

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees

Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District

The Board of Trustees met to conduct the Regular Meeting on April 14, 2025 at 6:17 pm in Benson Board Room, 601 Dean Street, Uvalde, TX 78801.

1. The regular meeting was called to order at

Members present: Cal Lambert, Laura Perez, Jaclyn Gonzales, Jesse Rizo, Robert Quinones, JJ Suarez (arrived at 6:27pm)

Members absent: Javier Flores

Staff present: Ashley Chohlis, Amy Graeber, Pam Bendele, Anne Marie Espinoza, Mikka Sanchez, David Zamora, Cash Keith, Mario Rangel, Pedro Huizar, Elsa Ayala, Margaret Tarski, Patricia Merlos, Veronica Mata, Andrea Sagemuehl, Michele Lee Torres, Jennifer Griffin, Dr. Andi Guerrero, Jennifer Torres, Norma De La Fuente, Zeke De La Fuente, Rodney Harrison, Noe Truan, Norma Barbosa, Keith Pendelton, Bernard Bujard, Katrina Besa, Marilyn Brown, David Leary, Gabriela Villarreal, Cheyenne Mueller, Jorge Cerna, Deya Davis, Antoinette Briseno, Cassandra Benavides, Dora Marines, Dr. Hector Lopez, Belinda DeAnda Ramirez, Cassandra De Hoyos, Elsa Garcia, Erin Sutton, Christina Thomas, Lorena Gonzales, Carol Kirkham, Cheyanne Mansfield, Marie Tidwell

Guests present: Rachel McClain, Elina De La Fuente, Ava L. Schlessiger, Arianna E. Ovalle, Amerie L. Garcia, Arely A. Torres, Victoria A. Martinez, Natalie E. Rondon, Leilani Gamez, Diego Ovalle, Christina Ovalle, Natalia Arias, Kasey Schlessiger, Marshall Schlessiger, Denise Gomez, Tony Gruben, Valeria Perez, Isabella Flores, Michael Brown, Lindsey Ivy, Hector Gonzales, Julia Ireton, Michelle Carroll Smith, Chantel Schulz

B. Moment of Silence

There was a moment of silence for 21 seconds to honor our 21 beautiful souls.

C. Invocation was led by

D. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas were led by Cadet Ensign Baylee Parker and Cadet Ensign Daniel Rondon.

2. Board Recognition

School Class of 2025 Top Ten Graduates:

Rank	Student	GPA	University	Honor Teacher
Valedictorian	Elina A. De La Fuente*	107.537	University of Texas at Austin	Benard Bujard
Salutatorian	Ava L. Schlessiger*	106.366	Texas Tech	Katrina Besa
Third	Julia R. Jones	105.738	Texas A&M University in College Station	Roberto Cantu
Fourth	Arianna E. Ovalle	105.25	University of Texas at Austin	Norma Barbosa

Fifth	Amerie L. Garcia*	105.098	University of Texas at Austin	Marilyn Brown
Sixth	Arely A. Torres*	104.861	Texas A&M University in College Station	David Leary
Seventh	Victoria A. Martinez*	104.725	Texas State University in San Marcos	Keith Pendleton
Eighth	Natalie E. Rondon*	104.262	University of Texas at Austin	Gabriela Villarreal
Ninth	Marquez F. Lopez*	103.649	University of Houston	Robin Dodson
Tenth	Leilani Gamez*	103.195	University of Texas at Austin	Cheyenne Mueller

- Early College High School Student

3. Superintendent's Report

A. DOMAIN 1: High quality curriculum and effective instruction

Regarding PreK, UCISD

- Will still be accepting all students who want to be with us
- Students who don't qualify, which we project to be between 6% and 9%, would be tuition based. It will be substantially less than what daycare's charge in Uvalde.
- We will continue full day programming for all students and anticipate the same number of Pre-K teachers for next year.
- Financially, we need to follow state guidelines to some degree. The state only funds kids that qualify and only for a half day program, leaving the district to fund \$1M of the program locally.
- Our practice will still be to go above and beyond what the state funds.

Reading Language Arts HQIM

- Rollout by developing a shared vision and belief system rooted in literacy excellence.
- Our focus is on empowering teachers, engaging students, and aligning instruction with purpose—ensuring every classroom delivers high-quality, consistent, and joyful learning experiences that reflect the values of Uvalde CISD.

The state will release Spring 2023 STAAR Ratings to districts April 14th (today) and will release to the public April 24th.

B. DOMAIN 2: Effective, well supported staff

A Community Envisioning Meeting of stakeholders came together to collaboratively work on a district Vision and Mission at the end of March. We will be sending out the following statements for feedback shortly:

Information on rough draft:

In Uvalde CISD, we will ensure...

