

No. \_\_\_\_\_



## UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC** \_\_\_\_\_ Board Minutes \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_ Karen Winch \_\_\_\_\_ **OF:** \_\_\_\_\_ Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_ February 16, 2009 \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

Regular Board Meeting – January 21, 2009

Public Hearing – January 29, 2009

**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).

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

January 21, 2009

**In Attendance**

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

**Board of Trustees**

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

**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 at 6:37 p.m. The record showed that a quorum of Board members was present, that the meeting had been duly called, and that notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.**

**IV. Recognitions**

**A. Board Recognition Month**

Mr. Santos addressed the Board thanking them for all the time they spend in looking out for the kids. He said, in keeping with the "Kids Say the Darndest Things" television show with Art Linkletter, the Communications Department had developed a video for Board Appreciation Month.

Following the video, Mr. Santos asked the Board to come to the front to receive something in appreciation for what they do. Members of the Instructional Department presented members with bags with the UISD logo in appreciation of what they do for the District.

Ms. Leticia Leal, Coordinator – Fine Arts, then introduced several students and teachers who had garnered honors in various areas of competition.

## **B. 2009 Texas Kid's Aviation Art Calendar Contest**

Board members congratulated the following students for placing in the state art calendar contest:

- Alexia Bueno – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Clark Middle School
- Valeria Reveles – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Clark Middle School
- Eleana Gruen – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Clark Middle School

The Board also recognized the students' art teacher, Ms. Poinot.

## **C. Region One ESC Holiday Card Contest**

- Sydney N. Rodriguez – R.C. Centeno Elementary – Elementary Division winner

The Board also recognized Sydney's teacher, Ms. Kim Keller.

## **D. Instructional Excellence Leading to Student Success**

Ms. Nancy Poinot – Clark Middle School was congratulated by the Board for her accomplishment.

## **V. Public Comments.** Ms. Campos read the following statement.

**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.**

Steve Sianez. Mr. Sianez, TSTA Representative, addressed the Board saying he wanted to share some thoughts with the Board on Board travel. He reminded them that several Board members would be attending a meeting with AASA, American Association of School Administrators, next month and that the organization is a fierce defender of free speech. He said, as part of their brochure, they welcome all participants to truly engage and participate in free speech.

Mr. Sianez said that, as a taxpayer, he was asking that while attending the meeting, the Board would take the UISD's policy on Public Comments and how Public Comments are managed in our district. He asked that the Board members share with other participants to get a glimpse into how they view this particular policy. He said Public Comments is vital to members of the community to provide a legitimate and formal process to allow people to come forward and address issues without fear of retaliation and communicate with the Board.

Mr. Sianez added that Public Comments are also critical for the Board to truly appreciate the voice of parents and employees and, in general, the community that they serve. He added that the limitation on public comments only creates an atmosphere that is contrary to our beliefs of what free speech really means for Americans and for our public school system.

The speaker said he had met some wonderful teachers and ESPs (Educational Support Professional) since he got to Laredo. However, he noted that he could not comment on that because the comments would not be agenda-related. He asked that the Board take the time to address this important issue and looked forward to the opportunity to meet with them on this issue.

**VI. Closed Session.** The Board adjourned into closed session at 6:55 p.m., pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

**A. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney**

**551.074 Discussion of Personnel or to Hear Complaints against Personnel**

**1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities**

**2. Internal Auditor's Duties and Responsibilities**

**3. Board President's Duties and Responsibilities**

**4. Discussion, including consultation with legal counsel, re:  
Superintendent's Employment Contract Extension and  
Modifications to Employment Contract and Addendum**

**VII. The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 9:31 p.m.** The Board took appropriate action on items, as necessary, as discussed in Closed Session. Mr. Gilpin and Mr. Ramirez were not present for the remainder of the meeting.

**A. Action re: Approval of extension of Superintendent's Employment Contract and Modifications to Employment Contract and Addendum**

Motion: I move to modify the Superintendent's employment contract through June 30, 2010 with an option for an extension through June 30, 2011 after the Superintendent's evaluation has been conducted this summer in 2009 and upon the other terms, as discussed in Closed Session.

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

Mr. Santos thanked the Board for the constant support they have given him as Superintendent and also his support of staff. He thanked the Board for the extension on his contract.

**VIII. Consent Agenda Items**

Mr. Johnson addressed the Board saying the Business and Instructional Committees met the previous Tuesday and recommended the approval of the following items.

- A. Approval of Monthly Disbursement**
- B. Approval of Budget Amendments**
- C. Consideration for Approval of Tax Refunds**
- D. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications**
- E. Second Reading of (LOCAL) Policies in Update 84**

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

**IX. Items for Individual Consideration**

**A. Board Minutes**

**1. Regular Board Meeting – December 17, 2008**

Motion: So move.

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

**B. Donations**

Mr. Santos read the donations totaling \$26,719.37 into the record and thanked all for their generous donations.

Motion: So move.

