

UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bill Johnson Student Activity Complex, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, Texas, 78043

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 30, 2026

6:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Rodolfo "Rudy" Gonzalez, Michelle Molina, Ramiro Veliz-III, Dianelle Martinez, and Javier Montemayor, Jr. Gilbert Aguilar (in during public comments) Aliza Oliveros (in during public comments)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Gerardo Cruz, Rebecca Morales, Laida Benavides, Cordy Jackson, Emma Leza, Sam Flores, Rosa Cabello, Mike Garza, Hector Perez, Claudia Guzman, David Canales and legal counsel Stephen Trautmann and Jaime Garcia, also present.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

Javier Montemayor, establishes a quorum and calls this meetigt to order at 6:01 P.M.

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. UNITED ISD - MVP PARENTS

B. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SILVER STEPPERS DANCE TEAM - National Champions in Military, POM and Precision Open

C. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL - District 30-6A Co-Champions, Bi-District & Area Champions, and Regional Semifinalists

D. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL - District 30-6A Champions, Bi-District & Area Champions, and Regional Semifinalists

E. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL - District 30-6A Co-Champions

IV. Public Comments:

Comment shall be limited to current agenda items. Public Comment forms must be submitted to the Board Secretary no later than 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of the meeting by the person who will be providing public comment. Only one public comment form may be submitted per person. The public comment form must be fully completed to be considered. 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.

Dr. Rey Garza; *Dr. Garza says he speaks on behalf of teachers, students, parents and staff at Matias De Llano (MDL) Elementary School, and says he is raising opposition to the closing of this campus. Mr. Garza states that he is a parent volunteer and this has provided him the opportunity to see the impact this school has been to many students, including his two daughters. He adds that Matias De Llano is ranked 5th in the district and states that the reading and math academic ratings are “well above expectations”. Dr. Garza also references his two children asking the Board not to close Matias De Llano.*

Adriana Contreras; *Ms. Contreras states that she speaks out of a sense of responsibility. She says that Matias De Llano is more than just a building, “it is a home”, she said. Ms. Contreras reminds the Board that this decision will not be forgotten, and adds that this will influence how this community votes going forward. In closing Ms. Contreras humbly asks that the Board reconsider the closing of Matias De Llano Elementary School. Ms. Contreras’s two children chime in to say “don’t close my dolphin school”.*

Tania Ramirez; *Ms. Ramirez, a communication graduate from TAMU is currently a librarian at Matias De Llano. Ms. Ramirez stated that she found not only great educators and good employees at Matias De Llano but exceptional mentors. She asks the Board to consider that, a school value is measured by the growth of it’s people, “I am proof of that growth”, she said. In closing she urges the Board to see MDL as a vital, successful pillar of this district.*

Dr. Tyler King, *council member for District 6. Dr. King explains that as a council member he is usually on the dias (referring to the receiving end) of public comments. Dr. King empathizes with the Board and says he does not envy the decision the UISD Board will have to make. He says he is here in support of keeping MDL school open. After confirming his support, he also recognizes that the state does not “properly fund” public education. A state, he adds, that just passed a \$1 billion dollar voucher scam and that is taking money away from public education to subsidize wealthy people’s private education for their children. Additionally, he emphasizes the potential loss of 700-900 students as a result of these vouchers. In closing Dr. King asks the Board to look at every stone unturned and references the exhausting task of what it is to be a teacher. Dr. King wishes wisdom, and offers prayers for the city and school district.*

Camila Cruz, *a current student at Matias De Llano, is here to express her feelings on the school closure and states that MDL is not just a school, “it is where we learn, where we grow, where we find who we are”, she said. Camila also states that closing a school is not*

just closing doors, it is closing opportunities, memories and dreams. "Please, please do not close our school, Matias De Llano", she pleaded.

Grace Harper Herndon, is a fourth grade student at Matias De Llano. Grace speaks against the closure of Matias De Llano, and states that she deserves to be heard. Grace says that it "hurts so much" and asks the Board that they please reconsider what closing their school really means. She goes on to mention her many accomplishments at MDL, and says that for her, it would be like losing her second home, and second family.