- All students will feel valued and benefit from inclusive opportunities for success;
- All families will be heard, supported, valued, and informed;
- All faculty and staff will be passionate and inspirational, educators, and model professionalism for all

- stakeholders;
- All campus leaders will be empathetic, accessible leaders who foster engaging partnerships with all stakeholders;
- All central office staff and the superintendent will lead with integrity, upholding high moral and ethical standards in every decision and action, fostering an environment of transparency, support, and collaboration to meet community needs;
- All School Board Trustees will stay involved, be supportive, and always persevere in the best interest of our students and the district.

Vision & Mission: From these statements, we will extract a vision & mission. This will be sent to the community for feedback

- Creating tomorrow's opportunities by empowering students today.
- Empowering all students to achieve excellence and thrive in a dynamic world.
- Engaging students on their pathway to success.
- Creating fearless leaders who ignite change with resolve and decisiveness.

CEN/AmeriCorp spending allowance and tuition award -

3 paraprofessionals who applied for the We are currently gathering information to determine the best teacher pipeline options to offer our employees. When a program model is finalized, the first group of CEN/AmeriCorp candidates will serve as a pilot group for our District's new Grow Our Own Program.

C. DOMAIN 3: Positive school culture; safety and security

- Motivate Our Students Texas Classroom Guest Speaker Program has been successfully launched, marking a significant milestone in our initiative to inspire and educate students. We are thankful to the 15 esteemed community members who engaged with students at Uvalde High School, Crossroads, and Morales Junior High, sharing their personal stories of overcoming challenges and highlighting the critical role of education and strong work habits in creating a successful future. The guest speakers emphasized the importance of seeking guidance and support from adults, fostering a supportive learning environment. The students responded positively to these interactions, showing heightened engagement and interest, further strengthening the bonds between students and community members and enriching the educational experience.
- Our next Big Box food distribution is scheduled on Tuesday April 29th. Our UCISD recovery services, police force, transportation, maintenance teams and volunteers have been a great support and I want to thank them for all their efforts in supporting our community in such a meaningful way.

SAFETY & SECURITY

- \$4.5M community funding grant, we were informed the community funding grants would not be funded for FY2025. We were asked to submit again for FY2026. This will put several projects such as Omnilert, and public address systems needed, on hold.
- UE Flores Elementary rekey project was completed at the end of March.
- Dalton Elementary rekey project is in progress and should be completed by the end of April.
- MJH rekey project is scheduled to start in May. (grant funded)
- Vestibule projects are underway (grant funded)
 - ❖ Broadus Construction started the Dalton vestibule project on April 8th, 2025

❖ MJH vestibule project started on April 10th, 2025.

- Installation of exterior gate automatic closers started on March 10th, 2025. All designated pedestrian gates will have automatic gate closers, addressing a need identified by our safety audit and determined by our School Safety & Security Committee as a top priority. (grant funded)

CHDI School Based Clinic Usage

March - 103 visits

Student Visits - 67%

Employee Visits - 33%

Uninsured - 24%

D. DOMAIN 4: Alignment of financial well being with student achievement

District needs:

- \$7M in roof repairs
- \$4M in HVAC controls and lighting upgrades
- \$1.5M in technology over the next 2 years
- Bus replacements will soon be a need
- Suburbans are more cost effective to use when small groups of students are traveling & coach drives
- Projected \$1.7M at 3% loss of funding due to Vouchers (currently we have 7% going out of district)

Unfunded endeavors:

- All students transported regardless of 2 mile radius of the schools - State does not reimburse the district
- All day PreK for all (\$1.2M annually due to the state funding only \$255k)
- Athletics- no state money
- Fine Arts - no state money
- Extra Nurses & Mental Health Counselors (AEAP grant) goes away after next year
- A portion of Special Education - SHARS being cut
- GT - only funded 5% of total enrollment
- Police Department (\$1M annually unfunded)

Current budget measures being taken:

- Working to increase revenue through attendance and program modifications
- Reducing work day calendar to industry standards
- Reducing positions SY25-26

Property leasing:

- El Progreso library board has approved leasing a portion of the Benson campus that we will not be using next year and we're working on the 12-18 month short term lease agreement.
- VERO on the action agenda due to the length and nature of the lease.
- The Board of Trustees will meet April 24th in a workshop to discuss real property with the attorney.

4. Open Forum

The following spoke in open forum:

- Victoria Martinez- Michelle Torres-College & Career Advisor
- Natalie Arias - Pre-K 2025-2026
- Gracie Flores - Michelle Torres-College & Career Advisor

5. Consent Agenda:

The following items were pulled by trustee Jaclyn Gonzales

- E. Item of information regarding transportation- Concerns about increasing mileage and out of town usage of police vehicles.
- H. Item of information on the district's credit card activity for February 2025-
- J. Item of information for revenues and expenditures as of February 2025
- L. Consider approval of accounts payable checks for February 2025
- M. Consider approval of accounts payable checks for March 2025
- O. Consider approval of budget amendment #3
- T. Consider approval of the renewal of administrator contracts

The motion was made by JJ Suarez and seconded by Laura Perez. The motion was carried unanimously with Javier Flores absent.

