

No. _____



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC Board Minutes

SUBMITTED BY: Karen Winch OF: Board Secretary

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: August 15, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees take action to approve Board Meeting minutes:

July 25, 2007 – Regular Board Meeting
August 2, 2007 – Special Called Meeting
August 2, 2007 – Board Workshop

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

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

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

Regular Meeting
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb

July 25, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Wednesday, July 25, 2007, in the United ISD –Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Pat Campos at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce – President - absent
Ricardo Molina – Vice President
Juan Molina – Secretary
Pat Campos – Parliamentarian
Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez – Member
William "Bill" Johnson – Member - absent
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Wednesday, July 25, 2007, beginning at 6:32 PM in the United ISD - Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Announcement by the Board President calling the meeting of the United Independent School District to order. 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.

Mr. Bruce pointed out the change in wording of the Texas pledge.

IV. Closed Session

The Board adjourned into closed session at 6:34 p.m. pursuant to the following sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

A. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney

B. 551.072 Discussing Purchase, Exchange, Lease or Value of Real Property Discussion/Action of Proposals for Sale and/or Acquisition of Real Estate

1. Report on status of negotiations and discussion of possible action pertaining to the purchase of approximately 46 acres in several tracts in the Cielito Lindo Subdivision and within the Cielito Lindo Master Plan in Webb County, Texas from Cielito Lindo, Ltd.

2. Report on status of negotiations and discussion of possible action pertaining to the purchase of approximately 10.62 acres in the D & J Alexander Subdivision in Webb County, from Alexander Residential Development Co., L.P.

3. Report on status of negotiations and discussion of possible action pertaining to the purchase of approximately 12 acres in the Lomas Del Sur Subdivision in Webb County, from A & W Real Estate 1, Ltd.

4. Report on and discussion of possible action pertaining to the United Independent School District exercising the Option to Purchase from Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd., the Charco 20 Acre Tract, the Quiote 12 Acre Tract, and the Shiloh 12 Acre Tract as identified on Exhibits "A," "B," and "C," attached hereto.

5. Report on and discussion of possible action pertaining to the request that the United Independent School District accept post development runoff from an approximate 2-acre tract of land southeast of and adjacent to Trautmann Middle School into the Trautmann Middle School Detention Pond.

6. Report on status of negotiations and discussion of possible action pertaining to the purchase of approximately 30 acres in the Cuatro Vientos Norte Subdivision from Cuatro Vientos Norte, Ltd.

C. 551.074 Discussion of Personnel or to Hear Complaints against Personnel

1. Internal Auditors Duties, Responsibilities and Evaluation

2. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities

3. Consider Appointment of Athletic Director

4. Consider Appointment of Principal for Matias De Llano Elementary

5. Consider Appointment of Principal for United Middle School

V. The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 9:09 p.m., and took appropriate action on items, as necessary, as discussed in Closed Session.

A. Appointment of Athletic Director

Mr. Santos advised the Board that his recommendation for Athletic Director was Roberto Cruz.

Motion: So move.
Moved by: R. Molina
Seconded by: Campos
Discussion: None
In Favor: Bruce, Campos, J. Molina, R. Molina
Opposed: Gonzalez, Ramirez

B. Appointment of Principal for Matias De Llano Elementary

Mr. Santos advised the Board that his recommendation for Principal of Matias De Llano Elementary was Maria Elva Campos.

In the place of President John Bruce, Mr. J. Molina called for the vote.

Motion: So move.
Moved by: Ramirez
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
Abstain: Ms. Campos and Mr. Bruce abstained and refrained from discussion in Closed Session and in the vote as Ms. Maria Elva Campos was the sister of Ms. Pat Campos, and relative of Mr. John Bruce.
In Favor: Gonzalez, J. Molina, R. Molina, Ramirez
Abstain: Bruce, Campos

C. Appointment of Principal for United Middle School

Mr. Santos advised the Board that the recommendation was David Canales as Principal for United Middle School.

