

**A Regular Board Meeting
Of United ISD
The State of Texas
County of Webb**

January 19, 2021

In Attendance:

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent

Board of Trustees:

Ramiro Veliz, III, President - PRESENT

Javier Montemayor, Jr. - Vice President – PRESENT

Ricardo “Rick” Rodriguez, Secretary – PRESENT (Late In)

Ricardo Molina, Sr., Parliamentarian – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Aliza Flores-Oliveros, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Tuesday, January 19, 2021, beginning at 12:00 PM in the UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted one at one time.

BOARD MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Based on Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-23 and the City of Laredo Amended Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Health Orders, the District will ensure social distancing protocols are practiced to the greatest extent possible thus limiting the number of persons physically present in the UISD Boardroom. Therefore, in an effort to conduct public business in a transparent manner, the District will live stream this Board meeting.

If you would like to view a live-stream of the meeting, please click on the the following Youtube link:

<https://youtu.be/WNRJUpUKIAg>

Two-way communication to the Board meeting may be accessed by clicking on the following zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87494289033?pwd=Z3ludTcxRzVOd1BkNFhSSTZDS1BIZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 9428 9033

Passcode: 556586

Public Comments may be submitted to Gloria Rendon at: grendon@uisd.net at any time prior to the Board Meeting. Public comments must pertain to agenda items only.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

Mr. Ramiro Veliz calls this meeting to order at 12:01 PM. Quorum is established.

II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to Order. Let the record show that a quorum of board members is present, that this meeting has been dully called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551

III. Pledge of Allegiance

A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

IV. Public Comments

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. 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 Comments 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 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 factual information.

Lucia E. Juarez: I'm here on behalf of the U.S. Census to extend a thank you for all the contributions that United Independent School District had on behalf of, you know helping us through Covid and the Covid challenges that we face. I want to thank the Superintendent the administrators, the school board, UISD all the campuses, elementary, middle and high school campuses as well as; I want to give a special thanks to Mr. Carlos Garcia. For being present during our complete count committee meetings with the county and I also want to just extend this certificate (showing the certificate on screen). On behalf of the U.S. Census we just want to thank for all your contributions. You allowed us to enumerate during some of your events and that really helped because we couldn't at times get to these people because of the Covid challenge you know people were hesitant to respond at their door so we were better able to access the parents through the district. So thank you so very much and we hope to count with your assistance throughout the next few years and then as we work towards the 2023 Census; thank you.

Roberto J. Santos: Mr. Veliz, before we start; today and all of this month is board appreciation month and on behalf of the 7K employees of United ISD, I want to thank the board for the support that you all have always given us. I know it's been different and difficult this year but again on behalf of our employees our parents and our students we want to thank you for what you do for our district.

V. Board Recognitions

- A. United High School AP Scholars**

- B. United High School – Girls Cross Country Team – District Runner Up / Regional Qualifier**

- C. United High School – Boys & Girls Tennis Team – United Record Fall 2020: 9 Regional Semifinalists / Sweet 16**

- D. United High School – Girls Volleyball Team – Regional Quarterfinalist**

- E. United South High School – Girls Cross Country – Regional Qualifiers**

- F. United South High School – Football Team – Area Champions / Regional Semifinalist**

- G. Alexander High School – Boys Cross Country Team – Regional Qualifier
- H. Alexander High School – Boys Tennis Team – Regional Semifinalist / Sweet 16
- I. Alexander High School – Girls Tennis Team – Regional Semifinalist / Sweet 16
- J. Alexander High School – Girls Volleyball Team – Bi-District Finalist
- K. Lyndon B. Johnson High School – Boys Cross Country – Regional Qualifier
- L. Lyndon B. Johnson High School – Girls Volleyball Team – Bi-District Finalist

VI. Items for Information Only

A. Finance Division Monthly Financial Report

Sam Flores: The district had a portfolio of \$217 M dollars of which 51%, represented General Operating Funds at \$112 M. If you combine all the Bond Funds in the next largest group that's represented on the portfolio, they represent 34% at \$74.9 M dollars. We invested these funds at a portfolio yield of 0.35%. Which is really good when comparing to the current pool rate of 0.15. And today's 30 day T-bill rate is 0.08%. So, our investments are doing very, very well. We have an administrative cost ratio.. well, TEA allows us to have a little bit over 11%. We are at actual expenditures of 8.65%, so we're well within the limits of the administrative cost ratio. Our financial report, unaudited financial statement through December 31st, 2020, our revenues are already at \$170 M, and our expenditures are only at \$156 M, so, so far we are showing a positive variance thru December. The Tax Office report, we have Tax office collections of 46%, compared to last years tax office collections at 43%. Currently as of today, we are at 53.48% collection which is \$93.5 M dollars in tax collections. The rest of the report you will find all the purchasing bids and proposals thru December 31st, and all the Grants department grants that they reviewed submitted and negotiated and amended or reported in the book as well.

B. Curriculum and Instruction Updates

The Instructional Update will be moved to the next board meeting.

C. Budget 2022 Update

Laida Benavides: Just a real quick update on our budget status; Just to let everybody know that the 87th Legislative session started January 12th, just last week. They did elect a new speaker of the house. Republican representative Dade Phelan from Beaumont. I do know that the senate has already created their committees. On January 11th, the Texas comptroller announced his revenue estimate \$112.5 B for the 2022-2023 biennium which is down by the 2021 estimate of \$119.1 B. However, he had already said it was going down and he thought it was going down by a lot more, but they came up with a better revenue estimate. So hopefully they will not impact us too much. As far as United ISD, we are using our projected student enrollment of 41,366. I think the last enrollment that we had was 41,900, and so we're being very conservative based on our enrollment. This is from our planning department. We'll use this enrollment to do staffing at the campuses, and also to do our budget allocations to the campuses and departments. The proposed boundary changes will be taking place I think next week by the planning department and Mr. Mike Garza. And then the Human Resources is in the process of updating their staffing guidelines. Which we will use to staff our campuses for next year. And then Sam and his office will start allocating budget to campuses and departments so that they can start building their budgets for next year. Thank you.

D. Federal & State Programs Grant Updates

Becky Morales: Good afternoon, board members and the audience. This is just to inform you that on behalf of our district we are submitting a grant to TEA. It is a competitive grant. It is the 2021-2022 Nidaloe 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant. If awarded this grant, it would allow us to open up some after school programs, possibly at some of our elementary campuses. That currently do not have a program or have very low enrollment. So we should be hearing from the state in around April, or May.

E. Review of LEGAL Policies TASB Update 116 (See Attached List)

VII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements

Sam Flores: I am presenting to you the disbursements for the month of December. I don't know if you all have any questions..

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Javier Montemayor, Rick Rodriguez
Seconded By:	Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion:	NONE
All In Favor:	Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Approval of Independent Audit Report for the Year Ended August 2020

Sam Flores: With us today we have Mr. Carlos Cascos. He is the principle owner and partner of Cascos and Associates, PC. He did the internal audit for United ISD. The financial statement ended August 31, 2020. If he is on the line now, I'll transfer the presentation over to him.

Mr. Carlos Cascos: I am your independent auditor. This is not the first year that we've done United's audit. My presentation will be brief and I'm going to take you just a couple of schedules. I'm going to focus on 3 things. #1. The unmodified opinions that the school district has earned once again. #2. I'd like to focus on the general fund revenues and expenditures and on your fund balance (#3). So let me start off by thanking the administration and the board for all their help that they; this is a very challenging time. Trying to do an audit on site and remotely has been very, very challenging as you all may all know. Just having board meetings remotely is not being able to interact with everyone is very, very difficult. But I trust that we will get by this. We will get through and hopefully we won't have to do this again in this manner next year. But let me once again congratulate the school district for earning and I say earning is because the CPA firm do not give out opinions. They are earned by the entity, they are earned by the school district based on administration based on your internal controls, based on the adequacy of your finances. So the district has once again earned unmodified opinions in various sections. One is the internal control, one on your grants and the other is on your financials. I would like to take you to Exhibit G. Hold on, let me start off with the General Fund, and that's an Exhibit C. I'm going to take you to your unassigned fund balance; \$61,399,064.00. I want you to keep that number in mind as we go forward. Your total fund balance is \$71,584,824.00. Exhibit C-3, expenditures and changes in fund balance. If you go towards the middle of that page you will see the total expenditures are a little over \$400M. Almost \$405 M. Now you take that number and divide it by 365 days. It indicates what it costs the district to

open their doors every single day. And that's about \$1.1 M. So, \$1.1 million dollars is what it cost the district over the last fiscal year to operate. Now remember I told to keep that number in the back of your mind; if you take that \$1.1 million that it costs the district to operate, and you divide that number in to your unassigned fund balance, it provides the district with the days of operations. That translates, no revenue comes in at all for whatever reason; how many days can the district operate without impacting services, payroll, whatever it is (remember it's \$1.1 million to operate). You can operate for 55 days, almost two months. Without impacting your operations. The next schedule I would like to take you to, is G-1. And the reason I like to look at that schedule as an auditor. It demonstrates the adequacy of the budget process. One of the duties as you all well know as board members you are entrusted to do, aside from making policy decisions, hiring superintendents, etc. is to adopt a budget. That schedule indicates how well you did or did not do. Upon the adoption of the budget. These are different times. But if you look at that schedule you see up on the revenue side; that you had a deficit revenue of \$21 million. What that means is that you budgeted X, and you were \$21 million dollars short in terms of your revenue budget to actual. Under normal circumstances that would be not very well. It would not be good. But you have to go further down. And look at what you did on the expenditure side. You came out with the favorable variants of almost the same amount of money, \$21 million dollars also. Which you spent less during the year than what you budgeted. At the end of the day, your fund balance is not impacted materially at all. There's a difference of about \$88 K dollars. So, by the time it's all over, the short that you came up on the revenues, were offset by the favorable variance that you had on your expenditure side. So is that good or bad? Well based on what we're going through, it's good. And I think most school districts that had to shut down, on the upside, what every single school district saved money on, was obviously on facilities closures, transportation cost, food cost, maintenance, operations. That was the upside to this. So had you had the shortage in revenue and not had the favorable variance on the expenditure side, your fund balance would have taken a \$2 million dollar hit. That's not what happened. So essentially, you have 55 days worth of operations. Almost two months. With TEA I would; even though they don't have a fixed number of what is good. I'd like to see anything above you know 60 to 75 days in unassigned, but your total fund balance was \$71 million. \$10 million dollars as you go back to that original seat you'll see one schedule. You have made some commitments on your fund balance that basically have encumbered \$10 million dollars of your \$71 million. Which leaves again the \$61 million dollar fund balance of unassigned. Those are the highlights of the audit presentation. The other upside is that, there were no management letter comments to United. So that's a positive thing. That means that your internal controls are functioning the way administration and board have adopted. Based on our testing we have found no exceptions based on our testing. Which is good. That's kind of rare. When a district comes out with no comments from our side. So I want to congratulate the administration, I want to congratulate the board. Not only

for your public service, but for ensuring that the school district continues on a positive path forward. That concludes my presentation. I'm open to any comments, questions and I'll try to answer them as we move forward. Janett Moncivais is also on, she is the in charge of the audit and Janett if you would like to say a few words now, now is the opportunity to do so.

