



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC:** Approval of Board Minutes for the Month of June and August 2017

**SUBMITTED BY:** Griselda Rodriguez **OF:** Board Secretary

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

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** September 20, 2017

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the USD Board of Trustees approve the Board Meeting Minutes for the Month of June 2017

1. Special Called Meeting - June 19, 2017
2. Public Hearing Meeting – August 16, 2017
3. Regular Board Meeting – August 16, 2017

**RATIONALE:**

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

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION:**

No Budget Impact

**POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:**

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



**SPECIAL CALLED  
MEETING**

**June 19, 2017**

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

**June 19, 2017**

**In Attendance**

**Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools**

**Board of Trustees**

**Judd Gilpin, President -PRESENT**

**Juan R. Ramirez, Vice-President-PRESENT**

**Aliza Flores- Oliveros, Secretary-PRESENT**

**Ricardo Molina Sr., Parliamentarian-PRESENT**

**Javier Montemayor Jr., Member-PRESENT**

**Ricardo Rodriguez, Member-PRESENT**

**Ramiro Veliz III, Member-PRESENT**

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

*Judd Gilpin-Good evening the time is **6:11pm** I call this Special Called Meeting of the UISD Board of Trustees to Order. It's June 19, 2017. We are meeting at the Student Activity Complex and I ask that Roll Call be called at this time (Mrs. Aliza Flores-Oliveros 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 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.***

**Judd Gilpin-** states that a quorum has been met.

***III. Action Items:***

***A. Discussion/Information: Related to the 2017-2018 Budget Workshop***

**Roberto J. Santos-Mr. Gilpin,** Members of the Board let me just share with you before Mrs. Benavides does the presentation on the Budget. Tonight we are bringing you a balanced budget, as we recall last year financially we were not in a very good situation, we had to put about 30 million and we had to reduce our budge by about 10 million 20

that we had to put in from our fund balance but tonight in this particular budget there are some things that I think are good for employees. Part of the recommendation that I have at this point, and again that at the end of the meeting the board will hopefully approve the recommendations, but my recommendation; Raises for our classroom teachers. We include \$2500.00 as a pay raise for our teachers. One of the things that I want to clarify I know we have several of the Teacher Unit group represent this year. Our governor has placed an item on the Special Called that he would want to give our employees a \$1000.00 pay raise but I'm not too sure if it's an unfunded mandate based on what I read; If it is an unfunded mandate and it forces the Districts to give \$1,000.00 dllrs. And out of the \$2,500.00 that's what we can afford. So the \$1,000.00 are included there. Now if the governor approves the teacher pay raise of \$1,000.00 and he sends us additional funds, then absolutely we want to give it to our teachers. I guess we wait until I think the session begins July... the middle part of July. The other 2 recommendations, my recommendation and it's included in the budget. Is a 4% raise to administrators from Mid Point, and also for the Para's and Auxiliaries a 4% raise from the Mid Point. Those recommendations are in the proposed Budget that Laida will share with you then of course you know we will take input from the Board and then we'll go from there.

**Laida Benavides**-Thank you Mr. Santos, good evening members of the Board like Mr. Santos said the budget I'm about to share with you looks very good compared to last year's budget and I'd like to thank everybody in this room especially Mr. Santos and the leaders of their departments and campuses out there that kind of went through this budget with us. I know we cut back on travel, we didn't have pay raises, I think everybody was real cognoscente of the budget, what they were spending and you will see in this presentation the result of the controlled measures in spending. Just to start off this is requirement for board members there's a section in the Texas Education Code that requires Board Members to Adopt a budget by August 31<sup>st</sup> of the start of the school year. 3 funds need to be adopted are the General Operating, the Debt Service and the Food Service fund and then the Board needs to adopt a Tax Rate to support this budget. The budget is to be prepared and presented to you by August 20<sup>th</sup> so this is the 1<sup>st</sup> step in doing so. The Calendar just to tell you we've been working on this since October, working on enrollment projections Mr. Garza's area facilities uses, our current revenue, expense situation, and then spent February and April doing staffing meetings, campus trainings, and then looking at what was going on since the beginning of January thru the whole legislative session and what was going on with all the Bills that were being presented and now June here we are budgets were due to finance and there in the system already we'll spend June and August doing budget workshops by mid-July we should receive our final tax values and then July 25<sup>th</sup> we should receive our Certified Tax Roll. In august we plan to do a public hearing possibly the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and adopt a budget that evening and then Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> this budget would go into effect. Just to update you with kind of the way I started, last year when we came to you the budget that we were presenting we had \$19 million dollars that were going into our fund on the General Fund, and in the Debt Service Fund we were going into fund down by 2

million that was because our State revenue was going down by \$9 million and our Tax revenue was going down by \$24 million due to the mineral value decline. But an updated number working with Mr. Flores and his staff, that \$19 million is now looking more like a little less than \$10 million dollars and that again is because of the saving and controlling expenses and maybe not hiring in places where it didn't affect students, holding off on vacancies and more so that the staff really took it to heart and were very cognoscente of their spending. We'll start our budget by talking about revenue, and so just to let you know we have local revenue most of which is property taxes we recognize and other fees state revenue and federal revenue that we get from Medicaid are in the Red cost from our grants and ROTC reimbursements. The story on values for this year is looking; back in October we met with the Appraisal District the outlook then was that the Gas & Oil production would be down however the Oil/Gas prices were up and had been stabilized; and then June 8<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting at Webb County Appraisal District and they gave us an update on all the values, the mineral values and of course you've been hearing the statements that went out to homeowners on the increase in their values. There are some appeals and those appeals will be heard through July 20<sup>th</sup>. We'll be listening to see what happens after June 30<sup>th</sup> because that is when the hearings for minerals are done. So we probably will see some increase in the mineral category. The other categories are going up also. We saw a presentation by Mr. Chavez from the City of Laredo building development department shows a lot of development around our District and LISD the Outlet stores Warehouses and other Residential /Commercial but a lot of that is yet still in our District so these are the increases that we will be seeing in our other categories.

