No.		



United Independent School District AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Approval of Board Minutes for the Month of August 2021
SUBMITTED BY: Griselda Rodriguez OF: Secretary
APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:
DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: January 26, 2022
RECOMMENDATION:
It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve the Board Minutes for the Month of August 2021.
Special Called Meeting – August 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting – August 18, 2021 Emergency Meeting – August 23, 2021
RATIONALE:
BUDGETARY INFORMATION:
POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

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

August 10, 2021

In Attendance

David H. Gonzalez, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

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

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Wednesday, August 10, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM in the UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045.

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. Javier Montemayor, calls this meeting to order and establishes quorum at 6:36 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 duly 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. Discussion and Action to Freeze Employee Pay Scale Due to Loss of Enrollment and Budget Constraints

David Garcia: (After greeting the audience and board), the administration is recommending, for reason of finance, we are proposing that the teacher pay scale or base salary scale for the 2021 school year, to remain unchanged. What the administration has done through our director of compensation and other staff, we are proposing and recommending that we keep the salary to be unchanged. The changes that we made to the present is to adjust for the additional year of service. So, if you look a the individuals at year one, sorry ones with zero years of experience, they have a one year of experience

that is reflected on this present scale. The information listed on the left side of the screen (referring to the presentation), also pertains to additional stipends that we the district pays for our employees that reach those particular, or that are assigned to those areas. Or work in those specific areas. Compared to the state scale the minimum salary scale for employees as required by the state is \$33,660.00 and as we can see we pay \$50,200.00 and we pay in excess of \$15K by comparison to the state recommended minimum pay. So administration is making that recommendation for your review and consideration.

Aliza F. Oliveros: So, as stated it is due to a budgetary potential shortfall due to enrollment. Is there a possibility that, if we were to approve this this evening, that we would be able to come back this school year and readdress the situation and possibly give those step increases?

David Garcia: My understanding is the answer is correct.

David H. Gonzalez: Yes, yes there is.

Aliza F. Oliveros: Do you know more or less maybe in December?

David H. Gonzalez: First of all we are looking at a steady enrollment, and we will probably look into it in November to see where we are at. And then we can come back to review it. That is a possibility.

Aliza F. Oliveros: And if we did readdress the situation in November, we wouldn't know right. We would discuss going retroactive, or is that not on the table?

David H. Gonzalez: What we can do is..

Laida Benavides: What we would do, because remember, we are going to be talking about the budget. The budget is a working document and it is based on projections. What we would do again is like he said, we would watch attendance, enrollment and who knows maybe TEA would expand those 20 days to be 30 or 40 and that would help us a lot too. Especially if we have to be sending students home for remote conferencing. So give us a good six weeks of really looking at our attendance, our enrollment. We always would come back and revise our budget maybe recognize some additional revenue. And then, we would work with legal to see how we could adjust our salary scale to reflect any type of increase that the board would consider and so that you know we come through the board action budget-wise and then also compensation wise. I think that is our main uphill battle, but it is the student enrollment and attendance. But as you can see a week ago, TEA kind of gave a little bit. Before it was like, we are not going to give you any money if you send kids home because they are positive. And now they are going to allow us to count

attendance for those students if they meet those three requirements. So, it was really good news to tell you the truth.

Mike Garza: Just to show you, just as a rule of thumb, traditionally in a regular school year, we have our peak enrollment spike in October. So, by October we should know what our peak enrollment is for our District. And even last year when we had only remote instruction it was traditionally the same thing. In October we had our peak and at that time we are able to determine what that number is. So, somewhere in October we should have a good number.

Ricardo Molina: I have a question. You are going to freeze, but we are lacking like bus drivers and other people. You don't have a freeze on those, right?

David H. Gonzalez: No, not on employees sir. This is on the salaries.

Ricardo Molina: So, the funds are already allocated for those locations right. Bus drivers.

David H. Gonzalez: Yes sir.

Javier Montemayor: What happens, when let's say the 30-year employee or 25+year employee versus the first two/three year employee. What is the difference when you freeze there pay scale, what happens?

David Garcia: Their salary is constant. This way we do not do anything to hurt the employee in as much as we understand the concerns having to do with revenue, shortfalls. We will do whatever we need to do to be fiscally responsible and work within our means. I would wish and this is just a personal comment; that there would be an opportunity for our employees to be recognized for our efforts that have brought us to the pinnacle of what we are as a public school system, but at the same time we are making a responsible recommendation for the board to consider. Because it is on the elected body to consider the administrations recommendation at this time.

Francisco Castillo: What would happen if we do not approve a freeze. I still do not understand, if we are not sure what is ahead of us, why freeze.

David Garcia: What we are trying to do is be very conservative with regards to our dollars and cents to both the constituents of this organization but at the same time make a conservative recommendation in order to work within our means. The other is that we have flexibility that if the numbers do increase based on the monitoring that we do recruitment and everything else that deals with student attendance. Because that is a major revenue that with that with that we are able to....