Janett Moncivais: My name is Janett Moncivais, I was the In charge auditor for the district for fiscal year 2020 and I would just like to give thanks to the finance department. To Mrs. Benavides, Mr. Flores and Mrs. Cabello as well as all the other departments that have helped me throughout the audit. Everyone was available to me and everybody responded in a very timely manner so I really do appreciate that and it was great working for the district again. So thank you.

Mr. Carlos Cascos: Any member of the board or administration have any questions for us at this time?

Frank Castillo: Is there a grade established on these audits? Is there a grade level posted or something like that as to how we did...for the school district?

Mr. Carlos Cascos: We do not give grades. TEA does that based on your financials. But again, based on the fact that we did not find any exceptions to our testing. That does not mean that, something did not happen. But based on our testing we found nothing that would ask us to report to the administration or to the board. So if I had to, I mean, I'm not going to give you a grade but you didn't fail by any means. You did well. That I can tell you.

Frank Castillo: Do you have a time limit or a time amount that you did the audit? Is there a guideline time?

Mr. Carlos Cascos: In terms of?

Frank Castillo: How long does it take to do this audit?

Mr. Carlos Cascos: You now it was very challenging. We do 12 to 15 school districts throughout South Texas and every single one is different. The better prepared administration is in terms of getting the financial data to us pulling samples for us, etc. determines the time. I have districts that take too much time because they may not have the personal to be able to pull information for us, their books aren't balanced timely, we're having to wait around. I really can answer that. Every district is different. I'm not sure how many person hours it took. Probably in excess of 500 hours of person hours, and that does not include my time.

Janett Moncivais: Yes, again like Mr. Casco said, it just depends how fast we get the information and with the district I was getting information fairly quickly due to certain circumstances that we're in. It was very different this year due to, us not being able to go to the district like in prior years. Overall, it didn't take us that long. We got everything that we needed again thanks to the finance department for providing everything to us.

Mr. Carlos Cascos: Mr. Castillo, if I had to give you a time frame it'd probably anywhere from four to 6 weeks. Even though you all do write the report, it take a lot of review from, you know and we just want to make sure just because you write the report, it's still my signature on it. We want to make sure that clerical errors aren't there, misspellings consistencies are there etc. So, if I had to guess anywhere from four to six weeks is what it takes to do United.

Frank Castillo: Thank you and forgive me for asking this question. It's a matter of getting an understanding for the general public for a person who is not well versed in the terms that are being thrown out or mentioned rather. That's why I'm askin, if I ever have to answer, "how we did on the audit?", I just want to be prepared as to what I would say. And so, I wanted to emphasize that. Thank you.

Sam Flores: To further answer Mr. Castillo's question; TEA will review these financial statements when we submit them. And we get an annual report on financial integrity, it's School First. And for probably the last 16 out of the last 17 years United ISD has received "Superior" rating, and it's based of the financial information from these external audits that we submit to TEA.

Juan Cruz: Which is the highest rating that a district can earn

Sam Flores: And just to give more feedback to Mr. Castillo; we've been having the audits with Cascos and Associates for a few years now. And I'm very, very proud to say for the division of finance that all departments that submit data and give us the information it's all been accurate enough that we have not received any management, letter management items at all over the past four years for sure and maybe even five. Not to toot our own horn but to give credit where credit is due; this district should be very proud of that because very few districts are going to have an audit and have it running like that where there are no letter to management items over several consecutive years.

Frank Castillo: This is a financial budget? It doesn't include a performance budget? Am I correct or how would you answer that...

Sam Flores: This is all just the financial numbers

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Approval of Property Tax Refunds for the month of December 2020

Sam Flores: Yes sir, the Tax office is presenting four reimbursement checks to taxpayers: Three of them were erroneous payment and one was overpayment. They total \$11,256.20

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications

Cordy Flores-Jackson: We have the following recommendations for your consideration:

*RFP 2020-067 Biohazard Waste Disposal Service, the recommended vendor is Met Sharps LLC.

*RFP 2020-069 Surveillance Cameras & Access Controls Phase 2, to M1 Networks.

We also have two renewals for your consideration.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Javier Montemayor
Seconded By:	Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion:	NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

E. Adopt Resolution of Early Notification of Employees Separation from Employment Incentive to Full Time District Employees for the 2020-2021

David Garcia: Good afternoon; I am presenting for the boards consideration an early incentive program which we have carried out in the past couple of years that we want to recommend to the board that we continue as such. This particular program allows the administration of the school district to strategize concerning staffing. Allowing employees that wish to have a career change, retirement or relocation to other locations/places. To give us a heads up as to if their going to exercise this particular personal decision and what it does; it helps us with regards to staffing. It keeps us fiscally responsible with regards to all expenditures and staffing at every single location. So, there is a resolution that is presented to you also along with this and it also allows for professional employees that wish to withdraw from the school district. It's something we've done in the past, and we would like to continue with the boards approval.

\$1,000.00 for Contracted Employees; and

\$ 500.00 for Paraprofessional/Auxiliary Employees

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

F. Approval of Donations

Mr. Roberto J. Santos: It is recommended that the board graciously accept the following donations and they will be attached to the minutes. We have one donation of over \$1,000.00

*A donation was received by the USD Health Department, it includes 51 boxes of EPI Pens 2 Pack auto-injectors 0.3mg, and Epi-pens Jr. auto-injectors 0.15mg with a total value of \$71,400.00 from *Bio Ridge Pharmaceutical Company through the Mylan's Epi-pens4Schools Program*. And again we want to thank this company for helping us out and this will allow our students that if they need an Epi-pen, we have them at the schools.

Mr. Ramiro Veliz: These will be distributed throughout the district?

Roberto J. Santos: Yes, throughout the different campuses

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

G. Approval of Board Minutes for the Months of September, October, November and December 2020

A motion is made to approve Board minutes as presented.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

H. Recommendation for Approval of an Amendment to the Contract for JOC 2020-004 Perez Elementary School Building Repairs in the amount of \$89,750.00 to Upgrade the Building Structure as Required

Enrique Rangel: Good afternoon, members of the board. We bring to the board, for your consideration a recommendation for approving an amendment to the construction contract for a job order contract 2020-004, Perez Elementary School Building Repairs. This amendment to the contract will consist of an additional scope of work and an additional time extension of 60 calendar days. To construct some upgrades to the structure at Perez Elementary in the amount of \$89,750.00, The administration is recommending approval of this amendment order to upgrade the existing building structure as proposed by the project architect Cavazos and Associates. As well as, our structural engineering consultants. These upgrades are in order to meet current building codes at the main entrance structure the main porch at Perez Elementary. This project I guess the benefit of those may not be up to date on this project. This goes back to May 21st, of 2020. There was damage that were caused by the heavy storms at that time and at Perez Elementary school we experienced some major damages to our building facilities. So this was awarded; now during the demolition phase of this project a few weeks ago, when we uncovered the main entrance structure, we did notice, or the architects noticed and was brought up to our attention. Some of the column features that were concealed behind the existing brick, they had to be removed in order to connect the new roof. Well there was an assessment very visible that the structure due to wear and tear over the years as well as some new building codes require it to be upgraded. These items were concealed but are identified now and so we recommend to take our due diligence and upgrade structure.

This will require a modification to scope for work. Therefore, we need to amend the contract. As well as there'll be a time extension. Are there any questions.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Javier Montemayor
Seconded By:	Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion:	NONE
All In Favor:	Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

I. First Reading of LOCAL Policies in TASB Update 116

Gloria Rendon: Good afternoon members of the board. We bring "for your information", we do have a tool reading process for adopting policies, of LOCAL policies. So, this is the first reading, recall and the following month we'll bring in a second reading. So there's four policies, one Exhibit. We approve or the board approves the local policies and the Exhibit changes. And these policies are a result of the last legislative session that they are still catching up on. So just to give you a bit of a highlight on each of the policies CQB (LOCAL) which is Technology Resources and this is more than anything else to ease compliance with this law the recommended revision delegates the responsibility to the superintendent. The blue is new, the red is deleted on this particular section of this policy. The following policy is DCE (LOCAL), and basically what this does is it's just a clear of the fact that individuals who are not on a Chapter 21 contract for individuals, that would follow the same grievance process as any of their employees within our school district. And basically those with a chapter 21 contract is, teachers, anybody who's on a permit or certified. And so individuals who are not on a chapter 21 then they would have the same benefit as those who are put on a permit. Our next policy for revision is FFAC (LOCAL) and what TASB is recommending is that we remove all of our administrative requirements on here where we talk about accidents involving students and so forth, emergency treatment forms. Those are more administrative duties and practices so they've asked us to remove that and all we're doing is aligning our current practices, to the Texas Department of State Health Services guidance. And then the last page on FFAC, we talk about medical treatment and how we go about it. If you recall when you had your children here (those of you who had their children here), we asked for that blue card emergency card every year it had to be completed and then filed with each nurse at each campus. And the last policy that is coming up for revision, is GKA (LOCAL), and basically all it is, is one word difference. I think it said 90 days before and so TASB

was very clear they wanted to go ahead and put make sure that we have “calendar days” as opposed to the employment days of an individual. There are also a number LEGAL policies but, those do not go for approval because those are through state statue and so forth but they are in your informational items as well. I would like to clarify one point. In the last motion you all made, there was a question by Mr. Castillo that asked is the audit a performance evaluation tool or the financial component? And it is a performance evaluation tool with regards to how the district is performing on the financial component. So it is in essence both. Just to clarify that for the record.