The Session ended May 29<sup>th</sup>, more than a thousand education Bills were filed and only about 1 hundred actually passed. There is really no new money for school districts. They took away the Pre-K grant money that had actually been requested by the governor and at the end of the Session the Senators and the Representatives could not come to terms and so current law stayed in place we will use the current law with an Austin Yield that should provide some additional funding. So that's what we are basing this revenue on. The Key issue in revenue; we are calculating based on some preliminary values that increase by about 11% tax revenue of \$149, 939,916.00 with the eminal tax rate staying at \$1.04. There will not be a tax rate increase for the maintenance and operation tax rate. The state revenue we're projecting enrollment at around 43,475 students. That's a very conservative amount and then, the only increases that we're using from the Legislative Session again, is the Austin Yield increases \$299.41 and \$106.28 in the next year. So expenditure side again we budget for payroll, contracted services, supplies and materials, other costs, debt services and capital outlay and right now we are presenting a budget, a balanced budget of \$347.5 million dollars. The projected payroll cost \$1.6 million is part of this budget. The increase in compensation that Mr. Santos mentions before this presentation will cost us 11 million and the projected non-payroll cost of total of about \$45.9 million. Here is the breakdown of those proposed pay raises the teachers the \$2500.00 general pay increase with a starting salary of \$48,500.00 and then for administrators 4% that would cost \$1,780,236.00 and for the Para's and Auxiliary staff

4% of Mid-Point would cost 2, 601,996.00 for a total estimated cost of \$11, 002,432.00. Probably of this amount about 700K is federal funded. Employees like the Child Nutrition and some of our Title Grants so, but right now we have that figure in our budget. Health Insurance, we did present to you that our coverage has stayed the same Blue Cross Blue Shield and premiums have stayed the same for the employee. The preliminary budget we did add some positions we are opening 3 new campuses we are adding a principal, 5 counselors, 3 nurses, 3 librarians, 3 attendance officers and other campus staff as well. Some teachers, teacher aides, computer-lab aides, custodians, police officers, security guards. We also added minimal non-campus staff. We added a positive behavior facilitator, a speech pathologist, an occupational therapist, a data evaluator and a webmaster. And the net of all these positions that we added into the budget cost us \$1,364,582.00. On a non-payroll side allocations for campuses we always take from student enrollment in the special population's and their bilingual we went ahead and added \$5.00 per student. We will make sure we work with campuses to have them incorporate this \$5.00 dollars increase which was not included in the initial budget. Allocations to departments are for ongoing costs and then other expense our computer lease total is in there for \$3.8 million, the continuation of the initiative started funding Achieve 3000, E-parchment, and the online registration and then we're picking up the tab pretty much for the unfunded teacher retirement that increased from .55% to .75%. We are glad to see that they didn't charge the employees more for teacher retirement. On the non-payroll side you see a breakdown of where the money 45.9 million is going to, Campus budget is \$9.4, extracurricular \$3.8, the computer lease payment I mentioned, Department Budgets are 14 million, Debt payment of 3.5 million, Utilities 5 million, fuel a little less than 2 million, Capital Projects 250K, athletics uniforms 280K and just to mention that band uniforms we have a contract where they will have a rotating uniform replacement plan for the athletics so thanks to Mr. Vera and Mr. Cruz on that. Again the new program and continuing initiatives we're opening Freedom Elementary School off of Hwy 359, we're opening 2 new campuses UHS-9th grade and USHS-9<sup>th</sup> grade, the new nursing program at the Early College High School starts this coming year, the UCAN program I think 25 people are interested in the program and about 7 are already taking classes at TAMIU to start getting their certification. Interactive flat panels are being installed this summer at the elementary and middle schools that's from the bond program and now the Achieve 3000 for high school and middle schools that's going to continue and the I-station reading and I-station math for elementary schools and then continuing the On-line registration for parents, that has been very successful and the online transcripts that the students use to get their transcripts/order transcripts online. The Debt Service Fund, that's the other budget that you all need to pass come August. Right now when we sell the bonds of \$120 million in July, we're pricing them July 18<sup>th</sup> our debt payment will be close to \$35,158,000.00 we'll now then we'll have a specific amount by that time and so in August once we get our certified values we'll calculate the proposed tax rate and present that to you in August and we'll have a final debt payment for 17-18. For the best of the budget process again workshop for July and August we receive our certified tax roll on July 25<sup>th</sup>. We'll publish the tax roll by August 6. At that point we

would probably be able to bring to you an updated budget on August 8<sup>th</sup>, and that budget we would like you to consider for approval on August 16<sup>th</sup>, where we'll hold our Budget Hearing and Certify the tax Roll and Adopt the budget and the tax rate. That's it for my presentation I want to thank everybody in this room our staff, department heads, principals who again this was a process that started since last October so thank you all.

