we have other expenditures that we cannot excuse that are not related to instruction.

Mr. Santos asked Ms. Benavides to clarify the revenue over proposed expenditures. Last meeting, one of the board members was concerned about the effect of the economy.

Ms. Benavides said they chose not to expend what we are getting in revenues and are being conservative. The \$313,000 over revenue over expenses goes into fund balance if the money is not expended.

VI. Closed Session: The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 7:15 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

A. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney

- 1. Discussion with Legal Counsel re: settlement in the matter of City of Laredo and UISD v. Jett Racing and Wolf Hofman, Cause No. 2004-TXA-01761-D1 in the 49th District Court, Webb County Texas**

**B. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney
551.74 Discussion of Personnel or to Hear Complaints Against Personnel**

- 1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities**
- 2. Internal Auditor's Duties and Responsibilities**
- 3. Discussion regarding Superintendent's Summative Evaluation And Performance Compensation for 2007-2008**

C. 551.072 Discussion on the Purchase, Exchange, Lease, or Value of Real Property

Discussion of Proposals for Sale and/or Acquisition of Real Property

- 1. Report on status of amending the Settlement Agreement referenced In Cause No. 2006-CVQ-001884-C1: United Independent School District vs. Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd. A Texas Limited Partnership, et. al; in County Court at Law No. 1, Webb County, Texas and the timing of the Closings on the *Quiote* 20-acre tract, the *Quiote* 12-acre tract, (and the platting of such property); all located North of Del Mar Blvd., and east of Bob Bullock Loop 20.**

Mr. Santos asked that Item III-B be tabled as they will probably have a Special Called Meeting on this item.

The Board returned from Closed Session at 8:22 p.m.

VII. Reconvened from Closed Session, the Board took action on the following items, as necessary, as discussed in Closed Session.

Mr. Juan Cruz, UISD General Counsel, advised the Board that there would be no action taken on Items A and B.

A. Action regarding Superintendent's Summative Evaluation for 2007-08

No action taken.

B. Action regarding Distribution of Performance Compensation Pursuant to Superintendent's Employment Contract

No action taken.

C. Action re: settlement in the matter of City of Laredo and UISD vs Jett Racing and Wolf Hoffman, Cause No. 2004-TXA-01761-D1 in the 49th District Court, Webb County, Texas

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to approve the settlement agreement in the matter of City of Laredo and UISD vs Jett Racing and Wolf Hoffman, Cause No. 2004-TXA-01761-D1 in the 49th District Court, Webb County, Texas as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: J. Molina

Seconded by: Ramirez

Discussion: None

In Favor Unanimous

D. in the matter of City of Laredo and UISD vs Jett Racing and Wolf Hoffman, Cause No. 2004-TXA-01761-D1 in the 49th District Court, Webb County, Texas

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to approve the amendment of the settlement agreement as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Ramirez

Seconded by: Gonzalez

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

E. Discussion and possible action with respect to revising the Settlement Agreement Pertaining to the Closing and Platting of the Quiote 20-acre tract, Quiote 12-acre Tract and Shiloh 12-acre tract, all located north of Del Mar Blvd., and east of Bob Bullock Loop 20.

Mr. Cruz said the recommendation was to approve the amendment of the settlement agreement as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos

Seconded by: Ramirez

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

VIII. Consent Agenda

Mr. Johnson said the Business and Instructional Committees met the previous week and recommended the approval of the following items.

- A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements**
- B. Approval of Budget Amendments**
- C. Approval of Property Tax Refunds for the Month of July 2008**
- D. Submission of Appraisal Roll to the Governing Body**
- E. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications**
- F. First and Final Reading of Policy CV (LOCAL): Facilities Construction**
- G. Second Reading of Policy DEC (LOCAL) – Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences consent Agenda Items**
- H. Board Travel for the Month of September 2008**

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Johnson
Seconded by: J. Molina

Discussion:

Mr. Gonzalez said he did not see the information on the marketing company that was recommended. Mr. Bruce responded that it had been taken off.

In Favor: Unanimous

X. Items for Individual Consideration

I. Board Minutes

- 1. Regular Meeting - June 18, 2008**
- 2. Special Called Meeting – July 8, 2008**
- 3. Board Workshop – July 15, 2008**
- 4. Regular Board Meeting – July 23, 2008**
- 5. Special Called Meeting – August 5, 2008**
- 6. Special Called Meeting – August 12, 2008**

Motion: So move.

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

B. Donations

Mr. Santos read the donations into the record totaling \$5820 and thanked those for their generous donations.

Motion: So move.

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

**C. Approval of the Order of Election for Districts One (1), Two (2) Four (4), and Seven (7)
Aprobar la Orden de Eleccion de los Distritos
Uno (1), Dos (2), Cuatro (4), y Siete (7)**

Ms. Norma Farabough, UISD Tax-Assessor Collector said there had been a change in a permanent site from Hillside Center to the Providence Health Center. She then read the resolution into the record.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: J. Molina
Seconded by: Campos
Discussion: Unanimous

D. Adopt Office Budget for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year

Motion: So move.

Moved by: R. Molina
Seconded by: Johnson
Discussion:

Mr. Gonzalez asked if anything had been done about the 7% he had requested for paraprofessionals. Mr. Santos responded that we need to ensure that we have the attendance referring to the previous year when we did not make our projections. He said we could not be able to use the \$113,000 even though he would like to move toward the increase. Mr. J. Molina said this would be a recurring expense and we would have look for the monies to fund it the coming year. He said with the economy having problems, it is difficult financially to achieve this.

In Favor: Bruce, Campos, Johnson, J. Molina, R. Molina, Ramirez
Opposed: Gonzalez

Mr. Santos thanked Ms. Benavides and her staff for preparing this budget. He also thanked the Board and all the support they give to our employees.

E. Resolution to Adopt 2008 Tax Rate

Ms. Farabough read the resolution on the 2008 Tax Rate into the record.

Motion: So move.

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

F. Adopt the Proposed Resolution on Expenditure Targets Established by the Commissioner of Education

Motion: So move.

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

G. First Reading of BAA(LOCAL): Board Legal Status – Powers and Duties

First reading, no action is required.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2008 was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

John M. Bruce – President

Juan A. Molina, Jr. - Secretary