No action needed at this time.

VIII. 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 12:33 pm.

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

- 1. Discussion regarding Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities**
- 2. Consultation with Legal Counsel in Regards to Superintendent Search Process and Matters Related Thereto**
- 3. Consultation with Legal Counsel in Regards to Board Policy CW and Possible Naming of School Campus**

**B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting**

- 1. Status of Negotiation Regarding the Acquisition of a Mandel Family Interest tract described as an approximately 62 acre tract of land and an approximately 20.7 acre tract of land out of a 638.7019 acre tract of land Originally out of the Mandel Tract being a 1,486.2 acre tract, situated in Porcion 6, Blass Maria Diaz, Abstract 38, Webb County, Texas as well as the consideration of all associated costs to develop the property**

2. Report Status Regarding a Possible Interlocal Boundary Agreement with LISD pertaining to Lomas Del Sur Subdivision, Lots 16, 17, 21 & 22, of Block 12, as well as Acreage Adjacent to Lomas Del Sur Subdivision in Abstract 546 Porcion 35 (14.86 acres) such Acreage being within the United Independent School District's Geographic Boundaries which was Purchased by LISD and Property within the Geographic Boundaries of LISD referred to as Sacred Heart Orphanage being Approximately 61.59 Acres to Include Blocks 1023-1026, 1035-1042, 1048-1054, and Adjacent Property as well as Legal Options Regarding Same

C. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Attorney; Closed meeting

TGC 551.076 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits; Closed Meeting

1. Student Activity Funds Audits: Elementary Schools – Kazen, Fasken, Juarez-Lincoln, Gutierrez, Freedom, Zaffirini, Finley, Malakoff and Clark Elementary
2. Student Activity Fund Audits: Middle Schools – Trautmann Middle, Washington Middle, United Middle, Bruni-Vergara Middle and Clark Middle
3. Student Activity Funds Audits: High Schools – United HS, Alexander HS, Johnson HS and Johnson HS – 9th Grade
4. State and Compensatory Education Program

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

Mr. Ramiro Veliz: Reconvenes from closed session at 1:13 pm. For the record Mr. Castillo and Mrs. Oliveros have logged off however, we still have a quorum of board members present.

- A. Action to Approve Timeline for Superintendent Search Process as Recommended by TASB

The recommendation is to approve the Timeline for Superintendent Search Process as recommended by TASB

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Seconded By: Javier Montemayor
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Action to Approve Superintendent's Update Job Description

The recommendation is to approve the updated Job Description as discussed.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Action in Regards to Board Policy CW (LOCAL) and Possible Naming of School

Ricardo Rodriguez: We're going to have two, one middle school and one elementary, so on the coves name the new elementary I would like to make a motion to name it under the superintendent, Mr. Roberto J. Santos.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Ramiro Veliz: Ok, we made the first motion;

Ricardo Rodriguez: The other one would be Washington Middle, to be renamed under Juan Roberto Ramirez

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

The board takes a brief moment to congratulate Mr. Roberto J, Santos and Mr. Juan Roberto Ramirez.

Roberto J. Santos: I want to thank the board and just, it's an honor to be able to have my name on one of our schools. And academics is obviously number one for us.

Ricardo Molina: Thank you for your service.

Juan Roberto Ramirez: Same thing with me, it's an honor to me. Since day one, it's an honor and for all these years that I've been in the board and assisting all those children within my reach, and the administration's office. We're very happy to have great students that came out of Washington, and there will be a great school coming out of the new Ramirez Middle School. Thank you very much for everything.

Ricardo Molina: Thank you for your service.

- D. Possible action regarding the negotiation pertaining to a Mandel Family Interest tract described as an approximately 62 acre tract of land and an approximately 20.7 acre tract of land out of a 638.7019 acre tract of land Originally out of the Mandel Tract being a 1,486.2 acre tract, situated in Porcion 6, Blass Maria Diaz, Abstract 38, Webb County, Texas as well as the consideration of all associated costs to develop the property**

No recommendation at this time.

- E. Possible Action pertaining to the Interlocal Boundary Agreement with LISD pertaining to Lomas Del Sur Subdivision, Lots 16, 17, 21 & 22, of Block 12, as well as Acreage Adjacent to Lomas Del Sur Subdivision in Abstract 546 Porcion 35 (14.86 acres) such Acreage being within the United Independent School District's Geographic Boundaries which was Purchased by LISD and Property within the Geographic Boundaries of LISD referred to as Sacred Heart Orphanage being Approximately 61.59 Acres to Include Blocks 1023-1026, 1035-1042, 1048-1054, and Adjacent Property as well as Legal Options Regarding Same

No recommendation at this time.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business before the United ISD Board of Trustees, this Regular Board Meeting of January 19, 2021 was Adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Ramiro Veliz, III, Board President

Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez, Board Secretary

*Minutes completed by Griselda Rodriguez Secretary,
Submitted for Approval at the March 2021, Regular Board Meeting.*

**Emergency Board Meeting
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb**

January 26, 2021

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Ramiro Veliz III, President, - PRESENT

Javier Montemayor, Jr., Vice-President – PRESENT

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Ricardo Molina Sr., Parliamentarian – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Aliza Flores- Oliveros, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Francisco "Frank" Castillo, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference) @ 12:06 PM

An Emergency Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Tuesday, January 26, 2021, beginning at 12:00 PM in the UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045.

BOARD MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE DUE TO THE COVID-19

Based on Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-23 and the City of Laredo Amended Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Health Orders, the District will ensure social distancing protocols are practiced to the greatest extent possible thus limiting the number of persons physically present in the UISD Boardroom. Therefore, in an effort to conduct public business in a transparent manner, the District will live stream this Board meeting.

Two way communication to the Board meeting can be accessed by clicking on the following zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87176956882?pwd=SSStNcHxTUJLalpBc0hQWlo4MmhrZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 7695 6882
Passcode: 898928

If you would like to view a live-stream of the meeting, please click on the following Youtube link:
<https://youtu.be/bc7mZUmzQ7U>

Public Comments may be submitted to: Gloria Rendon at grendon@uisd.net prior to the Board Meeting. Public comments must pertain to agenda items only.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call Meeting to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence

A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

Mr. Ramiro Veliz, calls this meeting to order and establishes quorum at **12:02 PM**. A moment of silence is requested, on behalf of the UISD board of trustees and United faculty, staff and students, to pay respects and condolences of former board member Mr. Juan A. Molina, and to all the other employees, parents and community members that have passed.

III. Public Comments

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except Non-English speakers who require a translator are limited to six (6) minutes. The presiding officer may waive or modify these time limits as appropriated. The speaker will be informed when he or she has one (1) minute remaining. 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 officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding employees, public officials, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in BED (LOCAL). 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 factual information.

Gloria S. Rendon: As to the discussion on the school closure or the change of shift to a Remote Learning environment for our students. And so what we know now is we, the Laredo community leads the country in covid positive cases on a per capita basis and that was shared with us on Friday of last week. The last two weeks 8,904 positive cases; As per our Local Health authority our capacity at the hospital is critical. The governor has prioritized resources to our community (medical staff, equipment, medicine, PPE, testing supplies and vaccines); We do know that some campuses have had difficulties securing staff to teach or monitor our students and so in some cases we have had to pull in substitute teachers to cover those particular classrooms. Because when you have a teacher who has been positive and then the teacher aide, their exposed, so it has been difficult to safely, monitor those particular students in those classes. Today we have 2,622 students who are receiving on campus instruction and you see the breakdown. Elementary-2,100, middle school-323 and high schools-122. Today we have had 11 employees who have passed away due to covid-19 and 5 employees who have lost a spouse or immediate family member to covid-19. With regards to the student intake, these are positive exposures (exposure to positive individual); Since August 24 (first day of school), we have had 8,986 intakes. However, what I want you to see is that last bullet. In the 15 days since our return from our winter break, since January 6, we have had 2,342 student intakes. Which is an average of 156 intakes per day. Now these are students who may be at the campus, who may be at home, participating in remote instruction, or individual students who are participating in extra-curricular activities. An intake is when anybody.. When there is an exposure to a student who may be positive or a family member and so forth, we do an intake so that we have data. This is the student side, then on the employee side we have 2,460 employee intakes and the 15 days since our return from the winter break, we have had 621 employee intakes. Again that means that there was some exposure, or they were actually positives. And they exposed somebody else.

Ricardo Molina: Has the governor sent us anymore vaccines to Laredo or to United?

Gloria Rendon: We just had a meeting with the city. They are looking forward to additional shipments, but we don't know when they will be arriving or how many specifically. As far as preparations and dialogue that we've had since yesterday with regards to this agenda item; we met virtually with Texas Education Agency yesterday, to explore options for having all students take part in remote or virtual learning from February 1st, to February 15. We also met with our sister district Laredo ISD reps, to ensure the two largest school systems in our community are on the same page and options were discussed. We discussed moving asynchronous date to Monday, February 15, and discussed that on campus instruction would resume on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, for those kids whose parents want them to return. That is a possible option for you all to consider. Which would give us a 10-day system.

So this is our current calendar; If we start counting we have 70 days left, if we remove the 10-day period in February 1st – 12th, 70 days of instructional days for our students.