**Roberto J. Santos:** Any questions from the board?

**Judd Gilpin:** Yes, I just want to make sure that the legislation that is being contemplated.

This legislation of the \$1,000.00 is only applicable to teachers?

**Roberto J. Santos:** Yes,

**Judd Gilpin:** What's being recommended right now is that regardless of this?

**Roberto J. Santos:** Yes,

**Judd Gilpin:** And in the event that the legislation does pass as a funded (mandate) we would add it?

**Roberto J. Santos:** Yes, we would pass the additional \$1,000.00 dlls to our teachers.

**Judd Gilpin:** And if it were to pass without funding they would receive the \$2500.00?

**Roberto J. Santos:** \$2500.00 Yes sir. That would be the maximum that we could afford at this point in time.

**Javier Montemayor:** So if they do fund the mandate potentially it can become \$3500.00?

**Roberto J. Santos:** Yes, If it's a funded mandate from the governor then yes we will pass it on to the teachers that way it will be \$3500.00 but based on everything that we're reading, last article explained that what the governor was saying is that it was an unfunded mandate and that we have to find money in our budget, yet he's saying give a pay raise, but find those funds in your budget. That's really not a pay raise. The pay raise is really what we're recommending for our teachers now.

**Javier Montemayor:** Question Mrs. Benavides, do you believe that the financial health of the District will sustain 11 million dollars over the next 2 years with the revenues that you're looking at now?

**Laida Benavides:** Well that's why we want to be a little conservative on our mineral value category, and right now I can tell you that the revenue number that we have come up with we are using a conservative mineral value and so, yes we don't want to be in the same predicament as we were last year that all of the sudden they dropped and so once we have the final mineral value we'd like to come back to the board and tell you look this is what we had in total mineral value and even like that we know we can support these raises and maybe even put aside some just in case there is some type of drop again.

**Javier Montemayor:** I know that over the last 2 periods or 2 budget years or cycles we have removed about 10% each year for the past 2 years from our campuses about 20% total and that brings me to my next question, Are we making sure on this proposed budget that your bringing to the board, that these situations ...that the campuses are going to be okay? 1) and 2) that the student services are not going to be suffering, that we are not taking but actually putting more into our student services and to our campuses than we've had over the last 2 years? For the record I have no issue with giving raises, I just want to make sure that our campuses are taken care of and that our student services are a priority and the delivery of these service are there before we look at any other %'s of giving, awarding the employees. Is that being contemplated in your proposed budget?

**Laida Benavides:** Well we've included an additional 5\$ per student and then I think I need to say that in the Department's Budget, Elementary Ed, Middle School and High School actually have in their own budgets where they take care of software for their campuses so the campuses do not have to come up with some of the money. The other thing we do so the campuses do not have come up with money is that we pay for the computer leases and so if they want to get computers it's over and above what is given to them by the district so like this coming summer we are giving all Chrome Books to your 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms so that's money that the campus doesn't have to come up with money for the chrome books and other things that we're taking care of at a district end we put money on our budget for work books, and in fact this summer we got new copiers and we give them the money for their lease we code it their campuses but we give them the money for their leases.

**Javier Montemayor:** What about for money like for supplies are we keeping a close look on supplies I know that has been something that the teachers have somewhat complained about or because sometimes they say they have to go out and buy their own and that it's difficult to make copies and things like that or trainings for our teachers are we going to look into those types of things?

**Laida Benavides:** Yes, on the supply end they do get some additional grant money from Title I, we know one of their favorite thing to buy is paper we know it does get costly, The other thing as far as work books, we do give them funds for work books, I know we covered the work books again I think the paper really bites into their budgets and I do think that the cuts that we have given them probably cut their paper budgets. So we try to



give it at the district level through staff development again we tap into our Title money that really stresses a lot professional development and Mrs. Taboada's area kind of coordinates those trainings for the campuses but then again they could choose to use some of their funds for their own campus trainings.

**Javier Montemayor:** Like mandatory trainings versus enrichment type trainings

**Laida Benavides:** Right, right, and I know there's a whole summer of learning opportunities.

**Celia Taboada:** Good evening, my name is Celia Taboada I do take care of district professional development trainings we do offer trainings for our teachers like Mrs. Benavides mentioned we do get a funding at the District Level, aside from providing trainings for our campuses we also support our campuses with substitutes so the campuses do not have to use their allocations for that. We also provide teachers with Extra Duty Stipends our superintendent approves extra duty stipends whenever we pull out a teacher during Saturday's so we do offer that, during the summer we have Summer Learning Opportunities (SLO's) where teachers are provided with flex time and we also provide extra duty stipends for several trainings.

**Javier Montemayor:** Thank you. I just want to make sure that our budgets...that we're not sacrificing you know the training of our teachers we're not sacrificing the services that we are providing to our students or the campuses being that they've been cut you know it's not a matter of just getting used to it I want to make sure that our campuses and the delivery of our services and the training of our teachers whether it be enrichment or mandatory trainings continues and that our staff is actually being educated themselves and bringing new ideas and new types of trainings to their teachers and to the campus and to the students (educational ideas) and I have no doubt that Mrs. Taboada...I've seen what your department does but I know that our budgets have been slashed for the last years and so I want to see that we're going to be okay there before we approve any...

**Ramiro Veliz:** Let me interject there, I think what you are trying to have them answer is, "What was the direction that was given to the departments?" was it something similar to the past years when it was told to them.. "Our funds are limited we have to hold back on (e.g.) trainings, on supplies, on similar items that were costlier that at this time we could probably prevent spending. So what was the direction that was given this time around?"

