



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC:** Discussion and possible action to approve board minutes for the months of March,  
April and May 2023

**SUBMITTED BY:** Griselda Rodriguez / Alejandra Salinas **OF:** Office of Superintendent

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** May 17, 2023

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees discuss and take possible action to approve board minutes for the months of March, April and May 2023.

Regular Board Meeting – March 22, 2023

Regular Board Meeting – April 19, 2023

Intruder Detection Audit Subcommittee Meeting – May 5, 2023

**United Independent School District**  
United ISD Bill Johnson Student Activity Complex, Auditorium  
5208 Santa Claudia Lane – Laredo, Texas 78043

Regular Board Meeting  
March 22, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT: David H. Gonzalez

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ramiro Veliz, III, President – Present  
Aliza Flores Oliveros, Vice-President – Absent  
Michelle Molina, Secretary – Present  
Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Parliamentarian – Present  
Gilbert Aguilar, Member - Present  
Javier Montemayor, Member – Absent  
Ricardo Rodriguez, Member – Present

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT: Stephen Trautmann

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

*Mr. Ramiro Veliz, III called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.*

*David Gonzalez, Superintendent, stated that Mr. Javier Montemayor was unable to attend the meeting due to a function at one of the campuses.*

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**III. Recognitions:**

A. Middle School District Science Fair Winners - Grand Champion / Reserve Grand Champion

B. UISD Police Department - Captain Pedro Sarmiento - WBCA Spirit Award

C. UISD Executive Director of Communications and Instructional Television - Susan Carlson - Laredo Morning Times Recognition for International Women's Day

D. Marissa Ayala - Elias Herrera MS Teacher - Saving a Life Recognition

#### **IV. Public Comments:**

*No Public Comments*

#### **V. Consent Agenda Items**

A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements

B. Approval of Property Tax Refunds for the Month of February 2023

C. Approval of Low Attendance Waivers - Remote Conferencing (Elementary Schools)

D. Approval of Low Attendance Waivers - Remote Conferencing (Secondary Schools)

E. Approval of awarding bids, proposals and qualifications

F. Approval of CSP (Competitive Sealed Proposals) as the Method of Procurement for the construction of a new baseball practice field at JB Alexander High School

G. Approval of CSP (Competitive Sealed Proposals) as the Method of Procurement for the reconstruction of the staff parking lot at Newman Elementary School

H. Approval of Employment Contracts, Addendums, Letters of Assurance for 2023-2024 School/Work year

I. Approval of the sale or disposition of salvage furniture and equipment

*A motion was made by Ricardo Rodriguez and seconded by Michelle Molina to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.*

#### **VI. Items for Individual Consideration**

A. Discussion and possible action to approve donations

*Mr. David Gonzalez read the donations into the minutes for a grand total of \$11,034.22 and asked the board for their approval.*

*A motion was made by Ricardo Rodriguez to approve the donations as presented. Motion was seconded by Gilbert Aguilar and was unanimously approved.*

B. Discussion and possible action to approve the Board Minutes for the month of December 2022

*A motion was made by Ricardo Rodriguez to approve the donations as presented. Motion was seconded by Michelle Molina and was unanimously approved.*

C. Discussion and possible action regarding requests from Board Members in re: Use of Board Discretionary Funds for Various Projects/Campuses

*Mr. Mike Garza stated there was one additional request submitted on behalf of Mr. Francisco "Frank" Castillo, in the amount of \$4,694.21 for printing and postage of informational newsletter.*

*A motion was made by Ricardo Rodriguez to approve the requests for discretionary funds and seconded by Gilbert Aguilar. Motion was unanimously approved.*

D. Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing the issuance of United Independent School District Maintenance Tax Notes, Series 2023; entering into a Purchase and Investment letter and a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; and other matters related thereto

*Mr. Sam Flores introduced Mr. Dan Martinez and Robert Tijerina, district financial advisor and bond counsel and stated they will be presenting this item on financing to get some items for the district. (presentation is attached to the minutes)*