Javier Montemayor: What about your

Gloria Rendon: Your purple sir (referring to the color-coded calendar), your purples are your holidays. When you look at February 15th that is a “green” day and a professional development day. And then in March you would have our purple days that is a week designated for Spring Break. April 1st is a designated as a Professional Development and April 2nd is a holiday for our staff and our teachers, and then our students would finish on the 28th of May. And our teachers would have a professional development/work day on the 31st.

Javier Montemayor: Are those required work days?

Gloria Rendon: We need a total of 187 days for their contract, for teachers. You see June 1st there was a designated teacher workday when they were closed. So the calendar reflects 187 days of employee/teacher days. That’s what it reflect currently. So, the option that we propose and it’s open for discussion (next slide). The state says that districts who do not comply with the requirements, stipulators or correspondents only be entitled to claim half the operational minutes they would normally claim on each instruction day that they are out of compliance. And so we need , we can elaborate further on that. Basically what their saying is that; for the 10 days that we would be out, (and I shared with you a document with regards to the number of minutes that we would have right now) and how many days that we would have to make up in order to receive funding from the state level. To make sure that we pay our bills and our employees get paid. So the option that we were looking at for your consideration is to offer remote instruction February 1st, thru February 12th, which is 10 days. We would change February 15th which is a Monday, to the asynchronous day instead of it being on February 12th. Then we would change professional development day of February 15th, to an actual asynchronous day of instruction. We would change a professional development day of April 1st, to an actual instructional day so our students would not lose out. Then we will continue working with TEA to comply with the requirements so that we can maximize our state funding and meet the letter of the law with the minutes required by the state which is 75,000. *Mrs. Rendon goes on to provide a visual of the new calendar.* If you would adopt those changes this is what the calendar would look like. You look at February the 12th was previously designated to be an asynchronous day, we would move that day to the 15th. We would have remote instruction from the 1st, thru the 12th (now your blue day). So our students will, our 2100 students will remain at home, our teachers be from home and then February 15th would be the asynchronous day so our teachers can still remain at home that particular day and upload their lessons. Then our students would come back those who want to choose to come back and return to school on campus setting would return on February 16. There is no change in March. April we do lose that professional development day. And our asynchronous days were already designated as the 23 of April, and May 21st. So that is basically the only changes that we would have with regards to the proposal that we would like.

Javier Montemayor: How do you address the make up days that TEA requires?

Gloria Rendon: The sheet that I provided for you and I can share that in further detail during the executive session if you would like. But they are required because we; our calendar they way

currently that us we only have two extra days at the elementary level, six extra days at the middle school level. If I go remote instruction for 10 days I owe 8 days and their saying you can get half of that so I owe four days at the elementary level. And at the middle and the high school levels, two days. But I had already taken care of my two days when I lose the professional development day and I convert those into instructional days. So, in essence I only have to make up two additional days at the elementary level, four minutes.

Javier Montemayor: So that wouldn't interfere; this proposal that you are saying would not interfere with our graduation or tuition starting?

Gloria Rendon: College summer course or anything else.

Javier Montemayor: It would only affect your elementary school

Gloria Rendon: It affects every body in the sense that the teachers would instead of having professional development days, they would have had instruction with those students on February 15th and the April 1st. That's one change. So our students would come back to school and they have instructions they would not be off on that day and then work, continue working with the agency on those additional minutes.

Roberto J. Santos: We're still going to finish the last day that we have on the calendar, and this allows our current seniors to be able to start college in June. Same thing for our freshmen, sophomores and juniors that go to LC. You know closed to about 2000 students who take classes. So we need to make sure that we give these students the opportunity. And obviously it's help to the students and to the parents. So I think we can work around with these schedules to be able to accommodate this as best we can.

Javier Montemayor: While we're at it; can you address the option what it looks like if it was complete operation.

Gloria Rendon: If we choose operation shutdown the state says that we have to make up those days this year. So, we would either lose spring break, which is five days and it's a day at that point. You are not offered anything else so, I have to make up 10 days in this calendar year, or I can do spring break and a week to June? Actually till June 7th. Because, I cannot have school on May 31st. It is a state holiday. Or have all the first two weeks of June which then would interfere with of course graduation and would interfere with the summer program that Laredo College and TAMU because their calendars are already set.

Frank Castillo: So your proposal is to shut down the whole district for two weeks? Or...

Gloria Rendon: Not shut down sir. Just provide remote instruction for students from February 1st, thru February 12th, as the option "B" instructional model for those 10 days. So it's not a shut down. And then we would have a modified work schedule for our employees

Frank Castillo: That modified schedule includes staff, auxiliary staff, support staff as well. Am I correct?

Roberto J. Santos: Yes, Mr. Castillo. We can assure you, and obviously the board has to approve the resolution that we have here, to be able to accommodate all those employees and still continue to allow them to earn the 40 hours or whatever number of hours they're employed. We're looking at possibly doing a shift, meaning people will be on call, but be able to reduce the number of employees at the campuses and departments. The whole purpose is to be able to bring down the numbers in all the areas. Where you have less employees that will be susceptible to gathering and obviously to contract this infection.

Frank Castillo: Ok, I just wanted to be sure on the terminology that we're using once again. Shut down/closure. Might mean different things to different people, that's why I want to be correct.

Javier Montemayor: I think, from my perspective. I'm not speaking for the rest of the board. I know that Ramiro and Aliza joined in on this discussion and I'm glad we're having it. Probably one of the only if not the only ISD except from Laredo ISD that are experiencing rise in numbers in our community, in our campuses, in our district. If we move it for February the 1st, that's really not recognizing the emergency. Why don't we just shut it all down right now, and everybody go home. That's probably the only way this pandemic is going to clear our communities. Everybody can stay home.

Roberto J. Santos: The only reason is, we've got over 2,600 students on campus that we need to make sure we allow the parents the opportunity to make arrangements. That's the only reason why we looked at moving it to Monday. It's difficult for parents that work. Don't have child care and all of the sudden you know; tomorrow you say your child is down home, so we want to give the parents the opportunity. And I know it's three days and three days obviously it's extremely important. It increases the effectiveness and I think it allows the parents this opportunity to say "Monday I've got to make arrangements with my child". You've got some self-contained, special needs students and just regular students you've got those pre-kinder, kinder. That's one reason why Mr. Montemayor. Why we would move it to Monday. Again for the opportunity to those parents.

Javier Montemayor: So, I guess depending on what the board discusses and agrees to. Even a one week complete shut-down could be an option as well on the table. We just have to look at making up those days. I don't know I mean, we had like eight deaths just yesterday alone. Our community is... apparently city council. I may have hear that somebody indicated that almost half of our community can be infected as well. There's no more ventilators, there opening up tents

everywhere. And just, the remote instruction that we already have, I think 95% of our students are pretty much already on remote.

Roberto J. Santos: Yes

Javier Montemayor: So, the teachers... sending 2,100 students home, is really not a huge amount of...

Gloria Rendon: It's just you would also send half of your business home

Javier Montemayor: And so, wouldn't in essence the teachers (working remotely), wouldn't the teachers also, who are already working remotely, be working a little extra more days than...?

Roberto J. Santos: Yes. Yes, you're correct. But the other item is we have close to about 4 thousand employees that are also coming almost every day. So this will allow us also to split. Be able to send also those employees home and work a split shift. I mean that's also a part of...

Javier Montemayor: C & I has their people there full-time

Roberto J. Santos: You have over 220 bus drivers, as an example. You have all these people at the campuses that we do a shift, and again I go back to, I mean... We'll do whatever the board feels that we need to do to take care of our employees and our students.

Ramiro Veliz: If we go full remote for two weeks, what will happen at the campus if any?

Roberto J. Santos: Basically what we would end up doing as an example; we would do two shifts, where one shift works the whole week, half of the staff, the other half is home ready to do some remote, or help. Then the following week we flip flop, this allows us to bring down the numbers. Same thing with our drivers, same thing with our custodians.

Ramiro Veliz: Are you referring to the staff or just teachers?

Roberto J. Santos: No, I'm talking about all staff. I think was the question. That Mr. Castillo was asking. Is this for all employees? As an example from your campus principals, all the way to the custodians. Where half works one week, the other half comes work half.

Ramiro Veliz: Is it... possibly we can do a shut-down at the campus level and still offer remote instruction. Is that something that's feasible?

Roberto J. Santos: I guess I would need to talk to Mr. Perez in technology. If there are some issues, if something goes down. Obviously, if we shut down.. we shut everybody down. But that's the only other thing that we have to work out.

Javier Montemayor: Can you tell me very quick sir. On the meals program. The athletics program.

Roberto J. Santos: On the meals, we talked to Mrs. Benavides and she was talking to food services. We want to do the same thing, doing shifts. Still be able to provide the Grab-and-Go at the sites. On athletics, my recommendation is, we continue. The athletic trainers and the coaches have done a really good job in testing our students. We test them almost weekly. They've been able to work with the.. on their district games as an example if they need to postpone a game then they push it another week. It has worked out good. We're at the tail end of the season and we'd like to continue allowing our students to participate in that area.

Gloria Rendon: And the buses will continue as well. So, who would have to continue working are; our cafeteria personnel, bus drivers who operate the wi-fi, and of course administration.

Roberto J. Santos: And we'll rotate. I don't think we need to hold crew there. But this allows for example; you've got directors could be home, either virtual or available when we need them. An then next week we flip flop. And the whole idea is to keep the numbers down as best we can in all departments and all campuses.

Ricardo Molina: What if they take the 16th to the end of the month, and make up at the end of the year? Because right now the epidemic is booming

Roberto J. Santos: I think that one of the reasons why we wouldn't recommend that Mr. Molina is that, as an example we've got over 3,000 seniors that would graduate in May. And I know that some schools start sessions right away. Their first session in June. Then we have about 2,300 students that are currently, freshmen, sophomores and juniors that will also start going to college. And this is a a big support to the parents, I mean tuition is free to the students. That's one of the items that we've been looking at. Now, I know we've got the week of spring break in there, and we can flip flop and trade. We looked at all areas and we don't know what a week from now is going to be. Or two weeks from now if whether it gets even more... I mean....