William Shay, a retired UISD Police Officer. Mr. Shay, says he worked at MDL for 9 years, and he is here because MDL means a lot to him. Mr. Shay expresses much admiration for the faculty, staff, and administrators and shares memories of his time there. In closing he states that this is an amazing school and staff, and that to close this school, would be a huge mistake. Lastly, Mr. Shay addresses the MDL staff and recites a prayer of hope and peace.

Christopher Rodriguez, a 5th grade student at MDL. Christopher expresses that he and his friends felt sad and worried to learn that their campus may be closing. He states that MDL is not just a school to him, but a second home. He adds that his campus makes him feel safe, happy and proud to be a Dolphin, referring to his school mascot. He thanks the Board for listening to his comments, and closes by asking the Board, "please don't close our school".

San Juanita Rodriguez, a parent at MDL, states that she comes as a mother who is deeply concerned, and heartbroken. Ms. Rodriguez asks that the Board, please reconsider this decision. She adds that this is not just about a school and students, but it's about an entire community. Ms. Rodriguez brings up the struggles that working parents go through while trying to coordinate student drop offs and pick ups from and to school. She also states that students are already being emotionally affected and asks the Board to look at the long term impact.

Sergio Ramirez parent of a second grader at MDL. Mr. Ramirez speaks on his child's behalf and says that he will protect his child, including from decisions that he believes, shape her education, her stability and sense of belonging. Mr. Ramirez says he was a first grader here at MDL when it initially opened in 1993. He goes on to explain that MDL was not the school his daughter pertained to, but it was the best choice due to low student to teacher ratio and high performance. Mr. Rodriguez expresses his concern for what he feels is a lack of transparency and the feeling of rushing the process. Lastly, he states that he does not understand the rationale behind closing this school and calls this an unorganized process. He states that there are other schools with lower enrollment and six other schools with lower projected enrollment. "Make it make sense", he said. He adds that he believes that this action is being driven by politics rather than data.

Edward Teniente, an 18-year veteran employee for UISD. Mr. Teniente speaks against the consolidation of MDL and reminisces over the years back when this was one of the northside elementary campuses and how he and his family were comforted to see what a vibrant and welcoming school this campus and staff continued to be through the years. Mr. Teniente expressed gratitude, and addressed the UISD Board to say that he is not here to convince or persuade them but to make them aware of how MDL has been a major asset to the north Laredo community. "May God guide any decision that is made for the betterment and advancement of our future leaders, and community", he said in closing.

Jacqueline Villaldrosa speaks on behalf of Amparo Gutierrez Elementary. She says that she understands the legal standards that govern this consolidation, and that she is tracking every step this district takes. She references the IDEA under Section 504 (the rights of students with disabilities) and states that under this law, the district requires parent participation in the decision, continuity of services and proof that the receiving campus can meet each child's need. Ms. Villaldrosa states that at this time, the district has not produced evidence that satisfies any of these requirements and that removing the students without a plan, is not a transition but a violation. She further informs the Board that if they proceed without meeting the safeguards, she will treat it as a direct breach of federal and state law. Ms. Villaldrosa states that she is not here to debate, but to document and respond through legal and administrative channels. Lastly, she makes the Board responsible for legal consequences.

Sarai Carranza, a parent of students at MDL. Ms. Carranza says that her children were in a private school setting and that she was very concerned about moving them to public schools. She says that with the consolidation, the campus will go back to crowded classrooms and worries if her children will receive the same quality of education. Ms. Carranza adds to her list of concerns by stating that the sudden closure without a detailed plan has placed unnecessary burden on parents, educators and students. Ms. Carranza closes by reminding the Board that it is by community vote that they were elected.

