



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Approval of Board Minutes for the Months of June and July 2021

SUBMITTED BY: Griselda Rodriguez/Alejandra Salinas **OF:** Secretary

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: October 20, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve the Board Minutes for the Months of June and July 2021.

- Regular Board Meeting – June 15, 2021
- Regular Board Meeting – July 21, 2021
- Special Called Meeting – July 28, 2021

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:

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

June 15, 2021

In Attendance

Roberto J. Santos
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Javier Montemayor – President – Present
Aliza Flores Oliveros – Vice President – Present (virtual)
Juan Roberto Ramirez – Secretary – (virtual)
Francisco “Frank” Castillo – Parliamentarian - Present
Ramiro Veliz, III – Member – Present
Ricardo “Rick” Rodriguez – Member – Present (virtual)
Ricardo Molina – Member – Present (virtual)

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, in the UISD Boardroom, 201 Lindenwood Dr., Laredo, TX 78045.

BOARD MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE VIA VIDEO OR TELEPHONE CONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19

Two way communication to the Board meeting may be accessed by clicking the following zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87989408733?pwd=azBwZUFKVTU3WUFRUmMyaFF4bVNPdz09>

Meeting ID: 879 8940 8733
Passcode: 649421

If you would like to view a live-stream of the meeting, please click on the following Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/-LqD5X8lYG0>

Public Comments may be submitted to Gloria S. Rendon at grendon@uisd.net at any time prior to the Board Meeting. Public comments must pertain to agenda items only.

- I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call Meeting to Order

II. Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to order at 6:01 p.m. The record shows that a quorum of Board Members is present, that the meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Public Comments: Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except that non-English speakers requiring a translator are limited to six minutes. The presiding Board officer may modify or waive these time limits as appropriate. Public comments shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks or use insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding Board officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding individual District employees, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in Board Policy BED (Local). Pursuant to section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Rene De la Vina (TSTA) – addressed the board to request salary increases for all employees, recommending using ESSER funds which the district was reimbursed due to COVID. He asked for a pay step increase plus a regular pay raise.

Ms. Gloria Rendon read a public comment submitted electronically by Mr. David Perez from the United Classroom Teachers Association. Mr. Perez commended Mr. Santos for his service at United ISD and wished him well in his retirement.

Mr. Roberto Santos – thanked the board members for all the support they gave him throughout the years.

The board members presented him with a plaque.

V. Recognitions

A. Roberto J. Santos Retirement

Ms. Gloria Rendon addressed the board and spoke about Mr. Santos' experience at United ISD. She thanked him for all that he did for UISD and for being an exceptional role model to all.

Ricardo Molina, Juan Roberto Ramirez, Ramiro Veliz, III, Ricardo Rodriguez, Aliza Flores Oliveros, Javier Montemayor, Frank Castillo all spoke highly about Mr. Santos and wished him well on his retirement.

VI. Informational Items

A. Finance Division Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Sam Flores presented information on the Monthly Financial Report

B. Budget 2022 Update

Ms. Laida Benavides presented an update on the 2022 Budget and presented information on ESSER funds.

C. Federal & State Programs Grant Update

Ms. Rebecca Morales presented information regarding the Federal & State Programs Grant Update.

D. Notice of Upcoming Grant Applications to be Submitted

Dr. Edith Landeck presented information on Upcoming Grant Applications to be submitted.

E. Review of Legal Policies in TASB Update 117

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented the review of Legal Policies in TASB Update 117

F. Resilient Schools Support Program – United ISD COVID Recovery and Acceleration Plan

Ms. Emma Leza presented information on the Resilient Schools Support Program.

VII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements

Mr. Sam Flores presented the information on the Monthly Disbursements

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Frank Castillo

Seconded by: Aliza Flores Oliveros

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Approval of Budget Amendments

Mr. Sam Flores presented the information on Budget Amendments

Motion: So Move
Moved by: Ramiro Veliz, III
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Consideration for Approval of an Order Authorizing the Issuance of United Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2021A; Entering into an Escrow Agreement, A Bond Purchase Agreement, and a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; Delegating to certain District Administrative Staff and Officials the Authority to Approve all Final Terms of the Bonds; and Other Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Sam Flores presented information on this item together with Dan Martinez, Winstead PC and Robert Tijerina from Tijerina, Galvan and Lawrence.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded by: Frank Castillo
Discussion: None
Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

D. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications

Ms. Cordy Jackson presented information on this item.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- E. Approval of CSP (Competitive Sealed Proposals) as the Method of Procurement for the Demolition of the Natatorium Building located at 201 Lindenwood Drive, Relocation and Reconstruction of Existing Utilities, Infrastructure Improvements, and Related Facilities

Ms. Cordy Jackson presented information on this item.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros

Seconded by: Ramiro Veliz, III

Discussion: Mr. Ramirez recommended taking pictures of all trophies won and put them on the new building. Mr. Molina asked if they will repair the old building. Mr. Santos replied that the pool is very old and part of it is sinking and will be very costly to repair it. It will be demolished, covered and used for parking area.

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- F. Approval of Disposition of Technology Equipment

Mr. Hector Cavazos presented the information

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros

Seconded by: Frank Castillo

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- G. Approval of Donations

Mr. Roberto Santos presented the information on the donations

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

H. Consideration for Approval of First Reading of Local Policies in TASB Update 117

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented the information on this item

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros

Seconded by: Frank Castillo

Discussion: Frank Castillo asked if this conforms with state law. Ms. Rendon replied yes. Mr. Santos explained that we work with TASB on all policies to make sure they meet legal part.

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

I. Approval of Missed School Day Waiver for May 18, 2021

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented information on this item

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

J. Approval of First and Final Reading of Board Policy CB (LOCAL) State and Federal Revenue Sources

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented information

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros

Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

K. Approval of Interlocal Agreement Between Webb County and United Independent School District for Juvenile J.P. Court Coordinators

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented information on item K, L and M and recommended approval and stated a signature line will be added for Mr. David Gonzalez to also sign these agreements.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Rodriguez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- L. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between United ISD and Webb County Juvenile Department Allowing its Probation Officers Access to UISD Campuses

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented information

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded by: Ramiro Veliz, III
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous with exception of Mr. Castillo who abstained

MOTION PASSES

- M. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between United ISD and Webb County Juvenile Department Providing Teachers to Youth Village Detention Center

Ms. Gloria Rendon presented information

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

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

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 7:12 p.m.

- A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Attorney; Closed Meeting

- 1. Superintendent's Duties and Responsibilities

2. Consultation with Legal Counsel in Regard to Enforcement of UISD's Deed Restriction Pertaining to the Usage of El Cenizo Library and Matters Related Thereto
 3. Discussion, Including Consultation with Legal Counsel, Regarding UISD Board Policy BE (LOCAL) and Matters Incident Thereto
 4. Discussion, Including Consultation with Legal Counsel, Regarding Legal Issues Pertaining to the Contract for Delinquent Tax Collection Services Between the District and Castillo, Reyes and Del Rio Law Group, LLC
 5. Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Legal Issues Associated with the Failure of MP2 Energy, LLC to Incorporate the Utility Meter at Roberto J. Santos Elementary School to the UISD Utility Account and Matters Related Thereto
- B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting
1. Status of Acquisition of a Tract of Land for Relocation of District's Existing Food Production Center as a Result of the Expansion of Right of Way on State Highway Loop 20 (Bob Bullock Loop) by the Texas Department of Transportation and Matters Incident Thereto
- C. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting
TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting
1. Consideration Regarding the Appointment of Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
 2. Consideration Regarding the Appointment of Director of Special Education
- IX. Reconvened from Closed Session, the Board will take appropriate action on items, if necessary, as discussed in Closed Session

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 8:22 p.m.