Frank Castillo: In my view what we're having to deal with is a critical situation with the pandemic. To me, we're going to have to take some action because no one is immune right now, to anything. And all these options like two weeks or a month, I'm very much in favor. Secondly, I do want to be inclusive to all employees and I like the idea of modified work schedules where you have different shifts. I think that's a good way to go because that works with other offices.

Javier Montemayor: You've got counselors and paraprofessionals right now that aren't working in shifts. Their going every day to the campuses.

Roberto J. Santos: We have shifts for all our employees.

Javier Montemayor: You also spoke to TEA. What if anything do they recognize as, Laredo is all over the news. I'm not sure what the it is that they can't digest but what is it that they don't recognize us as a critical area?

Roberto J. Santos: The only thing I can say Mr. Montemayor and I can't speak for TEA but I think it follows what the governor is telling the cities. And us we're trying to do our best to alleviate and still meet the needs of our students.

Javier Montemayor: We have TSTA and the LISD building is talking about their teachers work in shifts and things like that's where they need to be over there because they're trying to convince the governor that hey you know, this is critical. Now, they didn't communicate anything about a waiver? They didn't say "Yes, we would consider it"?

Roberto J. Santos: Really to be honest I think they probably will not accept any waivers.

Javier Montemayor: That's ridiculous, I just don't believe that.

Roberto J. Santos: I concur with you. I agree with you but.

Aliza Flores-Oliveros: I agree with the make-up of time and I agree with obviously we're doing something about this. In the beginning of the pandemic when we initially reacted to our situation I believe everybody with the exception of a few, maybe Mr. Santos, Gloria and a few others; everybody stayed home for a while and worked virtually. I feel like we're even in a more precarious situation today that we were back then. Because our numbers; the proof is in the pudding, look at our numbers. So, why can we not continue virtual instruction, and just close down the district physically but remain completely open virtually. Is that not possible?

Gloria Rendon: From what I understand back then, it's the feds and the governor the ones who ordered that particular shut down. So at that point there was funding available to us. At this point. There is certain criteria that is being met in order for us to get fully funded. So it's not necessarily the same outcome that we would have if we were to shut down completely.

Aliza Flores-Oliveros: And I agree with you in regards to instruction, but I don't think that applies to who's in an office. If I'm correct.

Roberto J. Santos: You are correct on that. That's our call to make.

Ramiro Veliz: Well I think it's probably looking at the option of doing remote and try to have minimal amount of staff.

Roberto J. Santos: Absolutely. That would be our intent for the next two weeks. To be able to, if we do remote then we modify the schedule to try and get as few employees in the sites. Try to get them home and be available.

Gloria Rendon: I do want to say that TEA was very cordial. They took our call immediately. They did offer options. Some that we do not want to hear. But are certain options that were placed on the table and they were willing to work with us. We did not move on the spring break option, because we don't know what's coming. Today we heard that the variant, there's another variant already from Brazil. And so, we kind of want to leave those days of course if you all agree to that but that was our, I guess, in case we need those particular five days. That we will use those five days at another time because we have to shut down.

Ricardo Rodriguez: Mrs. Rendon, I want to elaborate a little bit on what Aliza said. I know that you said that there was revenues coming back but then we get all the revenues back from the covid deal to the district. I had heard that we didn't get fully funded.

Roberto J. Santos: Ok, if we're talking about school funding, when the governor shut us down, the answer there is "yes". Where I think right now, where we're working to try to see, we submitted all the expenses that we had, because of covid. And my understanding is that state and federal will probably reimburse us 70-80% of what we requested, and so we're working on that. The other item that didn't happen Mr. Rodriguez is (and you're correct), the federal government initially was going to give us, or the districts a certain amount, a large amount of money to be able for us to utilize for the pandemic and all these other expenses. What happened is TEA moved those funds, kept it at the agency and then all they did is use those federal funds to replace state funds so we didn't get a single amount. I think we only got about a hundred thousand more. So TEA controlled all that and I know we expressed that interest and that concern to Henry Cuellar.

Javier Montemayor: I think it's interesting, that TEA has been working from home since last year. I'm sure this phone call was remote.

Roberto J. Santos: Yes, it was.

Javier Montemayor: I don't think they really care to much about our teachers.

Ricardo Rodriguez: I'll tell you what Javier, and I'm sorry to say that but I mean. What we're talking about it was a large amount of money. I know that we were supposed to be getting about \$15 M, and we probably got about \$800K.

Roberto J. Santos: It was even less than that Mr. Rodriguez. But you're right, we should have gotten a large amount of money to help us take care of those needs.

Javier Montemayor: Personally, I cannot, personally I understand the need you know our kids are suffering an educational loss here, especially our Hispanic community. We don't have a lot of access to some of the remote learning in some areas of our community. Math and reading are probably going to be affected the most. We're going to be behind. And just this pandemic is not good. The city has gone down to 25%, the county went down yesterday to 50%. I think we need to do the same thing. But personally I think, I would propose a full shutdown of at least two weeks and then you know, come back and....

Roberto J. Santos: Then we need to start looking at making up those days in spring break; that's a possibility. If we shut down we'll show.....

Ramiro Veliz: You would be making up days, per day.

Roberto J. Santos: Yes

Javier Montemayor: We're going to make days either way. It's either half the time or full time. I mean it's just. I don't trust... where the community is at right now, or the numbers that we have. I think we're exposing our employees, our staff and our students.

Roberto J. Santos: I mean, we'll make it work. Whatever direction the board gives us; we'll make it work.

Frank Castillo: Regarding, I know earlier there was a discussion about the budget and how much we were supposed to get and didn't get. Do you have numbers on what to look at? If we shut down. Closure rather, you know, 15 days vs. a 30 day period. Do you have a comparison on that.

Roberto J. Santos: Our expenses Mr. Castillo per day; as a matter of fact the auditor just shared that with the board. It's about \$1 million dollars a day. Those are our expenses that includes obviously our salaries and all the other things that come around like electricity and so on and so forth. From the state, we ended up getting about 60% of our salary on our budget. So, it will be a couple million that we're going to be short.

Frank Castillo: Could we survive without the states funding?

Roberto J. Santos: We could survive probably... I think we have a cushion of about maybe 20 days in our fund balance. But our fund balance is like our savings. It's here. We would have to hear a fund balance on the amount. And that's the case that we go to shut it down and we don't get any funding or we can't find a solution. To be able to try to well.....

Ramiro Veliz: That'll be if there's a situation that arises that we don't decide to make.

Roberto J. Santos: That's correct, that's correct. If we make up the days we will be ok financially.

Ricardo Rodriguez: Just to let you all know that after this, when we come out of spring break, you know that numbers are going to probably pick up a lot more. And so we have to be prepared for that also.

Javier Montemayor: The (inaudible) is also going to go up sir. It's probably going (inaudible) now then after the holidays.

Ricardo Molina: I think that if we take....I think the governor...huh, Austin is not number one in the nation of covid cases. That's why he's not that worried. But we are worried because of our people here. Like they said nationwide we're number one and we're talking money, lives and for the kids, the employees and all these people that we represent. That's another topic, lives. It will take us till the end of the month and we don't take spring break, I think it would be a benefit to United. Because spring break they are going to go all over the state, and they're going to bring back more covid cases that we already have. So I think it would be an advantage to take the spring break and the whole month so we can get our employees vaccinated given the chance to get vaccinated. Try to get the vaccines here in that span. So we can get our kids, our employees vaccinated. And look at all that stuff. And give them a chance to recover. Because if they get (contract) covid, it will be 10 days. If we give them the whole thing maybe we can cut down on the cases.

Juan Roberto Ramirez: (Addressing Mr. Santos); Sir, you mentioned having only about 20 days on our fund. That we can survive for 20 days..

Roberto J. Santos: We have a little more than 20 but you always want to make sure that you have enough for other emergencies. So I think we have close to \$60 M. In our fund balance. That's why I said we could use about 20 days in there, if need be. Obviously we always want to be able to reach in our fund balance, especially and I know Mr. Castillo, Mr. Molina and you're askin. We do have some funds there. That's what it is for emergencies.

Juan Roberto Ramirez: Did we approve years back sir; In regards to emergency rainy day? Did we put any funds or collected any funds for an emergency such as this?

Roberto J. Santos: That's what our fund balance is sir. It's our rainy day fund. We call it fund balance but it's the same as the "Rainy day Fund".

Aliza Flores-Oliveros: I know we're talking about money here, but if we remain like I said "virtual". Close down all the offices, everybody stays home and works from home. So we're basically like I said, we're closing if you will physically, continuing services virtually. We lose no money, everyone's safe and the days that we make up are minimal. I don't understand any other discussion beyond that.

Roberto J. Santos: We can do that also ma'am. We can also do that.

Ramiro Veliz: I guess the focus is on minimizing the employees at the campuses.

Roberto J. Santos: We can handle that. It's the moving everybody to virtual at least for these two weeks. Or if you want to shut a week then we push it down in to spring break.

Frank Castillo: I recommend a two week period. Is that the recommendation, or proposal, two week period?

Roberto J. Santos: Yes sir, for virtual, yes sir.

Ricardo Molina: Can we hold 30 days, for the rest of the month?

Ramiro Veliz: Mr. Molina...I don't think we can do that.

Ricardo Molina: It's up to the district right? I think when all this stuff started/began, the governor said it was up to the district to do whatever was convenient to the district.

Aliza Flores-Oliveros: And I agree with you Mr. Molina, but you also have to look at those graduating seniors and how it is would affect them. I think you just need the best of both worlds and take it step by step and see where the numbers lie. And right now what we have on the table...go ahead.

Ricardo Molina: I agree with you ma'am but the problem is, are those graduates going to be around to graduate? If we do not take measures. That is why...

Aliza Flores-Oliveros: Well if we go virtual for two weeks, shut down the district physically I believe we will do all that we can within our power but beyond that it's in their hands. And it's in the hands of the government to provide us the immunizations that we need. But what is in our hands right now, and what we're talking about is the next two weeks virtual, closing physically keeping our income and keeping everyone as safe as we as a board possibly can.