Letty Juarez, a community advocate and constituent, states her opposition to the consolidation of MDL and Gutierrez Elementary Schools. She says she does not trust the decisions being made. She expresses her opinion that the previous actions taken by the Board and district administration are the cause of the district's current financial state. She asks that if payroll is 87% of the budget, why should school consolidations then be a solution. Ms. Juarez claims that the district has no clear plan or know what the impact would be by eliminating over 120 positions. She questions the Board about previous statements made and asks them to present data for their claims to 1) demonstrate that the district held a healthy budget, 2) show proof that the district indeed had begun implemented cost savings measures for the past two years, and 3) states the district spread falsehoods about creating a campus consolidation committee.

Francisco "Frank" Castillo, former UISD board member. Mr. Castillo states for the record that he is here to speak against the MDL elementary school consolidation. He says that for years MDL has had to share their student population with both Malakoff and Borchers elementary schools. Mr. Castillo also addresses the financial status of the district and says that this burden was imposed on the district, by the state. Mr. Castillo references Dr. King's earlier comments about billions being redirected to wealthy families for private schools. He continues to address the financial status by reading and comparing other districts in the state. Houston ISD - \$250 million dollar deficit, Dallas ISD - \$152 million dollar deficit. Austin ISD - \$292 million, Plano ISD - \$43.7 million dollar shortfall, Judson ISD - \$37 million dollar deficit, Conroe ISD - \$12 million shortfall. Mr. Castillo says he provides awareness so that the community is aware that this is not a UISD issue, but a state issue. "I understand this is not your fault", he said addressing the Board. He also states that this is also not the staffs' fault. "They are giving you the numbers that you ask for", he continues. Lastly, Mr. Castillo congratulates the district on winning a lawsuit from people that just "like to complain", and says he stands with the district and Matias De Llano.

Miguel Mallon, a fourth grader at Matias De Llano. Miguel states that he believes that the school should not close because he “loves his school”. He expresses his feeling by stating that he has been at this school since kindergarten and wishes he could finish his fifth grade here as well. Miguel also mentions how nice and caring the teachers and staff are, and that he has many friends and family. “Matias De Llano is a very good school, so please don’t close our school”, he said.

Reina Gomez, a parent at Matias De Llano. Ms. Gomez pleads the Board reconsider their decision to consolidate the campus. She says that she currently has one child attending MDL and her older son now in college also attended MDL. She says the school is an extension of home where her kids feel safe, and she attributes this to the excellent teachers and principal. Ms Gomez says that she has been supported and even feels protected by the staff. Lastly, Ms. Gomez asks the Board not to close the school and wishes they could find another solution.

Stephanie Villarreal, a parent and community advocate. Ms. Villarreal begins by stating that if her child’s life will be impacted by the choices made today, then the voices of these children’s families need to be heard. She informs the Board that she has filed a formal grievance on the rapid consolidation of their schools. Ms. Villarreal references IDEA under Section 504. She says that the district is moving forward so rapidly on this consolidation, that it does not allow for true transparency, collaboration or trust. Ms. Villarreal further adds that the district has no plan for the transition of students with special needs and continuity of services and asks, what data is truly driving these decisions. Additionally, she speaks for the staff that will be displaced and says this is not what they deserve. Furthermore she urges the Board pause this process of school consolidations and asks that they be transparent and ensure compliance with the laws. “Let your actions reflect the voices of the people”, she said addressing the Board.

Victor Ramos Barrios, a student at Alexander High School addresses the Board and community. Mr. Barrios says he speaks on behalf of fellow classmates and says he understands the families, teachers, and those who feel connected with these schools. He says he understands that they are not just buildings but also memories, traditions and a sense of home. He says that as a student, he feels the responsibility to be honest and share what he sees. “We have seen the numbers and listened carefully, if these actions are not taken, the cuts will not go away”, he said. He explains his vision that these cuts will eventually affect academics, UIL, sports, fine arts. He adds that they also think about younger students and that by the time they reach high school, these opportunities may not be available. Mr. Barrios states that caring about the community also means making decisions that will protect them in the long term. “From a student perspective, we ask you to think about the future”, he said in closing after thanking the Board.