Motion: So move.
Moved by: R. Molina
Seconded by: Campos
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

D. Discussion and Possible Action concerning executing an Earnest Money Contract(s) for several tracts totaling approximately 46 acres of land, in the Cielito Lindo Subdivision and within the Cielito Lindo Master Plan in Webb County, Texas from Cielito Lindo, Ltd.

Mr. Cruz, UISD General Counsel, advised the Board that the recommendation was to authorize district administration and any other necessary officials to execute an Earnest Money Contract(s) for several tracts totaling approximately 46 acres of land, in the Cielito Lindo Subdivision and within the Cielito Lindo Master Plan in Webb County, Texas from Cielito Lindo, Ltd. As discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: R. Molina
Seconded by: Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

E. Discussion and Possible Action concerning executing an Earnest Money Contract to purchase an approximate 10.62-acre tract of land, in the D & J Alexander Subdivision in Webb County, from Alexander Residential Development Co., L.P.

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that no action was necessary on this item.

F. Discussion and Possible Action concerning executing an Earnest Money Contract to purchase an approximate 12-acre tract of land, in the Lomas Del Sur Subdivision in Webb County, from A & W Real Estate 1, Ltd.

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation was to authorize district officials and any other necessary officials to executing an Earnest Money Contract to purchase an approximate 12-acre tract of land, in the Lomas Del Sur Subdivision in Webb County, from A & W Real Estate 1, Ltd. As discussed in Closed Session.

Motion: So move

Moved by: J. Molina
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

G. Discussion and Possible Action pertaining to the United Independent School District exercising the Options to Purchase from Killam Ranch Properties, Ltd. the Charco 20 Acre Tract, the Quiote 12 Acre Tract, and the Shiloh 12 Acre Tract as identified on Exhibits "A," "B," and "C" attached hereto.

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that no action was necessary on this item.

H. Discussion and Possible Action on request that the United Independent School District accept post development runoff from an approximate 2-acre tract of land southeast of and adjacent to Trautmann Middle School into the Trautmann Middle School Detention Pond.

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the recommendation to table this item.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Gonzalez
Seconded by: J. Molina

Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

I. Discussion and Possible Action pertaining to the purchase of approximately 30 acres in the Cuatro Vientos Norte Subdivision from Cuatro Vientos Norte, Ltd.

Mr. Cruz advised the Board that no action was necessary on this item.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Report on Completion of the Required Continuing Education Training for School Board Members

Mr. Cruz said this was the annual continuing education training report. He listed the training hours for each of the Board members:

Board Member	Hours
Bruce	8.5
Campos	13.25
Gonzalez	36
Johnson	16.5
J. Molina	17
R. Molina	39.5
Ramirez	42 (which completes his required hours)

VII. Consent Agenda Items

Gonzalez: I move to remove from consent agenda RFP 033-2007 to hold that for later.

Mr. Cruz said they would put it as an individual item – VII-d.

Mr. J. Molina advised the Board that last Tuesday the committee met and recommended approval of items A, B, C, E, F, G, and H.

A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements

B. Approval of Property Tax Refunds for the Month of June 2007

C. Submit Certified 2006 Excess Debt Collections and Estimated 2007 Debt Collections

D. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications (considered individually)

E. Renewal of District Property and Casualty Insurance

F. Renewal of the District Workers' Compensation Insurance Program

G. Award of District Student Extra-Curricular Insurance Contract

H. Board Travel for the Month of September and October, 2007

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

Mr. Bruce said they would now consider Item VII-d as an individual item.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Ramirez
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion:

Mr. Gonzalez wanted to remove item RFP 033-2007 from the list to discuss later. Mr. Ramirez amended his motion to accept awards, bids and qualifications without RFP-033-2007.

In Favor: Unanimous.

Mr. Cruz clarified that all items passed with the exception of this one RFP.