Ricardo Molina: We can send the governor a request, if we can take the whole 10 days and if they would allow it because I come back and say the same thing "Laredo is number one in covid cases". Not Austin, not the governor. We are all around him, it is our world here in Laredo that's going to hell.

IV. Closed Session

A. 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel in Regards to District Closure Legal Issues

This meeting is adjourned in to Closed Session at 12:40 PM.

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

The meeting is reconvened from closed session at 1:05 PM.

VI. Discussion / Action in Regards to Closure of School District Due to Increase of Covid-19 for a Designated Period of Time, Including Possibility of Offering Remote-Only Instruction and Matters Related Thereto

The recommendation is to authorize the district administration to close all campuses and departments with the exception of essential staff and operations and offer remote learning as of Monday, February 1, 2021, for a period of two weeks

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VII. Discussion / Action to Modify 2020-2021 School / Work Calendar

There are some modifications other than the professional development days. We are designating those professional development days as student instructional days.

A motion is made to modify the 2020-2021 School / Work Calendar.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor

Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VIII. Discussion / Action to Seek From Texas Education Agency in Regards to Loss of Instructional Time Due to School Closure as Result to the Increase of Covid-19 Cases

A motion is made to table Item VIII.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

IX. Discussion / Action to Approve Resolution Delegating Expanded Authority to Superintendent during School Closure / Pandemic

Jaime Garcia: We're passing a very similar resolution to what was passed at the beginning of the pandemic, authorizing the superintendent a certain authority; for instance if you pay to those essential staff on the motion that was just approved for those essential staff that do have to come in. And also, certain authority regarding the instructional calendar if needed to be taken after this point. However, the things that were modified from the previous resolution that are no longer in this one are regarding hiring practices and regarding procurements. Certain items like that. But at the beginning of the pandemic I believe we thought it may be needed but at this time it really addresses personnel action. (Mr. Juan Cruz interjects) And this will guarantee payment to everybody during this two-week, school district closure. Paraprofessionals and professional staff workers.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina, Juan R. Ramirez

Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

X. Discussion / Action to Rescind Board Action of January 19, 2021 to Rename Washington Middle School

Juan Roberto Ramirez: I am extremely thankful that my colleagues on the board recently choose to honor me by renaming Washington middle school for me. I am sorry for any frustration or any distress that has arisen from the proposal, in the campus at Washington. Washington is the father of our country and one of the greatest leaders in our world history. His name and legacy has been intrinsic of our local traditions and celebrations since 1939. Most importantly, Washington middle school has enriched the lives of many students who have gone to become great leaders in our city and beyond. I'll continue to work with the board of trustees and our superintendent to give students a supreme public school education. And I want to thank my constituents for giving me the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of our students and their families for nearly 20 years. Thank you for that. I hope we can make it work out for better years.

The motion is made to rescind Board action of January 19, 2021 to rename Washington Middle School

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

XI. Discussion / Action to Name School Located in the Aquero Property Pursuant to Board Policy CW (LOCAL)

Ricardo Molina: I make a motion, to name the new school after Juan Roberto Ramirez.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Any Discussion: Juan Roberto Ramirez: I just want to that the board and all those involved in this. I appreciate everything at time. And one moment to another following all the laws, so that no one can get hurt, stay safe.

Ricardo Molina: Thank you for your service.

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

XII. Adjournment

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Javier Montemayor
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business of the USD Board of Trustees, this Emergency Meeting of January 26, 2021, is adjourned at 1:11 PM.

Ramiro Veliz, III, President

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary

These Minutes were completed by Giselda Rodriguez, and submitted for approval by the USD Board of Trustees at the March 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

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

January 28, 2021

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Ramiro Veliz III, President, - PRESENT

Javier Montemayor, Jr., Vice-President – PRESENT

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Ricardo Molina Sr., Parliamentarian – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Aliza Flores- Oliveros, Member – ABSENT

Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Member – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Thursday, January 28, 2021 beginning at 12:00 PM in the UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045.

BOARD MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE DUE TO THE COVID-19

Based on Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-23 and the City of Laredo Amended Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Health Orders, the District will ensure social distancing protocols are practiced to the greatest extent possible thus limiting the number of persons physically present in the UISD Boardroom. Therefore, in an effort to conduct public business in a transparent manner, the District will live stream this Board meeting.

Two way communication to the Board meeting can be accessed by clicking on the following zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88013766806?pwd=SVhqZlZSeFAzc1hMUERPWFpqMmJMQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 1376 6806

Passcode: 169686

If you would like to view a live-stream of the meeting, please click on the following Youtube link:
<https://youtu.be/MzhSTneWtm0>

Public Comments may be submitted to: Gloria Rendon at grendon@uisd.net prior to the Board Meeting. Public comments must pertain to agenda items only.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

Mr. Ramiro Veliz, calls this meeting to order and establishes quorum at 12:01 PM.

II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to Order. Let the record show that a quorum of board members is present, that this meeting has been dully called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551

III. Pledge of Allegiance

A. Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

IV. Public Comments

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except Non-English speakers who require a translator are limited to six (6) minutes. The presiding officer may waive or modify these time limits as appropriated. The speaker will be informed when he or she has one (1) minute remaining. 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 officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding employees, public officials, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in BED (LOCAL). 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 factual information.

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS.

V. Items for Information Only

A. Curriculum and Instructional Updates

David Gonzalez: Good afternoon members of the board, Mr. Santos and members of the audience. At this time we have some accountability updates, as well as STAAR testing and STAAR end of course information. We'll follow with some C & I Technology Updates and Suicide Prevention Efforts. We will start with the accountability updates by Mrs. Emma Leza our Executive Director for Instructional Accountability;

Emma Leza: Good afternoon board members and audience; Just to bring you some updates on accountability from the state. They will not issue any accountability ratings this year. So, that is a good thing for our district and our campuses. However, they will continue with STAAR, EOC and Telpas testing. This testing has to be conducted at the campuses. They are not allowing remote testing for our students and they are offering an extended window for online testing. So, because in 2023, which is just two years away. The state is mandating all online testing. Our campuses are going to use this opportunity that we do not have accountability ratings to begin testing our students online. And it matches the remote instruction that they have been receiving. Now for online testing the good thing is that we would get results right away. For the students and the parents. And we will bring you results as soon as the district has those results. It is important to note that we will receive data and we will receive data by the end of June. That is what TEA is projecting right now and that data is going to be very important for us to be able to make plans for our instruction next year. I also want to let you know that in December when we had End of Course training, we did bring in roughly about 80% of our students that needed to take an end of course exam. Each school did a phenomenal job about providing information to the parents on what safety precautions we would have and so consequently, we had about 80% of our students come in to test. Now when we compare that to the region, we compare it to the state. Percentage wise United ISD did test more of the students that needed to take an end of course exam. We also have to remember that this is a graduation requirement for our students. So, we were happy to know that comparing to the region and to the state, we did bring in more students to take the exam. Again, our campuses used very different measures to be able to inform and to provide videos on how we were going to be testing. I also want to note that Texas Education Agency coordinator Ms. Botello, came to visit us during our testing to see what we were doing. Since we were one of the few districts that had a large number of students testing. And they also congratulated our high schools and all the precautionary measures that they took to provide the opportunity for students to take the assessment.

Ramiro Veliz: You mentioned that 80% went in to test; What happened with the other 20%? How many students does that...

Emma Leza: We're looking at that. Because we have our own database system to monitor all of that. We are monitoring the students that did not come in in the fall. They will have an opportunity in April and May to come in and take those assessments. Now, I do want to let you know that we have written, in fact we wrote a letter to the commissioner in November stating that we were advocating for our students, asking the commissioner to provide a waiver for all of our first time testers and for also our seniors. So that it would not impact the graduation requirements. To date we have not heard from the commissioner and we're now that we have data on our students. We're preparing a second letter to the commissioner again requesting that he use the authority that he has to provide a waiver for our students. So, if they do not commit to test, and again parents had the option to not send their children based on our current covid situation. We will have more information as soon as this year is over for our students to see what options the Texas Education Agency will have for them.

Javier Montemayor: I guess just to be clear, testing is at the campus?

Emma Leza: The online testing will be at the campus. They are not allowing any remote testing right now. We just got off of a session with *Lead Forward* and we understand that their looking into that but because of all of the confidentiality with testing the agency is not allowing it for this year. They must come in to test.

Javier Montemayor: Just for the public, or student safety. What precautions are being... What was your dry run test for like the STAAR at the End Of Course or the benchmark testing? What are you having at the campus to assure that the students are going to be safe?

Emma Leza: The good thing, because we are a blocked schedule district. We ran the real assessment at the high schools and we took notes of all of the measures that were taken. So, we will follow the CDC guidelines. We will have very few students testing in each room. The good thing is that when we go online, they give us about 5 weeks to test. That's going to give our district the ability to bring in small groups at a time, to take care of their reading, their math, science and social studies at the middle school. So, we are currently working with the student assessment department. We are working with our campuses to provide schedules that will limit the number of students that we will have on campus and so that we can make sure that we have those precautionary measures. What did we have? Well, let me tell you that for the high schools we had them check in with "Dr. Owl" first. Then they came in keeping them six feet apart to their designated areas. In their testing areas we had plexi-glass dividers so every student was protected in three areas, front and their sides. Again, our staff was very careful to make sure when they were going to the restroom. That our students were being kept apart. We also had staggered busing for them. So that when they finish, make sure that they would head to their homes. And then staff also, letting parents know that students were on their way. We provided videos for parents so that they could see what our processes would be. We checked temperatures. Just everything that we could think of. We went ahead and put in to

place to keep the CDC guidelines front and foremost and keep our students safe, and our staff. Because we also did it for our staff.

Gloria Rendon: The state will allow now to submit a waiver. So that those students who are not in the testing grades. Say for example, pre-kinder, kinder, first and second grade students who are going and we are only testing third, fourth and fifth so, we will be bringing that waiver to you all for approval. That they can have asynchronous instruction at home those days. And that way we can use the entire school facility to separate those kids even more so.

