



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Discussion and possible action to approve board minutes for the month of January 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Alejandra Salinas **OF:** Secretary

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: February 15, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees discuss and take possible action to approve board minutes for the month of January 2023.

Regular Board Meeting – January 25, 2023

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

Regular Board Meeting
January 25, 2023
6:00 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT: David H. Gonzalez

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT: Stephen Trautmann

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to Order.

Mr. Ramiro Veliz, III called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Mr. Veliz said a few words regarding our late board member Mr. Ricardo Molina who passed away recently. He stated Mr. Molina was one of our longest serving board members. He was very well known in the district and community and he set a great example for his fellow board members. Mr. Veliz offered his condolences to the Molina family.

Mr. Francisco Castillo also echoed Mr. Veliz’ sentiments and expressed his condolences to the family of Mr. Molina. He stated that Mr. Molina shared a lot of history and a lot of background with him. He remembers Mr. Molina as a good man and as a person who cared very much for our students, staff, teachers, counselors and administration. Mr. Castillo said Mr. Molina will be greatly missed by all and he hopes to carry on some of his legacy.

Ms. Aliza Oliveros also offered her condolences to the Molina family. She said one of the things she remembers about Mr. Molina is the hour-long conversations they had and she would tell him he was the best one-liner person she had ever known and he always had something to say and would say it in one little sentence that was so powerful. She described Mr. Molina as very witty and it was a gift that only he had and as a board member

he was an example that they need to emulate as far as his commitment and love for United Independent School District.

Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez stated that Mr. Molina will be greatly missed and asked for a well deserved round of applause for Mr. Molina.

Ms. Michelle Molina expressed her gratitude to everyone and stated Mr. Molina was very passionate about United ISD and he lived and breathed United every day. She added that Mr. Molina would start his day by making phone calls to the board members, or the district because there was always something that he wanted to improve for the teachers and for the students and overall for the district. Ms. Molina said UISD was his family and his home.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Recognitions:

Mr. David Gonzalez stated that January is Board Member Appreciation Month and introduced Ms. Melissa Peña, a representative from Congressman Henry Cuellar's office who was here to recognize the board members.

The board members were presented with a Congressional Certificate from the U.S. Congress in recognition of board appreciation month.

Superintendent Gonzalez also presented the board with some gifts of appreciation for their commitment and unconditional support they continue to provide to all students, teachers, administration and staff at United Independent School District. He expressed his appreciation for the immeasurable time and dedication that the board of trustees continuously invest in student academics and the relentless advocacy for the well being and safety of our students, faculty and staff. He added that the guidance and support that they have provided the district through the years does not go unnoticed. He thanked them on behalf of the 41,000 students at UISD, teachers, administrators, staff members and parents, for the exemplary leadership and extraordinary service in helping our students succeed.

A. AP SCHOLARS - ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL

B. 2023 TMEA ALL-STATE MUSICIANS

C. LYNDON B. JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL

1. BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY - DISTRICT 30-6A CHAMPIONS / REGIONAL QUALIFIER

D. ALEXANDER HIGH SCHOOL

1. TENNIS TEAM-DISTRICT 30-6A CHAMPIONS/REGIONAL SEMI-FINALIST
SWEET 16

2. BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY - DISTRICT 30-6A CHAMPIONS / REGIONAL QUALIFIER

3. GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY - DISTRICT 30-6A CHAMPIONS / REGIONAL QUALIFIER

E. UNITED HIGH SCHOOL

1. FOOTBALL TEAM - DISTRICT 30-6A CHAMPIONS

2. VOLLEYBALL TEAM - DISTRICT 30-6A CHAMPIONS / REGIONAL SEMI FINALIST

3. GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY - TEAM REGIONAL QUALIFIER

4. BOYS CROSS COUNTRY - INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

5. TENNIS TEAM - REGIONAL SEMI-FINALS / SWEET 16

V. Public Comments:

No Public Comments

VI. Informational Items:

A. Superintendent's Report

Mr. David Gonzalez announced that next week, he and some members of the Management and Cabinet Team would be attending the TASA Mid-Winter Conference in Austin. He added that this is a conference where other superintendents across the state of Texas and top management staff receive staff development annual training in different areas. He also informed the board of the meeting with Richard Raymond, Tracy King, Senator Zaffirini and other senators regarding bills that will be affecting our district and other districts in the state.

Mr. Gonzalez also gave an update on covid cases in the district stating that for the week ending January 13th we had 45 positive cases and asked everyone to be vigilant and as safe as we can.

