



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Approval of Board Minutes for the Month of June 2020

SUBMITTED BY: Alejandra Salinas

OF: Office of Superintendent

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: September 15, 2020

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the UISD Board of Trustees approve the Board Meeting Minutes for the Month of June 2020

1. Special Called Meeting – June 9, 2020

RATIONALE:

State Law requires the Board to prepare and keep minutes of its Open Meeting Govt. Code §551.021. The minutes are public records available for public inspection and copying upon request to the Superintendent or his designee. Govt. Code § 551.022.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

No Budget Impact

POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

This is in compliance and in accordance with Board Policy BE and BE (LOCAL).

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

June 9, 2020

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Ramiro Veliz, III – President – PRESENT
Javier Montemayor, Jr. – Vice President – ABSENT
Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez – Secretary – ABSENT
Ricardo Molina, Sr. – Parliamentarian - PRESENT
Judd Gilpin – Member – ABSENT
Aliza Flores Oliveros – Member – PRESENT
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member – PRESENT

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in the United ISD - Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Dr., Laredo, Texas 78045.

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.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

- II. An announcement was made by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to order at 12:02 p.m. The record showed that a quorum of Board Members was present, that the meeting was duly called, and that notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.**

III. Public Comments:

No Public Comments

IV. Informational Items:

A. 2020-2021 United ISD STEM Academy

David Gonzalez – At this time with the expansion of STEM across the nation and in Texas, UISD is not a district to stay behind. We are expanding our STEM Program at the elementary level as well as middle school. It is an academic program located in several UISD middle schools and elementary schools and STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering and Math. At the elementary, it is called STREAM, which is Science Technology Reading

Engineering Arts and Mathematics. We look at the four feeder schools, the high schools. For example, United High School, we look at two schools, an elementary school which would be Kazen Elementary School and Washington Middle School which feed into United for the STEM. For United South feeder, we already have Freedom Elementary School and adding Perales Middle School. At the Alexander feeder, we already have United Middle so for the elementary school we are adding Gutierrez and Trautmann Middle School. In addition, the LBJ feeder schools, I am happy to announce we are adding four schools. We are adding two elementary schools, Arndt and Centeno. Arndt feeds into Lamar Bruni and Centeno feeds into Los Obispos. We did look at all our middle schools and of course, objective is to have all our schools but at this time, things are moving along slowly with the expansion and obviously, it is a big expansion for this coming school year. At the elementary schools, the program runs with programs or applications that can be found on the website and so forth. There's a lot of modules, systemic modules that are for elementary schools that are very effective at Freedom Elementary School. We're going to expand obviously and at the middle school we're looking to expand to all our feeder schools, our high schools. Are there any questions at this time?

Ramiro Veliz, III – Once we make it available this upcoming year, is there a limitation to how many students can participate in those particular schools?

David Gonzalez – At this time there is and what we're looking at is, we normally have 100-120 students but normally these students do take a test where they're graded and so forth and this year because we are unable to test our students at all, we're going to go lottery. Originally when Becky Morales opened it up, when she went to visit schools in San Antonio ISD and Judson ISD and the Valley, those schools always have lottery. We went through a system where we would test them but this year we are unable to do that because of COVID so this year we're going to do lottery. We'll do for example at Washington Middle School, we'll get 15 from Herrera and same thing with Trautmann so we're limiting the numbers because obviously we don't want to take so many from other schools but we looked at other avenues to see what was better conducive for all middle schools at this time.

Ramiro Veliz, III – Can you give a brief explanation of what it would entail for the actual student once they go, is it one class or whole learning day.

David Gonzalez – At the elementary schools just like our middle schools we already have STEM infused in the curriculum so now we're offering at the middle schools a particular class that addresses just STEM for these students.. At the elementary level we start off with three grade levels which is normally 3rd, 4th and 5th. They get the modules so along with the curriculum they're working on STEM daily.

Ramiro Veliz, III – Would it be a year-round class?

David Gonzalez – Yes and the only big difference is we are unable to assess the students to get the higher scoring students but the success is an indication of how we've done with lottery and when we look at LBJ Early College where we do lottery has been very successful. Those students have scored even higher than the average student overall with STAAR so they've done very well. But again we're going to have to this year, we'll evaluate it and if we need to go back to assessment to get the kids in then we will but at this point because of time and everything that's going on right now in the nation we are unable to assess our students.

Ramiro Veliz, III – Thank you very much, I know it's a great program for the students and I think there's going to be a lot of interest and definitely something to look at next year to probably expand for more students.

David Gonzalez – Right now we're looking at our middle schools, we're only pending four and obviously it's the financial endeavor as well but we're looking at how best we can offer this program to all our students.

Ramiro Veliz, III – Thank you very much sir. Mr. Judd Gilpin present for the meeting here at the boardroom.