Francisco Castillo: I have a problem listening to the word conservative, ok. And not because you are saying it but just in general. I do not think that the price of gasoline is conservative anymore, I do not think foods are conservative. They are doing there business as usual.

David Garcia: Correct.

Francisco Castillo: I want to know why we cannot do our business as usual.

Aliza F. Oliveros: And I agree, but I am looking at the salary, What an employee a teacher with 29 years of experience that would jump to 30 would lose. Potential loss in salary would be roughly 800 dollars.

Laida Benavides: Actually, the teachers frozen at that salary, in other words, if you had a potential increase of 800 dollars to the next step..

Javier Montemayor: How much are we saving in total by freezing?

Laida Benavides: It is not that we are saving, we are keeping the budget as it is and really it's what you are saving I guess is the part of not increasing wages.

Ricardo Rodriguez: So what you are trying to say is okay, if we were not to freeze it, if we continue the way we are going, there could be possibilities of reference to teachers right. And laying off because we are not going to meet and we do not need to do and wrong...

Laida Benavides: and student enrollment

Ricardo Rodriguez: and that is what we are trying to prevent

Laida Benavides: Yes

Ricardo Rodriguez: My question would be also, let us say we freeze, will there be retro pay after we unfreeze, if we bring it back.

David H. Gonzalez: Well the other option would be like a one-time payment to our employees like in November. If the budget looks like, the kids are showing to school, the revenue is coming in. One of the options could be like a one-time payment for our employees at that time, aside from the ESSER funds.

Sonya Garcia (attorney): To make sure it is a legal payment if that... Or like Mr. Gonzalez said, a one-time payment to makes sure we are in line with...

Javier Montemayor: But a one-time payment would not, and correct me if I am wrong but it would not go to your best three years (highest pay) for purposes of retirement. And I think that is a concern.

Aliza F. Oliveros: It is a concern but at the same time we gave them a stipend that will count towards TRS.

Patty Gonzalez: If I may, board members and members of the audience. The freeze is really what we are doing here is that our current teacher scale; let's say a teacher at step 2 is making 55K, that teacher will earn a year of service, go to step 3, but it so happens that salary will be the same. So, that teacher will not lose any money, we are just going to keep their salary the same. It will be constant. The other question I wanted to refer to is, the September payroll is the first payroll of the year for our teachers and that is why we need a teacher scale approved by the board of trustees so that we can move forward and process that payroll. So we do need to have that some type of scale approved. And then just to remind you all that we have that \$3500.00 we are going to pay out. Half of it will be October 4th, \$1750.00 will be paid to all employees full-time and the other half will be in January.

Ramiro Veliz: Let me point out that this is from the Federal Funds. So this is completely different, I know we are talking about budget of our funds. So, I know you guys are saying be conservative, that they will not lose. But I think I want the answer to a question Mr. Montemayor asked. What is the amount that we are not going to utilize or save if we went ahead and froze.

Aliza F. Oliveros: If we did not approve it what impact would that have to personnel. I think that..

Ramiro Veliz: What is the amount that we are talking about.

Javier Montemayor: How many employees to we have of 30 years that are not going to get their \$800.00 more, how many employees do we have at 25 years of service that are not going to jump up to the 26th.

David Garcia: I do not have that information readily available to answer your questions.

Javier Montemayor: How much are we going to save by freezing, and is it going to make a significant difference you know. Because our teachers are also going back to school and they are also going to be putting themselves on the line. That is just my question.

Ramiro Veliz: And I think we all understand that there will be real uncertainty the start of the year, enrollment. We understand that our main funding from the state comes based on

enrollment numbers and that in turn has a great impact on raises and stuff like this but this is something that year after year teachers obviously gain more experience jumping into the next year. They look forward to that small increase based on your years of service. So, when is the next general meeting Mr. Gonzalez.

David H. Gonzalez: Next week

Ramiro Veliz: So, I understand that you all have to have a pay scale. I do not have an issue Mr. Montemayor that we can approve a temporary freeze but that we have to come and bring it back let us say October or November and revisit.

Aliza F. Oliveros: And I agree, only because at the highest step from 29 years of service to 30 is about \$849/\$850 and when you look at that compared to the \$3500.00 that is going count towards the TRS, I feel okay with it. I do not like but I understand your predicament with the budget and certainly do not want people to lose their jobs. So, because of all the things that I mentioned I would feel okay with it but I do not think we have ever done, I have never done this before as a board member. And, I hope that when we come back in November, I think that we are all hopeful that we will be able to honor this scale.

Francisco Castillo: I also feel very much that, you know you have done your do diligence in letting us know what we are facing and I understand that. I also understand the teacher that kind of seeing this schedule in her teaching career and is looking at it and say "hey, how come I am not getting what you promised I would be getting". And so, that is where I am trying to be balanced. That is why I think we should not freeze.

Aliza F. Oliveros: Well, it would take that teacher to go four more years to make the \$3500.00. So, that is why I feel ok with it. It is going to be okay this year because we had the federal funds. If we did not have that, I would certainly vote against this. But because we have that and because it has helped very much, I am okay with it.