- A. Approval of First and Final Reading of UISD Board Policy BE (LOCAL)
Mr. Juan Cruz recommended the approval of Item IX-A as presented

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ramiro Veliz, III
Seconded by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous
MOTION PASSES

B. PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration Regarding Contingency Fee Contract for Delinquent Tax Collection Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 2254.1036

Mr. Ramiro Veliz made a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Ramiro Veliz, III
Seconded by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Mr. Andres Reyes thanked the board for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. He introduced himself and some of his staff members Ms. Del Rio. Ms. Del Rio addressed the board as well and thanked the board for the opportunity given to them to work with the district.

Aliza F. Oliveros made a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded by: Ramiro Veliz, III
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Delinquent Tax Collection Contract Between the District and Castillo, Reyes and Del Rio Law Group, LLC

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina
Discussion: Ms. Aliza Oliveros stated she was not an advocate of terminating the previous firm's contract. She added she is ok with terminating contracts when it is done for the right purpose and she is also ok with negotiating new contracts as long as it's done the right way. She added that she struggled a lot with what happened and she wanted the public to know that her struggle with this was because, (nothing against the current law firm) of the process with breaking procedure. Ms. Oliveros stated to the new law firm that she felt they would have had more glory if they had bid for it and beat out the other competitors. She added she's a very ethical

person and extremely loyal to her constituents and felt that the community and her constituents that she serves deserved that. She stated she is able to get some peace if they stick to the same contract that they had with the previous law firm; however adding 2 items that will benefit the district. That is to report to the district any staff turnover, and if any staff were to come under investigation that they would report it to the district. Javier Montemayor stated the motion from Ms. Oliveros is to approve the delinquent tax firm's contract with Castillo, Reyes and Del Rio, for a term of 4 years with a termination clause based on performance with a 60 day secure period and a 2 year extension upon successful evaluation

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- D. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution Adopting Findings of Fact Regarding Delinquent Tax Collection Contract Between the District and Castillo, Reyes, and Del Rio Law Group, LLC

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Javier Montemayor

Seconded by: Aliza F. Oliveros

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- E. Possible Action Regarding Authorization to Legal Counsel and District Administration to Proceed as Legally Necessary to Address Failure of MP2 Energy, LLC to Incorporate Utility Meter at Roberto J. Santos Elementary and Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Juan Cruz recommended to authorize legal counsel and district administration to proceed as discussed in closed session

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros

Seconded by: Ricardo Molina

Discussion: None

In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

F. Action Regarding Appointment of Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Mr. David Gonzalez recommended to approve the appointment of Ms. Emme Leza as Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded by: Juan Roberto Ramirez
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

G. Action Regarding Appointment of Director of Special Education

Mr. David Gonzalez recommended the appointment of Mr. Matias Ydrogo as Director of Special Education.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded by: Ricardo Molina
Discussion: None
In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

X. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, the Regular Board Meeting of June 15, 2021 was adjourned at 8:36 PM

Javier Montemayor, President

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary

Minutes submitted by: *Alejandra Salinas*, Superintendent's Secretary

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

July 21, 2021

In Attendance:

David H. Gonzalez, Superintendent

Board of Trustees:

Javier Montemayor, Jr., President – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

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

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary - PRESENT

Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Parliamentarian – PRESENT (Via Videoconference)

Ramiro Veliz, III, - Member - PRESENT

Ricardo Molina, Sr., - Member - PRESENT

Ricardo “Rick” Rodriguez, Member – PRESENT

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Wednesday, July 21, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM in the United ISD – Student Activity Complex, Fine Arts Building Room #2, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo TX 78043.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted one at one time.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Call to Order

II. Board Announcements

Ms. Aliza Oliveros calls meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Public Comments:

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except that non-English speakers requiring a translator are limited to six minutes. The presiding Board officer may modify or waive these time limits as appropriate. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks or use insulting, profane, threatening or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding Board officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding individual District employees, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in Board Policy BED (Local). Pursuant to section 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.

Jose Ovando: In a previous occasion, I had already spoken about an impermissible employer, employee relationship and I have spoken about the UISD employee relationship with students. I recently requested an open records request and I was hoping that the board would take my concerns seriously. I guess it was just ignored. And I am asking again, that you reconsider this. I submitted my request of February the 25th, through the open records request. It was very simple and it was very narrow because I know that many times, when I request something it is... the information is denied to me. And I was very narrow because I just want to know the person worked for the school district to begin with. And I said, please provide the date of hire of the following employee. That was it. My request was denied. I did not ask for a social security number, I did not ask if the person had a savings account or a retirement account, I did not ask for anything but the date of hire and it was denied. Then, I was told "oh no, we can give you the information", after I complained. I was given the information, "*Y que casualidad*", the employee was working but, is no longer working for the school district. Just a few days before I made my request. That is a lot of coincidences to me. At the beginning I thought that the school district was negligent and I believe that the school.. the duty of the school is so high and the standard of care to the students is so high that negligence should not be allowed within the school district. But now I am thinking they are complicit because they have never followed through with this information that I have provided. I am going to leave this information again. Here with the ladies at the front door. If anybody is interested in looking into this, hopefully somebody will. But, for sure I will have to go to TEA with this information. Because it is not possible that our children's safety is just being played around with. Hopefully somebody takes this information seriously and looks into it. That is all I have to say.

Aliza Oliveros: Unfortunately, we cannot comment on Public Comments, otherwise I would Mr. Ovando, but I will certainly speak to our attorney about that.

V. PUBLIC HEARING: The board will take Public Comments Regarding Optional Flexible School Day Program for 2021-2022 to continue the POSSITIVE APPROACH TO STUDENT SUCCESS (PASS Program) at Lyndon B. Johnson and to Expand Pass Program at United South High School

A motion is made to open the Public Hearing.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez

Any Discussion: No Discussion

All In-Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

No Discussion by the board, but a small presentation was provided by Mrs. Gloria S. Rendon.

Juan Cruz: Just to let you know, this program has not been around forever. It has been around since 2006, in the state of Texas and has been amended by the legislature a couple of times, most recently in 2017. If you go to the TEA website, there is a number of school districts that have (inaudible) for the right reasons. To make sure that those kids that maybe do not follow the traditional pathways have an option nonetheless. So, it has been met with a lot of success. Not just for UISD but statewide.

Francisco Castillo: So, if I see the numbers of 12 of 15 at Alexander and United high school combined, would there be any recent (inaudible) from buying them, in one school or the other. To try to ensure that they participate in this program. Or is it even reasonable to even think about that?

Emma Leza: It certainly would be reasonable but we do have a plan of action for them to earn credits. We do have Odyssey in any of the high schools. So, that is something that we are working with. But I will tell you also that in previous data and I what I can do is, provide a history of the graduation rates, but at AHS we were hitting 98.99% graduation rates. And we have to remember also, that STAAR plays an important role. Also, at United high school, they were able to move from a "B" to an "A" because they had graduation rates higher than what the state is expecting in 2023. So, we know that the campuses of course all are working with them but the students at United South high school and at LBJ have additional circumstances to deal with. That are not just curricular.

Aliza Oliveros: Well, I am happy to hear that you have a plan.

Emma Leza: Yes, we do.

A motion is made to close this Public Hearing.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Ricardo Molina
Seconded By:	Juan Roberto Ramirez

Any Discussion: **NONE**

All In Favor: **Unanimous**

MOTION PASSES

VI. Items for Information Only

**A. Presentation of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III)
Use of Funds Plan**

Mrs. Laida Benavides gives her presentation of th use of funds plan from the ESSER III and reminds the audience that an ad was placed in the Laredo Morning Times inviting the public to this public meeting.

Laida Benavides: The goal is to inform our community where we plan to use these funds. In June we came with a very lengthy presentation, explaining the allowable activities. Since we have been working with different departments including C & I and other support service areas, to see where we could have these \$127M to be well spent to meet the letter of the law of safety for our kids and learning loss recovery.