Regina Verbumen, current senior student at Alexander High School and part of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory group. Ms. Regina expresses sympathy to the public by sharing that she is a product of UISD (for the last 12 years), her mother is an elementary teacher and that she has been a part of the Amparo Gutierrez district. She states that she is not here to argue with the parents or community, but to offer a different perspective for the Board. She states that she has already seen the effects of these budget cuts. Whether it’s UIL, Orchestra or tennis. Ms. Verbumen states that she knows that a decision must be made. She says that she speaks on behalf of her fellow student advisory group, and states “we need you to do something”. Ms. Verbumen says that as a product of UISD, she is

looking out for the future of these children. Furthermore, she says that if no action is taken, these budget cuts will eventually lead to cuts in staff, affect extracurricular activities and other areas. "Because we already feel it" she said, and explained how she and her partner traveled to Austin for a debate, but was almost not able to, due to budget cuts.

Wayo De La Garza president of TSTA, says he is here to address teachers and staff concerns of loss of stipend, and reduction of contract days that would affect their annual pay. Mr. De La Garza says that although he understands the district's need for financial solvency, these employees are an essential component of district operations. He explains the financial hardships employees may be facing should these cuts occur and how this could lead to loss of moral and even health related issues. He further adds, that it is in the district's best interest to protect its workforce. Lastly, he implores the Board make a wise decision.

Mary Lou Abrego speaks against school closures. She states her concern of the district focus being shifted from students and their education, to decisions that do not reflect the needs of the communities. Ms. Abrego informs announces that she will be resigning at the end of this school year and makes it known that it is because of district leadership. She explains that the district has no clear evidence to justify school closures, and little to no accountability for past financial decisions that led to this point. "trust has been broken", she stated. Furthermore, she adds that she no longer feels confident in the direction this district is heading. Lastly, says she will be sending her youngest to private school, by applying for vouchers. She asks the Board to reconsider their decision today, and to ask themselves, "are these decisions truly in the best interests of students?"

Sheila Gonzalez, a parent of two children attending Matias De Llano Elementary School, speaks against school closures. She expresses gratitude towards the staff who have supported her special needs child and thus have made the burden "lighter". She adds that her siblings also attended Matias De Llano and hold fond memories of their time there. Ms. Gonzalez states that she has been a part of this community for over 20 years and that this school has been a cornerstone. "It's more than just a school, it's a part of our lives." She asks the Board to consider that what is being lost (referring to the schools), "not just a campus, but a support system".

Rosalia Juarez is a parent and volunteer at MDL, and expresses her thoughts against school closures. Ms. Juarez says she is questioned by her elementary child, regarding the school closure and raised concerns about what will happen with his teachers and classmates. She adds that with state assessments around the corner, he should not be worried about matters that "are beyond his control". Furthermore, she states that students with special needs will be particularly affected, and that they would regress. Ms. Juarez also addresses the increase of student to teacher ratios, referring to the new campuses these students would now attend, increased bullying, and overcrowded classrooms. Lastly, she asks the Board must seek other alternatives to address the deficit. Ms. Juarez proposes the district implement cost-saving measures and should eliminate high-paying positions at an administrative level. In closing, Ms. Juarez urges the Board look for meaningful, alternative solutions that does not require school closures and thanks the staff at MDL.

Gilberto Del Corral addresses the Board, staff at Gutierrez Elementary, and the students and families affected. Mr. Del Corral begins by making the district responsible for the financial situation. He points out that the student enrollment began decreasing since 2019, and how the numbers are now at 39,832 during 2026. He questioned the Board why

numbers went down but expenses went up. He said he attended Gutierrez Elementary and asks that Board to look for other solutions. Mr. Del Corral inquires as to whether the deficit has been reduced and also expresses his concern for the teachers who are afraid of retaliation. In closing, he pleads the Board give those elementary students a chance.