*Mr. Veliz asked about the various projects being presented. Mr. Tijerina responded that the items were listed on page two of the presentation. Mr. Veliz asked if once they issue approval to proceed, if the monies can be deviated to other projects. Mr. Tijerina responded that the monies have to be used for the projects identified.*

*A motion was made by Gilbert Aguilar to approve the resolution and seconded by Francisco Castillo. Motion was unanimously approved.*

## **VII. Closed Session**

*The board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:20 p.m.*

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

1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities

B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting  
TGC 551.076 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

1. Student Activity Funds Audits

a. Elementary Schools - Borchers, Centeno, Clark, Finley, Gutierrez, Juarez-Lincoln, R. Santos

b. Middle Schools - Gonzalez Middle School

c. High Schools - LB Johnson, LB Johnson 9th, USHS 9th, STEP Academy

2. Department / Other Audits

a. Employee Health Insurance Benefits

b. Status of Ongoing Audits

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

*The board reconvened from Closed Session at 7:38 p.m.*

*Mr. Ramiro Veliz, III stated no action was taken in closed session.*

IX. Adjournment

*A motion to adjourn was made by Francisco Castillo and seconded by Michelle Molina. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.*

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Board Meeting of March 22, 2023 was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Ramiro Veliz, III, President

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Michelle Molina, Secretary

(Approved: May 17, 2023)

Minutes submitted by:  
*Alejandra Salinas*, Secretary to Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Policies

# **United Independent School District**

**Bill Johnson Student Activity Complex / 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Texas 78043**

## **Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**April 19, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**Board of Trustees:** Ramiro Veliz, Aliza Oliveros, Michelle Molina, Gilbert Aguilar, Javier Montemayor, Francisco Castillo

### **In Attendance:**

David H. Gonzalez, Mike Garza, Rebecca Morales, Hector Perez, Laida Benavides, Sam Flores, Ofelia Dominguez, Alfonso Peña, Manuel Menchaca, Ignacio Alaniz, Mat Ydrogo, Cindy Rodriguez, Clotilde Gamez, Annete Perez, Melissa Ramirez, Rosa Cabello, Marta Stahl, David Canales, Thelma Martinez, Mario Rosales, Gerry Rodriguez, Bobby Cruz, Adriana Ramirez, Susan Carlson, Jaime Garza

### **I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order**

***Ramiro Veliz calls this meeting to order at 6:12 PM. Quorum is established.***

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

### **III. Recognitions:**

**A. FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS – Lic. Eduardo A. Garza Robles – Keeping “U” Warm Campaign Provides Jackets, Supplies and Lunch to Students**

**B. UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT – American Heart Association’s Gold Level Recognition**

**C. 2023 DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS**

**\*United High School**

**\*John B. Alexander High School**

- D. RAULPERALES MIDDLE SCHOOL OILERS CHEER TEAM – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Non-Tumbling Divisions Champions
- E. RICARDO MOLINA MIDDLE SCHOOL SPARKLING EMERALDS DANCE TEAM – Division Champions
- F. UNITED SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL LEOPARDS CHEER TEAM 1<sup>st</sup> Place High-Point Champions
- G. UNITED SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL JR. STEPPERS DANCE TEAM – MCDA 2022 Cowboy Christmas Class Virtual – Grand Champions
- H. ELIAS HERRERA MIDDLE SCHOOL SOARING SAPPHIRES DANCE TEAM – 2023 Grand National Winner's Circle Dance Team
- I. ELIAS HERRERA MIDDLE SCHOOL HAWKS CHEER TEAM – National Champions – Jackets Awarded
- J. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SILVER STEPPERS DANCE TEAM – National Champions – Jackets Awarded
- K. UNITED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL – District 30-6A Champions, Bi-District Champions, Area Champions, Regional Quarterfinalist Champions, Regional Semi-Finalists, Sweet 16
- L. JOHN B. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM – District 30-6A Champions, Regional Semi-Finalists, Sweet 16
- M. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL LATRRIETTES DANCE TEAM – MA Grand National Champion Super Team Nationals – Jackets Awarded
- N. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL – District 30-6A Co-Champions, Bi-District Champions, Area Champions and Regional Quarterfinalists
- O. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL – District 30-6A Champions

