

No. _____



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC _____ Board Minutes

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

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____ November 18, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

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

October 15, 2008 – Regular Board Meeting
October 23, 2008 – Special Called 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).

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

October 15, 2008

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce – President
Ricardo Molina – Vice President
Juan Molina – Secretary – arrived 6:39 p.m.
Pat Campos – Parliamentarian
Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez – Member – absent
William "Bill" Johnson – Member
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Wednesday, October 15, 2008 in the United ISD –Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

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. 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 on policy or agenda items will be heard in open session. Complaints and concerns against employees or regarding students shall be directed through the appropriate channels. 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 formal information.

Mr. Bruce advised the Board that Mr. Santos had requested to move up agenda **Item VII – Board Recognition of John Bruce.**

As it was Mr. Bruce's last meeting as a board member, Mr. Santos thanked him for what he has given to the students of the district. Mr. Bruce was presented with a plaque. Mr. Ramirez addressed Mr. Bruce saying he felt happy for having a person such as Mr. Bruce as part of the UISD team. He said they had learned a lot together. Mr. Ramirez wished Mr. Bruce the best in his life, his family and grandchildren.

Mr. Ricardo Molina thanked Mr. Bruce for being a good leader. He said he appreciated Mr. Bruce's friendship and thanked him.

Ms. Campos thanked Mr. Bruce for all he had done for the children of UISD. She wished him the best and said they will keep seeing each other as a family. She said he was always welcome back at UISD in four years.

Bill Johnson said that the main thing he likes about John is that even though they disagreed at times, they could still disagree civilly.

Mr. J. Molina said he appreciated that any time he had a question, he could call John up. He said he would always be there for him and knew Mr. Bruce would be there for him.

Mr. Bruce said 98% of being on the Board was fun. He said, for the most part, it had been great to work with the members of the Board, administration, staff. He said the Board members made his job easier. He asked that everyone keep up the good work.

The Board then returned to address **Public Comments**

Rose Cruz. Ms. Cruz said she had some concerns on the minutes. On the August 27, 2008 minutes, she asked if on the agenda item they could get a date stamp to indicate the date it is posted onto the website. She said state law requires the posting 72 hours before. Ms. Cruz said she didn't see them until Wednesday, but was told it was posted on Friday of the following week. Also, the minutes on October 6, 2008, Ms. Cruz said they didn't address something that, hopefully, would be addressed. She said the issue was all the water spots and stains and mildew and how all that's going to be taken care of at United High School.

V. Closed Session: The Board adjourned into closed session at 6:46 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

A. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney

**1. Consultation with Legal Counsel re: Settlement offer and request
For extension of the time made by Esther Firova re: Proposed
Termination**

B. 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**

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 and discussion of possible action pertaining to the approval of the granting of an easement to San Isidro Northeast, Ltd., over and across a section of property owned by United Independent School District. The property is located adjacent to the new United High School and lies between the new United High School and the extension of International Boulevard.**

VI. The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 8:03 p.m. and took appropriate action as necessary as discussed in Closed Session.

A. Action re: Settlement offer and request for extension of time made by Esther Firova re: Proposed Termination

Ms. Sonya Garcia, Escamilla and Poneck, addressed the Board saying the recommendation was to reject the settlement offer and request for extension of time made by Esther Firova re: Proposed termination as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion:	So move.
Moved by:	Campos
Seconded by:	R. Molina
Discussion:	None
In Favor:	Unanimous

B. Consideration and possible action pertaining to the approval of the granting of an easement to San Isidro Northeast, Ltd., over and across a section of property owned by United Independent School District. The property is located adjacent to the new United High School and lies between the new United High School and the extension of International Boulevard.

Ms. Garcia said the recommendation is that the Board grant the easement to San Isidro Northeast, Ltd., over and across a section of property owned by United Independent School District. as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion:	So move.
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Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

VII. Board Recognition

A. John M. Bruce

This item was taken at the beginning of the meeting.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. Presentation of Annual Investment Report

Mr. Santos introduced Laida Benavides, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, who brought the annual investment report for the year ending August 29, 2008. She said Mr. Richard Long, Investment Advisor, is an extension of their department.

Mr. Richard Long with Estrada Hinojosa & Company, Inc. provided an overview of the District's financial position. He mentioned that last year at this time we were at around 5%, but this year it is different. He said we are down to 1.5 %. Mr. Long said the portfolio last year was over \$100,000,000, and this year it is \$90,000,00.