V. Items for Individual Consideration:

A. Approval of Revisions to 2020-21 Academic Calendar

Gloria Rendon – We have been looking at revisions to our Academic Calendar which was approved in December of last year. We have gone through various scenarios, listening to the state, the guidance we have received from them. They are looking more at a year round calendar and there's been a lot of talk about that; however, we feel that students should have the opportunity to, especially our high school students where we have a very strong partnership with our local university and college, and we would like for them to be able to attend coursework in the summer whether it be maymesters or summer sessions and so forth. We did come in with a new calendar revision which allows our students to come back in, it's only a day difference. Previously, we were scheduled to come in on August 11th now we're coming in on August 10th. Everything you hear and read about COVID is that it should hit us probably in the winter time so what we did is we expanded our winter break to include a full three weeks of holiday period for our employees and for our students. Our students start the semester again on January 13th which would allow 3 ½ weeks of break period. It allows our schools to be cleaned, we're going to clean every day disinfect every day, however deep cleaning of our schools would be done during that particular break. We still have our Thanksgiving break, our Christmas break is a little longer, Spring Break is the same, Easter break is the same and we do complete the school year. Our students will finish May 27th and our graduations will be held hopefully on May 28th and May 29th. What this does is, it allows for a more balanced system. So if you look at the first semester its 87 days and the second semester would be 88 days for a total of 175 days of instruction.

Roberto J. Santos – I think the other key here is when you look at June that allows this coming year's freshmen to be sophomores, sophomores to be juniors and juniors to be seniors to be able to take coursework at LC. I think they start on the 1st of June and we didn't want our students to miss out on the opportunity to be able to take those courses, obviously there's no charge to the students and no charge to the district and I think it's key for us to try to finish on the 28th or 29th and then we'll see as the year goes on. I think instructionally, Mr. Gonzalez and his staff feel very comfortable especially on the balanced days.

Judd Gilpin – It looks like we have Thanksgiving week off as well.

Roberto J. Santos – Yes sir, we do.

Juan Cruz – This may be subject to change. We don't have any guidance at all from TEA with regards to what fall is going to look like so you can approve it today and if something comes up from the agency this week or next week and it causes some type of disruption we can come back.

Ramiro Veliz, III – So our approval right now would be basically just to show that we....

Roberto J. Santos – I think what this ensures for us is a couple of things. Number one is personnel, to be able to identify the starting dates for the employees, especially the 240, 226 and so on and so forth. And the other item is it allows us to begin to prepare and also for the parents to get an idea when the 1st day of school is and those are really key. At the end of the day, it's when we finish as we've been talking to LC and they start their summer session. Just to try to get ahead, even though we have a calendar very similar to what was here.

Gloria Rendon – It's only one or two changes. One day of change; our teachers start two days earlier and then that full week in January that they would still have.

Judd Gilpin – In December the stars represent exams?

Gloria Rendon – Yes sir.

Judd Gilpin – There's a lot more stars at the end of the year. In either case, will everything wrap up for that first semester before the Christmas break?

Gloria Rendon / Roberto J. Santos – Yes

Gloria Rendon – And that's 87 days for the first semester. On the 18th is the last day. Those 16, 17 and 18 those are final exam days for the high school when we would normally release at half day.

Aliza Oliveros – Do we know what the start date is for LISD? I heard it was going to be the 1st week in August.

Gloria Rendon – Yes ma'am they start on August 3rd.

Aliza Oliveros – Does it make more sense to start earlier and get that extra break during those high risk months?

Gloria Rendon – Their calendar is very similar to ours. They have 3 weeks off also in January. They do have a little bit more flexibility in Professional Development Days. That would mean that we would bring our teachers back in on the 27th through the 31st and our new teacher orientation would be on the 20th, giving us about four weeks to prepare for school. We think it's a little bit more feasible for us to start later so that we can make those preparations as needed. We have ordered equipment, materials in prepping for our classrooms; signage, stickers for social distancing measures, thermometers....

Aliza Oliveros – Is this a good time to ask the question if we are going to have hybrid schedules?

Roberto J. Santos – Yes, right now instruction has been working on a different possible, and yes we have talked about hybrid and obviously everybody on virtual. I think, like Mr. Cruz just mentioned, until the commissioner and governor tells us which direction we can go, we don't want to rule out anything yet until they give us direction but yes we have a good plan all the way through elementary, middle and high school.

Javier Montemayor – So as of today, it's open as normal and depending on what the governor and commissioner indicate to us in the next few weeks we'll be able to adjust if we're going to do a hybrid schedule, and A/B day or virtual?

Roberto J. Santos – That's correct Mr. Montemayor. Until the governor and the commissioner tells us what we need to do, we can adapt to any of the different plans that we're working on with Mr. Gonzalez and his staff.