Learning Loss Acceleration - \$50.5M
Family Engagement - \$2.2M
High Quality Instructional Materials - \$10.9M
Technology/Infrastructure - \$4.7M
Unexpected Expenses - \$5.0M
Wraparound Services - \$3.4M
Safety Upgrades - \$50.4M

See the Attached Presentation for more information.

Ramiro Veliz: I know that the allocation for the... this I believe this would be the third one, is that correct? The \$127M

Laida Benavides: The ESSER III, yes.

Ramiro Veliz: This is over a three-year span that we are able to use the funds. What would you say is, if you had it broken down to the immediate use right now say in the next six months or so. Is it a substantial amount that we are going to invest right away or use right away now that we are coming back to.

Laida Benavides: I think what you will see right away is for instance, like those purification units where we can get an RFP quick. Those are units that we can just plug in you know. The UVC lights and the air handlers that is going to be like an 18 month project. The HVAC upgrade that is probably going to happen in the three year span. The learning part I think of software programs are probably those that we can get online right away. I think in technology the interactive flat panels, I know Ms. Garcia said she is going to do a three-year approach. Because it is a lot of panels. Our facilities have to actually go in to the classroom and upgrade the electrical in that wall to put the IFP. That is going to be a three-year process.

Ramiro Veliz: On the curriculum side...

Emma Leza: On the curriculum side we already put out an RFP for social and emotional learning. We have about twelve vendors that have responded. So now we have to go through the process where the teachers vet and the teachers will vote on the program that they will be using. That social and emotional will probably be taken care of in year one. In the learning acceleration we are also looking at different avenues to meet huh, last time I spoke a little bit about the thirty hours that we have to do per subject per student for STAAR. So, we are looking at those instructional programs that will allow us to do the one-to-one tutoring. That amounts to about \$2M that we are going to invest in one semester. We are looking at the programs that are going to give us a very good return on investment. While making sure that we have everything evaluated to make sure that we are spending our money wisely and making sure that we are getting the greatest advancement for our students.

Ramiro Veliz: I guess for us, it is about seeing that you all are obviously putting the effort doing the meetings. I know it is a difficult task when you have to get so many departments and people involved to try and make it work. I commend you guys for the effort that you have done, your staff has done the last several weeks. I know it is going to be difficult to move forward and have everything in line but I know you guys will do a great job and I think we can assure the public that we are obviously trying to make the best decision using

the funds going forward. And using them in a timely manner within the three-year period and trying make the best of it.

Emma Leza: Yes; and I will tell you that yesterday we met with principals for the first time for a training and all of them are ready for the challenge. They are ready so that we can make sure that we are meeting not only the letter of the law but most importantly the instructional needs of the students. Instructional and the social and emotional because we know that, that is key to ensuring that our students are back on track and rebound for the learning.

Aliza Oliveros: On the licensed professional counselors, are those in-house, or are you..

Emma Leza: We just completed the job description and we are looking at all of the criteria that is required for this but we will first of all send this as an in-house job opening. Because we do currently have, I believe it is nine licensed professional counselors and we want to make sure, they already know our students and they know our teachers so we want to make sure there is not too much of a learning curve for them, so they may start with the counseling as soon as possible.

Aliza Oliveros: Is that going to be a permanent position or...

Emma Leza: For now everything that we have on ESSER does have a statement that it is funded for three years. Again we will be evaluating not only the time that they are investing on our students. But, we will look to see if that is something that we need to continue to fund, I am sure that we will because we are going to make sure that we are meeting the students' needs right now.

Aliza Oliveros: Are there other positions that are only for three years and then the district will have to fund them after that?

Emma Leza: Any position that we do create through ESSER funds will have that statement that state that it is a three-year grant funded position. Then we will have to evaluate to see if it is something that we will maintain or if we will apply for other grants. That is something that I am sure, as we are providing data to the state also that they will be evaluating and if it is something that they can provide additional funding for I am sure that they will.

Aliza Oliveros: I hope so because I would hate to hire all these people in three years. Although they come in knowing full well that they have been told it is a three-year position. And I am only saying because at the County we are going to run into this in the past. Where we have positions that are funded by grants and then the grant no longer exists and then the County has to take on the expense of carrying these employees and I just do not

want the district to be in that position, with a bunch of positions. The otherwise (inaudible) professional counselor and I am almost thinking that it might be wise to contract a private LPC so that way we do not have to worry in three years, are we going to be able to afford to keep these people on.

Emma Leza: And we have looked at that, the only issue is that we want these LPC's to be on campus when the students are there. So that they have immediate access to them. I am sure that we will also be doing some contracting for after hours, but it is very important that our students have access to the counselors as soon as they have need. Now, I will also tell you that when we have worked with grants in the past, through attrition a lot of the times we are able to absorb the position, not create a new one, not fund a new one. But rather bring them back as campus counselors or depending on where we are at in three years.

Javier Montemayor: What is the need right now, for these licensed professional counselors, how are they going to address the learning loss? I do not think they are related to the learning loss. It is more maybe a mental health situation but, do you,, is there numbers increasing in mental health situations, do you anticipate it, why are we using these funds to hire these licensed professional counselors?

Emma Leza: Not only through federal programs but also we did it to make sure that we are moving towards the right direction for social emotional learning. So, we did survey our students and we did find that a number of students felt that they needed additional support which we will also be working with our teachers to ensure that the empathy is there. That we are building a cultural learning environment that allow students to feel safe so that the learning can take place. Because in (inaudible) education we need to have some conditions in place before the learning can begin. So, that is what we are trying to accomplish with this. Not only did we have those service responses from students but we also had them directly from the parents through the federal program survey that we submitted in getting ready for...for the title one.

Javier Montemayor: Are these numbers so outstanding that... how many professional counselors do you anticipate that this grant will fund.

Emma Leza: We will provide one at every feeder and really, when we look at a high school counselor, I do have to say is that the high school counselor has so many activities that they need to provide for the students in order to make sure that they are on track. Not only for graduation but how the students will graduate. Whether they will be distinguished level of achievement.

Javier Montemayor: I have been advocating that for a long time because it seems like our counselors get bogged down with handling administrative work, that they are not really

counseling. And, they are not addressing the mental health of these students. I can see that and if these counselors are going to supplement and deal directly with the mental health and not get bogged down with administrative duties, I am all for it.

Juan Cruz: There will be a legislative update next Tuesday to the administrators but, one of the new laws that was passed by senator Lucio, who has been after this law, says that only 80% of the counselors time needs to be devoted to counseling duties, not administrative duties. So, that is now a new state law, effective this school year. Again, Senator Lucio has been after that poll for a while and he finally got it passed. So now there is a lot to that point about doing another administrative duties. It is more restricted and it is going to have to be kind of be reviewed closely by the administration.

Javier Montemayor: That is good.

Aliza Oliveros: Yes, I like the idea but just, also keep in mind that you know, that there is academic counselors and these are clinical licensed counselors. So, with that comes a lot of responsibility and liability. So, you need to make sure that they are covered through some form of insurance. Not only the counselor themselves because now they are taking on clinical responsibility. Clinical duties, it is like having a private practice. So, the district also needs to be protected Mr. Cruz, because it could be that you can have a lawsuit on your hands if a parent of a child feels that something went wrong in a clinical practice because now we are doing clinical practice. We are taking on a profession that is probably not currently covered by the school district. So, just keep that in mind.

Juan Cruz: You know, our insurance is our Arizona Emissions insurance through the property casualty alliance of Texas, basically covers any employee of the school district. So, these people are going to be employees of the school district and that would come under coverage. A second thing I think from this lesson's point is yes, there is a cost in every conformant contract a term contract or probationary contract that says basically, the expiration of the grant funds will be cost for non-renewal. But, that would be up to the administration to recommend to the board at that time that there is no funds and maybe we can work on an addendum to make it even more specifically clear. That basically this position is contingent upon grant funding.

Javier Montemayor: Maybe senator Lucio will fund this his new law.

Emma Leza: And, I do just want to add...