Ricardo Rodriguez: All in all, I think they will be getting their money back. So, so teachers do understand they are getting their money back and it is just temporary and I know it is hard. I mean, I think everybody deserves a raise. I mean we have been through this and it is hard, but unfortunately we are going through crisis right now that we cannot do it right now because we do not want to lay off people. And I think it sounds worse getting laid off that just to be conservative and hold off for a couple of months and then get your money back. So I think I rather go with this. So my motion is to vote for this.

Francisco Castillo: So, are we going to lay off teachers, is that what I am hearing.

Aliza F. Oliveros: No, potentially.

David Garcia: No sir. There is no presentation by the administration where we are declaring a financial accidency that we see at this time.

Javier Montemayor: So then, I have a motion by Mr. Veliz to...

Aliza Oliveros: I second

Javier Montemayor: To approve this temporarily through October with a second by Mr.

Rodriguez

Ramiro Veliz: Let me be specific Mr. President. My motion would be that we temporarily freeze the employee scale that directly impacts our teachers and our nurses and bring it back in the October Regular scheduled meeting on that specific day (which it should already be out). And we can already have the information as far as what is the exact amount that we are saving or that we are not utilizing.

Aliza F. Oliveros: Mrs. Benavides, I think that would be a question for you, Mrs. Benavides. In October, if you could just bring us the amount that this, that if we do approve to go retro what is the financial impact to the budget number-wise a dollar amount.

Javier Montemayor: We have a second by Mr. Rodriguez with the modifications that Mr. Veliz just made.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ramiro Veliz
Seconded By: Aliza Oliveros

All In Favor: Ramiro Veliz, Aliza Oliveros, Javier Montemayor, Ricardo

Rodriguez, Ricardo Molina

Against: Francisco Castillo

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSES

VI. Discussion and Action to Approve Modified Student Dress Code for Students in Grades 9-12th FNCA (LOCAL): Student Conduct Dress Code

Gloria Rendon: We are recognizing a student dress code in the FNCA (LOCAL) for students at the high school level. What we are hearing, is that it is very difficult (unless you shop online), to find

a merchandise or inventory in the stores in our community. We have given vouchers. Not very many. Normally we give about 1,200 vouchers throughout the course of our voucher drives. This year we have given out about 300-400 vouchers this school year. As much as we have tried to communicate with our parents with regards to that. Our vendors do have the uniforms. But the recommendation that we are making is only for students at the secondary level where we would put in a regulation which is a next item on there, that the only thing that changes is for students in grades 9th-12th. So the students we would have standardized dress uniforms for students in pre-kinder through 8th grades. And the exemptions then would be for students at the high school level.

Aliza Oliveros: Why are we not including all grade levels, I am confused.

Gloria Rendon: We had heard from a lot of individuals that they already purchased uniforms when inadvertently that flyer went out. We were flooded with calls, basically telling us if we were going to reimburse those individuals. And there are some inventory (a little bit more) you see them at Target, you see them at the Wal-marts, and then of course our vouchers that had been given out have been more for the elementary and middle schools students. And so, the issue that has kind of surfaced. We had been looking at that. And so, you have pros and cons. Individuals for and individuals against. And of course some saying that it is so much cheaper to do the uniforms when we mention that it may be an option for them to wear. They said "absolutely not, my child will not want to wear the uniform when her neighbor sitting next to her is going to wear the cute little outfit". And so, what do you want me to do after discussing with Mr. Gonzalez and administration, we went back and allowed it at the high school level.

Ricardo Molina: Mrs. Rendon I think, we are very concerned about the dress code. Modifying it, but I think the fear is what is happening not the dress code. They are going to be dressed I think the conflict is the instability of the health issue. What is happening, all the questions that they have in their heads, and everybody has it, the fear of their children getting sick.

Gloria Rendon: So when we start looking at the data sir, even though we did not have that many, but the majority of the students that came face-to-face, were your elementary students. The high school students did not show. And so, you want to have a welcoming type of environment. When you start asking some of those high school students, how could we welcome you into a school setting, some of those comments you know are, they want to be their own person, and dress appropriately. But we still put some parameters Mr. Molina in the regulation, if you scroll up (addressing the computer tech), about what can and cannot be worn. It is not necessarily a free for all either. You cannot wear spaghetti straps, you cannot wear halter tops, you cannot wear backless shirts, you cannot wear anything above 3" above the knee. So there go your mini-skirts, there go your shorts, you know so all of those still will have to be appropriate.

Aliza F. Oliveros: Appropriate. I for one I have never liked the dress code. I am not a proponent of the dress code. And only because when my children were in school, especially at the elementary level. I felt some employees were very focused on the dress code. To me, it is more

important that a child is at school learning and what they are wearing yes, as long as it is appropriate. They need to learn. And I think sometimes, employees were a little harsh on enforcing the dress code. I think we need to be a bit more lenient with it. And that is just my opinion. I wish we didn't have a dress code, there is too much emphasis on that. We need to be focused on education not on what people are wearing. And of course we do not want distractive, people dressing in a distractive manner but that being said. I am going to go ahead and agree with it but I wish it were for all grade levels.

