

**RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD
REGARDING TEMPORARY EMERGENCY CLOSURE
DUE TO AN EXTERNAL POWER REPAIR AND INCLEMENT WEATHER, IN
ADDITION TO A DELAYED START DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

WHEREAS, the United Independent School District ("District") is a public school district located in Laredo, Webb County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, January 20, 2025, the District's Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary School ("CSBS") experienced an electrical power-line failure; and

WHEREAS, the District had to cancel school at CSBS on Monday, January 20, 2025, due to the time needed for repairs at the campus caused by the American Electric Power ("AEP") power-line disruption, which said repairs would take most of the academic day; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Trustees ("Board") has a substantial interest in protecting the health and safety of the District's students, staff, and community, and finds that an emergency existed to close CSBS on January 20, 2025 due to the lack of power resulting from the repairs to the AEP power line; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, the National Weather Service issued a sub-freezing weather notice to the City of Laredo and Webb County based on inclement freezing weather; and

WHEREAS, the sub-freezing weather created hazardous conditions for students, employees, and the community of the District, resulting in a temporary closure of the entire District on January 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, the National Weather Service issued a sub-freezing weather notice to the City of Laredo and Webb County based on inclement freezing weather; and

WHEREAS, the District had to enact a two-hour delayed start of the academic day for the entire District on January 22, 2025, for the protection of our bus riders and the health & safety of our children, staff, and community; and

WHEREAS, the Board has a substantial interest in protecting the health and safety of the District's students, staff, and community and finds the need to enact a temporary Districtwide closure on January 21, 2025, and a two-hour delayed start of the operational day on January 22, 2025, due to inclement freezing weather; and

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized by Texas Education Code section 45.105 to expend funds of the District for purposes necessary in the conduct of the public schools as determined by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the District has always been and will remain committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for its students while at the same time keeping all District staff safe and being good stewards of its resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That all the above recitals are adopted as findings of fact and are incorporated into and made a part of this Resolution for all purposes, and that the Board hereby determines that the public purposes served by this Resolution and any expenditure made pursuant to this Resolution include: (i) keeping the District's students and staff safe due to the external power failure at Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary School on January 20, 2025, (ii) inclement freezing weather on January 21, 2025, resulting in a Districtwide closure, and (iii) inclement freezing weather on January 22, 2025, resulting in a Districtwide two-hour delayed start of the operational day, while maintaining instructional continuity to the greatest extent possible during the events which led to the specific school closure, the Districtwide closure, and the Districtwide delayed start, respectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public purposes described above are fulfilled by efficiently and effectively making certain delegations, as described more fully herein, to the Superintendent to address the inclement freezing weather Districtwide and the lack of electricity in the mentioned campus in the best interests of its students and staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in furtherance of these public purposes and this Resolution, the Board makes the following delegations to the Superintendent:

1. The authority to enact an emergency closure at CSBS on January 20, 2025, due to repairs to an AEP power-line;
2. The authority to temporarily close the District to all District students and employees on January 21, 2025, due to inclement freezing weather;
3. The authority to enact a two-hour delayed start for all District students and employees on January 22, 2025, due to inclement freezing weather;
4. The authority to continue providing pay to all District employees due to the above-mentioned events;
5. The authority to direct certain essential District employees to report to work during the emergency closures and the two-hour delayed start, including but not limited to those District employees who are essential to continuing certain District operations such as facilities, transportation, and food services, in the sole discretion of the Superintendent; and
6. The authority to submit any necessary waivers to the Texas Education Agency to further the implementation and purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent is authorized by the Board to take such further actions necessary and appropriate to implement the intent of this Resolution without further Board action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the authority granted to the Superintendent by the Board via this Resolution shall remain until rescinded by Board Action at a duly-called Board meeting, but in no event shall the authority granted to the Superintendent by this Resolution remain in effect past February 28, 2025.

APPROVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED on February 12, 2025, by the United Independent School District Board of Trustees.

APPROVED:

Javier Montemayor, Jr.
Board President

ATTEST:

Michelle Molina
Board Secretary