Francisco Castillo: I have a couple of questions. My point being, I was going to start with.. I understand Mr. Cruz is aware of it and I also was aware of it. Also, what that means in accomplishment is that 80% of the time that the counselor has to be done in counseling in work that is related to counseling. So, is removing them from administration doing things

that children have been done to begin with, in my opinion. What I wanted to check was, I understand that there would be an LPC assigned at every campus?

Emma Leza: No. To every high school. So, there would be four in total. One for every high school to cover within the feeder pattern. But, we do anticipate that the greatest need will be at the high school. And I wanted to say that the counseling duties, but, as a high school counselor, those duties that take up the majority of their time are counselor duties at the high schools. And, it is meeting all of the needs for students to graduate.

Francisco Castillo: But it is not going to the middle schools which are feeder schools or the high schools, is that correct.

Emma Leza: They are not stationed at the middle schools, they will be stationed at the high school. However, if there is a need, that middle school counselor will be able to call/contact the LPC, and then the LPC will be able to travel to the middle school to assist.

Francisco Castillo: That does not seem to be enough. In my opinion, that does not seem to be enough people, counselors to go and address any issues going on in the middle schools or the elementary schools. I guess what Mr. Lucio was doing as the legislator was realizing before and even now this behavioral issue, emotional issues, they do not start at the high schools. They are already coming in at that level. From the elementary. And that is what I have been hearing even from staff that I talk to at our school district. We need to find ways to put some counselors at the elementary, at the middle schools so that we can address and help those students that need it. My other question was regarding, I saw the family engagement. I was not to clear what it is. I see family resource center. I wanted to know if that can be tied in together. Where that resource is available to the families. Where they can get that same counseling. And at the end of the day, and I hope I am not going too fast here, but I do think you do need some people in the school district that engages that has a network with the outside resources that are already in the community. And so, I would like to see that sharpen up. Maybe that is what you are doing already. I just want to make sure that I am getting the understanding that I would like to see those LPC's have family counseling, family resources doing that for the school district. Because I think because of the pandemic, we do not know how the students are. We know how family relationship, loss of jobs, loss of income (inaudible), anyway I will rest my case. But I want to see some of that.

Emma Leza: Let me just address quickly that when we wrote the job description for the LPC's, we focused strictly on counseling small group and individual but also on the LPC's serving as a resource for the other counselors so that they can in-house train, provide information to the campus counselors. Now when we adopt the social and emotional learning program that is an adoption at the elementary and at the middle school. And then we also have now because of the state, is requiring character trait education. That means

that every single teacher must be aware of these Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills within that social and emotional we are also looking at a program to be able to train all of our teachers. To understand the character traits, and when we talk about character traits it is also about, just to give an example, how to be kind. How to deal with a severe emotional situation. Just general at every teacher it would be a little bit Tier I. I guess if we want to look at that would be every teacher. The Tier II would be with the counselors and then Tier III would be with our LPC's together working with our campus counselors. So we do have a plan. I know that Ms. Melissa Ramirez has been working with all of the outside agencies that we have in Laredo. They are limited but we have been working to put all of those resources at the tip of the counselors and then also the counselors are providing that information on their website. So that parents can have access to that.

Ms. Rebecca Morales provides the public with information on the resource center that includes a careteam to help with non-academic barriers for students. Will provide training, ESL classes for parents, Workforce training, etc. based on the parent surveys. "So Mr. Castillo we do want to see this come to fruition so that we can help our parents".

Francisco Castillo: But do we have the staff for family engagement. Is it going to increase the staff. Will you be more able to reach out to more students, more families.

Rebecca Morales: Currently because of Senate Bill 179, currently all of our counselors serve as the parent liaisons at the campus and I know that now that is going to tie our hands a bit as well. We are looking at funding this through ESSER but also finding a long term plan. Since Title I does require parent engagement for our school district and we do see a need. For more parent liaisons to assist us with all of the responsibilities that our campuses and our district have. So yes Mr. Castillo. To answer your question, the plan is to increase our staff in this area to support our families.

Aliza Oliveros: A good point Mr. Castillo (and I love all this attention on mental health), that is my profession. I believe the district only has two social workers. Am I correct. And what about the licensed professionals in school psychology. So you have all of these professionals but they all seem to be operating in different compartments. I think we need to mech that.

Francisco Castillo: I think we can do more. I agree with you and I kind of want to say that we need more social workers. I think that might be the same time. Put all of our efforts together.

Aliza Oliveros: Social work is different from clinical, psychology, which is what the LPC is doing. I am not real sure with the license professional in school psychology because I know we have maybe four or five of them as well.

Emma Leza: Just to let you know, a lot of the things are tied to funding. Look at the LSSP's they are under special ed and they are for evaluation purposes and counseling but it is for special ed students. So, it is a funding criteria that we must meet and social workers that we have are also under special education. So what we are doing here with the LPC;s we are opening that up for all of our students. Our general ed population that we know are going to come in after experiencing their parents loss of work or their illness or even loss life. Those are the three highest factors in stress and depression and anxiety and so that is why we want to make sure that we are ready with an SEL curriculum, with the character traits curriculum for every teacher. SEL curriculum for counselors, LPC's as additional support and then we will continue with the LSSP's through our special ed program.

David Gonzalez: And I think they also work together with the counselors in conjunction to address the needs of the students regardless of the program they're in.

Emma Leza: Yes, because our LSSP's also help us and design the Suicide Manual the SOS Program. There are different programs that we are working together but when we look at addressing students, it is depending on the students and the different programs that they are hired under.

Aliza Oliveros: But the district only has two social workers, correct.

Emma Leza: Correct

Aliza Oliveros: I think that is not acceptable. I think we need more social workers.

Rebecca Morales: Yes, and we have seen that that is a need, especially after what our students and our families have experienced over the past year and a half. So, again our proposal right now at the time is to hire four case workers right now, one for each of the feeder areas. We are looking to calling it the Careteam. To again, coordinate and align the resources to engage and empower our students and our families.

Aliza Oliveros: Awesome, thank you.

Francisco Castillo: And I just want to point out I really like what you are doing engaging the staff and the principals. I am very happy that you are doing all this. Yes, I would have probably would have done more for the family center and for LPS's and all that but I hope that you will continue working toward that situation.

Aliza Oliveros: Next year Mr. Castillo.

Francisco Castillo: Okay, next year.

VII. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Monthly Disbursements**
- B. Approval Of Budget Amendments**
- C. Approval of Property Tax Refunds for the Month of June 2021**
- D. Approval of Submission of the Certified Estimated 2021 Debt Collection**
- E. Approval to Designate Monica Madrigal to Calculate 2021 Tax Rate**
- F. Approval of Awarding Bids, Proposals and Qualifications**
- G. Approval of Disposition of Mobile Learning Devices (MLD) to Graduating Students at United High School, United South High School, John B. Alexander High School and Lyndon B. Johnson High School**
- H. Approval of Amendment Internal Audit Department Charter**
- I. Approval of the 2021-2022 Student Code of Conduct**
- J. Approval of Interlocal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Webb County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) and United ISD for the 2021-2022 School Year**
- K. Approval of Optional Flexible School Day Program for the 2021-2022 School Year to Continue the Positive Approach to Student Success (PASS Program) at Lyndon B. Johnson High School and to Expand PASS Program at United South High School**
- L. Consideration for Approval of Second and Final Reading of Local Policies in TASB Update 117**

A motion is made to approve as presented.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Ramiro Veliz

Seconded By: Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion: None
All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VIII. Items for Individual Consideration

A. Approval of Donations

David H. Gonzalez: We recommend that the Board graciously accept the following Donations which will be attached to the minutes. We have four (4) large donations:

- **A donation for hand sanitizers was received by the fixed assets department, Conjar Corp. LTD, with a value of \$20K.**

Grand Total this month is **\$20K**. There were no other Donations. We ask that you graciously approve these donations.