**David Gonzalez:** We work closely with our campuses by looking at their needs assessments to see our data, all the decisions we base on data we look at the scores for our campuses. We address... (Mr. David Gonzalez continues to explain in an effort to prove the little impact the 20% reduction had if any).

**Aliza Flores-Oliveros:** I think..Well, during instructional committee I think it was mentioned that. When you were demonstrating to us the score from this past year it was evident that the cut in funding did not affect student success because we were seeing a lot of gains in education, But what I got out of your question (Mr. Montemayor) is how much of that 20% that had previously been cut from their budgets has been replenished with that \$5.00 per student?

**Javier Montemayor:** I know this is just preliminary budget so these are the kinds of questions that come to mind as I'm about to approve compensation packages, those are priorities for me certainly not only my district but across the district.

**Laida Benavides:** And again we will be getting our final values in July, if some of those values are not being put into some recurring costs like pay raises then we have more freedom to take care of other things. We also you since we're just so far from everywhere that really when people do want to go to trainings the travel part is the part that's costly and so I think we're trying to do webinars, send people that come back and train us, and not that they had done without but we've tried to but we haven't replenished them to where they were I guess is the bottom line.

**Aliza Flores-Oliveros:** Do you project that into the near future?

**Laida Benavides:** We are hoping to get back there,

**Aliza Flores-Oliveros:** Baby steps, baby steps, we're getting there. We're on the right path.

**Laida Benavides:** I mean we were ...Where does this 50% decline in our value come from? So, we saw this little by little we want to see these values grow again and we want to conserve some of it maybe on some things that don't get tied up with raises and maybe some non-payroll items that we can put back into the classroom. But I am going to tell you that we have put a very big effort into technology, the I.P's, document cameras, new copiers. I think we are going to start seeing, we are also investing in the campus administrators, we purchased them in 2009. So those are some of the things that we start putting in little by little so hopefully the campuses will get some kind of relief in that sense. Not necessarily like here's a new piece and it's student allocated but...

**Javier Montemayor:** Yes, not like here is your 20% back, I understand. I think the term is we're gonna hold the line and so with 11 million dollars went up and checked it and raises it's great. It doesn't seem like we're holding the line much. It seems we're now being able to flex our wings a little bit more and breathe a little bit more . Last question, I know that you took into consideration Freedom, the opening of these new campuses, it's a 2 year budget correct? You're looking at numbers for the next 2 years..

**Laida Benavides:** Especially with our legislative that I don't think are doing anything for us in the next year.

**Javier Montemayor:** Are you considering some of the newer campuses opening up other than Freedom?

**Laida Benavides:** We (Nodding her head), have actually looked at and we have a work sheet for 18-19 and we've included the personal that we are going to have to add opening new Middle Schools and another Elementary the following year.

**Roberto J. Santos:** And I think Mrs. Benavides forgot to mention also the Alexander 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Laida Benavides:** Yes, it's in this budget also. The LBJ-9<sup>th</sup> grade and then they open up their new campus but they already have their librarian, nurse, office staff that should be for that campus.

**Aliza Flores-Oliveros:** For the Pre-K programs are we absorbing that cost?

**Laida Benavides:** We are and unfortunately, the governor had very good intentions and they actually wanted our class sizes to be very small, but what we do put in our Pre-K classrooms even for our Local funds is the Teacher and a Teacher-Aide so those students always have 2 adults with them and so now that there are own classrooms we've been looking at our online registration and we look at numbers coming in, so we kept the full day at those campuses it was 4 of them it was Perez, Roosevelt, Centeno, and Veterans so they will continue to have full days without the governor's grant. We have included that in this budget but we may be visiting next year in case some increment or some...

**Aliza Flores-Oliveros:** That's right and that's where my antennas went off. Yes, but then we have always absorbed the cost in El Cenizo and Rio Bravo correct, Yes. Well I don't know how many hours you and your staff pulled in overtime and how much effort was put in by all of the educational staff and the administrators but I want to commend everybody that did a very good job well done.

**Roberto J. Santos:** Any other questions on budget? None

**Judd Gilpin:** Alright, that takes us to item 3-B.

***B. Action re: Approval of Employment Compensation Increases for the 2017-2018 School/Work Year***

Mr. Gilpin moves in support of staff recommendation of pay increase as presented in the Budget Workshop.

**Motion:** So move

**Moved by:** Judd Gilpin  
**Seconded by:** Javier Montemayor  
**Discussion:** None  
**All In Favor:** Javier Montemayor, Aliza Flores-Oliveros and Judd Gilpin

**Opposed:** Ramiro Veliz, Ricardo Rodriguez, Juan R. Ramirez and Ricardo Molina

#### **MOTION OPPOSED**

#### **IV. Adjournment**

**Meeting is adjourned at 6:47 pm at which time Mr. Juan R. Ramirez requests a moment of silence for the late husband of Mrs. Gloria Rendon.**

#### **Motion So Moved**

**Moved by:** Javier Montemayor  
**Seconded by:** Ricardo Molina  
**Discussion:** None  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

#### **MOTON PASSES**

**There being no further business this meeting is adjourned at 6:47 pm this 19<sup>th</sup> day of the month of June 2017.**

**Minutes complete by Griselda Rodriguez, Superintendent's Secretary.**

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**Judd Gilpin, Board President**

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**Aliza Flores Oliveros, Board Secretary**