B. Presentation from City Official regarding District and City Collaboration

Mayor Victor Treviño thanked the board for having him tonight and recognized the district for their incredible efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Treviño extended an invitation to work together in meeting the challenges that we have in our community. He informed the board that during the pandemic our community was greatly devastated and had the most covid infections per capita in the entire nation but we banded together to become one of the most vaccinated communities in the country. He commented that united we are stronger and for that reason he wants to continue the collaboration. He read the recognition from the mayor and city council: "Recognizing United Independent

School District and their employees for their collaboration and assistance to the community during the Covid-19 pandemic.”

VII. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements
- B. Approval of Property Tax Refunds for the Month of December 2022
- C. Approval of Low Attendance Waiver
- D. Approval of Independent Audit Report for the Year Ended August 31, 2022
- E. Adopt Resolution of Early Notification of Employee Separation from Employment Incentive to full-time district employees for the 2022-2023 school year
- F. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications
- G. Approval of CSP (Competitive Sealed Proposals) as the Method of Procurement for Various Building Renovations at Ruiz Elementary School
- H. Approval of CSP (Competitive Sealed Proposals) as the Method of Procurement for Science Lab Renovations at United South Middle School
- I. First Reading of TASB Update 120 (Local Policies)
- J. Discussion and possible action to approve the retirement of United Independent School District Police K-9 "EDA" and to authorize transfer of ownership of K-9 "EDA" to Penny Longoria
- K. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Master Interlocal Agreement between Region One ESC and United ISD
- L. First and Final Reading of Board Policy BE (Local) - Board Meetings
- M. First and Final Reading of Board Policy BDB (Local) - Board Internal Organization: Internal Committees
- N. First and Final Reading of Board Policy BED (Local) - Public Participation
- O. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of UISD Board Operating Procedures

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

Ms. Aliza Oliveros opened discussion asking if there was an item that they wanted to bring out. Mr. Stephen Trautman responded that he had spoken to Mr. Montemayor and he was ok with it as a consent item.

Motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Donations

Mr. David Gonzalez read the donations into the minutes for a grand total of \$30,459.00.

A motion was made by Ricardo Rodriguez to approve the donations as presented. Motion was seconded by Aliza F. Oliveros and was unanimously approved.

B. Approval of board minutes for the months of November 2022 and December 2022

A motion was made by Aliza F. Oliveros to approve the board minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Ricardo Rodriguez and was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of requests from board members in re: Use of Board of Trustees discretionary funds for various projects/campuses

Mr. Mike Garza stated that there were no discretionary funds requests at the committee meetings but did receive some during the week. He presented the following requests:

- *Guidance and Counseling Department on behalf of board member Frank Castillo for \$2,000.00 for Counselor's Week incentives*
- *Alexander High School on behalf of Ms. Oliveros and Mr. Castillo for \$2,500.00 each for a total of \$5,000 for funding of the dancers national competition*
- *Freedom Elementary on behalf of Mr. Castillo, Ms. Oliveros, Mr. Veliz and Ms. Molina for a total of \$5,440.00 (\$1,360.00 each board member) for field trip expenses*
- *Freedom Elementary on behalf of Mr. Veliz, Mr. Castillo, Miss Molina for a total of \$1,600.00 (\$400.00 each board member) to cover field trip expenses for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders*

A motion was made by Aliza F. Oliveros to approve the requests for discretionary funds and seconded by Michelle Molina. Motion was unanimously approved.

IX. Closed Session

The board adjourned into Closed Session at 7:00 p.m.

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

1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities
2. Discussion including consultation with legal counsel, regarding amendment to Mini-Billboard Marketing Agreement between Impacto Media, Inc. and United Independent School District, and matters incident thereto
3. Consultation with legal counsel regarding Board policy DEC (Local) - Compensation and Benefits: Leaves and Absences

4. Consultation with legal counsel regarding Board policy DGA (Local) - Employee Rights and Privileges: Freedom of Association

B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Attorney; Closed Meeting

TGC 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting

1. Legal consultation and report on Potential Holdings, LLC regarding a possible agreement pertaining to Santa Claudia Street and Santa Monica Street, pursuant to which access from Santa Claudia Street would be prohibited and access through Santa Monica Street would be facilitated to property owned by Potential Holdings, LLC located adjacent to the United Independent School District Student Activity Center on Highway 359. The agreement would resolve all pending issues.
2. Legal consultation and report on the status of the execution of the proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement regarding the acquisition of a tract of land of approximately 10.77 acres out of a 53.40-acre tract of land, which itself is out of a tract of land, described in the deed recorded in Volume 1089, Pages 586-587, Deed Records, Webb County, Texas. The tract is situated in Porcion 28, E. Martinez, Abstract 241, Webb County, Texas, such property being in the vicinity of the intersection of Saunders Blvd. and Loop 20 in Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The acreage is owned by L91 BC Properties, LLC.

C. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Attorney; Closed Meeting

TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting

1. Discussion regarding Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument and matters incident thereto
2. Discussion with legal counsel regarding the District 1 Trustee vacancy, including a potential appointment or special election, District 1 boundary issues, and matters incident thereto
3. Discussion regarding the Appointment of Executive Director of Federal & State Programs

X. Reconvened from Closed Session

The board reconvened from Closed Session at 8:09 p.m.

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding amendment to Mini-Billboard Marketing Agreement between Impacto Media, Inc. and United Independent School District

Stephen Trautmann stated his recommendation is to authorize legal counsel to reject the amendment to the Mini-Billboard Marketing Agreement between Impacto Media, Inc. and United Independent School District as discussed in Closed Session.

A motion to approve the recommendation from legal counsel was made by Michelle Molina and seconded by Francisco Castillo. Motion was unanimously approved.

B. Possible action with respect to the possible agreement resolving all issues with Potential Holdings, LLC including issues pertaining to prohibiting access through Santa Claudia Street, and facilitating access through Santa Monica Street, to real property owned by Potential Holdings, LLC located adjacent to the United Independent School District Student Activity Center on Highway 359. The agreement would resolve all issues with Potential Holdings, LLC

Stephen Trautmann stated his recommendation is to have a motion for no action.

A motion to approve the recommendation from legal counsel was made by Aliza F. Oliveros and seconded by Francisco Castillo. Motion was unanimously approved.

C. Possible action with respect to the possible execution by UISD of the Purchase and Sale Agreement previously executed by L91 BC Properties, LLC pertaining to the acreage owned by L91 BC Properties, LLC

Mr. Kenny Valls, Attorney, stated his recommendation is to curtail the negotiations with respect to this particular purchase.

A motion to approve Mr. Valls' recommendation was made by Aliza F. Oliveros and seconded by Francisco Castillo. Motion was unanimously approved.

D. Discussion and possible action to approve Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument

Stephen Trautmann stated his recommendation is to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument as discussed in Closed Session.

A motion to approve the recommendation from legal counsel was made by Aliza F. Oliveros and seconded by Francisco Castillo. Motion was unanimously approved.

E. First and final reading of Board policy DEC (Local) - Compensation and Benefits: Leaves and Absences

Stephen Trautmann stated his recommendation is to approve DEC (Local) as discussed in Closed Session.

A motion to approve the recommendation from legal counsel was made by Aliza Oliveros and seconded by Francisco Castillo. Motion was unanimously approved.

F. First and final reading of Board Policy DGA (Local) - Employee Rights and Privileges: Freedom of Association

Stephen Trautmann stated his recommendation is a motion to table.

A motion to approve the recommendation from legal counsel was made by Aliza F. Oliveros and seconded by Michelle Molina. Motion was unanimously approved.

G. Discussion and possible action regarding redistricting of District 1 and District 4 boundaries due to 2020 census

Jaime Garcia, Attorney, stated they discussed some of the legal matters related to the redistricting and boundaries in executive session however, the proposed maps were in the boardbook for all the public to see and his recommendation is that the map revisions be approved.

Ms. Aliza Oliveros made a motion to approve Mr. Jaime Garcia's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Francisco Castillo and was unanimously approved.

H. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of an Order of Special Election for the District 1 Trustee Election on May 6, 2023

Aliza Oliveros made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Francisco Castillo.

Michelle Molina opened discussion and stated that Mr. Molina's wish was not to spend any more tax payers money. She added that Mr. Molina did state publicly and put his support behind someone he was mentoring and who has his best interest for the community and children of the district. Ms. Molina proceeded to make a motion and follow through with Mr. Molina's wishes which is to appoint Mr. Gilbert Aguilar.

Aliza Oliveros asked if that was a sub-motion.

Stephen Trautmann explained that we are on one item right now which is strictly related to the election and Ms. Molina's motion can be made with item I.

Ramiro Veliz, III stated this would be taken as discussion and clarified that the motion right now is to table the item.

Aliza Oliveros opened discussion and explained the reason why she made a motion to table this item. She stated this is a very important and critical item which involves the placement of an additional board member who is part of the governing body of United Independent School District. She said this item requires a full board and they cannot do this with one board member missing.

Aliza Oliveros and Francisco Castillo voted in favor to table this item. Ramiro Veliz, Michelle Molina and Ricardo Rodriguez voted against tabling this item.

Motion to table was not approved.

Stephen Trautmann stated this motion dies and said they could now have a motion for no action or a motion to move forward with an election.