Ricardo Molina: I think the dress code has been for the longest time. Would there be one year or what.

Gloria Rendon: We put for the 2021-2022 school year sir.

David H. Gonzalez: This school year sir.

Ricardo Molina: Personally, you know I have been here for a long time. The dress code, we never budge on anything on that because it makes everybody equal with uniforms and everything. If my father does not have the money to dress me the way the other kids in the school. So, it levels everybody to dress the same way. And that is why we did it for the longest time up to now.

Aliza F. Oliveros: Not necessarily because...

Ricardo Molina: It is not going to help.

Aliza F. Oliveros: Sometimes they were designer shirts, not everyone can afford the designer shirts. So there is no leveling field. And I have seen the high school students with the dress code and they are very creative. I like that they can be themselves.

David H. Gonzalez: Just for the record, right now with our vendors, I think the problem is that parents are having a hard time finding uniforms out for the high schools. Theyy are having a hard time finding the larger sizes but at the same time..

Javier Montemayor: It is a matter of size. You know you have a lot of middle school students who are big. Maybe a little more developed than the elementary kids and so what are we going to do about those?

Gloria Rendon: We gave a little flexibility sir, we have allowed and you will see it in the guidance, where we do allow. And it has been probably something that has not been necessarily called upon by a student. But we have allowed for the longest time leggings and jeggings for the students and so you see the individuals at the high school level wearing what we call the exercise pants, on with along the shirt or they wear the oversize hoodie. And although we say no oversized items you

know a hoodie usually falls a little lower than your waist area. And so, we are being a little bit flexible in that sense. For those individuals with regards to allowing that.

Ricardo Rodriguez: Can we optional for right now.

Gloria Rendon: Optional...

Ricardo Rodriguez: Optional for all grades.

Aliza F. Oliveros: I would be okay with that.

Ricardo Rodriguez: For right now. While all this plays out.

Francisco Castillo: Who is going to mention that. Or ask, you know. What do parents have as an option.

Aliza F. Oliveros: I mean if they already bought the uniform they can wear it. But if they have not then they do not have to.

Gloria Rendon: We fielded a lot of calls on Friday with regards to that. And so again, pros and cons. The majority of course was your timing.

Ramiro Veliz: I have gotten some parental feedback as far as well as three emails and calls and it is gone both ways.

Gloria Rendon: But it is the timing. It's the four days before school starts. And how, why did you not tell us when we already made these purchases.

Ramiro Veliz: In the end what I am saying is, this is one of the things that is coming up right at the end, or close to the start of the year for us, where it is something not as important as other matters but something that we would consider but, and I welcome the districts intent here. But, I do think that we should not differentiate and we should open it up for all grade levels. I think we give them the option. Let everybody know that it is this one year. Unlike you Mrs. Oliveros I do like the uniform code that we have. I do think that like Mr. Molina mentioned it does create a uniformity across all the students. I like that but I do feel that this past year was real difficult for a lot of parents. I thinks this is something that will be welcome. As an option, my recommendation would be to proceed with this but to open it to all grade levels.

Francisco Castillo: Is that a motion?

Javier Montemayor: So, the motion that I have on the floor is; to approve the modification of the student dress code for students in grades pre-kinder through 12th grade temporarily through the 2021-22 school year.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ramiro Veliz
Seconded By: Ricardo Molina

All In Favor:

Unanimous

Any Discussion:

No further discussion

MOTION PASSES

VII. First and Final Reading Revisions to EEH (LOCAL) Instructional Arrangements Homebound Instruction

NO ACTION TAKEN AT THIS TIME.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved By: Aliza Oliveros

Seconded By:

Ricardo Rodriguez

Any Discussion:

NONE

So Move

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business of the UISD Board of Trustees, this Special Called meeting of August 10, 2021 was adjourned at <u>7:04 PM.</u>

	Javier Montemayor, President	
Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary		

These Minutes were completed by Griselda Rodriguez, and submitted for approval by the UISD Board of Trustees at the January 2022 Regular Board Alceting.

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

August 18, 2021

In Attendance:

David H. Gonzalez, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees:

Javier Montemayor, Jr. - President – PRESENT

Aliza Flores-Oliveros, Vice President – PRESENT

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary – ABSENT

Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez, Member - PRESENT

Ricardo Molina, Sr., Member – PRESENT

Francisco "Frank" Castillo, Parliamentarian - PRESENT

Ramiro Veliz, III., Member - PRESENT

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM in the United ISD – Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043.

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.

- I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order
 - Mr. Javier Montemayor calls this meeting to order at 6:02 PM takes roll call.
- 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 the Board Members is present, that this meeting has been duly 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.