VIII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Board Minutes

- 1. Special Called Meeting - 6-12-07**
- 2. Public Hearing - 6-20-07**
- 3. Regular Board Meeting - 6-20-07**
- 4. Special Called Meeting - 6-26-07**

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Campos
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None

Abstain: Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez said he would like to abstain from 6/20/07.

In Favor: Bruce, Campos, J. Molina, R. Molina, Ramirez

B. Donations

Mr. Santos read the donations totaling \$2775.00. (Amount corrected later)

Motion: So move.

Moved by:
Seconded by:
Discussion:
In Favor:

C. Approval to Cast All UISD Trustee Votes in favor of Maria G. Leal as TASB Director for Region I, Position B

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Ramirez
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

D. Adoption of Resolution to Change Board Members Terms of Office, in accordance with Sections 11.081 and 11.059 of the Texas Education Code and in compliance with Texas AG Opinion GA-0535 and Adoption of changes to Board Policy BBB (local) with respect to Board members terms of office, in accordance with Sections 11.081 and 11.059 of the Texas Education Code and in compliance with Texas AG Opinion GA-535.

Mr. Cruz read the resolution into the record. He added that they were working with the Secretary of State's office to see if they would allow four members run in 2008 and three members run in 2010. As it was now, however, Mr. Cruz said we would have five Board members run next year and two members run in 2010. Mr. Cruz said he would come back to the Board after receiving the response.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Ramirez
Seconded by: R. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

E. Second Reading of Revised Policy DC (LOCAL): Employment Practices

Motion: So move

Moved by: Ramirez
Seconded by: Gonzalez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Bruce, Gonzalez, J. Molina, R. Molina
Opposed: Campos, Ramirez

F. First Reading of Instructional Policies and Review of Exhibits

Mr. Bruce advised the Board that these items required no action as they were First Reading.

- 1. EEJA (LOCAL) – Individualized Learning: Credit by Examination with Prior Instruction**
- 2. EEJC (LOCAL) – Individualized Learning: Correspondence Courses**
- 3. EFA (LOCAL) – Instructional Resources: Instructional Materials- Selection and Adoption**
- 4. EFA (EXHIBIT) - Instructional Resources: Instructional Materials- Selection and Adoption**
- 5. EFA (EXHIBIT - C) - Instructional Resources: Gifts/Donation Items**
- 6. EFB (LOCAL) - Instructional Resources: Library Media Programs**
- 7. EHBB (LOCAL) – Special Programs – Gifted and Talented Students**
- 8. EHBC (LOCAL) – Special Programs: Compensatory/Accelerated Services**
- 9. EHBD (LOCAL) – Special Programs: Federal Title I**
- 10. EHDD (LOCAL) – Extended Instructional Programs: College Course Work/Dual Credit**
- 11. EI (LOCAL) – Academic Achievement**
- 12. EIA (LOCAL) - Academic Achievement: Grading/Progress Reports to Parents**
- 13. EIC (LOCAL) - Academic Achievement: Class Ranking**

Mr. Santos advised the Board that there was a correction on the total amount of donations (Item VIII-8). The correct amount of \$6900.00.

G. First Reading of Revised Policy DEA (LOCAL) – Compensation

Mr. Bruce said they did table an item on the detention pond on Trautmann. He said it was inappropriate for them to vote while hearing comments. Mr. Bruce said they would address it at a different meeting. He said this was the second time this has happened. In addition, Mr. Bruce said they had discussed this with our attorney and would be moving Public Comments to the beginning of the meeting.

IX. Public Comments: Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Board Parliamentarian will be the timekeeper and will inform the speaker when they have one (1) remaining minute. No more than three (3) persons will be allowed to speak on any side of an issue. Should there be more than three (3) people who wish to speak on a particular issue they need to select not more than three (3) representatives to speak for them. Comments on policy or agenda items will be heard in open session. Complaints and

concerns against employees or regarding students shall be directed through the appropriate channels. The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether a person who wishes to address the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively. If not, the person shall be directed to the appropriate policy, as noted in BED (LOCAL), to seek resolution before bringing the matter to the Board at a subsequent meeting. 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 formal information.