Javier Montemayor – I'm assuming the district is monitoring our local numbers when it comes to the pandemic. Can we, on our own, without the governor or commissioner indicating anything, can we on our own modify our calendars or attendance in any way?

Roberto J. Santos – No, because it very well could be that they don't allow us to do distance learning/virtual. If they don't then we don't get funded so the key is everything will be set around the commissioner and the governor. I think all of feel that they will allow us to do hybrid but until they officially share that with us, we can't officially put a plan out. I know Ms. Rendon has sent a survey to the parents or should be going out today, just to give us an idea, if number one are they ready to send the students back for the regular normal session or stay home or virtual half and half. We'll get a good idea on the number of students or at least a response from parents.

Javier Montemayor – I get a lot of questions, like "are you opening up in the fall", "what is the schedule, what is the plan". I'm pretty much telling them, from what I understand it's open as normal and I guess we modify depending on what they tell us and what the numbers come out to be. I just want to make sure I'm not giving bad information.

Roberto J. Santos – That's a good answer Mr. Montemayor.

Juan Roberto Ramirez – What do the parents say in regards to opening school for the children.

Roberto J. Santos – I think we get several messages. Number one, parents say No, I won't be able to send my child, but I also hear a lot of parents saying they need to go to work and want to get their students back on campus so we hear both ways and really don't know until that first day of school.

Ramiro Veliz, III – Do we have a motion to approve the revisions as presented by Ms. Rendon?

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Judd Gilpin

Seconded by: Javier Montemayor

Discussion: Aliza Oliveros – I just want to add that it's very important, because I do get calls from both sides like Mr. Santos said. Just for the public to know that although we are approving this schedule, it still can change based on further instructions from the governor. I just wanted to add that for clarity purposes before everybody starts calling and thinking that we're not taking all the precautions that we need to. So with that, you have my motion as well, my vote for approval.

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Approval of Waiver for CPR Required Instruction for Graduating Seniors

Mike Garza – We are presenting a waiver request for those students that were unable to fulfill their obligation for CPR training that they are required to do in their high school career. Usually, what ends up happening is we are able to capture these students during their health course and it could be anywhere from their freshman year to their senior year. Unfortunately because of the pandemic, there were some seniors that were unable to take the course to get their certification that is required. So at this time we're asking for the waiver for these individual students so that they can be prepared to ...inaudible....

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros

Seconded by: Judd Gilpin

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Approval of Missed Instructional Days Waivers for the 46-day closure due to COVID-19

Gloria Rendon – The district shut down for 46 days. One day was for close preparing and 45 days were for closed and instructing. We are being asked to submit a waiver for each individual day so I noted the days that we were out. I excluded the holidays. This is the opportunity that we provided remote instruction or instructional packets on these particular days which were 45 days of instruction.

Ramiro Veliz, III – Have we gotten any clear direction from the state or did they just require us to submit?

Gloria Rendon – This is their direction Sir. They asked us to submit a waiver for each day that we were out and in addition to that we'll have the next agenda item to submit as well along with the missed instruction day waiver.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. Approval of Instructional Continuity While Closed Attestation

Gloria Rendon – This attestation goes with the Missed School Day Waiver. Basically what we're confirming or affirming is that we provided the educational resources to our students whether it be through remote learning instruction or instructional packets which we delivered on both. Basically Mr. Santos and your name will be on it and this will be going out to the state with the Missed Instructional Days Waivers that we affirm that we did this.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza F. Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VI. Closed Session:

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 12:23 p.m.

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

1. Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Interlocal Agreement with Webb County For the Use of SAC Auditorium and Fine Arts Rooms for Jury Selection

**B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting**

1. Conduct Board Grievance Hearing of Jose Gutierrez

VII. Reconvened from Closed Session:

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 2:05 p.m.

- A. Discussion/Action Regarding Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Webb County For the Use of SAC Auditorium and Fine Arts Rooms for Jury Selection**

Juan Cruz – The recommendation is to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Webb County for the Use of the SAC Auditorium and Fine Arts Rooms for Jury Selection and authorize Superintendent and Legal Counsel to negotiate any final terms as discussed.

Judd Gilpin – Accept recommendation

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Judd Gilpin

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion: Aliza Oliveros – Mr. Cruz, I am an employee of Webb County, should I abstain?
Juan Cruz – You do not legally have to.

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Action Regarding Grievance Hearing of Jose Gutierrez

Judd Gilpin – I move to deny the remedy of reinstatement and that UISD has adhered to state law and district policy.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Judd Gilpin

Seconded by: Javier Montemayor

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Adjournment:

Mr. Ramiro Veliz, III adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Special Called Meeting of June 9, 2020 was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Ramiro Veliz III, President

Ricardo Rodriguez, Secretary

Minutes submitted by: *Alejandra Salinas*, Superintendent's Secretary