#### IV. Public Comments

Valentin "Vale" Ruiz, an activist and upcoming regional vice president of TSTA 2023. Here to express his opinion about the lack of public funding and lack of support by government entities and



public officials for teacher pay. "They are not pro-public schools", he said and expresses a concern about how difficult it is to find educators. He brings up that the past pay raise that was given to district staff in 2022 and how it was not enough. "Where is the respect, where is the appreciation". Mr. Ruiz brings up the rate of inflation and lack of leadership on behalf of the district.

Clarissa Fraga: Ms. Fraga a parent, community member and an employee of UISD. Speaking regarding the lack of safety and security. Ms. Fraga addresses the board about issues like vaping, drugs, understaffing, poor supervision of student body at campuses among other things. Ms. Fraga also makes mention that providing NARCAN does not resolve the problem rather "it enables" the students and sends the wrong message.

Julissa Garza: Teacher of 23 years speaking in favor of teacher pay raise. Ms. Garza informs the board that due to inflation, many staff members have needed to take on second jobs and reminds the board of the commitment they pledged to faculty and staff. "I have yet to see" says Ms. Garza referring to teacher compensation. Ms. Garza asks the board that they make good on their promises.

Edna Olmeda: Teacher with 29 years of teaching experience, here to remind the board of the pay increase they were promised to compensate for the rate of inflation and describes the difficult circumstances teachers had to work through such as the pandemic, teacher shortages and mass shootings. "We have waited patiently for you to value our profession," and asks for action.

Melissa Castro: Ms. Castro, an English teacher. "Raising teacher salaries can help improve the interest in the industry" says Ms. Castro and may help keep teachers in the classroom. She asks the board to take consideration about the promises made by the board.

## **V. Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Approval of Budget Amendments**
- B. Approval of Monthly Disbursements**
- C. Approval of Property Tax Refunds for the Month of March 2023**
- D. Approval of Low Attendance Waivers – Remote Conferencing (elementary schools)**
- E. Approval of Low Attendance Waivers – Remote Conferencing (secondary schools)**
- F. Approval of Low-Attendance Day Waiver**
- G. Approval of possible revisions to 2023 – 2024 Academic Calendar**



- H. Approval of CSP (Competitive Sealed Proposals) as the Method of Procurement for the replacements of Air Conditioning Chiller Units at John B. Alexander High School and Lyndon B. Johnson High School
- I. Approval of CSP (Competitive Sealed Proposals) as the Method of Procurement for the replacement of Air Conditioning Chiller Units at United South High School and Lyndon B. Johnson High School
- J. Approval of recommendation to the Board of Trustees for SCP 2022-040 HVAC Equipment Replacement at (7) Centeno, Cuellar and Nye Elementary Schools
- K. Approval regarding recommendation to the Board of Trustees for CSP 004-2023 Various Building Renovations at Ruiz Elementary School
- L. Approval regarding recommendation to the Board of Trustees of CSP 001-2023 Plumbing Fixture Upgrades for Water Bottle Filling Stations at UISD Campuses District Wide
- M. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications

A motion is made by Javier Montemayor to approve items V-A through V-M. Motion was seconded by Michelle Molina and unanimously passed.

## VI. Items for Individual Consideration

### A. Discussion and possible action to approve donations

Mr. Gonzalez reads the donations for their consideration and asks that they graciously approve.

\*A donation received by Veterans Memorial elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade team in the amount of \$2,500.00 from Powell Watson Toyota to be used for a student field trip to San Antonio.

\* A donation received by Ruiz Elementary, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team in the amount of \$1,500.00 from the Greater Houston Community Foundation – Anselmo Garza Fund for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team.

\*A donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 received by United South High School Boys and Girls Golf Teams, donation made by Wal-mart.

For a grand total of \$5,000.00 and there were no donations under \$500.00.