Rene De La Viña: Laredo United TSTA President, good evening honorable board members and superintendent Gonzalez. I have a message from your employee, school employees. From the custodians to administration to teachers everyone. They told me to ask you all, that you all have a policy that if one of our employees gets sick with covid, that tested positive that they would get paid the 10 days that it would take for them when they quarantine. So what they ask me to ask you is. If you would consider, that say Rene De La Viña/teacher and he has a son and a daughter in school and one of them picks up covid. And I have no body to take care of my child so, I have to go during that quarantine time those 10 days (or 15 days) whatever you have and take care of my son or daughter because they were tested positive with covid. Plus, they were sick. If you would consider maybe paying them those days while they are taking care of their children. I am talking about those that do not have any more sick leave bank, personal days, stuff like that. That if you could help them out with that they said they would really be grateful for that.

Because again you know, covid, no one is to blame. It happened and I can assure you that this is going to happen. What I am talking about, it is inevitable, it is just a matter of when.

On another issue, this is my own opinion. I know that some of our parents are not going to agree with this but, to the parents out there that are anti-mask, all I have to say to you all (and this is my own opinion). The day that your son or daughter gets sick because you did not want them to wear a mask to class and you see them in an ICU (intensive care unit), pediatric ICU which we do not have in Laredo, which means they are going to have to send them out of town somewhere else. And you see I do not mean to be so graphic but I will tell it the way it is. And you see tubes going down his throat or her throat because she cannot breath with extreme high fever. Remember what I am telling you. You are going to think about what I just said. You are going to wish you told your son or daughter to wear a mask. Thank you very much, God bless you.

End of Public Comments.

V. Recognitions

- A. United ISD Summer Graduation Class of 2021
 - United South High School
 - Lyndon B. Johnson High School
 - United High School
 - John B. Alexander High School
- VI. PUBLIC HEARING: The Board will take Public Comments Regarding 2021-2022
 Budget Proposed 2021 Tax Rate

The Public Hearing is added as an Emergency Item due to the Necessity to Address Covid related Budgetary Expenditures, which are Necessary for the Health and well-being of the employees and students.

A motion is made to Open the Public Hearing.

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Ricardo Molina, Francisco Castillo

Seconded By:

Francisco Castillo, Ricardo Molina

All In Favor: Unanimous

Any Discussion: NONE

MOTION PASSES

No Public Comments on PUBLIC HEARING.

Laida Benavides: Just to let the board know, that in tonight's item we have a balanced budget to or for you all's consideration to approve, and a Tax rate. We did publish a notice in the paper on August 8th so we are within the 10 day notice. We also feel that this budget does support our 52 campuses, 6,500 employees with health insurance with all the things we need to get through the school year. With keeping our staff and students safe. So, we feel that it is a budget that can sustain us for this year.

A motion is made to Close this PUBLIC HEARING.

Motion: So Move

Moved By: Ricardo Molina

Seconded By: Francisco "Frank" Castillo

All In Favor: Unanimous

Any Discussion: No further discussion

MOTION PASSES

Aliza F. Oliveros: I would like to make a motion; I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a Tax Rate of 1.177800, which is effectively a 0.75% increase in the tax rate.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros

Seconded By: Francisco "Frank" Castillo

All In Favor: Unanimous

Any Discussion: No Discussion / The Property Tax Rate Resolution is

read out loud

A motion is made to rescind the previous motion.

Aliza F. Oliveros: Motion to withdraw my motion,

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Aliza Oliveros

Seconded By:

Francisco Castillo

All In Favor:

Unanimous

Any Discussion:

NONE

MOTION PASSES (to withdraw)

VII. Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements
- B. Approval of Budget Amendments
- C. Submission of Appraisal Roll to the Governing Body
- D. Approval of Submission of the Certified Excess Debt Service Collected
- E. Approval for Award of Prosperity and Casualty Insurance Renewal
- F. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications
- G. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Design-Build Contract with Leyendecker Construction of Texas, Inc. for Ricardo Molina Middle School for Deletion of Project Allowance Providing for the Installation of a Fire-Protecting Storage Tank and Pump Station
- H. Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Design-Build Contract with Leyendecker Construction of Texas, Inc. for Ricardo Molina Middle School to Increase the Contract Guaranteed Maximum Price Amount for Landscaping Improvement, Including Improvements to the Football Field Playing Surface

Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez makes a motion to approve Items VII.A-H.

Motion: So Move

Moved By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Seconded By: Aliza Oliveros

All In Favor: Unanimous

Any Discussion: Francisco Castillo: Is there any pay raise for

employees?

Juan Cruz (legal counsel): There are two more items

before we get to that one.

MOTION PASSES

VIII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Donations

David H. Gonzalez: At this time we have several donations of \$1000.00 or more;

- A Donation was received by the fixed Assets Department (Mr. Hector Cavazos) for sanitizing wipes, from Kinds in Needs foundation a truck load of \$431K.
- Another donation received from Mr. Juan Cruz and Associates in the amount of \$1,000.00 which will go towards our Golf Tournament.
- A donation received by Sun Belt Air Conditioning in the amount of \$1,000.00 also going towards the Golf Tournament.

We also had 3 donations under \$1000.00 for a Grand Total this month of \$434,416.71 and we want to graciously thank these organizations.