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

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

**B. Approval of First and Final Reading of Board Policy DEC (LOCAL)
Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences**

A motion is made to approve as presented at the Business and Instructional meetings.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Francisco Castillo
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding First and Final Reading of UISD Board Policy DC (LOCAL)

Juan Cruz: This policy is basically your employment policy, and what we have done is basically define the superintendent's authority to transfer and reassign individuals. That is his authority under the education code and we kind of borrow from what El Paso ISD has. That the superintendent has the authority transfer or reassign to a lateral position for a current existing position or a newly budgeted position. The recommendation is first and final reading.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez, Juan R. Ramirez
Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

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

The board adjourns into Closed Session at 6:58 p.m.

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

- 1. Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Litigation Report**
- 2. Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Proposed Settlement with Regard to District's Electricity Provider MP2 Charges/Credit in Relation to Santos Elementary School and Matters Related Thereto**

B. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Attorney; Closed Meeting

TGC 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property; Closed Meeting

- 1. Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Status of Acquisition of Land for Relocation of District's Food Production as a Result of the Expansion of the Right of Way on State Highway Loop 20 (Bob Bullock Loop) by the Texas Department of Transportation and Matters Related Thereto**
- 2. Report on Request from AEC Engineering, LLC for the consideration of an Access Easement through Santa Monica or Santa Claudia Lane to Facilitate Access from UISD Student Activity Center to Adjoining Property**
- 3. Report and Possible Action Regarding Aquero Boulevard Road Extension**

C. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel; Closed Meeting

TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Matters

- 1. Discussion/Action Regarding the Appointment of Executive Director for Instructional Accountability**
- 2. Discussion/Action Regarding the Appointment of Director of Communications**
- 3. Discussion Regarding Superintendent's Goals**

D. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Session

TGC 551.076 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices Audits; Closed Meeting

- 1. Student Activity Funds Audits: Elementary Schools – Borchers and Ruiz**
- 2. Student Activity Fund Audits: Middle Schools – Los Obispos MS, Herrera MS**
- 3. Student Activity Fund Audits: High Schools – United HS, JBA 9th Grade , USHS 9th Grade**
- 4. Attendance Accounting – Secondary Campuses**
- 5. UCAN Program**

- 6. Employee Health Insurance Benefits
- 7. Transportation Fuel Inventory
- 8. Accounts Payable Process
- 9. Status of Ongoing Audits

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

The board reconvenes from Closed Session at 8:20 p.m.

A. Action Regarding Settlement in Regards to District's Electricity Provider MP2 Charges/Credit in Relation to Santos Elementary School and Matters Related Thereto

Juan Cruz: The recommendation is to approve the Settlement in Regards to District's Electricity Provider MP2 Charges/Credit in Relation to Santos Elementary School and Matters Related Thereto as discussed in Closed Session

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Francisco Castillo
Seconded By:	Ricardo Molina
Any Discussion:	NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Authority to District Administration/Legal Counsel Regarding Acquisition for a 10.77 acre Tract of Land out of a 53.40 acre Tract of Land, Linda B. Deutsch, et. al, Recorded in Volume 1089, Pages 586-587, Situated in Porcion 28, E. Martinez, Abstract 241, Webb County, Texas as a Result of the Expansion of the Right of Way of Loop 20 by Texas Department of Transportation
 The recommendation is to authorize the District Administration/Legal Counsel to proceed Regarding Acquisition for a 10.77 acre Tract of Land out of a 53.40 acre Tract of Land, Linda B. Deutsch, et. al, Recorded in Volume 1089, Pages 586-587,

Situated in Porcion 28, E. Martinez, Abstract 241, Webb County, Texas as discussed in Closed Session

**Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez
Any Discussion: NONE**

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- C. Possible Action on Request from AEC Engineering, LLC for the consideration of an Access Easement through Santa Monica or Santa Claudia Lane to Facilitate Access from the UISD Student Activity Center to Adjoining Property**

Juan Cruz: Recommendation is to Authorize Legal Counsel with a plan to present it with respect to the Easement Requested by, on Santa Monica or Santa Claudia Lane as Discussed in Closed Session

**Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez
Any Discussion: NONE**

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

- D. Possible Action Regarding the Aquero Boulevard Road Extension**

The recommendation is to proceed with the Aquero Boulevard Road Extension as discussed in Closed Session

**Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina, Francisco Castillo
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez
Any Discussion: NONE**

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

E. Possible Action Regarding Superintendent's Goals

Juan Cruz: The recommendation is to approve the superintendent's goals as presented by David Gonzalez

**Motion: So Move
Moved By: Francisco Castillo
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez
Any Discussion: NONE**

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

F. Action Regarding the Appointment of Executive Director for Instructional Accountability

David Gonzalez: At this time my recommendation is Ms. Cristina Casanova for Executive Director for Instructional Accountability

**Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina, Francisco Castillo
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez
Any Discussion: NONE**

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

G. Action Regarding the Appointment of Director of Communications

David Gonzalez: My recommendation for Director for Communications is Maria Amparo Lanese

**Motion: So Move
Moved By: Ricardo Molina
Seconded By: Ramiro Veliz, Francisco Castillo
Any Discussion: NONE**

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

XI. Adjournment

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Francisco Castillo
Seconded By: Juan R. Ramirez
Any Discussion: NONE
All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

There being no further business before the United ISD Board of Trustees, this Regular Board Meeting of July 21, 2021 was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Javier Montemayor, President

Juan R. Ramirez, Secretary

*Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, July 21, 2021
Submitted and Approved at the July 21, 2021 Regular Board Meeting*

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

July 28, 2021

In Attendance

David H. Gonzalez, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Javier Montemayor, Jr., President, - PRESENT

Aliza Flores-Oliveros, Vice-President – PRESENT

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary – ABSENT

Francisco “Frank” Castillo, Parliamentarian – PRESENT

Ricardo “Rick” Rodriguez, Member – PRESENT

Ramiro Veliz, III, Member – PRESENT

Ricardo Molina, Sr., Member – PRESENT (Via Video-Conference)

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of United ISD will be held Wednesday, July 28, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM in the SAC Room #2, Fine Arts Building, 5208 Santa Claudia Lane, Laredo, Texas 78043.

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

Based on Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-23 and the City of Laredo Amended Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Health Orders, the District will ensure social distancing protocols are practiced to the greatest extent possible thus limiting the number of persons physically present in the UISD Boardroom. Therefore, in an effort to conduct public business in a transparent manner, the District will live stream this Board meeting.

I. Roll Call, Establish Quorum

II. **Announcement by the Board President calling this meeting of the United Independent School District to Order. Let the record show that a quorum of Board Members is present, that this meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551**

III. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Mr. Javier Montemayor calls this meeting to order and establishes quorum at **6:00 PM.**

IV. **Public Comments**

Comments shall be limited to current Board agenda items, student recognitions, or charitable causes. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker, except Non-English speakers who require a translator are limited to six (6) minutes. The presiding officer may waive or modify these time limits as appropriated. The speaker will be informed when he or she has one (1) minute remaining. Public comment shall not be used for personal attacks by the speaker against District employees, or students. Speakers who engage in personal attacks, or use insulting, profane, threatening, or abusive language during any Board meeting shall be ruled out of order by the presiding officer and may be escorted from the Board meeting room by District peace officers or security staff. Any concerns or complaints regarding employees, public officials, students, or parents must be resolved via the appropriate complaint process, as stated in BED (LOCAL). Pursuant to 551.042 of the Texas Government Code, no Board Member or Administrator may respond to a member of the public, unless such response is a recitation of District policy or a statement of specific factual information.