Mr. Long said we had almost a 50% drop in the earnings potential. He added, however, that the portfolio was very active. Since the end of August, we have invested in additional CDs. He said LNB has been very aggressive, and we have been able to take advantage of what is available.

Mr. Long commented that the District has a lot of money in the bank. Most of the money has been put in the banks and bank CDs due to the disruption that has been going on. In addition, Mr. Long presented the total portfolio that normally follows and peak and trough pattern. However, he said in August 2008 the trough fell below other periods.

There were no questions from Board members.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Johnson stated that the Business and Instructional Committees had met the previous week and were recommending approval of the following items:

A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements

B. Approval of Budget Amendments

C. Approval of End of the Year Outstanding Encumbrances

D. Approval to Adopt Resolution Regarding Review of Investment Policy and Strategies

E. Approval of Inter-local Participation Agreement for the Region One ESC

Library Services and Media Cooperative

- F. Approval of Request from Juan A. Molina for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Lyndon B. Johnson High School for \$20,000**
- G. Approval of Request from Juan A. Molina and Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez For the Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for United South High School for \$20,000.**
- H. Approval of Request from Juan A. Molina for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Lamar Bruni Vergara Middle School for \$17,000**
- I. Approval of Request from William B. Johnson for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Trautmann Middle School for \$5,760**
- J. Approval of Request from John Bruce for Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Trautmann Elementary School for \$11,000**
- K. Second Reading of Policy CFB (LOCAL) – Accounting Inventories**
- L. Second Reading of Policy DC (LOCAL) – Employment Practices**
- M. Second Reading of Policy DH (LOCAL) – Employee Standards of Conduct**
- N. Second Reading of (LOCAL) Policies in Update 83**
 - 1. DAA (LOCAL): EMPLOYMENT OBJECTIVES – EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – DELETE**
 - 2. DEA (LOCAL): COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS- SALARIES AND WAGES**
 - 3. DIA (LOCAL): EMPLOYEE WELFARE – FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION**
 - 4. EHAC (LOCAL): BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM – REQUIRED INSTRUCTION (SECONDARY) – DELETE**
 - 5. FB (LOCAL): EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**
 - 6. FD (LOCAL): ADMISSIONS**
 - 7. FFH (LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE – FREEDOME FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION**
 - 8. FFI (LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE – FREEDOM FROM BULLYING**
 - 9. FL (LOCAL): STUDENT RECORDS**
 - 10. FM (LOCAL): STUDENT ACTIVITIES**
 - 11. FNC (LOCAL): STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES – STUDENT CONDUCT**

12. FO(LOCAL): STUDENT DISCIPLINE

- O. Discussion/Action to Approve Ground Lease Agreement Between the City Of Laredo and the United ISD of Real Property at Sigifredo Perez Elementary**
- P. Request for Application for Missed Instructional Days 2008-2009 School Year**
- Q. Approval of Request for Class Size Waiver for the Fall Semester 2008-2009 School Year**
- R. Approval of district and Campus Improvement Plans for 2008-2009 School Year**

Mr. Santos said that Mr. Ricardo Molina's name needed to be added to **Item IX-F** in order to include both Mr. Ricardo Molina and Mr. Juan Molina's name.

Moved by: Johnson
Seconded by: Campos
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous
Mr. Johnson abstained from item D.

X. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Board Minutes

- 1. Special Called Meeting – August 27, 2008**
- 2. Public Hearing on Schools FIRST – September 17, 2008**
- 3. Regular Board Meeting – September 17, 2008**
- 4. Board Workshop – October 6, 2008**
- 5. Special Called Meeting – October 7, 2008**

Motion: So move.

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

B. Donations

Mr. Santos read the donations totaling \$40,418.43 into the record and graciously thanked the donors for their contributions to the District. He commented that they would copy the check and letter from the campus for the Board.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Ramirez

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

**C. Approval of Revisions to District Compensation Plan Re:
Reassignments/Demotions**

Motion: So move.

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

**D. Approval of Financial Advisory Services Agreement with Estrada Hinojosa &
Company**

Ms. Benavides said they were asking the Board to approve the Financial Advisory Services Agreement with Estrada Hinojosa & Company for five years.

Motion: So move.

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

Mr. Johnson clarified that this was a five-year term with a 30-day option.