Motion: So Move

Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez

Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Adopt Official Budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

Laida Benavides: As you can see on the screen (referring to her presentation), that we are bringing the three funds that we need adopted by fund and function level. In the General fund we are proposing \$406,598,697. Debt Service fund \$41,288,573. And for the Child Nutrition fund \$33,922,158. Those are the three funds that you need to adopt the whole budget for. Just to let you know that I have Mr. Garza here just to kind of give you a very brief update on our enrollment. Remember that was a key discussion with our budget. Where we were going to take a very...conservative approach as far as trying to make sure we meet our state attendance for the first three days of school.

Mike Garza: Good afternoon members of the board, Mr. Gonzalez. Just some preliminary information, as we have been presenting over the last several meetings, we have on record about 1,300 students that were pending to register. So, that was 1,300 away from our projected enrollment. Actually, a good trend for us heading into the school year. However, that is on paper. So, physically we as of today we are at -6401 students from that projected enrollment. So that is physical count of the individual students that have actually been attending as of today. That number on Monday was actually 9,200. But, we have actually added 3,000 students the past few days. Roughly about 1,000 per day. However, from Monday to Tuesday we added about 2,500. The last day we added about 1,000. We are probably going to be trending about 1,000 until the end of the week. And then we are going to hover somewhere around 3,000 students minus. And then we will see how it goes from next week on. We do get an up-kick right after the Labor Day holiday, that is traditionally what has happened in any regular year. And so we do anticipate some additional students arriving. Again, this is new to everybody, we are not the only district that this is happening to. This is state-wide. Specifically along the border communities that are having this issue. We are hoping for the best, but just to kind of give you a brief update. And I do, have some detailed information by grade, by feeder pattern, by cluster whether it is elementary, middle and high school. And I can provide that to you at a break.

Javier Montemayor: Mrs. Benavides, Mr. Garza, does your... I guess this up-kick, it is not 3,000 students typically it is usually four or five hundred.

Mike Garza: In a regular year sir, like pre-covid, we would probably start the year about 3,500 off (or low). Usually it's a 50% increase from day 1 to day 2 and then it

gradually decreases over time. That is why we normally tale our snapshot, what we report to the state in October. Because that is our peak enrollment.

Javier Montemayor: So this budget reflects at what....41,000?

Laida Benavides: Yes, it is at 41,318 projected enrollment. The number that Mr. Garza is comparing our deficit from. We did use the projected enrollment and we used a 94% attendance rate. Because we can bring the kids in, but it takes them coming in to school not just being enrolled but showing up for school. So, we thought we would use a conservative 94%. Again, something new to the whole state right. So we are going to be watching it carefully. We can get daily reports on attendance from the admissions office. So, it's just again we are being very cautious about you know how we are using our projections and how we are budgeting it.

Javier Montemayor: If things do not change, worst case scenario things do not change and we have a \$406.5 M what do you anticipate that budget to be if things stay the same. Like Mr. Garza mentioned you know, if we are off about 3,000 students. they are not showing up, 1,500 of them have not even pre-registered, or registered. maybe that is going to be about \$9M. So, you know we would look around, slow down expenses, we have done it in the past where we just kind of slowed down you know, maybe some positions, maybe some spending. Still support our students, if they have activities, and we just kind of through leadership we get together and say, okay what can we slow down. We can do those things. We have fund balance that we can go into for one-time things that we would need whether like Mr. Rangel would need to repair something big, those would be the actions that we would take. And then, at the same time, we would look at our ESSER funds and make sure we are being conservative with that because I do not know the state is kind of expecting us to use our ESSER funds if we are going to fall short. I mean that is a 3-year window right there so again, we just want to be careful maybe not to use too much extra funds. But seeing how much we can, we can derive from our own student attendance.

Mike Garza: I think Mr. Gonzalez can speak to this but, we are being proactive now. We are not waiting for the next year's budget. So, a lot of the positions are on hold, we are not hiring yet, even though when we started the budget process we added teachers right. So we have kind of put those on hold just to see where the numbers come in and some of these individual teachers that if the numbers are lower we are redirecting them for the remote conferencing. So, we are utilizing the staff members for other purposes that we need to be able to bring those kids in. So, eventually those kids will count towards our enrollment. And so, these numbers will come down hopefully with that as well.

Francisco Castillo: So today you are presenting the official budget effective when.

Laida Benavides: Our budget starts September 1st.

Francisco Castillo: For the next 12 months.

Laida Benavides: Yes, September 1 2021 though August 31st, 2022.

Francisco Castillo: And here you are telling us that you are projecting at 94% enrollment we had before

Laida Benavides: Attendance rate

Francisco Castillo: And you anticipate that those will be coming in and that way we can operate as a school district without any changes.

Laida Benavides: Yes, yes. If we meet enrollment which we are down right now, and if we can continue to bring the kids in for attendance. That is going to be key. It might cause you know right now we are not hearing anything from TEA that they will give us credit for closing classrooms. All they are offering right now is the 20 days of attendance that we can offer to a child to do remote conferencing.