***Aliza Oliveros**, addresses a public comment made by a member of the community, and states for the record that what she was referring to when she pointed out a “healthy budget”, she meant that unlike many districts across the state, United ISD is one of the few that has a fund balance to keep running the district for at least two months. Ms. Oliveros said that she was not referring to the budget but rather to the districts independent audit report.*

End of Public Comments.

V. Items for Information Only

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gerarco Cruz addresses the reality of a \$44 million budget deficit, and says that these are challenging times. The declining enrollment and stagnant state funding have greatly impacted the district in a negative way, causing the district to shift dramatically on how the district has managed it's finance. He states for the record that the priority is to protect the classroom and the quality of instruction. The recommendation by district administration is to consolidate two elementary schools. “We realize that schools are the hearts of their neighborhoods, and the decision to consider closing a campus is never made lightly”, he said. Dr. Cruz adds that maintaining underutilized facilities is “no longer a viable option”. Furthermore, he states that although this consolidation will help diminish the current deficit, this is only one part of the comprehensive financial plan. Several cost-saving measures have already been implemented in order to reduce the deficit, including a hiring freeze for non essential rolls. Lastly, Dr. Cruz addresses the community to say that though this will impact the community, steps must be taken in order to stabilize the foundation, in order to continue to offer a “high quality education and safe environment for future generations”. “This is the only way to safeguard UISD's future and uphold our steadfast commitment to our students”, he said in closing.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

A. Monthly Disbursements

B. Employment Contracts, Addendums, and Letters of Assurance for 2026-2027 School/Work Year

C. Local and Targeted Improvement Plans for Clark Middle School and Salvador-Garcia Middle School

D. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Innovative State Course for Advanced Legal Skills and Professions

On a motion, so move by Ramiro Veliz, to approve items VI.A through D, seconded by Gilbert Aguilar, and Rudy Gonzalez. Motion carries with **4-Yaes** by Rudy Gonzalez, Gilbert Aguilar, Javier Montemayor and Ramiro Veliz, and **1-Nae** by Dianelle Martinez.

Ms. Dianelle Martinez questions the Monthly Disbursements and Employment Contracts.

- Under Instructional Accountability, \$807 for Laredo Morning Times
This was a payment for an ad announcement of TAPR Public Hearing
- Student Support Services: for Weldon Williams and Lick for \$2,250
This expense was for Graduation Tickets for students and families.
- For Legal Services: Amount of \$97,194, she asks the district provide backup
- Board Members Account: Service Banquet Reimbursement for \$808 & \$449
These are meal expenses for Board Workshops, Special Called, and Regular Mtgs.
- Board Members Account: Columbia Women \$186.50
Expense part of the UISD Board Recognition (vests) for Board Members
- Follow up question: the \$77 dollars was for stitching, correct?
Yes
- Under Safety and Student Services, School Special Dressing \$2,642 and \$31, 973
This was an item for every single classroom door to be able to hide in case of an active shooter.
- Purchasing Dept. for Una Solutions \$21,667
That is the districts E-bidding System
- Also for Laredo Morning Time \$1,205
These are ads for Bids
- Under Guidance and Counseling for Lozano Travel \$5,210
This is for the Study Abroad, airline tickets
- Is this for an Employee
It is for 3 chaperones
- Special Education Dept., for Ruth B. Cowl for \$4,500
The expense is for services for students
- Supt's Account for SA Marriott in the amount of \$2,148
This was travel for Supt to attend TASA Midwinter annual conference.

- PNC Danny's for \$330

This expense is for the Superintendent's Monthly Principal's Advisory meeting.

Aliza Oliveros asks Dr. Cruz, to clarify the importance of attending state conferences.

She adds that the Study Abroad expense mostly comes from donations, and requests, a report of all expenses the district has incurred due to legal services for grievances, expense for open records requests and similar fees.

Dr. Cruz stated that the intention for these conferences is to obtain crucial legislative information, accountability, instructional, as well as important financial updates.