Ramiro Veliz: How about graduating seniors. That is a requirement. Do we have a figure of how many did not take the exam that's required?

Emma Leza: I can go ahead and get those numbers. I know I have them, I just don't have them on hand with me. However, we do have another testing opportunity, which is the April-May. So, they have an opportunity. I know that the campuses are already looking at those particular numbers and providing that additional support for the students so that they can be ready to retest in April and May.

Ramiro Veliz: It is a requirement for them...

Emma Leza: Up to know, it is a requirement. So, what we are asking the commissioner to waive, to waive the requirement on the assessment or to allow us to use our IGC committees, which are individual graduation committees. To say, "they have completed the course, they have completed a project, their good, they meet the state requirements". So, that is what we are asking the commissioner but we haven't heard any information yet.

Ramiro Veliz: Thank you, Mrs. Leza.

Emma Leza: So this is what we look at compared to the region and the state. We understood. Everybody understood that we were going to have instructional losses. Simply because, even though our teachers can control the teaching environment they cannot control the learning environment. And what do I mean by that. I mean by what is happening at home. Because again, 95% of our students are learning remotely. So, all of the interruptions. Or whether the students are logging on. Just the learning environment at home is something that we cannot control. So, we knew that was coming. The state has also put out information that the biggest impact was going to be to the math and to the sciences. And that is also reflected on the data here. This is for our first time testers only. And we are comparing first time testers in UISD, to the region and to the state. So, we are very pleased that for the English I and the English II, we did not lose any ground compared to the previous year. At this time in December. And we actually had some gains which again we are very, very happy about. When we come to the Algebra and the Science and even in the Social Studies we did see losses. But I want to point to one specific area very specific. The "approaches" area. This one is important because if

they meet this %, or they meet the “approaches”, they meet the graduation requirement. And that is, you know. Our goal is to have as many students graduate as possible. So when I look at the algebra, we were at 98% of our students, meeting the “approaches” and we are down to 82%. So again, that waiver that we are requesting from the state is for those students that did not meet the approaches. Now we’ve lost 16 percentage points there but when we compare to the state and we compare to the region for first time testers, it’s only about half of what the region and what the state lost. So again, hats off to our teachers and instruction and all of the support that their getting from all of the departments in our district because again we are seeing that we are out performing the state and the region. And the students are benefitting from the solid instruction that United ISD provides. When I look at Biology in the “approaches” we did have a 10% loss there and in U.S. History we did have a 6% loss. But again in comparison to the state and to the region, our percentage passing rate is much higher than theirs. So we have not forgotten the students, those are the ones that we are going to be working with. High school principals are already working on their instructional plans. So that we can recapture as many as we can in the spring assessment.

Frank Castillo: Define for really quick what is “approaches”.

Emma Leza: Thank you for that question. The state has 3 levels when a student takes an assessment. When they look at “approaches”, that is the standard that the state has set as “passed”. You have met the criteria to pass the test. When we look at “meets”, the state set that standard a little bit higher and that means the students are, very securely on grade level and they are ready for the next course. They are not going to need as much intervention as a student who would be at the “approaches” level. And then finally “masters”, that is almost not missing maybe just one or two questions on the assessment and that means that the students have very well mastered the assessment. It used to be “commended performance” way back when we were just transitioning in to STAAR. But that's what the state has. Approaches, Meets and Masters, three levels that they use to calculate our accountability ratings and to also provide information to the parents and the schools. So that we can continue planning interventions, or planning additional opportunities for our students.

David Gonzalez: We have our Technology, Judy Garcia.

Judy Garcia: Good afternoon board members, Mr. Santos and colleagues and any community members that are watching our meeting today. Just a brief overview on what the department has been doing since April that we transitioned from face to face instruction to our virtual internet based teaching environment. We started in April and from April to now, we have trained over 2,600 teachers, 200 administrators, 300 campus support, 200+ instructional support staff at C & I. And of course we have done quite a bit of training with different departments as well as everyone has had to transition into the virtual environment not just our instructional staff. We are presently using two different platforms for virtual instruction. And that is the asynchronous platform and the synchronous platform. The asynchronous platform

allows teachers to place all of their lessons, activities and make them available for our students to access. Students also use the asynchronous platform, which is google classroom, because we are a google district, we are a google product. The students are able to submit all their work and teachers are able to keep a gradebook, which they then transfer over to the "Tyler" system. Which is where we keep all of our grades for our students and attendance. We use "Google Meet" as asynchronous platform. It allows our students to attend real time instruction, on a daily basis. With the exception of course the four days that were approved by the board to do asynchronous instruction. We transition and continue supporting our teachers. Like I mentioned we have done quite a few trainings. Staff has been very busy. Not just our staff but we've worked in conjunction with the C& I coordinators and our different level execs to make sure that our teachers get all the training and support that they need. We continue to do walk throughs, we continue to do custom trainings for the campuses not just the standard basic trainings. We do what we can, whatever is asked of us, we pretty much take care of. I think that based on the information that Mrs. Leza has presented to you prior, you can see that this support has played a major roll in making sure that our students are getting the best instruction and learning. In addition, as part of the continues training support in April in conjunction with management of course Mr. Gonzalez and Mrs. Gloria Rendon and staff. We put together the "Teacher Learning Hub" and the "Parent-Student Technology Learning Hub". This is where we house all of our training schedules, videos, presentations, links to meet to the different classrooms and meet. People can actually do walkthroughs all different types of procedures with regard to mobile learning devices. And you can see that we have gotten a very good response. So, this is a live document. It is updated usually on a weekly basis. To make sure that all the materials on there are the most current. These learning hubs are available on the UISD website. There is a live link attached to this and we will go through it now in the interest of time. But you are welcome to visit the UISD website or call my office and we are glad to walk you through the actual learning hub materials that we have for parents students and teachers. We have provided some additional trainings starting last fall. Something called "Tech Tuesdays". We did quick trainings for our teachers taking into consideration of course that our teachers put together in a long working day. We decided select a day once a week and do 30 minute quick trainings. And this includes learning a skill, being introduced to something new on a program and giving them some time for Q & A. So teachers do have that opportunity on a weekly basis. This semester we have moved "Tech Tuesdays" to "Tech Mondays", but we are still offering that same opportunity for them as well. We are doing many different types of trainings, I gave you some examples there. These are just some examples, but there are many others. In addition to the "Tech Tuesdays" we also have "Tech Wednesday" for administrators. We have "Tech Thursdays" for parents (those are sessions in English and in Spanish. And we started something new with "Open Mic Fridays", which my staff is available to teachers and administrators or anybody from staff. To jump on to a google live meet with them, if they have any questions or they need help with anything. It will have a live staff member to go in and help them through a gene. It turned out to be a very useful tool. Those if us that have had to go home for different reasons with regard to covid, with different staff and administration. We found that having a live google meet open for staff and teachers and

administration, just makes it, huh, helps us work smarter and not harder. In an effort to provide preparatory opportunities for our students to get accustomed to what is coming and that is online testing in another year or so by 2022-2023 school year. With this in mind we made a purchase of a program called "Texthelp" that actually has toolbars and dashboards that emulate what the students are going to see on the actual online test. So this is going to give our students a couple of years to practice using these great tools. To be able to get ready for online testing.

Hector Perez: Mr. President, members of the board, Mr. Santos, members of the audience. I'll be brief with my presentation. Just to give you an update on some of the initiatives that we have put together since the pandemic started. The very first thing we had to do is deploy 25,000 chrome books to our students. They needed them in order to be able to learn from grades second through 12th. In September we received the i-pads for the little ones, kinder through first grade. Those have been distributed. We are in the process of distributing already 5,300 that came in about 3 weeks ago and they have been prepared by our technicians, ready to go. We will be getting more in another week so there will be a second deployment around late February. The parents will be notified of that. This will be for grades of second, third, fourth and some eighth graders that did not get a chrome book before. They will be getting a brand new chrome book. One of the things that we also did. A major improvement with google meet, we signed what is called an "enterprise license". Just to give you some figures, an average of 230K sessions every day. That means if the student logs in 3 or 4 times in to the classes it will be registered as a session. We also have over 520K messages every day that are transmitted between administration parents and teachers to students. Another big improvement that we saw. Is the extended moderator session. What does that mean, it allows the teacher to allow the student to come in to the class. In the past at the beginning, we had kids sharing links and interrupting classes. So that was stopped after google made this big improvement. The privacy background setting has been also very good because it is a noise reduction tool that is built in to the software to be able to say the parents are talking in the background, this does not interfere with the kids sessions and the other kids do not get to hear what is going on at that house. Another improvement that we had to do is on the bandwidth. We went ahead and upgraded United South high schools network infrastructure. They had the oldest infrastructure in the district and that really helped them out with the bandwidth capacity to be at the same level as the other high schools. And we also upgraded the C & I building, because a lot of the sessions were coming out of that building and they had very old equipment as well. And we also upgraded central office. Central office was causing a bottleneck. When you have to go to the *cloud* every session has to go to google and come back to the district. So because of that improvement that helps a lot in our bandwidth tremendously. We also doubled from 10 Gigs to 20 Gigs to the internet connection and we reserved 10 Gigs exclusively for the google application. The other 10 Gigs are shared for administration teachers and staff. Another project that we did was the Bus Wi-Fi project we had 40 buses that are throughout the city, and the city of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo. Where they provide internet connectivity for the students. We are seeing the use of those buses and it has changed a little bit because the kids now

have their Mi-Fi's, however, they're still providing service to the students. Another one that we did was the Mi-Fi's. We distributed 5,500 Mi-fi devices. The first 2,500 were purchased with district funds and a grant through T-mobile. And the way we issued these, is that the families that expressed a need when the district sent the survey for remote learning, those are the families that got the first 2,500 Mi-Fi's. Then TEA gave us a grant through operation Connectivity, which TEA paid 75% of the cost of Mi-Fi. Those were an additional 3,000 that were received and they were distributed on 3 priorities. Priority #1 was for families on low income, food stamps or government help/assistance. Priority #2 was economically disadvantage students and priority #3 was the general public. We never had a chance to get to the general public because they were distributed already to those families. Another project that we did was install outdoor access points. This allowed students to go to the parking lot and submit assignments. It also helped us with the houses that are around the school. They received internet access through this project. We also installed 1,150 remote learning cameras. What we noticed is half of our teachers did not a camera built in into the computer. When they were going to teach, they needed a computer (with camera) in order to do that so we went ahead and put that together. Last but not least, we have provided 21,774 requests for technical support via a form, work order, or a telephone call. I told you that the beginning of the year and the very first 3 days, we received 3200 calls from parents that needed help with connectivity issues, both mi-fi locations and passwords etc. That is my last item.