In Favor: Unanimous

E. First Reading of LOCAL Policies in Update 83

Mr. Bruce pointed out that all were first readings and would not require action.

- 1. DGBA (LOCAL): Personnel Management Relations Employee Complaints/Grievances**
- 2. FNG (LOCAL): Student Rights and Responsibilities-Student and Parent Complaints / Grievances**
- 3. FOC (EXHIBIT): Student Discipline-Placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Educational Setting**
- 4. GBAA (EXHIBIT): Information Access – Request for Information**
- 5. GF (LOCAL): Public Complaints**

F. First Reading of Policy CAA (LOCAL): Fiscal Management Goals and Objectives: financial Ethics

G. First Reading of Policy CCG (LOCAL)- Local Revenue Sources Ad Valorem Taxes

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2008 was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan Antonio Molina, Jr., Secretary

Special Called Meeting
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb

October 23, 2008

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce – President
Ricardo Molina – Vice President
Juan Molina – Secretary
Pat Campos – Parliamentarian
Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez - Member – arrived 6:29 p.m.
William "Bill" Johnson – Member
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. Mr. Bruce, Board President, made an announcement calling the meeting of the United Independent School District to order at 6:03 p.m. 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.

III. Closed Session: The Board adjourned into closed session at 6:08 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**

**Consider Appointment of Principal for Clark Elementary
School**

The Board returned from Closed Session at 7:04 p.m. Mr. Gonzalez was not present and did not vote on Items IV-A, B, C, and D.

IV. Action Items:

A. Appointment of Principal for Clark Elementary School

Mr. Santos addressed the Board saying his recommendation for Principal for Clark Elementary School was Linda C. Castillo.

Motion: So move.

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

B. First and final Reading of Policy BE (LOCAL) – Board Meetings

Mr. Juan Cruz, UISD General Counsel, clarified that the changes to the Board policy with respect to calling Board meetings and agenda items would not require three, rather than two, Board members to do so.

Motion: Motion to approve.

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

Mr. Ramirez asked for clarification regarding if the three members could be the Board President and two others. Mr. Cruz said that was correct.

In Favor: Unanimous

C. Approval of Request from John M. Bruce for Use of Discretionary Funds for Trautmann Middle School for \$3,270

Motion: So move.

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

D. Approval of Request from Juan Antonio Molina, Jr. for Use of Funds for Roosevelt Elementary for \$1,075

Motion: So move.

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

E. Approval of Request to the Texas Education Agency for the Exception to the Bilingual Education Program

Ms. Emma Leza, Director of the Bilingual Program, presented an overview as to the reasons they were asking for the exception to the Bilingual Education Program. Mr. Bruce asked if it was a waiver. Ms. Leza responded that, at the elementary level, it is called an "exception."

Motion: So move.

Moved by: R. Molina
Seconded by: Campos

Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

F. Approval Award of RFP 2008-077 Reading Intervention Program

Mr. Santos introduced Ms. Juanita Lozano, Executive Director Secondary Education, and staff. Ms. Lozano said that a representative from Scholastic would make a presentation regarding the program.

Ms. Cordy Flores-Jackson, Director of Purchasing, advised the Board that they had held several meetings to review all the proposals that had been presented. She said they were recommending Scholastic for a cost of \$713,743.40 . However, Ms. Jackson said the cost could be higher or lower depending on the number of participating students.

Mr. Juan Molina asked how many students we were looking at. Ms. Lozano responded that they were looking at 95 students and less per school. She said Reading is the key to everything and students in SSI have taken the test three times. She said she could not be satisfied if every child could not read. Ms. Lozano said they would start with the 6th grade students who took the test three times in fifth grade. She added that some schools have 95 students and others only have 32.

Mr. Bruce asked about the licenses, and Ms. Lozano said it would be 900 licenses. Mr. Bruce then asked if we would be able to transfer the license to another campus without penalty. Ms. Lozano said we would.

Mr. Ricardo Molina asked why they were not looking at putting the program in the elementary schools instead on the middle schools. Ms. Lozano said the problem at middle school was poor reading skills. She added that they might only have 5-6 students in an elementary school, but when the feeder schools combine in middle school there will be a higher number.

Ms. Pam Juarez, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, explained that they have the National Reading First program at the elementary school which helps ensure that the students are successful. She said that to date, all of our resources have been pumped into our foundational years. However, if they are immigrants, they have not received that foundation.