Ms. Dianelle Martinez states that staff have called her inquiring about their employee contracts and ask whether they will still have a contract for 2027.

Stephen Trautmann, legal counsel informed her that these contracts on the agenda is for the annual approval of all employee contracts.

Aliza Oliveros also clarified that it was not only District 7 was being affected by school closures. Ms. Oliveros and Mr. Montemayor agree that their districts 3 and 5 have also been affected.

No further discussion.

VII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Donations

Dr. Gerardo Cruz reads out the donations and graciously thanks our supporters:

- A donation by Hometown Ticketing Inc. in the amount of \$17,304.32, for the AHS Girls Track Field and equipment.
- A donation by Borchers Elementary Booster Club, for \$1,774.80, to go towards Borchers Elementary supplies and equipment.
- A donation by Laredo Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep-Ram in the amount of \$1,000, to go towards the AHS UJIL One Act Play travel, props and costume expenses.
- A donation by Lobo Logistics in the amount of \$1,000, going towards the E. Herrera track program.

There were 5 additional donations of under \$1,000, for a **Grand Total of \$22,829.12.**

On a motion so move, by Javier Montemayor, seconded by Ramiro Veliz, and unanimously approved, motion carries.

B. Approval of Board Minutes for the month of January 2026

On a motion so move, to approve the Board Minutes for the month of January 2026, motion moved by Ramiro Veliz, seconded by Gilbert Aguilar and unanimously approved, motion carries.

C. Awarding Bids, Proposals, Qualifications, and Extensions

On a motion so move, to approve the Awarding Bids, Proposals, Qualifications, and Extensions, motion moved by Ramiro Veliz, seconded by Javier Montemayor, and unanimously approved, motion carries.

D. Discussion and possible action on proposed consolidation of Matias De Llano Elementary and Amparo Gutierrez Elementary, including justification and cost-effectiveness analysis

E. Discussion and possible action regarding the retirement of Matias De Llano Elementary and Amparo Gutierrez Elementary and corresponding boundary adjustments for Borchers Elementary, Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary, Malakoff Elementary, Trautmann Elementary, Clark Elementary, Newman Elementary, and Nye Elementary as recommended by the District's Administration

Javier Montemayor motions to move on items VII.-D & E.

Ms. Laida Benavides presents on the latest demographic information from Zonda Demographics and showed a 10-year enrollment forecast, the campus capacity and enrollment stability as well as new proposed boundaries for the affected campuses. Ms. Benavides also makes the Board aware that should action be taken, district administration is prepared to hold parent meetings to share the boundaries with individual parents.

The Board also addresses the legality of relocating services and equipment for students with special needs. Ms. Dovalina-Guzman provides input that this would take place via an ARD meeting and that services would follow the students even if they went to another district.

Legal counsel states that they feel confident that administration is complying with all legal requirements for students with special needs to be relocated, should action be taken to approve the consolidations.

Ms. Martinez also inquires as to what the cost would be for students to be transported to the new campus.

Mr. Mike Garza stated that parents can be polled to get an accurate number.

Ms. Martinez makes it clear that the cost for busing the affected students has not been looked at, and states that she opposes the closure of Gutierrez and Matias De Llano Elementary Schools.

Mr. Garza adds that the district would have to poll the parents because first, action needs to be taken, then parents will be informed to decide if they will continue to drop off their children.

Ms. Aliza Oliveros calls for a motion to end discussion and pose the question for action. With a second by Ramiro Veliz, approved by Gilbert Aguilar. The motion fails to pass. Mr. Montemayor calls for the presentation to continue.

David Canales shares that staff and teachers will not lose their jobs. The staff for both campuses have been made aware and concerns have been addressed.