Rene De La Vina: Good evening, honorable board members. For the record, Rene De La Vina, Laredo-United TSTA full-time president. I am here to talk about, if you can set aside some kind of funds or emergency funds from you ESSER funds, from federal funds in reference to employees getting sick. It is going to, what happen. We had two, or one of our members called me yesterday saying that they picked up covid. It has already started, the delta variant, and he was sent home for ten days. The problem there is, a lot of these employees do not have the dates, so he is being docked for ten days for picking up covid at work. So maybe you all can set aside some emergency funds for this. Because there is going to be a lot of a teachers once those elementary kids come in, they are not vaccinated. Some of them are going to carry that virus and it is going to be a lot people get sick you know. Even the ones that have the vaccine are still going to get sick (not a fact) but they will. That is just somebody like my flu shots every year and I am going to go to somebody

with the flu, I am still going to get sick. Not as bad, but I will get it. Same thing applies here. If you can set aside funds which would be similar to workers comp, or they will be paid. Or at least they will not be docked their pay because they have gotten sick for these ten days that you all set up. I have had many calls in reference to that and I am asking that you please set aside some funds. These employees are asking me to ask you all. Please help them out. Because a lot of them do not have the sick leave bank and a lot of them do not have days period. Even worse, they do not have the money to be able to cover you know, the ten days that they are going to lose. So, please help them out. Thank you.

V. Informational Items

A. Discussion and Information regarding 2021 – 2022 Budget Workshop

Mrs. Laida Benavides provides the board a budget update presentation as required by TEA in order to adopt three funds, general, operating debt and food service. All this to be passed by August 31st. Mrs. Benavides points out that the revenues based on student enrollment and invites Mr. Mike Garza to elaborate in it. The numbers are based in three categories. Not registered are 6,700 these students or parents have not started the registration process. Four thousand have started the process and 1046 have already submitted. Twenty nine thousand “approved and submitted”, for a total of 40,774. This represent all those categories put together, as of July 5th. “That is what the enrollment would look like”, says Mr. Garza. As of July 28th, all those categories add up to 41,324 which is the projected enrollment. Mr. Garza mentions some of the concerns or circumstances that contribute to the reluctance of student registration and what is being done to reach the projected enrollment goal.

Javier Montemayor: Just out of curiosity, I see the apprehension. You believe it is an apprehension out there in the community because of the social media, the medical field that is, the pandemic issues that we are dealing with, do you think that is the issue? We had a virtual setting last year and we had a pretty good registration.

Mike Garza: Yes, sir. I believe that last year people already had in their minds that they were going to go virtual. So it was no issue. They went ahead and registered I think that, that was a sense of comfort for them. And, now we are in the reverse. So, I do believe that there are other forces at play outside of our organization that create this issue of reluctance. The fortunate part is that last year, throughout the summer to the start of the school year, we had about 1050 withdrawals. They just withdrew for whatever reason. This year so far to date, from the start of the end of the school year to today, we have 220. Which that gives me a sense of hope right. So, people are not withdrawing. I think they are just reserving or holding back, hoping that something will change. Either legislatively or within our own home.

Javier Montemayor: There is no other district, no other charter school will be having virtual learning..

Mike Garza: We have hear of some organizations that cater to virtual instruction. They may be some of those school districts that were approved to have virtual, so now they are extending their branch to other, I guess that statewide is their boundary, I guess. I have heard, one of the withdrawal families had mentioned something about registering at Round Rock. I am sure that you have heard the news about Round Rock. Some type of option at their own expense, without getting funded is what they are proposing. I do not know if they are physically moving around or if they are registering online to do a virtual setting. I am not sure with that situation. But I did find it interesting that they mentioned that particular school district.

Juan Cruz: One of the laws covered yesterday. Basically if, for a waiting period UISD decides to go virtual, and the parents of workforce guardians can register their kids at Laredo ISD because they are offering in-person instruction, the same would be for LISD, if UISD were to go virtual and those parents want in-person instruction, that they would have the ability to come over and we claim the ADA. So, that is basically law, passed by republicans because they do not want virtual instruction. So it is kind of like, if you want to do it, go ahead and do it but if you have a max exodus of people those neighboring school districts are going to get all your ADA.

Francisco Castillo: Mr. Garza, regarding "started", can you expand on what that means, and then "submitted" and then I might have a follow up question to your answer.

Mike Garza: Let me start from the beginning; So, "not started" is if the individual has not even started the process of registering.

David Gonzalez: The application itself.

Mr. Garza explains that even though the student data is rolled over, they individual student still needs to log in register and update the new information. The "started" are the once that have at the very least began the process of registering. "Those are encouraging for us" says Mr. Garza.

Francisco Castillo: And this is electronic?

Mike Garza: Yes, sir. All our registration is electronic based. For individuals that are unable to do electronic, we do offer them a paper packet. The next number is "submitted" so, these are the individuals that have gone through the process, submitted it and are waiting for us to officially approve it. And the reason we have to go through it is that there may be forms that are missing signatures or items that have not been checked off that we need to review. If not then we send it back to them for review/correction then we receive it again and we approve it.

Francisco Castillo: In relation to “started” can you identify a portion or a part where they are stuck perhaps? Started, can you identify that.

Mike Garza: We would have to go on an individual basis to find out. There is no real program that tells us “hey, they’re stuck at the medical form”, quite frankly we would need their permission to do that. It would be a matter of communication to find out where they would need the help. So we are doing our part on bringing that number down.

Francisco Castillo: Well I am just wondering if there is anything we can do. The bottom line is that, is there a point that we can intervene and help?

Mike Garza: So what we are focusing on is the “not started” list, which we have not been able to finish because it is a lot. And you can just imagine, each phone call can take up to 20, 30 minutes when you actually engage with the parent. And some of them will say, “do not worry, we will register them”. Or we may have a lot of disconnected numbers and so forth. So, we are trying to finish that list as fast as possible so that we can start on the “started list” to see where they’re at so we can assist them.

Javier Montemayor: Do you have a population of clusters that you see the area, is it an issue of perhaps availability of technology, maybe we can send a registration mobile van or something to go and set up so these people can have access to that.

Mike Garza: That is a great question and what we do have is a breakdown by campus. And that gives us at least a boundary perspective at who has not registered. I will share with you, globally, the southern schools are the ones that have the most of the ones that have not started the process. It could be a technology thing. I will also share with you that every year, whenever we start the school year. We always have a small number coming up in terms of warm bodies (actual students showing up). And that area is always the one that has impacted the most. It eventually catches up. But at the very start at the school year it is a large gap in terms of actually students showing up. So it is probably mirroring trend over previous years.

Aliza Oliveros: I think in all honesty it is the pandemic, because we did not know if technology was an issue, I think last year it was not an issue. To me it is just the fear, the unknown, the new variant. My question is (and I think I brought this up in a previous meeting), we are a district of innovation, and I know the application was about to be renewed; why can we not add as one of those criteria as being a district of innovation a virtual opportunity, a hybrid program. And if we are allowed all these other exemptions, so that we kind of mimic maybe a charter school, why do we not just include that as one of the options and then we have no issues and parents can choose to have a virtual setting as instruction or home school and maybe we can claim them as ADA if the school district is being the provider of those educational services. Is that

possible. I am looking at you Mrs. Rendon because I know you did the application for district of innovation.

Gloria Rendon: I can address that, but, when we applied for a campus or a virtual platform, we actually got approved by the state of Texas and this was prior to the end of the legislative session. So, the legislative session met and that was on the table to allow for the funding of ADA for virtual districts and so they screened, they vetted the application process. We were approved to be a provider of, as a virtual district. And then they came back in actuality and they said, "because the legislators did not act" on that particular bill (I cannot recall what house bill it was), they basically declined every virtual application on hold. So, if we are looking forward to that process, and we were being innovative in that sense by submitting our applications. We met the deadlines, met the requirements, were selected to offer the virtual instruction but in the long run the application was basically, we are told by TEA "yes" thank you for submitting your application but, you are approved however, you cannot.

Aliza Oliveros: Was that application separate and apart from district of innovation?

David Gonzalez: Yes

Aliza Oliveros: What I am saying is include it as an element of district of innovation.

Gloria Rendon: I can certainly ask.