**PUBLIC HEARING  
MEETING**

**AUGUST 16, 2017**

**Public Hearing Meeting  
The State of Texas  
United Independent School District  
The County of Webb**

**August 16, 2017**

**In Attendance:**

**Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools**

**Board of Trustees:**

**Ricardo Molina, Member - PRESENT**

**Juan R. Ramirez, Vice-President - PRESENT**

**Ricardo Rodriguez, Member - PRESENT**

***A Public Hearing to Discuss 2017-2018 Budget and Proposed 2017 Tax Rate of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Wednesday, August 16, 2017, beginning at 6:02 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***

***Roll Call taken by Rick Rodriguez.***

***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. Public Comments regarding 2017-2018 Budget and Proposed 2017 Tax Rate: 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 Public Comments**

**Mrs. Laida Benavides** addresses the board: Just a couple of words about our budget Mr. Ramirez and thank you for letting me have the floor. Just to let you know that we did publish a notice about this meeting at the Laredo Morning Times 10 days ago that this budget that will be presenting to you tonight will be considered in the Regular Board Meeting and that the Tax Rate is a part of the regular agenda as well so there will be discussion at that time on both items.

**Juan R. Ramirez:** Any Comment, No Public Comments?

**Roberto J. Santos:** No, No comments.

**Juan R. Ramirez:** thank you very much Mrs. Benavides.

***IV. Adjournment***

Mr. Rick Rodriguez makes motion to adjourn at 6:05 PM.

**Motion So Move**

**Moved by: Juan R. Ramirez**

**Second by: Ricardo Molina**

**All in Favor: Unanimous**

**MOTION PASSES**

**There being no further business, the Board Adjourned at 6:05 pm this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 2017.**

**Minutes completed by Griselda Rodriguez, Secretary to Superintendent.**



**Approved on this 20th day of September 2017.**

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**Judd Gilpin, Board President**

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**Aliza Flores-Oliveros, Board Secretary**



**REGULAR BOARD  
MEETING**

**AUGUST 16, 2017**

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

**August 16, 2017**

**In Attendance:**

**Roberto J. Santos, Superintendent of Schools**

**Board of Trustees:**

**Ramiro Veliz, Member - ABSENT**

**Ricardo Rodriguez - PRESENT**

**Juan R. Ramirez, Vice President - PRESENT**

**Judd Gilpin, President - PRESENT**

**Ricardo Molina, Parliamentarian - PRESENT**

**Aliza Flores-Oliveros, Secretary - PRESENT**

**Javier Montemayor, Member - PRESENT**

***A Regular of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held Wednesday, August 16, 2017, beginning at 6:24 PM in the United ISD - Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043.***

- I. *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.***
  
- II. *Pledge of Allegiance***
  - A. *Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.***
  
- III. *Board Announcements***

**Ricardo Molina:** I just want to welcome everybody back all those teams I know you are dying to come back and the parents also, I wish them the best year ever and thank you for being here today.

**Juan R. Ramirez:** As I'm talking, I concur with Mr. Molina and welcome back everybody and welcome back another school year this is going to be fabulous because so far so good, some schools were being named 5 stars not just because of my area but like George Washington has many plaques, 10 plaques that are put up in the front for everyone to see. To show how good the teachers are not just Washington, all the school district of United we have great teachers and I congratulate them and everyone who supports them in this area. "Que no se acabe United". Thank you.

**Ricardo Molina:** That's true I agree with Mr. Ramirez I was in the South, that's my area and if you want to see plaques go to Juarez-Lincoln and Kennedy-Zapata in the south, they have a wall full of the recognitions. All across the district we have good schools and great schools everywhere and I want to thank Mr. Santos and the educators and like I said, I can't thank you enough especially parents for sending the kids and sticking with them I know it's not easy. So thank you to all the top of the class, second to none.

#### **IV. *Recognitions***

##### **A. Middle School Duke Scholars**

#### **V. *Superintendent's Report***

**No Report at this time.**

#### **VI. *Public Comments:***

***Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The speaker will be informed when he or she has one (1) minute remaining. No more than three (3) persons will be allowed to speak on any side of an issue, nor shall the time per subject exceed ten minutes. Delegations of more than three (3) persons shall appoint one person to present their views to the Board. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against Board members, 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 reported.

**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 Property Tax Refunds for the Month of July 2017**
- E. Approval of Revised Resolution in Support of Governor's Criminal Justice Division "Rifle-Resistant Body Armor for United ISD Police" Grant Application**
- F. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications**
- G. Approval of Rescission of Award to Indeco Sales under RFP 008-2017 Furniture and Equipment for two (2) 9th Grade Campuses and one (1) Elementary Campus during the April 19, 2017 Board Meeting**
- H. Approval of Requests from Board Members in re: Use of Board of Trustees Discretionary Funds for Various Projects/Campuses**
- I. Approval of United ISD Appraisal Calendar for 2017-2018 School Year**
- J. Approval of Appraisers for the 2017-2018 School Year**
- K. Approval of Contract Renewals for Achieve 3000 Programs**
- L. Approval of Agreement Between United Independent School District and Serving Children and Adults in Need (SCAN), Inc.**