Javier Montemayor explains to the community how the declining enrollment, inadequate state funding and vouchers for charter schools are some of the contributing factors to the current financial status of the district. He adds that Plano ISD, Leander ISD, Austin ISD, Houston ISD, Rishardson ISD, Eans ISD and many others are all closing campuses for the same reasons. Vouchers for students to attend Charter Schools is \$10K, Public Schools however receive only \$6,500K and solely based on attendance, not enrollment. Mr. Montemayor shares with the public that his opinion is that the state wants to do away with public education. He adds that the demographic information is also accurate when it comes to parents homeschooling their children and adds for the record that this narrative that the district has mismanaged funds is simply not accurate. He also reminds everyone that this district has dealt with covid, with a recession, and now dealing with a war, but UISD has always taken care of its employees and does not want anyone losing their jobs. He adds that the closure of campuses is not an evaluation of the campus, teachers, the staff or the students. He notes that the cost savings have to be a combination of, payroll, overtime and other cost savings measures and says that "what is worse than closing campuses, is doing nothing".

Aliza Oliveros asks administration if after taking action today, would employee salaries still be affected.

Dr. Cruz responds that although compensation is part of the cost savings measures, it would depend on the final numbers before a determination can be made.

Ms. Martinez continues to argue the reason as to why the district is looking to consolidate schools while at the same time is paying close to \$767K for software programs such as iexcel, that are underutilized and says this is wasteful spending. Furthermore she says that if the district did away with these programs, then schools do not have to close.

Dr. Cruz informs the community that software programs have been reduced the previous year by \$2M, and that this year would be an additional \$2M. He adds that due to a software program the district recently purchased (Lightspeed), the system was able to generate this kind of software usage report. He adds that the usage of certain programs are seasonal depending on the time of the year and who uses it.

Ms. Emma Leza chimes in to elaborate and begins by providing information that *iexcel* is the one program that the state allows the district to use. She also explains that some programs are intended for students and others are also used only by staff or teachers to create the assessments. Ms. Leza says she will be happy to provide the teacher surveys for software usage and mentions that this usage will also directly impact the Teacher Incentive Allotment.

Michelle Molina interjects to express her opinion that unless the district has looked at every aspect of the budget, that she cannot support the closure of campuses. She adds

that school closures is not political. She reminds everyone she requested a community advisory committee and obtain input.

Ms. Molina motions to end discussion, motion seconded by Gilbert Aguilar, and approved by Rudy Gonzalez, Javier Montemayor and Dianelle Martinez, motion carries.

On a motion to table items VII. D & E, seconded by Aliza Oliveros, and approved by Rudy Gonzalez, Gilbert Aguilar, Javier Montemayor and Dianelle Martinez, motion carries.

F. Request from Board Members in re: Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for various campuses and departments

On a motion to approve the Request from Board Members in re: Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for various campuses and departments, motion so move by Ramiro Veliz, seconded by Javier Montemayor and unanimously approved, motion carries to approve as presented.

VIII. 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 **8:42 PM**.

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

1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities

**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 on a surface use agreement related to a well drill site burdening a portion of the two UISD tracts of real property totaling approximately 165 acres of land wrapping the northwest corner of Las Tiendas Road and Rancho Peñitas Road, 2.5 miles north of Mines Road and 7.5 miles northwest of Loop 20, and described in deed filed of record in Vol. 3121, Page 193, and deed filed in Vol. 3121, Page 174, of the Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas.

2. Legal consultation and report on the possible amendment of the resolution for the sale of two tracts of UISD real property totaling approximately 165.00-acres of land wrapping the northwest corner of Las Tiendas Road and Rancho Peñitas Road, 2.5 miles north of Mines Road and 7.5 miles northwest of Loop 20, more particularly described in deed filed of record in Vol. 3121, Page 193, and deed filed in Vol. 3121, Page 174, of the Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas. The amendment would add to the sale of such real property the sale of the easements described in easement agreements filed of record in Vol. 3121, Pages 143, 153 and 163 of the Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas, and provide for the surface use agreement burdening part of the approximately 165-acre tract.