Reme Salinas. Mr. Salinas introduced himself as being with the parks board. He said he was there to ask the Board to start a district-wide cooperation with the city such as tennis courts, basketball courts and fields that the city can use when the district isn't using them. Mr. Salinas said these facilities should be efficiently utilized. He added that when you come to the citizens, he thinks people would be more willing to pass the bonds if the people could spend more time in the schools and use the facilities they pay for.

Bruce – Mr. Salinas please take the time to visit with Mr. Santos to find what your needs are.

Mr. Salinas responded that it sounds like you are open minded about the issue.

Charlie San Miguel - Mr. San Miguel said he came to talk to the Board about the stone water detention. He said he represents a lot of homeowners who are at the bottom of the loop. He said their issues are not so much about the detention pond, but the water around the wall that is being dumped on. The speaker said the pond is designed to handle your run-off and not others. He said that as a good neighbor, they ask that the Board consider an expansion of the detention pond. He said they had been in contact with the developers on the two acres adjacent to the middle school. Thank you for your time.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the Regular Meeting of July 25, 2007 was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan Antonio Molina, Jr. - Secretary

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

August 2, 2007

A Special Called meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Thursday, August 2, 2007, in the United ISD –Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, TX 78045. The meeting was called to order by President John Bruce at 7:06 p.m.

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce – President
Ricardo Molina – Vice President
Juan Molina – Secretary
Pat Campos – Parliamentarian
Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez – Member
William "Bill" Johnson – Member- absent
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. The Board President called the meeting of the United Independent School District to order. The record showed that a quorum of Board Members was present, that the meeting was duly called at 7:06 p.m., and that a notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Action Items

A. Adopt Teacher Salary Schedule for the 2007-2008 School Year

Mr. Santos addressed the Board presenting the proposed teacher salary schedule beginning at \$41,000 with 32 plus years at \$58,545.

Mr. Bruce asked if they were leaving the priority stipends as they were the previous year. Mr. Santos said they would stay with the same group of stipends for both Priority I and Priority II campuses.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: Gonzalez

Seconded by: R. Molina

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous



United Independent School District Proposed Teacher Base Salary Schedule School Year 2007-2008

ADDITIONAL STIPEND PAY

Master's Degree	\$	1,000
Doctorate Degree	\$	1,000
Career Ladder II	\$	1,825
Career Ladder III	\$	3,650

CRITICAL SHORTAGE AREAS

Math (Secondary Level)	\$	2,000
Science (Secondary Level)	\$	2,000
Special Education:		
Self Contained	\$	4,000
Elem. Resource	\$	500
Secondary Res.	\$	700
Bilingual: (based on no. of students)		
Range from \$200 to \$1,000		
ESL (Secondary Level)	\$	800

PRIORITY STIPEND

Professional Assignment	\$	3,000
Campuses:		
Lyndon B. Johnson High		
S. Garcia Middle		
Lamar Bruni Vergara Middle		
Juarez-Lincoln Elementary		
Kennedy-Zapata Elementary		
U.D.D. Hachar Elementary		

PRIORITY II STIPEND

Professional Assignment	\$	2,000
Campuses:		
Los Obispos Middle	Centeno Elementary	
Perez Elementary	Prada Elementary	
Arndt Elementary	Roosevelt Elementary	

STEP	BASE SALARY - BACHELOR'S DEGREE
0	\$ 41,000
1	41,525
2	41,825
3	42,225
4	42,525
5	42,825
6	43,125
7	43,425
8	43,725
9	44,025
10	44,325
11	44,725
12	45,575
13	46,175
14	46,675
15	47,475
16	48,195
17	48,995
18	49,725
19	50,746
20	52,141
21	53,241
22	53,541
23	53,995
24	54,625
25	55,285
26	56,015
27	56,595
28	57,153
29	57,761
30	57,941
31	58,244
32+	\$ 58,545