Juan Roberto Ramirez: You mentioned here that the reason El Cenizo and Rio Bravo, the colonias. What about on the North side? On Peñitas, Encinal and those areas?

Hector Perez: Yes sir. We have them, where there was a student population, I believe 15 to 20 students, we were able to put a bus there. There are some in those areas. We actually have them mapped in the website where the parents can go and see where is the nearest bus. It's already in the website.

Frank Castillo: Just to mention to my fellow colleagues and district staff that I did have the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Perez and Ms. Judy Garcia through a orientation program. There I'm still running as the newest member of the board, I am very thankful to them. They were outstanding. I congratulate them for their outstanding work. I know it was thrown on them to do this, because of the pandemic we're in, I just wanted to share that thought with our fellow board members. And I look forward to helping them in any way I can. Thank you much.

David Gonzalez: Moving on with the presentation, I think it's appropriate to bring out this Bragging Rights magazine that came out Texas School on Monday. In December, the magazine had come out and it's the appropriate time for UISD. We need to pack an instruction and also educate our student service pandemic by meeting their social needs. So the Texas School Business, 14th edition bragging rights included UISD, was one of twelve districts in the state that was recognized for their innovative program on suicide prevention. Prevention in collaboration with a licensed psychologists as well as all our counselors within our district. And

the right side you see where the magazine came out in December statewide. *Mr. Gonzalez goes on to present on the suicide prevention program and provides information on available resources throughout the community. Lastly, Mr. David Gonzalez acknowledges the UISD board of trustees in this board appreciation month and appreciates the board for all their continued support. Just to remind you, UISD is not just about instruction we are about our students and have to look for their welfare as well.*

Javier Montemayor: We want to thank you and your staff Mr. Gonzalez, I know that you all have worked really hard being pushed into the pandemic like everybody else, you had to formulate a plan and strategy to deliver instruction to the children, for students. Technology stepped up, your coordinators, your secretaries, all the teachers. I know it's an imperfect world and imperfect plan and it's always evolving, but I thank you and your staff for the outstanding job that your doing. And I want to also, my hats off to the teachers. And everyone else who's implementing this program, It's not easy, I hear every day how teachers are really struggling and having a hard time and trying to keep that student engaged and trying to keep that student's attention and focus in place. Obviously, the suicide prevention as well plays an important role now because now there is a ... other problems that are being spurred because of this technology, this virtual instruction. And a lot of the students now are suffering from emotional and other social issues and so on. And it's difficult for everybody and I want to thank you for keeping the program going and keeping you guys via the college well.

David Gonzalez: We appreciate the recognition. All the staff members that you mentioned, our supporters for our teachers. So, we want to recognize our people. What they're doing because when doing walkthroughs, they've said it's not easy. And so again, we thank you for all your support.

VI. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between United Independent School District and the City of Laredo C, concerning UISD School Nurses Assisting with City Vaccination Drives

Jaime Garcia: This is a proposed MOU to the City of Laredo regarding the use of School Nurses for the vaccination drives that have been occurring around town. The participation has already begun, but the MOU just sets forth, written parameters. So, the most important one would be liability. There are liability protections involved that we're just making sure we set forth in writing when we propose this to the City of Laredo. There really would be no cost associated with the MOU. If these are at the time a volunteer assistance, he provided. It's for an initial proposed holding period but of course the MOU is at will, be terminated by either at

any time within 30 days of notice. Long story short; UISD nurses will be following the guidance of the CDC, of the City, of the FDA in administering these vaccines and the way we're proposing it is the City would handle the forms and collection of those forms. Once these vaccination drives are done with. I know a lot of entities around town are assisting with this vaccination drive and as we try and get the majority of our population vaccinated against the covid-19 pandemic

Roberto J. Santos: I also want to share with the board, that we are also working with the City on offering our facilities. It's a combination of, going back to what Mr. Garcia was sharing. It's a community effort. I just wanted to share that with the board that a Mrs. Rendon was working with the city and with the fire chief, Mr. Heard. But any time that need our support I mean to help our community and help our citizens. United ISD is moving forward to helping out. You'll see some of our employees, some of our vehicles at this vaccination drive throughs in different areas.

Ramiro Veliz: Any idea if we can do from our district...courses and actually met our school nurses that are volunteering and assisting, appearing to be there. Much thankful for that.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Javier Montemayor
Seconded By:	Rick Rodriguez, Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion:	None

All In Favor:	Unanimous
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MOTION PASSES

B. Approval of House Bill (HB3) Board Adopted Goals and Plans

David Gonzalez: Members of the board, Mr. Santos. At this time we come with the House Bill 3, is a requirement for all campuses and our district to monitor progress toward meeting the yearly goals. So administration is recommending that the board of trustees adopt a college readiness, military readiness CCMR goals and early childhood, childhood literacy and mathematics goals as presented

Gloria Rendon: This is the training, board workshop that you'll have on February 2nd sir.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Javier Montemayor

Seconded By: Ricardo Molina

Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Approval of CSP as the method of Procurement for the Reconstruction and Upgrades of Various Athletic Facilities at United South High School and Lyndon B. Johnson High School

Roberto J. Santos: Well we can send it in but what happens is, it is a method of how we are going to try and get a proposal. What it is, is our two athletic fields at LBJ and South. Both were (inaudible) since the time those campuses were built. The facilities areas we have a major issue keeping up with those facilities. The hardest part is obviously, once we get advise then our role is beginning to look and where we are going to kind of fund this. We are hoping that some how maybe through the bond. But this allows us to go out and get a price estimate, then we'll come back to the board and share with you what the price was. And hopefully once we find some funds

Ramiro Veliz: Are we looking at that, starting with just one option. Either replacing the field or are we looking at the artificial turf?

Roberto J. Santos: This is on replacing the field with the tiff grass which I think Alexander and United high school have. I think that's the way we want to move at this time.

Ricardo Rodriguez: Mr. Santos, what I would like is to see if we could probably maybe get the bids to see how much that would cost us, versus the cost of putting an artificial turf. That way we can compare to see what the differences would be. Because I would also like to see the maintenance, it would cost us within a 10 year period. If we would do it the way that we are planning right now. To see what the difference is on the artificial turf and going this route so that we can make a decision on this.

Roberto Santos: The other item is, that if we do look at artificial turf, I think we need to look at all the other two high schools. It's obviously very difficult to say.

Ricardo Rodriguez: I think Mr. Santos for right now, and I agree looking at the other two high schools but right now if we can place just right now in looking for our two high schools over here in the south side. Actually, the other ones do not need repairs and we do need repairs in our schools at this time. So, I think if we were to start off maybe with two schools for right now

and just look at the cost for these two high schools because our fields over here a very deteriorated right now and then we can start on the other two high schools.

Javier Montemayor: I would agree with Mr. Rodriguez, sometimes it would be more economical a price on four versus two. But I think United South certainly their irrigation yeah.

Roberto J. Santos: I think South and LBJ, both are in dire need of trying repair and fix the facility. So, we will get an estimate.

Javier Montemayor: Get an estimate for two and then also for all four high schools. Then we can plan over a four year period or something like that.

Roberto J. Santos: We'll work with you guys.

Ramiro Veliz: Do we approve as discussed?

Juan Cruz: Really all you are approving at this point is the CSP is the method of procurement.

Cordy Flores-Jackson: The approval today, is just for a method of procurement. Our default method is job order contract. So, we are just here today asking you to do the CSP method for this particular project.

Roberto J. Santos: Mrs. Jackson, the item is we can look at both the grass and the artificial correct?

Cordelia Flores-Jackson: We can do two options on the CSP and then we would bring both options to the board. Then the board can decide at that point which option they will go with.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Ricardo Molina
Seconded By:	Juan Roberto Ramirez

Any Discussion: **Ricardo Rodriguez:** For the record we are approving this knowing that we are going to be looking at prices between the artificial turf and going with the other type grass

Roberto J. Santos: And the other item is looking at where we're going to find the funds

Ramiro Veliz: Yes, looking at both options for just a regular grass, artificial grass and looking at funding options as well

Frank Castillo: What are the other schools that were being mentioned?

Ricardo Rodriguez: It just LBJ and United South

Frank Castillo: I heard that there may be up to four, that's why I was curious to know

Ricardo Rodriguez: For right now sir these are the two schools that are most needed,, I think the other two high schools they are up to par and they have new turfs as we speak

Roberto J. Santos: I think we can look at our two south high schools, LBJ and United South both on tiff and also artificial turf, then at the same time look at artificial get a price for both Alexander and United high school this way we have the price for all four high schools and obviously the board needs to decide

Javier Montemayor: I think eventually all four high schools should be artificial turf at one point or another. Mr Rodriguez is correct, South and LBJ are probably higher priority right now. But if it's economically feasible to or cheaper to get a price on all four instead of two. Then perhaps

Ricardo Rodriguez: I agree with that Javi also

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VII. Adjournment

**Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Javier Montemayor
Any Discussion: NONE**

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- *There being no further business of the UISD Board of Trustees, this Special Called meeting of January 28, 2021 is adjourned at 12:44 PM.*

Ramiro Veliz, III, President

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary

These Minutes were completed by Giselda Rodriguez, and submitted for approval by the UISD Board of Trustees at the March 2021 Regular Board Meeting.