3. Legal consultation and report of the Resolution for the tender for dedication to the public for public road a tract of land that is 2,370.14 sq. ft. out of the private UISD street known as Santa Monica Drive, with such 2,370.14 sq. ft. being located at the intersection of the inbound lanes of Santa Monica Drive and State Highway 359. The tender shall be subject to the same reservations, limitations and restrictions set forth in the Encumbrance Agreement recorded in Vol. 5924, Page 612 and the Ingress Only Easement recorded in Vol. 5924, Page 634 all, of the Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas.

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

1. Consultation with legal counsel regarding UISD Board Operating Procedures and matters incidental thereto

**D. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.076 Deliberation regarding Security Devices or Security Audits**

1. Discussion regarding the Intruder Detection Audit (IDA) report findings

IX. 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 **9:12 PM.**

A. Possible action with respect to a surface use agreement related to a well drill site burdening a portion of the two UISD tracts of real property totaling approximately 165 acres of land wrapping the northwest corner of Las Tiendas Road and Rancho Peñitas Road, 2.5 miles north of Mines Road and 7.5 miles northwest of Loop 20, and described in deed filed of record in Vol. 3121, Page 193, and deed filed in Vol. 3121, Page 174, of the Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas.

On a motion so move, to allow legal counsel to proceed as discussed in Closed Session, motion moved by Ramiro Veliz, seconded by Gilbert Aguilar and unanimously approved, motion carries.

B. Possible action with respect to executing an amendment of the resolution for the sale of two tracts of UISD real property totaling approximately 165.00-acrea of land wrapping the northwest corner of Las Tiendas Road and Rancho Peñitas Road, 2.5 miles north of Mines Road and 7.5 miles northwest of Loop 20, more particularly described in deed filed of record in Vol. 3121, Page 193, and deed filed in Vol. 3121, Page 174, of the Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas. The amendment would add to the sale of such real property the sale of the easements described in easement agreements filed of record in Vol. 3121, Pages 143, 153 and 163 of the Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas, and provide for the surface use agreement burdening part of the approximately 165-acre tract.

The recommendation is to allow legal counsel to proceed as discussed in Closed Session. On a motion so move by Ramiro Veliz, seconded by Javier Montemayor and Gilbert Aguilar, and unanimously approved by the Board, motion carries.

C. Possible action with respect to a resolution to tender 2,370.14 sq. ft. followed by the actual tender for dedication of the 2,370.14 sq. ft. to the public subject out of the private UISD street known as Santa Monica Drive, with such 2,370.14 sq. ft. being located at the intersection of the inbound lanes of Santa Monica Drive and State Highway 359. The tender shall be subject to the same reservations, limitations and restrictions set forth in the Encumbrance Agreement recorded in Vol. 5924, Page 612 and the Ingress Only Easement recorded in Vol. 5924, Page 634 all, of the Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas.

The recommendation is to allow legal counsel to proceed as discussed in Closed Session. On a motion so move, by Gilbert Aguilar, seconded by Rudy Gonzalez, and unanimously approved, motion carries.

D. Possible action regarding approval of UISD Board Operating Procedures

On a motion to approve the Board Operating Procedures as discussed in Closed Session, motion moved by Rudy Gonzalez, seconded by Gilbert Aguilar and unanimously approved, motion carries.

Ms. Martinez asks if major changes were made to the Board Operating Procedures.

Legal Counsel states that the changes were minor revisions mostly of a gramatical nature and that the district must now post agendas three business days prior to a Board Meeting, it used to be 72 hours.

E. Intruder Detection Audit (IDA) report findings

Mr. Mike Garza states that TEA has conducted an Intruder Detection Audit (IDA) and that this report must remain confidential for safety purposes and that results will be shared with the Board during Closed Session.

X. Adjournment

On a motion so move to adjourn, motion moved by Javier Montemayor, seconded by Michelle Molina, and unanimously approved, motion carries.

There being no further business before the UISD Board of Trustees, this Regular Board Meeting of March 30, 2026, was adjourned at **9:19 PM**.

Javier Montemayor, Jr.
Board President

Michelle Molina
Board Secretary