- M. Approval of Agreement Between United Independent School District and Webb County Juvenile Department**
- N. Approval of Agreement Between United Independent School District, Laredo Independent School District, and Webb County Juvenile Department**
- O. Approval of Agreement Between United Independent School District, Webb Consolidated Independent School District, and Webb County Juvenile Department**
- P. Approval of Agreement Between United Independent School District, Zapata County Independent School District, and Webb County Juvenile Department**
- Q. First and Final Reading of CPC (LOCAL): Office Management and Records**
- R. First and Final Reading of CQA (LOCAL): Technology Resources District, Campus and Classroom**
- S. First and Final Reading of CQA (REGULATION): Technology Resources District, Campus and Classroom**
- T. First and Final Reading of FNG (LOCAL): Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances**
- U. Approval of Optional Flexible School Day Program for 2017-2018 to continue the implementation of the PASS (Positive Approach to Student Success) Program at Lyndon B. Johnson High School**

**Ricardo Rodriguez:** the Business and Instruction Committees met this month I make motion to approve items A thru U.

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved by:** Ricardo Rodriguez  
**Second by:** Ricardo Molina  
**Discussion:** Mr. Eddie Zuñiga,

There is one more request. The request is from Alexander High School, principal is Ernesto Sandoval we want the balance of Mr. Judd Gilpin's account to be allocated to Principal's account in order to cover the costs of opening up their Current 9th grade and other facilities at the main campus later on this fiscal year.

**Ricardo Rodriguez:** My motion would be to approve A thru U and adding Mr. Zuñigas request.

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved by:** Ricardo Rodriguez  
**Seconded by:** Ricardo Molina  
**Discussion:** None  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

**VIII. *Items for Individual Consideration***

**A. Adopt Official Budget for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year**

**Laida Benavides** - Good evening we bring to you our official budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, we are bringing you a balanced budget which is very different from last year. The balance from our General Fund is \$350,596,744.00 dollars, Debt Service Fund is \$34,852,138.00 and the Child Nutrition Fund is \$26,564,550.00 We earlier had a Public Hearing where we did publish in the Laredo Morning Times the notice of the Public Hearing as required by law. We feel this budget does support our full staff and needed resources for the coming school year, it will support for our 46 campuses to educate over 43,000 students to be expected to show up next Monday, it includes the compensations that were approved by the board earlier in July and we do appreciate that I know the staff has really appreciated that. This budget is supported by a tax rate that is in the next item; but we are pleased that we are bringing to you a balanced budget this year.

I'd like to just take 1 minute to thank my staff. They were very instrumental in getting these big numbers in here from the comptroller's office, we have a budget section we have Mrs. Salazar, Mr. Santos (Ramiro), and then from the Payroll big area, if you all could just stand up.

**Juan R. Ramirez** - Could you stand up please.

**Laida Benavides** - Thank you guys.

**Judd Gilpin** - Okay do we have a motion?

**Ricardo Rodriguez** - I make a motion to adopt the Budget

**Motion:** So Move

**Moved By:** Ricardo Rodriguez  
**Seconded By:** Ricardo Molina  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

**B. Resolution to Adopt 2017 Tax Rate**

**Judd Gilpin** - Is there a motion regarding the resolution to adopt the 2017 Tax Rate?

**Juan R. Ramirez** - I move that the property Tax Rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$1.270313, which is effectively a 13.59% increase in the Tax Rate.

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Juan R. Ramirez  
**Seconded By:** Ricardo Molina  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

Monica Madrigal reads the resolution (Please See Resolution Attached).

**C. Approval of Donations**

**Roberto J. Santos** - Mr. Gilpin, members of the board it is recommended that the board graciously accept the following donations and they will be attached to the minutes. We have 2 donations of over a thousand dollars: The Communications Department received a donation of \$2,250.00 from Juan Cruz & Associates to be used for the purchase of "We are United" T-shirt's for the new teachers. Also, the communications Department received a donation of \$1,000.00 from Cavazos Architect for the Golf Tournament. There are 2 other donations for a Grand Total of \$4,250.00 that we graciously accept, and I want to thank these supporters/ businesses for their support to the people of United ISD.

**Judd Gilpin** - Okay Do we have a motion?



**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Ricardo Rodriguez  
**Seconded By:** Ricardo Molina  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

**D. Approval of Board Minutes for the Month of July 2017**

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Juan R. Ramirez  
**Seconded By:** Ricardo Rodriguez  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

**E. Election of Board Officers**

**Judd Gilpin** makes motion to recommend a slate of officers; I would like to nominate Ricardo Molina as Parliamentarian, Mrs. Oliveros as secretary, Javier Montemayor as Vice President, and Mr. Juan Roberto Ramirez as President. Any further nominations?

**Ricardo Rodriguez** - Makes a motion to accept the candidates as nominated

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Ricardo Rodriguez  
**Seconded By:** Aliza Flores-Oliveros  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

The Board Congratulate the new UISD Board President and Vice President.

**F. PUBLIC HEARING: The Board will take public comments regarding the**

**Optional Flexible School Day Program the 2017-2018 school year to implement the PASS (Positive Approach to Student Success) at Lyndon B. Johnson High School**

**Judd Gilpin** - Next item to open a Public Hearing

**Gloria S. Rendon** - First of all let me start by thanking you Mr. Gilpin for serving as Our Board President for the last few years, thank you for all of your leadership leading the district. In addition to that I want to congratulate the new Board President and Vice-President Mr. Montemayor and all the officers, again thank you.

Juan R. Ramirez - Addresses the board and public in general to express how grateful and humble they all are, how appreciative he is and how he will do his best as a leader.