A motion is made to approve the donations. Motion made by Javier Montemayor, seconded by Aliza Oliveros and unanimously approved.

**B. Discussion and possible action to approve the Board minutes for the months of January, February and March 2023**

A motion is made to approve the board minutes as presented. Motion made by Aliza Oliveros, seconded by Francisco Castillo; 1 abstention by Javier Montemayor and the motion passes.

**C. Discussion and possible action to approve Legislative Priorities 88<sup>th</sup> Session Resolution**

Laida Benavides informs the board that this resolution is a gathering of the priorities as a school district regarding teacher compensation, insurance premiums, funding and so on. This resolution if approved, will be shared with legislators such as Senator Zaffirini, Representative Raymond, Representative Tracy King.

Javier Montemayor makes a motion to approve the resolution as presented. This motion is seconded by Aliza Oliveros and is unanimously approved.

Mr. David Gonzalez adds that this is a critical year to fight for funding at a state level, for teachers, for staff as a district.

**D. Discussion and possible action regarding requests from Board Members in re: Use of Board Discretionary Funds for various project/campuses**

Mr. Mike Garza reports that there are no additional requests to read in other than what was presented. On a motion by Aliza Oliveros and a second by Gilbert Aguilar, this motion is approved unanimously.

**E. First and final reading of FNCA (Local) Student Conduct Dress Code**

Ms. Annette Perez elaborates on FNCA Local, regarding dress code specifically "leggings". She reminds the board that the superintendent's student advisory group (44 students) and the student code of conduct revision committee (comprised of a parent and a student for each secondary middle and high school and 5 elementary schools) were surveyed regarding the use of leggings. Their opinion was to prohibit leggings because it was considered athletic attire.

Ms. Aliza Oliveros makes a motion for discussion. Ms. Oliveros states that when this item last came before the board, she asked that leggings be allowed in schools and mentions her reasons behind it. Ms. Perez describes the difference of jeggings and leggings.

Francisco Castillo asks what the staff is recommending.

Ms. Annette Perez says that 69% want uniforms to be implemented from kinder through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The committees are asking that "leggings" be removed as an allowable dress attire.

Javier Montemayor recalls that this had been allowed to incentivize student attendance.

Ms. Aliza Oliveros stated that now "we are up against private and charter schools" and that the district needs to not make it more difficult for students. "I am aware that gym attire is not appropriate for a school setting" said Ms. Oliveros.

Ms. Perez stated that "jeggings" are currently approved.

Legal counsel also clarifies for the board that "jeans" are allowed Fridays, for Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and "jeans" are approved every day for high school students.

Annette Perez says high school is not changing.

Michelle Molina ask for consideration for the elementary level to use leggings. "Especially with special needs students that may not or cannot work a zipper".

Ms. Annette Perez replies that the district does have accommodations for motor skills and religious and other exemptions and that they could be addressed through an ARD.

Aliza Oliveros makes a motion to exclude the elementary schools of the disallowance (prohibition) of "leggings", but to allow the prohibition at the middle school and high school levels. Motion is seconded by Michelle Molina. Mr. Ramiro Veliz wants the clarification (description) of "jeggings" and "leggings" to be added. The board unanimously passes this motion.

**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 **6:46 PM.**

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

**1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities**

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

**TGC 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting**

**1. Legal consultation and report on the lawsuit filed by Potential Holdings, LLC against the United Independent School District regarding the United Independent School streets Santa Claudia and Santa Monica within the UISD Student Activity Complex and matters incident thereto. The suit was filed in the District Court of the 111<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Webb County, Texas under cause number 2023CVG000151D2.**

**2. Status of negotiations regarding a Mandel Family Interest tract described as an approximate 82.70 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 un Porcion 6, Blas Maria Diaz, Abstract 38, Webb County, Texas

3. Legal consultation regarding real property described as an approximately 2.4012 tract of land situated in Porcion 47, Abstract No. 238, Webb County, Texas.
4. Legal consultation regarding real property described as an approximately 17.331 acre tract of land known as Tract C. One River Place Subdivision, Webb County, Texas.