- A. Amended minutes of the regular meeting of the board of trustees held on February 17, 2025
- B. Minutes of the board workshop meeting of the board of trustees held on March 10, 2025
- C. Minutes of the regular meeting of the board of trustees held on March 10, 2025
- D. Item of information regarding maintenance and operations
- E. Item of information regarding transportation
- F. Item of information regarding SFE
- G. Item of Information on the district's investment activity for February 2025
- H. Item of information on the district's credit card activity for February 2025
- I. Item of information on the district's credit card activity for March 2025
- J. Item of information for revenues and expenditures as of February 2025
- K. Item of information on the tax collection activity for February 2025
- L. Consider approval of accounts payable checks for February 2025
- M. Consider approval of accounts payable checks for March 2025
- N. Item of information for the district's federal program activity for March 2025
- O. Consider approval of budget amendment #3
- P. Item of information on student attendance
- Q. Item of information on student discipline
- R. Consider approval of out of state student and employee travel for the Educators Rising National Conference in Orlando, Florida
- S. Consider approval of the renewal of teacher and professional contracts
- T. Consider approval of the renewal of administrator contracts
- U. Consider approval of Amplify Education, Inc
- V. Consider approval of Carnegie Learning

6. Items of Division of Curriculum and Instruction:

- A. Item on information on Uvalde Elementary @ Flores

Presentation by Michel Lee Torres.

- B. Item of information on PreK

A presentation by Amy Graeber and Jennifer Griffin.

C. Consider approval of certification of provision of instructional materials

The motion was made by JJ Suarez and seconded by Robert Quinones to approve the submission of the Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials as presented. The motion was carried unanimously with Javier Flores absent.

D. Consider approval of school design plan and the performance agreement

The motion was made by Jesse Rizo and seconded by JJ Suarez to approve the School Design Plan for the [Batesville](#) School and [Morales](#) Jr High School as presented. The motion was carried unanimously with Javier Flores absent.

7. Items of Division of Business and Finance:

A. Consider approval of memorandum of understanding with Uvalde County

The motion was made by JJ Suarez and seconded by Laura Perez for the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Uvalde County regarding a grant received by Uvalde County from the State of Texas - Border Region Radio Communications Project. As part of the grant, Uvalde CISD is receiving 35 radios and related accessories worth \$446,964. The motion was carried unanimously with Javier Flores absent.

B. Consider approval of donations

The motion was made by Laura Perez and seconded by Robert Quiniones to approve the donations from Motivate our Students Texas in the amount of \$7,600 to help with Temporary staff for scheduling and HEB in the amount of \$155,000 for Student Leadership development, community based projects and an investment in the band program. The motion was carried unanimously with Javier Flores absent.

8. Items of Division of Administration & Operations:

A. Consider approval of memorandum of understanding with Texas A & M University- San Antonio

The motion was made by JJ Suarez and seconded by Laura Perez for the approval of the memorandum of understanding with Texas A & M University-San Antonio as presented. Whereas, TAMUSA agrees to cover the cost of one graduate course for up to 10 UCISD employees' toward their Master's degrees in the field of education; and UCISD agrees to provide a substitute once each semester of enrollment, up to 4 semesters, to help contribute to the staff members' seeking their graduate degrees. Potentially \$2,400 annually if 10 staff members apply and are accepted. The motion was carried unanimously with Javier Flores absent.

Questions from JJ Suarez

- How will we determine teachers? -This year will be based on a first come first serve basis. TAMUSA will review and approve applicants in order of acceptance to TAMUSA.
- Will they have to work with us? We would like for them to but cannot make them.
- Will be part of a stipulation - maybe a 2 year but not binding- we cannot force them to stay

B. Consider approval of lease agreement with VERO

The motion was made by JJ Suarez and seconded by Robert Quinones to authorize the Superintendent to finalize negotiations with VERO and execute the contract. The lease would generate approximately \$2,600 annually with a small percentage of increase over time. The motion was carried unanimously with Javier Flores absent.

9. Closed Session: A closed session will be held under Provisions of Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Sections 551.071 and 551.074

The board met in closed session at 9:40 pm

A. Deliberation concerning approval of personnel employments, assignments, suspensions, and terminations

10. Reconvene from closed session for action relevant to items covered during closed session and other items listed

The board reconvened at 11:32 pm.

A. Consider and take possible action concerning approval of personnel employments, assignments, suspensions, and terminations

The motion was made by Jaclyn Gonzales and seconded Jesse Rizo to approve personnel actions as discussed in closed session. The motion was carried unanimously with Javier Flores absent.

11. Adjournment

The motion was made by Laura Perez and seconded by JJ Suarez to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously with Javier Flores absent.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 pm.

Board Secretary

Date