

UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Regular Board Meeting

April 16, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Board In Attendance: Gilbert Aguilar, Michelle Molina, Ramiro Veliz, Javier Montemayor, Aliza Oliveros, Dianelle Martinez and Rudy Gonzalez

Staff In Attendance: Dr. Gerardo Cruz, Rebecca Morales, David Canales, Melissa Cruz, Alfonso Pena, Monica Madrigal, Marta Stahl, Laida Benavides, Cordy Jackson, Emma Leza, Adriana Ramirez, Mike Garza, Annette Perez

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

Javier Montemayor calls roll and establishes a quorum 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'S MVP Parents

B. LAREDO & SOUTHWEST TEXAS 2025 PAGEANT WINNERS:

*MISS JR. LAREDO TEXAS 2025

*MISS JR. SOUTHWEST TEXAS 2025

*MISS PRE-TEEN SOUTHWEST TEXAS 2025

*MISS SOUTHWEST TEEN USA 2025

C. UNITED ISD'S BUSINESS OFFICE - Government Finance Officers Association

D. LYNDON B. JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL 9th - I Love My Librarian National Award

Analine Johnson

E. SCRIPPS SPELLING BEE - REGIONAL QUALIFIER

F. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SILVER STEPPERS - National Champion
Winners

G. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL BAND - UIL Sweepstakes Winners

H. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL COLORGUARD - TCGC State
Competition

I. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA - UIL Sweepstakes
Winners

J. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR - UIL Sweepstakes Winners

K. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER - Bi-District
Champions and Area Finalists

L. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL BAND - UIL Sweepstakes Winner

M. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL - Saxophone Quartet -UIL State Chamber
Instrumental Music Competition, Bronze Medalist

IV. Public Comments: 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.

Ms. Aurora Barrios, states she has been working as a substitute for eight years and expresses her concern of being assigned to a campus with a specific teacher only to later be assigned to a different roll and also asked to assist in the cafeteria, at the same campus by the assistant principal and said she did not think it's fair.

Ms. Letty Juarez states she is an advocate for both students and teachers. She says she is here to clarify her statement made at a March board meeting regarding the ACE program. Ms. Juarez said she was asking for the student progress for this program because "this is what the application stated". Ms. Juarez's opinion is that the lack of student growth monitoring is unacceptable.

Mr. Joe Barron brings updates for the Rockin' the Spectrum event. He says the event is free to the public. The only vendors are those vetted through the City of Laredo like the food trucks. There will be no alcohol on premises and Mr. Barron expresses his personal reasons for spearheading this event. He stated that whatever is raised is going to the sensory room for UHS. For the record the event will take place on April 26, 2025, at the Bartlett (Jovitas) park from 5:00 to 11:00 P.M.

Ms. Abeer Alhadad is a parent of an 8 year old at San Isidro Elementary. She says that the districts grievance process is flawed and states that since, she has been retaliated against, received personal attacks and experienced the concealment of information. She claims the system is designed to "exhaust and frustrate" the parents. Ms. Alhadad states that she is committed to stand by her kids when they are in their right. Lastly, she says she asked for an apology from the counselor and campus principal.

Ms. Edna Olmeda says she has continually been advocating for raises for teachers and staff. She reads out the cost of living increases of approximately 22% and makes claims that the district continues with wasteful spending. In closing Ms. Olmeda asks the Board to "stop the wasteful spending" and asks that they listen to the communities concerns.

End of Public Comments.

V. Items for Information Only

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cruz begins by commending this month's United Cares staff members. He says he is currently working on reviewing campus and department budgets to identify potential cost savings as well as analyzing student projection and program needs to "maximize efficiency".

Furthermore, Dr. Cruz announced April is Autism Awareness month and recognizes the unique talents and abilities of our students with special needs.

He adds that the district was overwhelmed with positive feedback from parents that attended the last Special Education Parent Conference. The Federal Program also hosted a mini conference and an Enrollment Fair.

Lastly, Dr. Cruz thanks the district administrators and teachers for working to prepare the students for the next student assessment and wishes everyone a safe and joyful holiday break.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

A. Monthly Disbursements

B. Awarding Bids, Proposals, Qualifications, and Extensions

C. RFP 2024-031 Bank Depository Services

D. Second and Final Reading of Board Policy CFC (Local) Accounting Audits

E. Implementation of Veterinary Science Program at United High School for the 2025-2026 School Year

F. Resolution to approve employee compensation for an emergency closure at Trautmann Elementary School on March 27, 2025, due to an AEP power outage

G. Second and Final Reading of TASB Update 124 (LOCAL) Policies

On a motion moved by Aliza Oliveros and seconded by Ramiro Veliz, the Board moves for discussion.

Ms. Dianelle Martinez asks to move Item VI.-A, B, C for Individual consideration.

Legal Counsel also notes, for the records that Item VI. C – Bank Depository Services had a “non-material” change to the tabulation but that this does not change the district’s recommendation.

Ms. Aliza Oliveros amends her original motion to approve Items VI.D through VI.G, is seconded by Ramiro Veliz and unanimously approved.