**C. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Attorney; Closed Meeting  
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting**

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

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

*The board reconvenes from closed session at **8:05 PM** for the record no action was taken during closed session.*

- A. Possible action regarding the negotiation pertaining to a Mandel Family Interest tract described as an approximate 82.70 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**

The recommendation is to authorize real estate counsel to negotiate with the Mande; family as discussed in closed session.

On a motion by Aliza Oliveros and a second by Francisco Castillo the board unanimously approves the recommendation.

- B. Possible action with respect to the lawsuit filed by Potential Holdings, LLC against the United Independent School District regarding UISD streets Santa Claudia and Santa Monica, located within the UISD Student Activity Complex, and the underlying dispute upon which the lawsuit was based upon. The suit was filed under cause number 2023CVG000151D2**

The recommendation is to take a motion for no action.

On a motion by Aliza Oliveros and seconded by both Francisco Castillo and Michelle Molina, the recommended motion is passed unanimously.

**C. Possible action regarding Internal Auditor's annual evaluation and modification of employment contract**

The recommendation is to approve the Internal Auditor's annual evaluation as discussed in closed session.

On a motion by Aliza Oliveros and seconded by Gilbert Aguilar and Francisco Castillo, this motion is passes unanimously.

**X. Adjournment**

On a motion to adjourn this meeting made by Aliza Oliveros and seconded by Michelle Molina and Francisco Castillo, the board approves unanimously.

**There being no further business before the United ISD Board of Trustees, this Regular Board Meeting of April 19, 2023 was Adjourned at 8:06 PM.**

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**Ramiro Veliz, III, Board President**

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**Michelle Molina, Board Secretary**

*These meeting minutes were completed by Griselda Rodriguez, secretary and Submitted for approval at the May 2023, Regular Board Meeting.*

**United Independent School District  
UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Dr.  
Laredo, Texas 78045**

**Intruder Detection Audit Subcommittee Meeting  
May 5, 2023  
12:00 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Garza, Ruben Ayala

COMMITTEE PRESENT: (Sign-In Sheets Attached)

*Mr. Mike Garza addressed the subcommittee members present and stated they only had one item to disclose. He explained the reason for the subcommittee is that they need to present the information to the the subcommittee before they present to the Board of Trustees. He said the next Safety Committee Meeting will be held on August 1<sup>st</sup> and this item will be reviewed with them as well.*

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

*Mr. Ruben Ayala addressed the subcommittee members and explained the requirements of the subcommittee. He stated the sign in sheets will be used as the officall roll call for this meeting.*

**II. Call Roll - Subcommittee Members - Texas Education Code §37.109**

**III. Closed Session:** The Subcommittee will adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to Texas Education Code § 37.109 (d) and the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act: Texas Government Code §§ 551.076, 551.089 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits; Closed Meeting)

*The subcommittee members adjourned into closed session at 12:10 p.m.*

A. Discussion regarding Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings

**IV. Reconvened from Closed Session**

*The subcommittee members reconvned from closed session at 12:47 p.m.*

A. Possible Action regarding Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings

*Mr. Ruben Ayala asked for a motion to approve the recommendations for corrective actions to be submitted to the Board of Trustees and to the larger committee.*

*Mr. Jaime Garcia, legal counsel, stated for the record that no action was taken in closed session and the recommendation is to approve and submit the recommendations as discussed in closed session to the board and to the Intruder Audit Committee.*

*Ms. Mayra Ramirez made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Ms. Amanda K. Tienda and was unanimously approved.*

**V. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

*No public comments*

**VI. Announcements**

A. Summer Meeting Date - August 1, 2023

**VII. Adjournment**

*There being no further business, the Intruder Detection Audit Subcommittee Meeting of May 5, 2023 was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.*

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Mike Garza  
Associate Superintendent Administration Operation Services

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Ruben Ayala  
Safety & Crisis Response Manager

Approved: May 17, 2023

Minutes submitted by: *Alejandra Salinas*  
Secretary to Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Policies