

PUBLIC COMMENTS

For  
UISD Special Called Meeting  
on

Agenda Items VI.A. (Hiring Freeze Principals/Directors/Positions) and VI.B. (Hiring Freeze Non-instructional)  
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 12:00 pm  
201 Lindenwood Dr.  
Laredo, TX 78045

**For the Record Ernest Davila, Organizer for the Texas State Teachers Association:**

The district froze everyone's pay/salaries last year. As you know, not only have your employees gone way beyond the call of duty, learning new methods of instruction, technology, and assessment, but prices for everything have gone up as a direct result of the pandemic. These employees not only put their lives on the line, literally, but the lives of their loved ones as well.

It is incomprehensible that four of our seven UISD board members are sponsoring these action items. Here is why. Let us look at the budgets for 2017 -2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020. Let's focus on expenditure items of INSTRUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, and FACILITIES, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS. All were over budgeted by millions of dollars.

Instruction (for FY ending Aug. 31, 2018) -----\$5,603,538  
(for FY ending Aug. 31, 2019) -----\$2,410,681  
(for FY ending Aug. 31, 2020) -----\$6,637,723

Transportation (for FY ending Aug. 31, 2018) -----\$2,003,318  
(for FY ending Aug. 31, 2019) -----\$354,915  
(for FY ending Aug. 31, 2020) -----\$1,043,053

Facilities, M & O (for FY ending Aug. 31, 2018) ----\$1,111,182  
(for FY ending Aug. 31, 2019) ----\$2,111,282  
(for FY ending Aug. 31, 2020) ----\$3,370,978, and

Food Service (for FY ending Aug. 31, 2020) was over budgeted by more than \$5.8 million. The ending fund balance for FY 2018, 2019, and 2020 are \$85,080,556, \$80,250,380, and \$71,584,824, respectively. It is easy to see that the district is in good financial shape. You can use these monies to give pay raises to your employees. Your human capital is your most valued asset.

On the contrary, now is the time to hire **more** counselors, nurses, special education staff and other personnel to address the social, emotional, and academic impacts COVID-19 continues to have on our students and staff, **not less**. United ISD needs a comprehensive, evidence-based social-emotional program across the district to address those student needs. The allocation of \$85,025,088 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER funds are designed to do just that. UISD is still pending an additional allocation of \$42,512,544. Please do the right thing—Don't freeze hiring of personnel. Now is not the time.

Thank you.