VII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Donations

*A donation of \$7,013.85 by Womens City Club for the purchase of equipment and supplies for the JB Alexander High School Graphics Design Club

*A donation of \$5,000.00 by Mr. & Mrs. Suzette Tijerina for the UISD Partners For Scholars Foundation

*A donation of \$2,443.60 from the United SHS Swim Team Booster was received to go towards the USHS Swim Team.

*A donation of \$2,100.00 by Mrs. Francisca V. Saldaña for the Raul Peralas MS Boys Athletics

*A donation of \$1,617.00 by the Borchers Elementary PTC Booster Club to go towards the schools End of Year expenses and student incentives

*A donation of \$1,000.00 by the Laredo Diploma Plus Foundation's Board of Directors to go towards the Juan R. Ramirez MS Band

*A non-monetary donation by the U.S. Department of Justice was made of 50 HON 310 Series 5-drawer verticle file cabinets was received by UISD's Fixed Assets.

Plus 3 donations of under \$1,000.00

Grand Total of \$20,694.44

On a motion moved by Aliza Oliveros and seconded by Ramiro Veliz, the Board unanimously approved to pass the approval of donations.

B. Approval of Board travel to attend the 2025 Region One School Board Association (ROSBA) conference in South Padre Island, Texas

On a motion moved by Aliza Oliveros, seconded by Gilbert Aguilar, and the Board unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Mike Garza reads out a few amendments of requests that had been previously approved (by former board members) and were presented to the board in their respective board pakets. The funds have been allocated but now the campuses wish to use the remaing funds or funds that were not used duebto to timming issues, now use in other current campus needs.

On a motion so move by Aliza Oliveros, seconded by Dianelle Martinez, the Board unanimously approved.

Item VI.A Monthly Disbursements

The discussion was made by Ms. Dianelle Martinez regarding a link for community access to additional check registrar information.

Sam Flores response is that indeed the district is working on it but undergoing a system upgrade and will be discussing the process with the superintendent.

On a motion so move, moved by Aliza Oliveros, and seconded by Gilbert Aguilar, the Board unanimously approved item VI.A.

Item VI.B Awarding Bids, Proposals, Qualifications, and Extensions

Item VI.C RFP 2024-031 Bank Depository Services

Ms. Dianelle Martinez states for the record, that senator Ryan Guillen proposed Bill HB210 and was approved by the House that addresses conflict of interest between school boards and vendors.

Sam Flores further elaborates on the pros and cons of the choices for bank depository and explains how the district committees came to this decision by weighing the benefits not just for the district but for employees as well.

On a motion moved by Aliza Oliveros to approved Items VI. B & C, seconded by Gilbert Aguilar, and unanimously approved by the Board, motion carried.

I. Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act

The Board adjourns into Closed Session at **7:10 PM**. No action will be taken in Closed Session.

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 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting

1. Discussion regarding Internal Auditor's Annual Evaluation and modification of employment contract

2. Discussion regarding Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument and matters incident thereto

3. Discussion regarding the appointment of the United Middle School Principal

4. Discussion regarding the appointment of an Assistant Principal at Lyndon B. Johnson High School

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

TGC 551.076 Deliberation regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

1. Discussion, including consultation with legal counsel, regarding the Intruder Detection Audit Report

II. Reconvened from Closed Session, the Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in Closed Session

The Board reconvenes from Closed Session at **8:02 P.M.**

A. Possible action regarding Internal Auditor's Annual Evaluation and modification of employment contract

The recommendation is to approve the Internal Auditor's 2024-2025 Annual Evaluation and to modify her Employment Contract as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion so moved, by Rudy Gonzalez, seconded by Aliza Oliveros and unanimously approved.

B. Possible action to approve Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument

The recommendation is to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument as discussed in Closed Session.

On a motion moved to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument, moved by Aliza Oliveros, seconded by Ramiro Veliz and Gilbert Aguilar, the Board unanimously approved.

C. Possible action regarding the appointment of United Middle School Principal

The recommendation for Principal at UMS is Linda Mireles.

On a motion so move, moved by Aliza Oliveros, seconded by Rudy Gonzalez and unanimously approved by the Board.

D. Possible action regarding the appointment of Assistant Principal at Lyndon B. Johnson High School

The recommendation for Assistant Principal at Lyndon B. Johnson High School is Griselda Mendoza.

On a motion so move by Gilbert Aguilar, seconded by Rudy Gonzalez and unanimously passed by the Board.

E. Discussion regarding the Intruder Detection Audit Report

Mr. Mike Garza reads out the Intruder Audit Findings Report and informs the board that the Safety and Security Team has been conducting audits performed the the Texas School Safety Center throughout the district. Furthermore he assures the Board and community that the performance is at 100% last year and closed with another great percentage score this year as well.

III. Adjournment

On a motion so move to adjourn this meeting, moved by Aliza Oliveros, a second by Dianely Martinez, this motion passed unanimously.

The Board wishes the community and staff a very safe and joyful Easter Break.

There being no further business for the United ISD Board of Trustees, this meeting was adjourned at **8:06 P.M.**

Javier Montemayor
Board President

Michelle Molina
Board Secretary