A motion is made to Open the Public Hearing.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>So Move</b>
<b>Moved By:</b>	<b>Aliza Flores-Oliveros</b>
<b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Javier Montemayor</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>All In Favor:</b>	<b>Unanimous</b>

**MOTION PASSES**

**Judd Gilpin** - Our Public Hearing is now Open; Do we have any Public Comments?

No Public Comments

**Gloria Rendon** - I know you already took action in the Consent Agenda Items but just to give a bit of background with regards to Optional Flexible School Day Program to continue this implementation at LBJ High School. To focus on some of the data from past years from 2016-2017 school year. We had a total of 41 students who participated in the program and out of the 41, 27 completed the program. Eleven I am happy to say met graduation requirements so their seniors the others were under classmen and those were a total of 27 students. Fourteen unfortunately were not able to complete the program but we will continue to monitor and to track those particular students. I would also like to note that LBJ had an increase in their attendance rate. They went from an 88% to a 91.03% that's 3 percentage point increase in attendance so the administration at the campus the teacher Ms. Martha Diaz I have to give her a lot of credit. She motivates the students who are involved in this program including the LBJ administrators and staff members there and

she works 1 to 1 with these particular individual students. The program will continue there at LBJ High School we do have a Block A-8:00 am to 12:00 o'clock and then the second block 12:30 to 4:30 pm it's an 8 hour program. The students are dependently working with the assistance of the teacher and Odysseyware it's a computer based curriculum program and we target those particular group of students who are at risk of dropping out or who will not meet graduation requirements because of attendance. We have already made the approval I just wanted to share a bit of the background of this program and thank you again for supporting this initiative at LBJ High School.

Motion is made to close the Public Hearing.

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Javier Montemayor  
**Seconded By:** Juan R. Ramirez  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

#### **G. PUBLIC HEARING (SB 1474): 8th Grade Social Studies Exploros Program**

**David Canales** - Thank you Mr. Gilpin, Mr. Santos and the community members at large. According to SB 1474 we are required anytime we are going to bring in new curriculum we have to have a Public Open Meeting where they can comment if the resources and the curriculum we are going to bring will be suitable. We did that last year we did a pilot with our 8th grade social studies students and teachers and overwhelmingly they all felt that this was a very good program to help us bring our scores up in social studies and so now we are requesting that it be open for public comments.

A motion to Open the Public Hearing is made.

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Aliza Flores-Oliveros  
**Seconded By:** Ricardo Molina  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

Public Hearing is now Open

Public Comments: NONE

A motion is made to close the Public Hearing.

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Javier Montemayor  
**Seconded By:** Aliza Flores-Oliveros  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

#### **H. Approval of 8th Grade Social Studies Exploros Subscription Purchase**

A motion is made to approve the purchase of 8th Grade Social Studies Subscription

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Aliza Flores-Oliveros  
**Seconded By:** Ricardo Molina  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

Before going into Closed session Mr. javier Montemayor requests special permission to listen to a concerned group of people that were late but would like to address the board.

Motion is made to bring back public comments.

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Aliza Flores-Oliveros  
**Seconded By:** Juan R. Ramirez  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

**Javier Montemayor - You have 3 minutes and you must understand that the board can not legally respond.**

**Veronica Cantu** - Good afternoon, my name is Veronica Cantu and I am one of the parents. My kids that attend Salinas Elementary and we have some concerns regarding what's going on right now with the mold or not mold that was found and that was in the news 2 weeks ago. I guess our main issue is that we want to know exactly what was found. I know that there have been some engineers going out to clean what was found but we want to know what chemicals were found and the cleaning supplies that were used are they harmful to the kids because their starting school on Monday, and is it safe for the staff? For the teachers that are going to be housed in? Is it safe for them to be breathing because here with me are some of the teachers from school and some have not been allowed to go into their classrooms to arrange their desks and chairs and I know that they went in there and some of the odor that was there was very strong and some of them have allergy issues. How safe is the air quality? And if the students and staff have allergies to mold and respiratory issues how safe are they in that school?

**Erika Velez** - I am a teacher in that school in the wing that was affected. I'm allergic to mold and I want to know answers as to what was found like Ms. Cantu mentioned.

**Angelica Gonzalez** - I am actually a special education teacher there at Salinas elementary And I'm speaking as an educator, and as a parent of a kinder student in one of those Classrooms. As a teacher of students with disabilities, multiple disabilities that will not be able to tell me what their feeling when they're in there. I myself went in there for a minute at the most 2 minutes and after that 3 hours and a half my throat was burning, itching and I felt something was bothering me. I did go to my go to my doctor because I am expecting. I am still carrying this baby for 2 months and a half and I need to know. I need to feel safe that my child is going to develop properly. The brain is still developing, the body the lungs And I need to know. I did go in August 1st to set up and since then things have happened and since then I haven't been allowed to go in. I did go in when they e-mailed us to go in and that's when I noticed that everything was rearranged and changed and that's when I had the smell of the chemicals and I'd like to know. My kids are gonna get affected, my daughter, myself, my future child and I feel we need to have something in writing as far as what was found? What chemicals were used? And if we're safe now and in the future?

**Juan Cruz** - Legally the board cannot respond by the government code, but you have administration here that as we direct into closed session I am sure will approach you and discuss your concerns.

**Roberto J. Santos** - We will get Mr. Rangel and his staff to visit, with you and staff at Salinas tomorrow and will share with you information. Thank you.

**IX. *Closed Session: Board will adjourn into closed session pursuant to the following sections***

*of the Texas Open Meetings Act*

Javier Montemayor makes motion to move into closed session.