Aliza Oliveros: Because, why not.

David Gonzalez: That was not an option before, as I understand.

Aliza Oliveros: That was on the list?

David Gonzalez: It was not an option before, we would have to ask.

Juan Cruz: I doubt that that was an option.

Gloria Rendon: Because it would have to be a part of, the Texas education....

Juan Cruz: Actually the guidance by the commissioner it is like very irrespective of the innovation thing you know basically, and there was a meeting with the commissioner yesterday and some rules school district times were asking about virtual options and he came to commissioners like, "nope" that is not going to be an option.

Aliza Oliveros: So, what if we went, and I get it they are just being, I guess they are using it, politics. They are putting politics in education, which they should not do. And what I meant was

an option like a virtual option not throughout the district, everybody be virtual but a hybrid program like we have been doing. The other thing that I have in my head is like when a student is like 504, they have a broken leg or for whatever reason they are homeschooled by the district, so you have students that may have an underlying illness and their parents do not want to risk them being at the campus because of covid, so would they be eligible to be on the 504 and a homebound student where we can still collect the ADA?

Gloria Rendon: Homebound services we can still collect if you go through...

Juan Cruz: Through 504. They would have to go through the 504 department.

David Gonzalez: The department will provide the services, yes.

Aliza Oliveros: Yes, because..

David Gonzalez: They have to document and budget..

Gloria Rendon: The services are one hour at the home, not necessarily virtual.

Aliza Oliveros: Correct, but we do that by making a...

Gloria Rendon: Making a one-half hour visit on a daily requirement.

Javier Montemayor: So, if you have covid, you are probably going to get home like...

Aliza Oliveros: If they have an underlying illness and or if a family member did, see and those are things that I do not think they have ever been exposed. We have not, I have not lived through a pandemic. I have not.

Juan Cruz: But 504 maybe, I mean it has to be a modification process and I really do think that in all actuality that 504 accommodations for those people that work 504 with people for business within UISD, they are going to be very busy.

Aliza Oliveros: Either that or we lose them. To our school, or we lose them to a charter school, or we lose them to Austin ISD or Louisiana.

Juan Cruz: Well we are going to talk about homeschool as well tomorrow as one of our topics. Only because I think people need to understand that home school is not necessarily just like oh you know, you put on the tv, put spongebob off and that is going to be.. people are going to have to really go to the TEA curriculum, there are attendance officers that can come knock on the door uh that is been litigated already and there is going to be some oversight by wherever you are residing and parents need to understand that and guardians need to understand that.

It is not as easy as you think. I am going to homeschool. Do you have math, social studies, science and everything else lined up and then you have to provide a grade. A report card to the school district for the following year, so.

Mike Garza: Two important parts also in our conversations with parents. They have a perception of homeschooling as, I can stay home, UISD is going to support me. UISD is going to support it, "I am going to get a chromebook, I am going to get a wi-fi device", when you make that choice, you are basically severing your ties with the district and you are on your own. You have to be able to provide stuff on your own.

Juan Cruz: And UIL also, I am not sure you want to..

Mike Garza: Yes, I mean we already bring a policy about prohibiting individuals that are homeschooling, to not participate in local policy about not allowing them to participate with UIL activities just because they are homeschooling. Being able to come with us to be able to participate as well.

David Gonzalez: Yes, that needs to be approved by the board.

Mike Garza: Yes, that is actually something that is being proposed tonight.

David Gonzalez: If I may, the application we are talking about right now, we submitted to TEA. We were only one of fifty in the state that qualified. Unfortunately then they changed their mind and said "we are not going to fund you". That is why they...

Aliza Oliveros: That is extremely unfortunate. And I guess that is just going to take the community and local politicians to go to lobby for us, in Austin with the governor.

Mike Garza: In closing I just want to share, our focus is on learning loss right. That is what we are trying to tell the parents. "We really want you to come in because we know statistically that there has been learning loss. So, that is the pitch that we are making. Yes we would love to offer the opportunities for whatever option, but at this point, you come in, we will be able to make up ground on anything that we lost last year. That is really the emphasis that we are pushing with the parents.

Francisco Castillo: Mr. Garza, it was mentioned I believe that there is already a district that is going virtual, what grades? Is it first through six, or..

Mike Garza: Yes sir. It was announced. I guess some platform that Round Rock was deciding to provide an option for virtual instruction for grades, I believe pre-k through six.

Francisco Castillo: Was that even ever considered an option with us.

Mike Garza: Well they are making decision sir because they are basically saying; "regardless of funding" whether they get it or not, they are going to provide that service and so...

Francisco Castillo: What funding are they using, do you know? I hate to put you on the spot.

Mike Garza: I cannot answer directly sir, but I am assuming that ESSER funding is going to be what they use. Now from what I understand they only received about \$45M.

Javier Montemayor: The ESSER funding and the numbers in that area have gone up and since there is no vaccinations for kids under 12. They decided, they have elected to

Juan Cruz: The board, their board.

Javier Montemayor: Because they are going to go virtual for those kids under 12 years old.

Gloria Rendon: Yes sir, the ESSER funds it was \$29M, it was pre-k through 6 grade. They are looking at a window of an option but when you go back and look historically at their percentage in the TEA website, you will see the percentage of attendance from March. It was the March snapshot. How many students were in attendance on campus because it is an option. You can either go to school, or not go. They had a little over 30% of individuals students attending on campus. We were at 5% sir, at that time. So we know that there is no ADA funding for individuals that go for virtual instruction. The one that followed right after was Austin. I may have gotten the numbers reversed but I know one was 23% of attendance.

Francisco Castillo: Austin ISD is also going virtual?

Mrs. Gloria Rendon agrees. "Yes sir". Mrs. Gloria Rendon continues to elaborate the on other districts going virtual and the components that played an important role in our districts ADA, and the impact on learning loss.

Aliza Oliveros: Another words, we could not afford to do that.

Gloria Rendon: Not at 5%.

Aliza Oliveros: Financially.

Mike Garza: If you look at Round Rock, their numbers and our numbers, it is going to cost them about \$15M per month.

Ricardo Rodriguez: Mr. Garza, for the open enrollment, are there any student in open enrollment.

Mr. Garza replies that the numbers presented are on in district students but he will get a number of open enrollment students.

Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez requests to see a report to see counts from open enrollment.

Mike Garza: The last report we had, the number was around 200 students.

David Gonzalez: We are working on some Public Service announcements to promote just that.

Mrs. Laida Benavides continues her presentation with updates on general funding and non-payroll costs, debt service and informs the board that a public hearing announcement will be posted in the LMT. Public Hearing Notice for August 18th.

See attached presentation.

B. Notice of Upcoming Grant Applications

Dr. Edith Landeck: Good evening; We have an emergency connectivity fund to be submitted in conjunction with IT.

C. Review of Back-to-School Health and Safety Protocols

Mrs. Gloria Rendon makes the public aware that the Texas Education Agency has not approved nor provide any waivers for remote instruction, therefore students will be returning to face to face, on campus instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, starting on August 16, 2021. She also informs the community that no temperature checks will be performed starting this school year and staff is not required to comply with the "Dr. Owl" requirement. Instead the employees will be asked to self-screen (at home). As per wearing mask, the executive order in June 4th, from the governor, it is not required to wear a mask. Couriers will leave deliveries at the doors. Food deliveries are not allowed on the campus, "not because of contact of a bag or pizza box" says Mrs. Rendon, it is really for the number of individuals who show up to the campuses to deliver the food items for their children or high school students get door dash or other delivery services. Parents will not be permitted. "Meet the Teacher" nights will be scheduled before (to drop off supplies) . Date of August 13th. The district is asking parents to leave their child at the door and students will be escorted. Distancing markers will be set in place.

Aliza Oliveros: Will PTA's and all that going to be hybrid..

