

**Minutes of Special Meeting**  
**The Board of Trustees**  
**Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District**

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The Board of Trustees met to conduct the Special Meeting on July 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Benson Boardroom, 601 Dean St, Uvalde, TX 78801

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by 6:00 pm.

A. A roll call and establishment of quorum.

Members present: Laura Perez, JJ Suarez, Javier Flores, Jaclyn Gonzales, Robert Quinones, Jesse Rizo (Trustee Rizo arrived at 7:35pm)

Staff present: Ashley Chohlis, Amy Graeber, Pam Bendele, Mikka Sanchez, Edward Puente, David Zamora, Cash Keith, Mario Rangel

Guests present: Simon Ortiz, Buddy Negli, Sergio Porras, Jenny Russell, Erika Munoz, Hali Mecklin

B. Moment of Silence

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

C. Moment of silence for the victims of the Hill Country Floods and invocation were led by JJ Suarez.

D. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas were led by the board of trustees.

2. Open Forum

No one spoke in the open forum

3. Announce applicants and discuss questions to be asked during open interviews at the July 17, 2025, special meeting

Trustee Suarez asked if all applicants have been checked for compliance and would like an update

Superintendent Chohlis and trustees discussed the interview questions. Each board member will ask the applicants one question.

4. Discuss and consider approval of 2025-2026 Board goals

No action was taken.

Mrs. Chohlis shared a few highlights:

- CCMR data which we wanted to be we wanted to improve 20% by September 2027 projections show that we're at an 18% increase for 2025. That money doesn't hit for two years.

- The goal was to increase 3% in tested subject areas in the meets category 20% of our tested subject areas increased 3% in the meets category 35% of our tested subject areas increased in the approaches meets and/or masters area. Numerous subject areas had a significant increase in the number of students tested due to testing systems being put in place and increased accountability around expectations for getting students to school to test.

Well supported staff the goal was to

- Increase opportunities for family engagement and increase teacher attendance by at least 3%
- support uncertified teachers to become certified and decrease the uncertified teachers by 50%
- We had 56 uncertified teachers and we provided a tutoring support program at no cost to them, We had a total of 7% of the 56 teachers get certified
- We only have two years from the state of Texas to get our people certified per new legislation

Trustees shared concerns about uncertified teachers and the process of getting certified. This included, the support from the district providing tutoring and study materials, financial strain on the teacher, possible sponsors to help teachers pay for their exam, TIA, performance goals, responsibilities of the teacher and deadlines to take the test. The district pays for study materials.

Positive culture we said that we were going to have at least a 3% increase in student attendance and a percent reduction in student discipline data. Our attendance went up .3%. Mrs. Chohlis talked about the importance of attendance and we will continue to follow Texas School Procedures for referrals to the courts. We need everyone to know it is important to bring their children to school to get their education.

Trustees shared concerns on fights at campuses, properly coding in PEIMS.

Kids will have several Fridays off throughout the year because we did notice that our major attendance was usually on Fridays. This will help teachers with professional development.

Mrs. Chohlis stated that we will continue to follow Texas School Procedures for referrals to the courts. We need everyone to know it is important to bring their children to school to get their education.

Emergent Tree will be coming in this year to help with behavior issues

In reference to our draft Board Goals, we have continued working with the Texas Strategic Leadership group to develop strategic plans for the district. Over the past few months, this process has been guided by needs assessment surveys, task force meetings, and significant public input.

Draft Board Goals

Domain 1 – High-Quality Curriculum and Effective Instruction

These goals are aligned with state requirements, as outlined by state calculations. By law, we are required to include them.

## Domain 2 – Effective and Well-Supported Staff

- Increase teacher attendance by 3%, bringing us to 96%.
- Support uncertified teachers in obtaining certification by decreasing the number of uncertified teachers by 25% by August 2026.

Last year, we aimed for a 50% reduction and achieved 7%. While we will always strive for higher, we believe 25% is a more manageable target for this year, allowing us to focus on individuals who are close to completing their certification requirements.

## Domain 3 – Positive School Culture

- Implement and utilize an equitable discipline system.
- Model respectful behavior by participating in monthly roundtable discussions.
- Provide ongoing professional development for staff.
- Achieve a 3% increase in student attendance.
- Achieve a 3% reduction in student discipline incidents.

We believe these are reasonable and measurable goals that will help drive positive outcomes for our students, staff, and community.

Trustee Gonzales recommended adding the following to domain #2 which include stability, promoting within and promote retention

## Domain 4 – Financial Well-Being and Alignment

For this goal, UCISD will manage a fiscally responsible budget that supports our strategic priorities. As we enter our upcoming budget session, our financial work will continue to align with and support the goals of teaching and learning.

Key actions include:

- Holding regular meetings to address and solve complex budget-related issues.
- Providing assistance with policies and procedures related to financial management.
- Conducting budget update meetings with leadership teams.

We are also asking budget stewards to return at least 3% of their allocated budget at the end of the year. This will require all departments to be mindful of expenditures, evaluating whether purchases are necessary and prudent. The intent is to encourage responsible spending practices while ensuring resources are available to meet strategic priorities.

5. Item of information for discussion on 2025-2026 district budget

A five minute recess was taken at 7:19pm

The board reconvened at 7:24pm.

Ms. Bendele presented information on the 2025-2026 district budget with preliminary numbers.

On June 30, the U.S. Department of Education notified TEA of the upcoming year's federal grant allocations. TEA forwarded this information to districts last week. At this time, the following programs are impacted:

- Title I, Part C – Migrant Education – Serves our migrant children; currently on hold.
- Title II, Part A – Supporting Effective Instruction – Heavily used for staff development and positions that directly support teaching and learning.
- Title III, Part A – English Language Acquisition – Supports our English learner programs, particularly at UDLA campus.
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment.
- Title IV, Part B – 21st Century Community Learning Centers – Spending deadline extended from July 31 to September 30, 2025, allowing continued operation of the afterschool program through that date.

Our district has been good stewards of these funds, and we do not anticipate major disruptions, particularly for the 21st Century program. That program will continue to operate on Fridays when school is not in session, offering snacks, a hot lunch, and educational activities before students transition to the Boys & Girls Club.

Planning/Estimated Allocations:

- Title I, Part A: \$2.5M (planning amount; previously reviewed at last board meeting)
- Title I, Part C (Migrant): \$81,000-Migrant Education – Serves our migrant children; currently on hold.
- Title II, Part A: approximately \$250,000-Supporting Effective Instruction – Heavily used for staff development and positions that directly support teaching and learning.
- Title III, Part A: \$36,000-English Language Acquisition – Supports our English learner programs, particularly at UDLA campus.
- Title IV, Part A: approximately \$100,086-Student Support and Academic Enrichment.
- Title IV, Part B (21st Century Grant): \$1.5M-21st Century Community Learning Centers – Spending deadline extended from July 31 to September 30, 2025, allowing continued operation of the afterschool program through that date

Trustee concerns -Federal grants, delayed funding, and reducing staff.

## 6. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

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Board Secretary

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Date