This salary schedule applies to the 2007-2008 school year only. Future salaries cannot be predicted from this schedule. New salary schedules are developed each school year. Salary and stipends are based on a 187 day work schedule. Employees may be paid more

B. Consideration for Board of Trustees to Vote on the 2007 Proposed Tax Rate that will be published in the Notice for the Public Hearing

Ms. Laida Benavides advised the Board that they were recommending the Board approve the proposed tax rate for 2007 of a total proposed rate of \$1.1814869 to be published in the Laredo Morning Times on Sunday, August 12, 2007. Mr. Bruce asked how much lower the rate was from the previous year. Ms. Benavides responded that it was lower than the previous year by 23 cents on the M & O side and 3 cents on the debt side for a total of 26 cents lower.

Motion: So move.

Moved by: R. Molina
Seconded by: J. Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

C. Consideration for the Board of Trustees to decide on the Public Meeting Date, Time & Place to discuss the 2007-08 Budget and Proposed 2007 Tax Rate

Mr. Bruce read the statement that would be going out to the public regarding the Public Meeting to be held regarding the budget and proposed 2007 tax rate.

Motion: So move

Moved by: Ramirez
Seconded by: Gonzalez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

Mr. Santos made an announcement regarding the article in the *Laredo Morning Times*. The final report was received and all UISD schools had an Acceptable rating. He said we had one Exemplary and six Recognized and wanted to have a Recognized district the coming year. Mr. Santos pointed out to Mr. Molina that three of the Recognized schools were Arndt, D.D. Hachar, and Kennedy-Zapata Elementary. He thanked instructional staff and the teachers for what they had done. Mr. Santos said the instructional staff would present to the Board next Tuesday.

Mr. Ricardo Molina thanked all the principals. He said it has been an uphill struggle since 1996, and it shows that all the things like stipends and travel have helped them in the south. Mr. Santos said they had had 7 or 8 campuses that missed the higher rating by only one student. He said the benchmark is to be recognized district. Ms. Juarez said the standard was raised from 70% to 75% and even with the standard, we were almost a Recognized district.

Mr. J. Molina said we've just taken a big strike at erasing the line between north and south. Mr. Molina said it is education for all. Mr. Ramirez said he praised the kids for paying attention to the education given by the teachers. He said the students are getting well-prepared.

Mr. Santos thanked the Board for their support.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The United Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM, August 23, 2007 in Student Activity Complex at 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, Texas 78043. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.030009/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)				
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.154860/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)				
Approved by Local Voters					
<u>Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget</u>					
The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:					
Maintenance and operations			11.56% increase		
Debt service			8.41% increase		
Total expenditures			11.28% increase		
<u>Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value</u> (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)					
	Preceding Tax Year		Current Tax Year		
Total appraised value* of all property	\$8,605,242,528		\$9,335,052,903		
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$399,696,500		\$367,774,160		
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$7,513,969,827		\$8,145,702,871		
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$378,663,697		\$348,729,406		
* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.					
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.					
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.					
<u>Bonded Indebtedness</u>					
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$326,416,613					
* Outstanding principal.					
<u>Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates</u>					
	<u>Maintenance & Operations</u>	<u>Interest & Sinking Fund*</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local Revenue Per Student</u>	<u>State Revenue Per Student</u>
Last Year's Rate	\$1.263597	\$0.210758	* \$1.474355	\$3,188	\$4,255
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.986090	\$0.021273	* \$1.007363	\$2,581	\$5,198
Proposed Rate	\$1.030009	\$0.154860	* \$1.184869	\$2,602	\$5,179
* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.					
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					
<u>Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence</u>					
	<u>Last Year</u>			<u>This Year</u>	
Average Market Value of Residences	\$120,412			\$128,715	
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$86,318			\$93,505	
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.474355			\$1.184869	
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,272.63			\$1,107.91	
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes				\$(164.72)	
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.					
Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.185042. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.185042.					
<u>Fund Balances</u>					
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:					
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)		\$33,743,527			
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)		\$9,811,269			

V. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the Special Called Meeting of August 2, 2007 was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan Antonio Molina, Jr., Secretary

Budget Workshop
The State of Texas
United Independent School District
The County of Webb

August 2, 2007

A Budget Workshop of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Thursday, August 2, 2007, in the United ISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Drive, Laredo, TX 78045. The meeting was called to order by President John Bruce at 6:05 p.m.

In attendance

Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

John M. Bruce – President
Ricardo Molina – Vice President – arrived 6:15 p.m.
Juan Molina – Secretary – arrived 6:09 p.m.
Pat Campos – Parliamentarian
Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez – Member
William "Bill" Johnson – Member- absent
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Member

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. The Board President called the meeting of the United Independent School District to order. The record showed that a quorum of Board Members was present, that the meeting was duly called at 6:05 p.m., and that a notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

II. Board Workshop

A. Discussion of Proposed 2007-08 School Year Budget

Mr. Santos presented an overview of the main portions of the budget for the 2007-2008 school year. He said it is a balanced budget with an increase for teachers of \$2025, a 4% increase for professionals, and a 7% increase for paraprofessionals and hourly employees. The Superintendent said there was an additional \$5 million for land purchases and \$2.4 million for capital improvements and \$4.9 million for a one-time expenditure for buses, portable buildings, and equipment. Mr. Santos added that since the last time they met on the budget, the City had informed the District that the SRO grant had expired. Mr. Santos said we had included nine additional policemen in the budget.

Laida Benavides, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, then presented the budget details. She said the projected end-of-year undesignated General Fund Balance was \$35 million. In addition the projected end-of-year Debt Service Fund balance was \$9.8 million. Ms. Benavides

said this was a balanced budget. She said the proposed total tax rate of \$1.184869 with an M & O rate of \$1.030009 and an I & S rate of \$0.154860. Ms. Benavides said the budget includes raises for all staff and \$5.0 million for land purchases. She said payroll costs would be \$224.4 million which was 81% of the budget.

Mr. Bruce commented that as revenues come and expenditures come and the fund balance should go up also. He said 81% of total payroll costs were good as the year before they were 85%. Ms. Benavides said the projections were good as there were numerous new personnel positions being added including 116 classroom teachers.

Mr. R. Molina asked if we were going to pick up the contract for the School Resource Officers (SROs)? Mr. Santos responded that it would be almost \$350,000 for the SROs. He said they felt it would be more cost effective for the District to have their own. Mr. Bruce agreed because there would be a greater incentive for the SROs to take instruction from the campus principals. Mr. Santos also said that with the Laredo Police SROs, they are only hired for 178 school days, but ours would be hired for 187 days and at a lower rate.

Ms. Benavides listed the 45 non-campus positions. Mr. Gonzalez asked if we had added any computer techs. Mr. Zuniga responded that they had added a Network Administrator. Mr. Gonzalez said he had asked approximately two years ago that we add more staff and that we cannot fall behind in that area of technology. Mr. Zuniga responded that they were looking at the calendar the technicians have, also. Mr. Santos commented that they were expanding the number of days the techs would be working. Mr. Gonzalez said his concern was if a principal called and said their computers were down, would they be able to serve them.

Ms. Benavides said the proposed salary increase was a \$2,025 increase for teachers which would be \$425 from the state and \$1,600 local effort.

Mr. Bruce asked why we were adding more money to the new United High School. Mr. Santos said these were scheduled improvements that had already been approved by the Board.

Mr. Bruce asked how many portables we could get for the budgeted amount. Ms. Benavides said it would be around 10-12. Mr. J. Molina asked what the turnaround time was for delivery. Mr. Santos said the turnaround is usually a month and a half and that they are built on site.