Gloria Redon: A combination of both

Aliza Oliveros: What about pep-rallies

Gloria Rendon: We will do half capacity, not the full amount. Looking at dismissal again, we will have multiple exit points. The next area is the disinfecting protocols, clean, clean, clean. That is the message that we want to give to everybody. Every single classroom will be provided with disinfectant, roll towels, with hand sanitizers. Bus transportation, it will be 2 individuals per seat. We are looking at opening the windows (for ventilation), having masks on the bus and hand sanitizing dispensers before and after exiting. Breakfasts at the elementary and middle schools, we are having breakfast in the classrooms. At the high schools it will be in their designated areas, but they have a bit more flexibility. They eat in various campus areas. Lunchtime we are looking at staggered lunches. Library services are covered, after school adventures as well.

Mrs. Rendon proceeds to cover areas of concerns such as vaccination clinics, isolation requirements, intake information, etc.

Ricardo Rodriguez: on the buses, you mentioned that windows down, is that all the way..

Gloria Rendon: Part way, otherwise they start throwing things out. We were told that we cannot force that right now.

Juan Cruz: The federal government is not with the state government. The federal government says, (inaudible) in public transportation, there is an argument that obviously is interstate commerce so therefore, you should be able to enforce masks, the governor says, "no". A superintendent sent me this, that apparently the commissioner was, he himself asked that there may be a short burst of funding for virtual students that need to go home during covid positive test. Something like 10 days. So that you do not have the teacher doing both. And that he may be rolling out somethings again this Friday. That would help us out a lot so that the teacher can continue with the calculus and then have somebody else pick up those kids that are out for those ten days. So, hopefully Friday we get some good news on that.

Ricardo Rodriguez: And the reason I was asking about the windows is because I am sure we are going to get some parents calling any of us. It is going to be super hot. Especially with traveling with the windows down. Especially with the little ones.

David Gonzalez: Well, the air conditioner can still be on, but the windows are going to be open.

Gloria Rendon: With 110 degrees temperature, yes sir. We are going to hear that.

Ricardo Rodriguez: Or if it is a cold day, it will be kind of awkward.

Gloria Rendon: I would say slightly open.

Ricardo Rodriguez: Let me ask you something. Will the bus be at capacity.

Gloria Rendon: At this time sir, yes. We are advising parents sir, if they can car pool. Maybe within their own community sir. Maybe hopefully carpool. Once they start seeing that. We already have a shortage of bus drivers. We have made that pitch for CDL individuals. We are looking at other support staff members. Hopefully that we can train and get their license, so that they can take an early morning shift. So there is just a need for that. In addition to that, I know that we were looking at contract services maybe for custodial services because we also have vacancies for custodial services as well.

Francisco Castillo: I wanted to mention something about directional students, perhaps in the hallways.

Gloria Rendon: Some campuses you can do that sir, and some campuses you cannot because there is only one hallway. Some campuses use the outdoors to transition. The principals were exploring those particular options. It heightens our security alertness, I know we are looking at safety health-wise but.

Francisco Castillo: My question was going to be, is if we have a person who is going to monitor them. The hallway. Have you designated someone to do that, or is it going to be in the sence of (inaudible), t try to keep that order in those hallways.

Gloria Rendon: It is the campus administration sir.

Francisco Castillo: How are you conveying that to the campus administration that they have to have somebody.

Gloria Rendon: Normally what they do sir, is that at passing periods all the teachers go out into the hallways and they stand by the doors and they are directing traffic.

David Gonzalez: That has been our practice, they stand by the door when the bell goes off.

Emma Leza: And with elementary it is the teachers guiding the students to wherever they are being transitioned to.

Francisco Castillo: I think it is just an important thing to do. You cannot just make a rule and not enforce it.

Gloria Rendon: I will make note of that sir.

Francisco Castillo: Thank you

Please see presentation attached.

VI. Action Items

A. Approval of United ISD's Appraisal Calendar for the 2021-2022 School Year

David Garcia presents the 2021-2022 Appraisal Calendar: What the administration has done through the different departments is look at the adopted calendar and make sure we are in compliance with holidays, before we develop and of course before we present this particular calendar to you that we are in direct compliance with all the assessment dates, early releases, staff development, holidays and so forth. The calendar has been reviewed, has been verified and of course we presented to you for approval.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By:	Ramiro Veliz
Any Discussion:	None
All In Favor:	Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Approval of Appraisers for the 2021-2022 School Year

David Garcia: In accordance with policy DNA Local and Legal, we come before you with a list of appraisers that have their complete certification for t-tes observations for all teachers and according to policy and the list that we come before you has a total of 160 appraisers and of course we some that are also in reserve from curriculum and instruction in the event that employee seeks an appraiser we have a back up to the back up in order to comply with any employee that does question the area evaluation in accordance to policies that the district practice. We have a couple of employees that due to summer schedule will be delayed in securing their certification as a t-tes appraiser and in a subsequent board meeting we'll come before you and present that list.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By:	Ricardo Rodriguez
Any Discussion:	None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

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

Juan Cruz: This is actually something that I am sure we have touched upon earlier today about those people that have covid. As you know right now if you have covid it is like having the flu, so you are going to be out for some days. If you do not have any days you are not going to get paid. This recommendation by the superintendent and the administration is basically if you are test positive, only if you test positive, not if you are in close contact and then if the board approves this, they would have eighty (80) hours which is basically 10 days, to be out to recover take days. So that is basically in short the recommendation.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricard Rodriguez, Francisco Castillo
Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

D. Approval of RFP 036-2021 District-Wide Uniforms

Cordy Jackson: The recommendation tonight is to award the RFP 036-2021 District-Wide Uniforms to G & A Advertising for a section one, two and three which is our district-wide uniforms, our security officer uniforms and our school specialty uniforms. They were the highest ranked vendor providing the best value to the district. And the estimated annual total would be \$266, 346.80.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez
Any Discussion: None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

E. Approval of First and Final Reading of FD (LOCAL) Admissions Policy

Gloria Rendon: Students who are not enrolled whether they are in private school, including home school shall not be eligible for current enrollment in the district. That means they cannot come and take university classes and so forth. Nor participate in extracurricular or curricular activities except if required by law.

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez

Any Discussion: Does this conform with what we have been following, the updates. I thought that they could participate if they wanted.

Juan Cruz: No, that is actually an option for the school district and there is actually a law of my legislative update that Griselda can put in your packet about that. It is the school board that basically says yes.

Francisco Castillo: The school board is the one that has that option. No further questions.

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

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

This meeting goes into **Closed Session at 7:09 PM**.

- A. TGC 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney; Closed Meeting**
- TGC 551.074 Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting**

1. **Consultation Regarding Appointment of Associate Superintendent for Support Services**

2. **Discussion, Including Consultation With Legal Counsel re: to Authorize the Superintendent the Ability to Promote Upgrade Employees for the Benefit of the District and Report Back to the Board as a Report, and matters incident thereto**

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

The meeting is reconvened from closed session at 7:39 PM.

A. Action Regarding the Appointment of Associate Superintendent for Student Support Services

The recommendation by administration is to table this item.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded By:	Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez
Any Discussion:	None
All In Favor:	Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

B. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Superintendent the Ability to Promote Upgrade Employees for the Benefit of the District and Report Back to the Board as a Report

Juan Cruz: The recommendation is to bring back the policy DA LOCAL at the next board meeting.

Motion:	So Move
Moved By:	Aliza Flores Oliveros
Seconded By:	Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez
Any Discussion:	None

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VII. Adjournment

Motion: So Move
Moved By: Aliza Oliveros
Seconded By: Ricardo Rodriguez
Any Discussion: NONE

All In Favor: Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

*There being no further business of the UISD Board of Trustees, this Special Called meeting of July 28, 2021 is adjourned at **7:40 PM.***

Javier Montemayor, President

Juan Roberto Ramirez, Secretary

These Minutes were completed by Giselda Rodriguez, and submitted for approval by the UISD Board of Trustees at the October 2021 Regular Board Meeting.