Mr. Ramirez asked if they could have the program for 5th graders to give them a better start? Ms. Juarez responded that we have some very good programs in the elementary schools that are doing a good job. In 5th grade, they were using the supplemental materials, Mr. Ramirez said they were not against the program, but hoped that it works out evenly throughout the years. Mr. Santos asked that the representatives be allowed to make their presentation.

Ms. Jackson introduced members of the committee which included David Gonzalez, Principal – Washington Middle School; Selma Santos, Principal – United South Middle School; Yolanda Carmona, Reading teacher – Washington Middle School; and Elizabeth Salazar, Reading Specialist.

The Board then heard a presentation by Lynn Harris and representatives from Scholastic.

Mr. Gonzalez asked what a lexile is. The response was that it is a numerical readout and the framework that is used by the state of Texas. It represents the student's reading level which is relative to their grade level. The presenter said the program is broken down into components. There is twenty minutes of whole group instruction followed by small group instruction, software portion and independent study. There are 40 titles and 5 copies of each title. In addition, Ms.

Harris said they also have audio books for their independent reading. A video presentation showed that the middle school program is age appropriate and a high interest area for middle school students.

Ms. Cordelia Orengo, Program Evaluator / Administrator for District Initiatives, addressed the Board and shared information about what they had seen during their visits to other districts using the Scholastic program. She said they talked to students and teachers, and the beauty of the Reading 180 Program is the strong teacher component.

Mr. Bruce explained how the Job Corps also utilized the program and said that the performance has been very good and had tremendous results. He said that students have different learning styles. He said the Scholastic Achievement Manager is the program that Scholastic uses to produce reports and track student progress.

Mr. Ramirez asked if students have workbooks. Ms. Harris responded that the students do use the books which are meant to be consumable. She said the District would have to get new books each year at a price of \$24.95 each.

Mr. Juan Molina asked if the program would be implemented every day or on an A/B schedule. Ms. Harris said it would take the place of the reading class and recommended a 90-minute block. She added, however, that we could have a customized schedule.

Mr. Ramirez requested to hear from the teacher who went to visit McAllen and Pharr. Mr. David Gonzalez gave a brief overview of the program and introduced his reading teacher, Ms. Carmona. As a former English teacher, Mr. Gonzalez said the program is very advanced and said he didn't believe the District could afford not to implement it.

Mr. Gonzalez expressed concern that none of the high schools were represented and said he would like to table the item because there had not been input from the schools in his district. He said Ms. Adriana Ramirez, Principal – Antonio Gonzalez Middle School, was involved, but was not able to attend the trip.

Ms. Carmona then addressed the Board saying she was present at the first meeting and attended on the trip and that she was very excited about the program. She said the engagement of the students with the teacher was evident.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Ramirez

Seconded by: J. Molina

Discussion:

Mr. Gonzalez said they needed more time and more information as there were too many questions. He said he had just received the report at 3:30 p.m. and it did not present much information about the program.

Ms. Juarez said they would need to have 21 students in the class in order to maximize the licenses. As per Ms. Harris, it would take 10-12 days upon receipt of the purchase order to implement. Mr. Santos added that it would be implemented at the start of the second semester. She said other districts using the program were McAllen, La Joya, Hidalgo, Brownsville, Mercedes, North Side ISD, Dallas, Houston and Laredo ISD.

Mr. Gonzalez asked what was the best price for the program. Ms. Jackson responded that it would be \$713,743.40 for year one and an estimated \$51,000 for year two and three. She said that sometimes the books are on sale.

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

V. Informational Item

A. Presentation on Status of North Side International Park by Mr. Jerry Garza, County Commissioner, Pct. 3.

As an informational item, Mr. Santos introduced Jerry Garza, Webb County Commissioner Precinct III, who provided a status report on the North Side International Park. Mr. Garza thanked Mr. Bruce for his assistance and support of the project. He said he presented the architects, Hickey and Pena who will develop a first class recreation facility and park. The Commissioner said the cost of the project is \$875,000 and they will be completing it in phases. Maintenance will be handled by the city and the District will maintain the fields.

Mr. Bruce commented that these are the kinds of projects that benefit the District and the community. He said that, in the future, we need to look at more projects like this.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the Special Called meeting of October 23, 2008 was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan Antonio Molina, Jr. - Secretary