David H. Gonzalez: And if I may, we are hoping to get better news tomorrow from the commissioner. We as we have been meeting with the commissioner on Thursday's. We are hoping by tomorrow we can get better news. It's really guidance from TEA at this time.

Francisco Castillo: I remember that last time and even before I had mentioned about any kind of pay raise that we could offer to the employees and you are thinking now is what you do not want to offer that or...

Laida Benavides: Right now, I think we are offering the one-time payment of \$3,500.00 for all full-time employees. With a full day's work of their contract. Right now there is no raises in this budget. What this budget is supporting to sustain our 52 campuses, keep the lights on, pay insurance, the student activities that happen throughout the year. There is no pay raise in here. I think we had a discussion in the last budget workshop that we would look at our numbers in the snapshot that Mr. Garza said. That will be the time that we really know if we hit our enrollment or if we even surpass our enrollment.

Francisco Castillo: So, let us say I am considering a pay raise now of 1, 2%, is that doable at all.

Laida Benavides: At this time we have a balanced budget with we think an enrollment that we are note there yet on (what's today) August 18th. I think that is why I think the discussion Mr. Castillo is we would revisit this right after the snapshot date which is last Friday in October. That would give us a good indication if we are even going to meet this revenue or surpass this revenue.

Francisco Castillo: Who will bring this back, you will or Gonzalez will bring it back in October.

David H. Gonzalez: We will bring it back on the table. As we discussed last week.

Laida Benavides: He said we would be sharing numbers with the board as we would get attendance numbers, enrollment numbers and try...

David H. Gonzalez: It's the time of the year when we peak statewide that is the snapshot date. The last Friday.

Francisco Castillo: That is fine. I am bringing it up because I want the public to know that basically my thinking is of course as I mentioned the last time, gasoline prices are up, groceries prices are up. Everything is going up and I think we need to do something to help our employees.

Mike Garza: I think another important note is that, we are not recommending at any point any layoffs. We are just redirecting staff to be able to do other services to make sure that we are bringing as many kids in even if it is remote even whatever they allow us to do we are just making sure that we are utilizing staff.

Francisco Castillo: I just want to make sure that you are aware and the public what I will never consider layoff.

Mike Garza: Yes, sir. We understand that sir.

David H. Gonzalez: And I want to fully commend Mrs. Laida Benavides your staff, Sam Flores, our Comptroller. You know in difficult times in the past, you have been guiding us, as a district provides us with the best information to move forward and they are going to continue to do that, thank you.

A motion is made to adopt the official Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Aliza Oliveros

Seconded By:

Ricardo Rodriguez

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Approval of Resolution to Adopt 2021 Tax Rate

Aliza F. Oliveros: I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a Tax Rate of 1.177800, which is effectively a 0.75% increase in the tax rate.

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Aliza Oliveros

Seconded By:

Javier Montemayor, Ricardo Rodriguez

Any Discussion:

The Resolution is read aloud.

Laida Benavides: The M &b) tax rate we are proposing for adoption 0.94536 cents. That is actually a decrease of .02104 from the year before. So are M & O tax rate is going down 9the one that says local maintenance fund). Our debt service, that tax rate is actually a proposed tax rate which is the same one from last year 0.232440, so the total tax rate that we are proposing is \$1.17780 which is actually a tax rate decreased of 0.02104 which is a little more than 2 cents decrease. And just doing a small calculation that is almost a \$3.8M that we are saving our taxpayers by this action.

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. Select Board Member(s) as Delegates and Alternative Delegates to Attend the TASB 2021 Delegating Assembly

Date of September 26.

Javier Montemayor: Tell you what I will make a motion after we reconvened from Closed Session.

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Javier Montemayor

Seconded By:

Aliza Oliveros

Any Discussion:

NONE

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

E. Approval of Board Minutes for the Month of May 2021

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Aliza Oliveros

Seconded By:

Francisco Castillo

Any Discussion:

NONE

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

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

The time is now <u>6:23 pm</u> and the Board will go into Closed Session.

- A. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting
 - 1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities

- 2. Discussion, Including Consultation with Legal Counsel, Regarding Approval of Resolution Authority District-Provided Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) for Vaccinated UISD Employees
- 3. Discussion, Including Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding UISD Board Policy DEA (LOCAL) and Matters Incident Thereto
- 4. Conduct Level Three Grievance Hearing of Rogelio Salazar
- 5. Discussion Regarding the Appointment of the Director to School Improvement Department
- 6. Discussion Regarding the Appointment of Director of Student Assessment
- 7. Discussion Regarding the Appointment of Executive Director to Special Education Department
- 8. Discussion Regarding the Appointment of Associate Superintendent for Student Support Services
- X. Reconvened from Closed Session, the Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in Closed Session.

Javier Montemayor: The time is now <u>7:05 PM</u> we are now reconvened from Closed Session.

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Resolution Authorizing District Provided Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) for Vaccinated UISD Employees

The recommendation is to approve the Resolution authorizing District Provided Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) for Vaccinated UISD Employees with religious and medical exceptions as authorized by law

Motion: So Move

Moved By: Aliza Oliveros

Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez

Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Action Regarding First and Final Reading of UISD Board Policy DEA (LOCAL)

The recommendation is to approve on the first and final reading of UISD Policy DEA (LOCAL) through December 2021

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Francisco Castillo

Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Action Regarding Level Three Grievance Hearing of Rogelio Salazar

(Item deffered for the following month). A motion is made to table item.

Motion: So Move

Moved By: Javier Montemayor Seconded By: Aliza Oliveros

Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

• For the record, Mr. Ramiro Veliz is present and has been since prior to Closed Session.

D. Action Regarding the Appointment of Director of School Improvement Department

David H. Gonzalez: At this time it is my recommendation for the director of School Improvement, Mr. Cleo Gamez

Motion: So Move

Moved By: Ricardo Rodriguez

Seconded By: Aliza Oliveros, Francisco Castillo, Ricardo Molina

Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

E. Action Regarding the Appointment of Director of Student Assessment

David H. Gonzalez: At this time it is the recommendation by administration, for the appointment of Director to Student Assessment, Laura Gonzalez Vasquez.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros

Seconded By: Francisco Castillo

Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

F. Action Regarding the Appointment of Executive Director to Special Education Department

David H. Gonzalez: At this time it is the recommendation by administration for the appointment of executive director for special education to be Laura De Los Santos.

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Ricardo Molina

Seconded By:

Francisco Castillo

Any Discussion:

NONE

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

G. Action Regarding the Appointment of Associate Superintendent of Student Support Services

David H. Gonzalez: At this time it is the recommendation by administration the appointment of Associate Superintendent of Support Services, Mr. Mike Garza

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Ricardo Molina

Seconded By:

Aliza Oliveros

Any Discussion:

NONE

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Item VIII. D - Select Board Member(s) as Delegates and Alternative Delegates to Attend the TASB 2021 Delegating Assembly

Javier Montemayor motions to keep Mr. Juan Roberto Ramirez and make Mr. Francisco Castillo the alternate delegate.

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Javier Montemayor

Seconded By:

Ricardo Rodriguez

Any Discussion:

NONE

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Mr. Molina: Congratulations everybody!

XI. Adjournment

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Ricardo Molina

Seconded By:

Ramiro Veliz, III

Any Discussion:

NONE

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business before the United ISD Board of Trustees, this Regular Board Meeting of August 18, 2021 was Adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Javier Montemayor, Board President

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Board Secretary

Minutes completed by Griselda Rodriguez, Secretary, Submitted for Board Approval at the January 2022 Regular Board Meeting. Emergency Meeting
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb

August 23, 2021

In Attendance

David H. Gonzalez, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Javier Montemayor, Jr., President - PRESENT

Aliza Flores- Oliveros, Vice President – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

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

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Francisco "Frank" Castillo, Parliamentarian – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Ramiro Veliz III, Member, - PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Ricardo Rodriguez, Member - PRESENT

An Emergency Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Monday, August 23, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM in the UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, Texas 78045.

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

Due to the ongoing health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 coronavirus, this meeting will be conducted by video conference or telephone calls as permitted by Governor Abbott's March 16, 2020, temporary suspension of certain open meetings requirements. At least a quorum will be participating by videoconference or telephone call in accordance with the provisions of Section 551.125 or 551.127 of the Texas Government Code that have not been suspended by the order of the governor.

Two way communication to the Board meeting can be accessed by clicking on the following zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/i/82814313292?pwd=QXZiZ2tqQnZQY05ndW8zYzZOVVJ1Zz09

Meeting ID: 828 1431 3292

Passcode: 073220

If you would like to view a live-stream of the meeting, please click on the following Youtube link: https://youtu.be/EPqB9Hhac24

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

- I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum
- 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 duly 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.
 - Mrs. Aliza F. Oliveros, calls this meeting to order and establishes quorum at 6:33 PM.

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.

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

This meeting goes into Closed Session at 6:35 PM.

- A. Discussion, Including Consultation with Legal Counsel, Regarding Authorizing Legal Counsel to File a Petition in Intervention in Cause No. 2021CVK001517D1, styled The City of Laredo v. Gregg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas, and Matters Incident Thereto
- 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 6:46 PM.

A. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the District's Legal Counsel to File a Petition in Intervention in Cause No. 2021CVK001517D1, styled the City of Laredo v. Greg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas

The recommendation is to authorize legal counsel to file a petition in intervention in Cause No. 2021CVK001517D1, styled the City of Laredo v. Greg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas

Motion:

So Move

Moved By:

Ricardo Molina

Seconded By:

Juan Roberto Ramirez

Any Discussion:

NONE

All In Favor:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

V. Adjournment

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

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business of the UISD Board of Trustees, this Emergency Meeting of August 23, 2021 is adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Javier Montemayor, President

These Minutes were completed by Griselda Rodriguez, and submitted for approval by the UISD Board of Trustees at the January 2022 Regular Board Meeting

Juan R. Ramirez, Secretary