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Javier Montemayor  
**Seconded By:** Juan R. Ramirez  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

**Judd Gilpin** - Okay we will go into Closed Session and will be back in about an hour.

- A.** *551.071 Consultation with Attorney; Closed Meeting*  
*551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting*

- 1. Conduct Superintendent's Evaluation and Discuss Modification of Employment Contract*

- B.** *551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting*

- 1. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept a Donation of Approximately Forty-Five Acres of Land by "Special Warranty Deed of Gift" from the Mandel and Alexander Families of Laredo, said acreage situated in Porcion 8, Abstract 40, Blas Maria Diaz Original Grantee, and being out of a called 481.1132 acre Tract, as recorded in Volume 3715, Pages 366-369, Webb County Official Records, Webb County, Texas, and any matters incident thereto.*

- C.** *551.071 TGC Consultation with Legal Counsel Re: New Laws Affecting School Districts From 85th Legislative Session*

**Judd Gilpin** - The time is now 7:54 p.m. we are reconvened from Closed Session. We will begin with item 10-A.

- X.** *Reconvened from Closed Session, the Board will take appropriate action on items, if*

*necessary, as discussed in Closed Session*

**A. Action Regarding Superintendent's Evaluation and Modification of Employment Contract**

**Juan Cruz - Recommendation is to approve the Superintendent's annual evaluation and modify the employment contract and to extend the Mr. Santos's employment through June 30th 2020 and other terms as presented in closed session**

**Motion: So Move**  
**Moved By: Javier Montemayor**  
**Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez**  
**Discussion: NONE**  
**All In Favor: Unanimous**

**MOTION PASSES**

**Roberto J. Santos - Mr. Santos addresses the board to thank them for their support and to acknowledge the staff for the leadership and guidance they provide to the district. To campus administrators, teachers and staff and thanks the board for confidence that he and his staff is bestowed with.**

**B. Action to Accept a Donation of Approximately Forty-Five Acres of Land by "Special Warranty Deed of Gift" from the Mandel and Alexander Families of Laredo, said acreage situated in Porcion 8, Abstract 40, Blas Maria Diaz Original Grantee, and being out of a called 481.1132 acre Tract, as recorded in Volume 3715, Pages 366-369, Webb County Official Records, Webb County, Texas, and any matters incident thereto.**

**Juan Cruz - The recommendation is to Accept a Donation of Approximately Forty-Five Acres of Land by "Special Warranty Deed of Gift" from the Mandel and Alexander Families of Laredo, said acreage situated in Porcion 8, Abstract 40, Blas Maria Diaz Original Grantee, and being out of a called 481.1132 acre Tract, as recorded in Volume 3715, Pages 366-369, Webb County Official records, Webb County, Texas as presented in Closed Session**

**Motion: So Move**  
**Moved By: Juan R. Ramirez**

**Seconded By:** Aliza Flores-Oliveros  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

**XI. *Adjournment***

**There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Board Meeting of August 16, 2017 was adjourned at 7:56 pm.**

**Motion:** So Move  
**Moved By:** Juan R. Ramirez  
**Seconded By:** Aliza Flores-Oliveros  
**Discussion:** NONE  
**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**MOTION PASSES**

**Minutes created by Griselda Rodriguez, Superintendent's secretary, and approved this 20th day of September 2017.**

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**Judd Gilpin, President**

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**Aliza Flores-Oliveros, Secretary**



NO: \_\_\_\_\_



# United Independent School District

## AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Resolution to adopt 2017 Tax Rate

SUBMITTED BY: Monica Madrigal, RTA

OF: Tax Office

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

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: \_\_\_\_\_

August 16, 2017

### RECOMMENDATION:

The United Independent School District Board of Trustees may choose to adopt the 2017 Tax Rate by adopting the attached resolution

### RATIONALE:

As required and stipulated in the Texas Property Tax Code and Texas School Law Bulletin

### BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

N/A

### BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 26.05, Sec. 26.06

RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE

A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE LEVYING ANNUAL AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE YEAR 2017 SETTING SPECIFIC TAX RATES, APPLICABLE TO ALL REAL, PERSONAL AND MIXED PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, SETTING DUE DATE AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON DELINQUENT TAXES.

Be it RESOLVED/ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of United Independent School District of Laredo, Webb County, Texas:

1. That an ad valorem tax rate of \$1.270313 per \$100.00 cash valuation and assessment ratio of 100% market value, as said values are fixed by the Appraisal Review Board, and the same is hereby levied for the year 2017 on all property and mixed property located and situated within the confines and boundaries of United Independent School District as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, as set out below.
2. That the above specified ad valorem tax rate for the year 2017 be adopted on \$100.00 cash valuation and assessment ratio of 100% market value as follows:
  - A. \$ 1.040000 rate for local maintenance fund.
  - B. \$ 0.230313 rate for debt service, bonded indebtedness, interest and sinking fund.
  - C. \$ 1.270313 Total tax rate.

THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR  
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S RATE.

3. Any person failing to pay their taxes on or before February 1, 2017 shall be subject to the minimum penalties and collection costs thereon allowed by law to be collected on delinquent taxes. All delinquent taxes shall bear interest at the highest per annum interest and shall bear interest from the date of delinquency until paid.

The Tax Assessor-Collector is hereby authorized to assess and collect the taxes for United Independent School District.

Passed and approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 2017.

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Mr. Judd Gilpin  
President of the Board of Trustees

Attest:

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Ms. Aliza Flores Oliveros  
Secretary