A motion to move forward with an election was made by Francisco Castillo and seconded by Aliza Oliveros.

Francisco Castillo opened discussion and stated this is a very important officer and representative of a community and he understands Ms. Molina's point but he feels strongly that in democracy the voice of the community needs to be heard through an election.

Aliza Oliveros agreed with Mr. Castillo and stated that they are not elected at-large. She explained that they are a single member district which means that she does not get to choose who will represent a district that is not her own. Ms. Oliveros stated that the constitution is written We the People, By the People, For the People and that needs to be respected and let the people decide who they want to represent them. She added that we are a public entity and have to respect the public's role in our constituency. She believes the expense is nominal considering the fairness to the community, and the transparency because whoever is appointed will be given a very unfair advantage over any candidate during an election.

Ramiro Veliz, III explained that the option to appoint is something that is provided by law to the board members.

Ricardo Rodriguez asked attorney Jaime Garcia if this has ever happened at any other school district where there was an appointment and also asked if it is illegal.

Jaime Garcia responded yes it has happened and it is not illegal.

Aliza Oliveros clarified that she is not saying it is illegal, but it is not ethical and stated that it is their job to be ethical.

Aliza Oliveros and Francisco Castillo voted in favor of holding an election. Ramiro Veliz, Michelle Molina and Ricardo Rodriguez voted against holding an election.

Motion to hold an election does not pass

I. Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of an individual to the District 1 Trustee Position

Michelle Molina made a motion to appoint Mr. Gilbert Aguilar. Motion was seconded by Ricardo Rodriguez.

Ramiro Veliz, Michelle Molina and Ricardo Rodriguez voted in favor of appointing Mr. Gilbert Aguilar.

Aliza Oliveros and Francisco Castillo voted against appointing Mr. Gilbert Aguilar.

Motion passes with three votes in favor and two against.

J. Possible action regarding the Appointment of Executive Director for Federal & State Programs

Aliza Oliveros made a motion to table this item. Motion was seconded by Francisco Castillo.

Ms. Oliveros opened discussion and stated her reason to table is that this is a pivotal and vital position for the district and believes they need a full board.

Ramiro Veliz, Michelle Molina and Ricardo Rodriguez voted against tabling this item.

Motion to table this item does not pass.

David Gonzalez made a recommendation to appoint Adriana Ramirez as Executive Director for Federal & State Programs.

A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Ricardo Rodriguez and seconded by Michelle Molina.

Aliza Oliveros opened discussion and stated that she has nothing against Adriana Ramirez and will fully support her but she is against the message that they are sending to United Independent School District employees. She explained that the message they are sending is that if an employee dedicates themselves to a position in hopes of someday climbing the career ladder when there is a higher position available in their own department that they will have no opportunity for that position because the district can pull anyone from any other department. She continued to say that the message being sent to staff is that don't dedicate yourself to your department because you can easily be passed up for a position that is right above you. Ms. Oliveros said Ms. Ramirez is an excellent Principal, an excellent employee and will support her because she deserves the support but she feels there was another applicant within the department, not related to her, who was very deserving of the position and is very disappointed that she was not given the opportunity to get this position. Ms. Oliveros again stated her support for Adriana Ramirez but also clarified that she did not like the message they are sending to other employees.

Francisco Castillo stated he also feels similar to Ms. Oliveros. He said he believes in growth from within and added that since he started his tenure as a board member, his belief is to always try to develop staff from within. Mr. Castillo said he knows there are capable people in that department who can handle this role. He also stated he has nothing against Adriana Ramirez and believes she is a good principal. He believes the best choice is always to promote from within and help the person with the easiest transition into a position. Mr. Castillo feels we are lacking in that area and said there were two or three candidates that he would have easily selected. He stated he will not vote for Miss Ramirez because his conscience tells him he cannot and feels very strongly that there are others who are just as qualified. Mr. Castillo said he wants to be able to represent his community and his community says they always select the best and highly qualified individual.

Aliza Oliveros commented that the recommendation from the interview board and from administration is for the highest qualified candidate and that is where she has to support the Superintendent and the process.

Aliza Oliveros, Ramiro Veliz, III, Michelle Molina and Ricardo Rodriguez voted in favor of appointing Adriana Ramirez as Executive Director for Federal & State Programs.

Francisco Castillo voted against appointing Adriana Ramirez

Motion passes with four votes in favor and one vote against

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Aliza F. Oliveros and seconded by Michelle Molina.

Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Board Meeting of January 25, 2023 was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Ramiro Veliz, III, President

Michelle Molina, Secretary

Approved: February 22, 2023

Minutes submitted by:

Alejandra Salinas, Secretary to Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Policies