Ms. Benavides then presented the TEA requirement from Section 44.002-006 of the Texas Education Code. She said the budget must be prepared by August 20, 2007 and the Board must adopt the budget by August 31st. She then presented the 2007-2008 budget calendar including a Public Hearing / Special Called meeting on August 23rd to adopt the budget and tax rate.

Mr. Santos described the responsibilities of the Compensation Committee. Mr. Gonzalez asked how many positions were reclassified by the committee. Mr. Santos said we've had a different group of employees who were adjusted like the bus drivers and clerks the previous year. Mr. Gonzalez then asked if there were any that were pending and going to be considered this year. Mr. Santos said we don't have any from the reclassification, but we do have a reorganization which includes six people. He said they will not receive any adjustments as they will just be moved up to the new pay grade. He said the Reclassification Committee suggested approximately 50 employees with 17 professionals and around 32 paras and hourly. Mr. Santos said it would cost around \$70,000 to reclassify them. Mr. Cruz commented that any raise or any adjustments would not be retroactive.

Mr. Bruce was looking at capital improvements and asked where they were with the Communications studio. Mr. Santos said part of it was with this year's budget and part with next

year's. He said the architects are looking at the improvements. Mr. Santos said we would tear down the warehouse east of the Human Resource building and build there. He said the building there is not a safe building, so it would be torn down for the new studio.

Mr. Bruce questioned the Technology budget on the MDF which Mr. Perez explained was the Main Distribution Frame. He said they were proposing a diesel generator to use while the repairs were taking place. Mr. Santos said they were also looking to do the same for Food Service in case the electricity goes out.

Mr. Gonzalez said his concern was that we contacted TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) to work with them and then we don't follow through. Mr. Santos said we look at the percentage of personnel costs and how it is going down. He said it was because we've been asking staff to do more without adding others.

Mr. Bruce commented that they were discussing regular special ed block grants. He said they were non-competitive grants. Ms. Benavides said this was actually state revenue, and they are block grant, as that is what the state refers to. She said in the other items, they listed the summary of Federal Programs for the coming year which represented \$24 million of which \$16 million or 67% was payroll.

Mr. Gonzales reiterated that he felt it was bad to bring TASB down to do a salary survey, and we need to give out the \$70,000 and bring up all those people recommended by the Reclassification Committee. Mr. Santos said that in January, all employees receive a notice asking if they feel they have been given additional duties. The employee completes the form and the committee reviews them. Mr. R. Molina said that when TASB came in they gave us some recommendations. Mr. Santos said they have allowed the employees themselves to submit their requests. He said as we grow, we're holding the line. Mr. Molina said no one is being left behind and hopes the District continues utilizing the reclassification process. Mr. Bruce asked that the original reclassification list be sent to the Board for their review.

Ms. Benavides commented that all they can use the debt service for is to pay down debt. She said they were proposing a 15 cent tax rate. Mr. Santos described it as a "super penny" in order to pay the debt and make up the difference.

Mr. Bruce asked if we were contributing to the JJAEP. Mr. Santos responded that they had talked to the Region Service Center and through WADA, they paid the Service Center \$3.8 million to cover our costs on the alternative placements. UISD and LISD negotiated funds out of WADA (Weighted Average Daily Attendance). The Regional Service Center gave the county \$2.3 million or more to run the program. UISD is not paying for it as that was all we were able to get out of WADA funds.

B. Discussion of Proposed 2007-08 District Goals

Mr. Santos presented the draft of the District goals to the Board. He said they wanted to make a change on Number 3 of the goals. Mr. Cruz said the Number 6 had to be added as there was a new statute requirement that electric energy be reduced. Mr. Cruz said it was a goal with no enforcement.

There were no questions on the District goals.

Ms. Campos asked that the additional reclassification information be sent to the Board.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Budget Workshop of August 2, 2007 was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

John M. Bruce, President

Juan Antonio Molina, Jr., Secretary