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

**C. Board Travel for the Month of February 2009**

Motion: So move.

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

Mr. Johnson asked why this item was not part of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Santos responded that it should have been as no further discussion was required on the item.

In Favor: Unanimous

**D. Approval of Request for the Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary funds for *Los Obispos* Middle School for \$4,102.83**

Motion: So move.

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

**E. Approval of Request for the Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Clark Elementary School for \$10,883.28**

Motion: So move.

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

**F. Approval of 2009-2010 District Calendar**

Ms. Gloria Rendon, Assistant to the Superintendent, advised the Board that Administration was recommending Option 2.

Motion: So move.

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

Mr. Johnson clarified that new teachers would be beginning on August 7, 2009 in Option 2. Ms. Rendon responded that that was accurate. Mr. Santos commented that students test on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 2010, and employees have already had a full two weeks at Christmas.

Mr. Johnson asked if the calendar had been coordinated with other districts and entities. Ms. Rendon responded that we had consulted and coordinated with the Diocese, TAMIU, and LCC.

In Favor: Unanimous

Both items IX-G and IX-H were first readings and did not require action.

**G. First Reading of CCG (LOCAL) – Local Revenue Sources Ad Valorem Taxes**

**H. First Reading of CFEA (LOCAL) – Payroll Procedures Salary Deductions and Reductions**

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2009 was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

---

Pat Campos – President

---

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary

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

January 29, 2009

**In Attendance**

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

**Board of Trustees**

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

**I. Open Hearing**

**II. Texas Education Code §39.053 Presentation of Annual Report Describing the District's Educational Performance on the AEIS (Academic Excellence Indicator System) Indicators**

Ms. Pam Juarez, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, addressed the Board with an overview of the Academic Excellence Indicator System 2007-08 and advising them that the Public Hearing was in keeping with the requirements of the law. Ms. Juarez provided a packet for the Board and highlighted special areas.

The speaker said that the District was an Academically Acceptable district, Special Education monitoring results status had the district on local interventions, and had received Gold Performance Acknowledgements for the recommended high school program (Class of 2007). Ms. Juarez advised the Board that of the 41 UISD schools, 2 were Exemplary, 14 were recognized, 23 were Academically Acceptable and 2 were not rated. She said the high school completion rate standards for the 2003-04 Freshman class indicated no change from 2002-03 to the 2003-04 school year. Ms. Juarez highlighted the percentage of passing rates for subject areas by grade levels indicating testing percentage increases and decreases.

Mr. Eduardo Zuniga, Associate Superintendent, presented the violent and criminal offense report. He advised the Board that there were 147 criminal offenses of assault under the Penal Code against someone other than a school district employee or volunteer. In addition, he reported that there were two cases of aggravated assault under the Penal Code. Mr. Zuniga then addressed the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Plan saying that United ISD has been able to maintain a strong SDFSC program that has demonstrated success in achieving its goals and objectives and managed to keep violence, alcohol, and tobacco use at a limited use level and drug use at a moderate level.

Mr. Zuniga reviewed statistics based on ethnicity indicating the District had 2% African-American, 97.9% Hispanic, 1.5% white, 0% Native American, and .5% Asian/Pacific Islanders. He noted



that there were 71.4% Economically Disadvantaged, 48% of Limited English Proficient (LEP), 1.6% for students with disciplinary placements and 68% of the students were at-risk. He added that there were 14.8% Special Education graduates with 12.9% graduating on the minimum high school program and 87.1% on the recommended high school program / DAP (Distinguished Achievement Program).

Mr. David Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, outlined teacher demographics citing 42.6% of the professional staff being teachers, 8% as professional support staff, 2.3% as campus administration and .4% central office administration. He noted that 84.6% hold Bachelors degrees, 14.3% hold Masters degrees and .2% hold Doctorate degrees. Mr. Garcia advised the Board that teachers, by years of experience included 6.1% beginning teachers, 1-5 years experience as 36.1%, those with 6-10 years experience was 23.1%, those with 11-20 years experience was 22.3% and 12.4% of teachers with over 20 years experience.

Ms. Laida Benavides, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, presented the financial information showing that the comptroller valuation value after exemptions was \$8,434,606,581 and the value per pupil was \$216,900. The speaker pointed out that our Fund Balance at the end of 2006-07 was \$40,819,563. She said we do maintain more than a month in our Fund Balance. Ms. Benavides advised the Board of the actual expenditure information with total expenditures being \$350,436,588. She said our payroll costs are comparable to the state figures. Ms. Benavides said our expenditures related to instruction must be coded to the programs such as Career-Technology, Bilingual, or Accelerated Education.

Mr. Johnson asked was Function 33 was. Ms. Benavides responded that it was campus administration such as the principal, assistant principals, and office staff.

### **III. Public Comments**

Ms. Campos called for Public Comments. However, no one came forward to speak.

### **IV. Close Hearing**

### **V. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

---

Pat Campos, President

---

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary