

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **4th day of March, 2025**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met in a **Regular Board Meeting** at the Administration Building, 1900 Price Road, Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that came before the Board and with the following to wit:

PRESENT:

Daniella Lopez Valdez	President
Minerva Pena	Secretary
Denise Garza	Member
Jessica Gonzalez	Member
Frank Ortiz	Member

ABSENT:

Carlos Elizondo	Board Member
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ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Ben Castillo	Attorney for the Board

ALSO ABSENT:

None

WHEREUPON, a quorum being present and it appearing before the Board, it is hereby so found that notice of this **Regular Board Meeting** has been duly given in the manner and for the length of time as prescribed by law. The meeting was called to order and declared ready for the transaction of business with the following to wit:

- I. Meeting called to order by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President announced that all Trustees were present except for Mr. Carlos Elizondo.**

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Ms. Almanza, everyone is present except for Mr. Elizondo. And I just want to remind my colleagues to be respectful and courteous as we conduct this meeting and to each other and to all those who are approaching the podium as well as making sure that we remember to when we receive the agenda that we have three days to ask questions and thank you all for submitting your questions, I appreciate it and we'll go ahead and get started. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated and Ms. Daniella I just want to make sure that we tell also the audience to please be respectful and not call out, nay, don't, boo, do anything. Our children are watching and this is a respectful meeting to please as adults, let's act respectful towards what's going on here. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, agreed, Ms. Pena, yes, please. Let's just remember that we are here as an example to our children and

excited to get going with all the amazing awards that we have for our students today.

V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, March 4, 2025, with any corrections/deletions.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, March 4, 2025, with no corrections as stated by administration. (5-0-0)

VI. Superintendent's Report: * SB1566

A. Conference Presentations:

1. Recognition of the Brownville Herald 2024 Readers Choice Awards.

Each year, The Brownsville Herald carries out its Readers' Choice contest, which allows members of the community to vote for their favorite places and people in various categories. This recognition is especially important because it comes directly from residents from the local community and surrounding areas. Winners receive a certificate and a banner from The Brownsville Herald.

Brownsville ISD is proud to announce that at the end of 2024, the following Brownsville ISD schools and personnel were honored as Readers' Choice Award winners:

- Favorite School District: Brownsville ISD
- Favorite Superintendent: Dr. Jesus H. Chavez
- Favorite Police Department: BISD Police Department
- Favorite High School: Hanna Early College High School, Principal: Blanca Lambarri
- Favorite Middle School: Vela Middle School, Principal: Michelle Garcia
- Favorite Elementary School: Ortiz Elementary School, Principal: Julie Pena
- Favorite School Principal: Mary Solis, Porter Early (college High School)
- Favorite School Teacher: Barbara Carroll, Hudson Elementary
- Favorite Music Teacher: Brad Elder, Martin Elementary
- Favorite Police Officer: Israel Tapia Jr.

2. Recognition of the Texas Music Educators Association Showcase Performance of the Porter ECHS Guitar Ensemble.

The BISD Department of Fine Arts would like to recognize the Porter ECHS Guitar Ensemble who was chosen as a highlighted music program in the Music Showcase performance series at the 2025 Texas Music Educators Association Convention. They will represent Brownsville ISD as the highlighted guitar showcase ensemble for the state of Texas at the convention on February 14, 2025. The Porter ECHS Guitar Ensemble are under the direction of Mr. Anubis Avalos and co-director Mr. Eric Hugonnett.

3. Recognition of the All-State Band and Choir Students.

The BISD Department of Fine Arts would like to recognize the following 28 high school students for qualifying for the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All State Concerts that will be held on Feb. 12 -15, 2025 in San Antonio, TX.

4. Recognition of the Hanna Mariachi Aguila Real UIL State Bound.
The BISD Department of Fine Arts would like to recognize the Hanna Early College High School Mariachi Aguila Real who earned a superior first division at the UIL Mariachi Contest held in La Joya, Texas on January 18, 2025. This was the first time in Brownsville ISD history that a mariachi has entered the UIL Contest. The Hanna Mariachi Aguila Real represented Brownsville ISD at the UIL State Mariachi Contest to be held in Seguin, Texas in February. The Hanna ECHS Mariachi Aguila Real Director is Mr. Arnulfo Gonzalez.
5. Recognition of Community Partners with the Every Day Matters Attendance Campaign.
Since the pandemic, absenteeism has become more prevalent in all districts across the country. Research-based practices indicates attendance incentives are most effective when part of a comprehensive approach that includes outreach to families with more significant challenges to attendance. Incentives should be part of creating a school-wide culture of attendance and accompanied by a deep commitment by many stakeholders to ensuring students attend school every day. This year, we invited local businesses as our partners with the Every Day Matters Campaign. Today, we recognize the businesses that stepped up to the plate and provided a monetary donation to help improve attendance. The following businesses include:

- Allied Training Skills Center
- Grandpa and Grandma Primary Healthcare
- Lone Star National Bank
- Main Event
- Salazar Insurance Group
- The Waves Jiu Jitsu Academy
- Valley Regional Medical Center

100% of the donations received will be distributed to all campuses for student attendance incentives.

6. Recognition of One Seed, One District, One Community Committee Partners.
The BISD Elementary Community Gardening and Harvesting Committee would like to recognize our community partners for their dedicated time, involvement, and contributions to the BISD: "One Seed, One District, One Community" Project from 2023 to the present. Alma Ochoa-Del Toro and Thania Parra, Healthier Texas (previously known as It's Time Texas) Ada Beltri, Lilian Mezquida and Jennifer Herrera, Texas A & M AgriLife Extension, Cameron County Priscila Garza, CATCH Global Foundation, Eduardo Garcia and David Vasquez, Brownsville Wellness Coalition
The district would also like to recognize the Texas Master Gardeners who volunteer their time in assisting our elementary schools with their gardens.
Blanca Martinez, Alfredo Medrano, Elena Garcia, Lionel Lopez Michele Gardner Nikki Darcy, Natalia De la Cruz, Ada Beltri, Mary Elizabeth Hollmann, Kirsten Ayres

We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers whose names may not be mentioned but whose efforts have been instrumental in the success of the BISD: "One Seed, One District, One Community" Project.

7. Brownsville Independent School District Financial Report for the period ended February 2025.

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, so, we'll go on to the financial report. We'll take a picture afterwards. These are expenditures and revenues reported as of the end of February. Really quick on our general fund, all our funds that start with a one everything from Food Service to our 199 General Fund. As of the end of February we've collected about \$281.5 million in revenue. We've expended about \$327.2 million so we do currently have a deficit of \$45.7 million but again as I stress every month you know we're still collecting monthly TEA payments. Well for this fiscal year we'll actually continue collecting them all the way through August, even after our fiscal year ends. The other part too is that this is also where we collect our local M&O property taxes. So those we continue to collect. Those, the majority of them we've already collected throughout October, November, and December, but we still continue to collect every month. So if we go on to the next one, we have our Special Revenue Funds. Those are all either our state or our federal grants. All of these are on a 100 percent reimbursement basis, which means that by the end of the fiscal year, by June 30th, our revenue and our expenditures will match. There is no loss, but at the same time, there is no profit on these. These are 100% reimbursable grants. As of the end of February, we've collected a little bit over \$22 million. We've expended about \$36 million, so it does show we have a current deficit on that, but that's as our Finance Department continues to do drawdowns and continues to work on those reports. In our Debt Service, we've collected—this is our I&S local property tax collections. Earlier I mentioned the M&O, the one that we have separate on the Debt Service, that's the I&S. That is strictly to pay all of our bonded debt. We've collected for this fiscal year, we've collected about \$19.3 million. We've expended about \$13.2 million. So, if you know this actually from compared to last month, it increased by \$8.6 million. The reason for that is, remember that our bonds, we pay them twice a year. We pay in August and in February. In February, we do the interest and principal payment, which is why it was a large payment. So that one, we do currently have an excess of a little bit over \$6 million. So we'll continue to collect a little bit throughout the rest of the year self-insurance fund. This is again, we're a self-insurance fund district So this is based on what the district pays for employees. Some employees do have buyout plans So they do contribute some money into this at the end of February. We've collected it about \$33.2 million. We have paid out \$39.3 million. So we do currently have a deficit of about \$6 million. So, we'll continue to monitor those claims that get paid out, and we'll continue to work on that as well.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Esmeralda Garcia Barajas, agenda item 9A2. Good evening. Dr. Cespedes, I'm sorry, Mr. Cespedes, Vice President Daniella Lopez Valdez, and esteemed Board, my name is Esmeralda Garcia Barajas, a resource teacher at Cromack-Castaneda and the proud elementary representative for BEST AFT Local 3877. Tonight, we want to address a matter that directly impacts our educators' professional lives. BISD's approach to professional development, item IX. A. 2. BEST would like to again thank all the Board Members who voted to pass the resolution for the Educators' Bill of Rights for all educators. Article seven affirms the educators' right to

meaningful training and development that is respectful of our time. Yet the professional development calendar that is being presented by the PD committee is vague. It does not specify which sessions are in person, online, or live, and many do not include dates. This lack of clarity makes it challenging for teachers to plan and manage their schedules effectively. We can only assume that a more defined PD plan will be presented at a later time. Additionally, we must highlight concerns regarding our gifted and talented, or the GT training. Historically, this training has only been offered during the summer or on Saturdays. This year, fortunately, BISD offered half of the GT training during the beginning of the year PD days. Unfortunately, the second part of the GT training was again scheduled on a Saturday and mandated that teachers attend to receive resources intended for students who might qualify for GT in kindergarten. This requirement placed an undue burden intended for students who might qualify for GT in kindergarten. This requirement place an undue burden on some kindergarten teachers, many of whom may not need the training because their students may not qualify for GT. We have previously shared with the board that Region 13 offers a viable online alternative for GT training. Therefore, we respectfully request that online training options be provided whenever possible, ensuring that our educators' time is respected and the professional needs are truly met. While we appreciate the flexibility of offering the beginning of the year PD online, we must also draw attention to the rush timeline for this training. Although the required PD was due by the September 20th, the PD surveys were not available until a couple of months later, leading me to believe that the deadline could have been extended. This compression of deadlines forces teachers to complete intensive training during one of the busiest periods of the school year, creating unnecessary stress. Our educators are professionals who already manage extensive responsibilities daily. They deserve to be treated as such, with professional development that is clear, accessible, and considerate of their time. We urge this board to review these issues and adjust our PD strategies to better support our teachers. BEST AFT looks forward to working together with the board to work on policy that aligns with the 10 articles numbered on the Educator's Bill of Rights. Thank you for your time and consideration, and thanks for listening to our BEST Talk.

Celia Science-Breschad, item X A1, XI. C2b, and VI A7. Good evening, Board Vice President Lopez-Valdez, Mr. Cespedes, and members of the board. My name is Celia Saenz, and I'm speaking as the president of BEST AFT Union Local 3877, and a proud pre-K teacher at Skinner Elementary. I'm going to be speaking on agenda items X. A 1, XI. C 2B, and VI. A7. We appreciate Ms. Pena's agenda item X. A 1 requesting if there is a possibility of sending third place winners to state and national competitions. BEST AFT supports this if the budget permits parents to pay their way and that club sponsors be sent. The Pace Vikings qualified 50 students in the top three at the TSA competition. Their leader who volunteered her time to prepare them for their competitions has been denied in attending the next competition, even as a chaperone. The club's travel request was sent back because she was listed as a sponsor. BISD should be above petty behavior, especially when this individual has volunteered her time without any compensation for her efforts. By the way, Pace TSA Club had the most qualifiers of any high school. Agenda item XIC2B, legal. Legal update on vacant trustee position. BEST AFT is asking administration and the board to quickly make a recommendation for a date to fill the vacant board position. We would ask the board to appoint a member until the election date, but it does not appear that the board can reach a consensus for that position. Agenda item VI.A7, BISD Financial report. BEST is hoping that the BEST Budget Committee can start meeting to address the 2025-2026 budget. There are a lot of terrible funding bills in the current state legislature. Senate Bill 2, House Bill 3, Senate Bill 26, and State Bill, I'm sorry, 13 to name a few. Voucher

bills and the giveaway of public funds is at the forefront, and it endangers public education across our great state. We hope the board and administration will attend the rally against vouchers this Saturday, March the 8th, at 11 a.m. at the historic Brownsville Museum. BEST AFT always appreciates you listening, and we wish you a BEST evening.

Adina Alegria - Good evening Mr. Cespedes, Vice President Lopez Valdez, members of the Board, and esteemed guests here with us today and those joining us from the Brownsville Independent School District YouTube channel. My name is Adina Alegria, Executive Director of Texas Valley Educators Association. Today you're recognizing many who won favorites in their respective categories. This evening I stand before you to congratulate Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, an individual who has tirelessly served our school district with unwavering dedication, vision, and commitment. The TVEA family would like to congratulate Dr. Chavez on being the Brownsville Herald's Reader's Choice Favorite Superintendent. This recognition is a testament to the superintendent's exceptional leadership qualities, relentless pursuit of excellence, and deep-rooted passion for education. As a leader, the superintendent has demonstrated the power of collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity. Dr. Chavez's ability to inspire and motivate others has created a culture of continuous improvement where every member of our district feels valued and empowered to contribute to the overall shared vision. However, we recognize that the superintendent's success is not an individual endeavor. The superintendent is fortunate to work with an exceptional team of supervisors and administrators who are equally passionate about the district's mission and goals. These dedicated leaders, many in this room today, have stepped up to the challenge, ensuring that our district thrives, even in the superintendent's temporary absence. BISD is fortunate to have such a talented and capable team of leaders committed to maintaining the momentum and progress achieved under the superintendent's leadership. Their expertise, dedication, and collaborative spirit are invaluable assets that will guide this district through this period and beyond. TVEA would also like to congratulate police officer and TVEA member Israel Tapia on being named favorite police officer. Officer Tapia's dedication and commitment to this district is unwavering. And lastly, I wanted to mention how exceptional and impressed the Hannah Early College High School Mariachi Aguila Real. I have had the honor to see them perform over the last year. This group of talented mariachis is simply gifted. Congratulations to the group led by Mr. Gonzalez on being the first group to enter the UIL State Mariachi Contest. And as BEST AFT mentioned, there is a call to action this Saturday. And really quickly, teachers, community members, stakeholders, if you are watching, and you think that this does not affect you, this affects from the superintendent all the way down. And I'm going to read just a couple of impacts on school vouchers in Cameron County. This is for all public and public charter schools in Cameron County. Loss in school funding. We are looking, if these vouchers, excuse me, pass, \$64.2 million lost in school funding. Jobs lost for teachers, 1,160. And we're looking at elimination or cuts to pre-K programs, athletic programs, band and UIL programs after school programs better technology and materials for students. So, if you don't think this affects you it affects you and affects everybody in this building. Additionally, we're coming upon spring break and a quote that I read says in spring break we play we laugh and we cherish. And on this spring break I hope you get to play, laugh, and cherish the time with your family and friends. Thank you for your attention this evening.

The Board may deliberate or take action regarding the following agenda items.

Board policy BE (Local) and Robert's Rules limits debate to two opportunities. A Trustee may debate a motion for three minutes on the first speaking opportunity and two minutes on the second opportunity.

VIII. Recommend approving the Consent Agenda. The Board has agreed to discuss the following items. All of the items below that are not called out will be approved by consent.

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the General Function Items as reflected on the Consent Agenda. (5-0-0)

IX. A. General Function	3
B. Payments	1
C. Contracts/Agreements	2, 3, 4
D. Bids/Proposals/Purchases	1

(All presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

IX. Consent Agenda:

A. Recommend approval of the following General Function Item(s):

1. Recommend approval of Option A Calendar as the 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar.

Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, just a couple of questions for clarification. I believe this would go to Ms. Hernandez. **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, actually, sir, yeah, we can address these to both Dr. Rentfro and Dr. Castro.** Mr. Ortiz continued, okay, yeah, I was looking at the calendar and whatever employees ask for, I mean, I'm okay with that. I just had a couple of questions here on some of the dates that I'm looking at. I do look at the legend and we see additional days and I see that these days were not on this year's calendar, the 24-25, but it is for the 25-26 school year. I'm looking at July 21st through the 31st, that two-week block. What is that specifically? Because, like I said, I didn't see it on this year's calendar, so I was just wondering what is going to be taking place during that time? **Dr. Roni Rentfro, Director for Assessment/Research/Evaluation/GT replied, actually, we have an ADSY PEP grant that is allowing us to do a pilot project for extended summer school days, and Ms. Emerson is the administrator that's in charge of that program. These are not going, these will only be for five schools for first grade students and for more details you can get that implementation from Ms. Emerson.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you Ms. Emerson, could you elaborate? **Ms. Dolores Emerson, Executive Director for Elementary replied, yes sir, this is for a grant from, this is the grant from the state for it's called, it's a PEP Program ADSY PEP and what it would do is it's for five campuses, which include and it's going to be limited to first grade students in order for them, they will all be invited to a summer program. It'll be during the regular summer days and they will also be invited to a come eight days in July. The program requires that we have 25 days total and a minimum of six hours per day. And this program will include all first graders in order to get them up to par in reading, math are the main areas. But to get them back, we are also planning on incentivizing these first-grade students by having field trips. One field trip in the first week of that they come back in July and then another one at the end of the program. Of course, it will be an instructional field trip that we would have planned according to what they've been learning. Trying to make it very exciting and stimulating for them, learning literacy, literacy skills, and of course math. We'll be doing STEM activities and some enrichment.** Mr. Ortiz stated, what schools will be participating and how will the students be selected? **Ms. Emerson replied, all the students will be selected from the schools that were chosen. The first one is Palm Grove, another one is Cromack-Castaneda,**

Garza at Southmost, Del Castillo Morningside, and El Jardin Elementary. They're all in a certain, in a one geographic location. So we separated them, there will be, I believe, three schools at Cromack-Castaneda, and there'll be two schools Del Castillo-Morningside. Those will be the summer sites. We will have our summer school at those sites, but all the first-grade students will be invited to attend. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, so it's open enrollment for all these first graders? Ms. Emerson stated, for the first graders, it is open enrollment for them to come. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, very good. Just a follow-up question. For June 2026, those additional days that are there, does that include, is that summer school included? Ms. Emerson replied, yes, sir, those are days that we get that we have allotted through the state for ADSY funding. Any student that comes to our summer program, we get a half day of funding for each student that participates, and we will be having 10 sites for this summer. Mr. Ortiz stated, I got you, okay. I just needed some clarification on that, July, because I hadn't seen it there before, okay? I do have a couple of other questions on different calendars, but those are specifically for the BISD Academy program calendars, but I guess I can put that on a committee, curriculum committee meeting so that we can discuss that. Thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Garza. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, thank you. I just, I don't have a question. I just wanted to applaud you guys on the participation. I know that's been the biggest pet peeve of mine for many years past. So thank you for all the staff that participated and just for clarity, only 63, if I can see right, 63 out of close to 5,000 employees voted. So thank you guys. I mean, yeah, 63 didn't vote. Ms. Minerva Pena stated, thank you for the clarification. Ms. Gonzalez continued, yes, out of close to 5,000. So thank you guys for everybody that kept pushing our staff, because at the end of the day, these are your working days. And when we have a decision to make, when it's 60 something over 30 something, it makes it so easy for us. The recommendation makes it easy. So, I just wanted to thank you guys, because I know every single year, I point that out, sorry. So good job guys. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, yes, thank you, Ms. Lopez Valdez. I would like to thank Dr. Castro and your committee. Thank you. I know a lot of work goes into this. Just as we know a lot of work goes into this, could you just give like a little brief explanation of how you guys create this calendar? Only because although our employees vote for it, many times they'll be like later on throughout the year, why didn't we get this day off? How come we don't have this half day? Why are we starting here? Why are we ending there? So, just a little brief, you know, just explanation on the work that you all put into creating these calendars that go out to our employees to choose, that way, you know, they could always go back to this video on YouTube and just get a little brief explanation. And so that way we have a better way of answering to our employees when they ask us these questions. Dr. Roni Rentfro, replied, so actually at you're all's recommendation, we did use the entire District Education Improvement Council membership to create the calendars. And so, we actually developed seven versions that were then narrowed down through the process and with the leadership of Dr. Castro to bring two to the district for voting. Just that's a very short version. Dr. Cynthia Castro, Director of Professional Development stated, the best part about it was when we did these committees, we had six committees that did it. And they really got to see the back end of what it is we do. So, the very first thing we do is we do send out a community survey, and they give us information. Then we show that to the district, the DEIC, and we tell them, okay, this is how they voted, this is what we need to focus on, see about having an earlier start date, a later start date, whatever the results are. And then at that point, they break out into groups. They said they

submitted a group leader. That group leader was in constant communication with myself through emails. Then the committee, the group leader, at one of the meetings went through their reasonings, why they chose the specific dates based on their calendar. So, we all got to hear six versions plus a repeat of what this year was. Then at that point, they got to vote on three top calendars. Once we had the three top calendars, we voted on the two that were going to be sent to the campuses and the district departments. So, it does take, it takes a lot of work, but it was pretty neat. It's three months' worth of it. The teachers that participate, well, all the members that participated, including our outside community members from UTRGV, TSC, and we all, there's so much that goes into the calendar. And so, thank you for recognizing that on behalf of the DEIC, myself, Dr. Roni, we appreciate it because it validates what we're doing behind closed doors. Ms. Garza stated, well, thank you again, ladies. It's just like this year I had a call, they were like why are we getting spring break on the third week of March? And I was just like you all vote for it so we just approve what you all brought to the table. But you know, I just wanted them to know that a lot of work does go into creating these calendars. So thank you again and any of our employees if you're interested for next year and they want to see the process I encourage them to sign up and be part of your committee so thank you. **Dr. Rentfro stated, thank you, and the reason we have it on that week is because we have so many dual enrollment students we have to match the TSC calendar.** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, well thank you for matching the TSC calendar because that's good because you don't have to do it but you did a good job when you do, do it. One question how did you come up with the grants and to choose those particular schools or how did that come about and what does the PEP stand for? What does that mean? Give me the it's an acronym. **Dr. Rentfro replied, it is an acronym and off the top of my head I just went blank but it's.** Ms. Pena interjected, and here's the thing about acronyms, please, please, please, please, please, 2025. No one pays attention to them. We need to get detail, detail, detail, everything we do is in the detail. So please get that to me and make sure that in the future, because every meeting I say this, every meeting I say this. Acronyms, you must define them, to find them because there's so many, that means so many things you'll get confused. **Dr. Rentfro stated yes ma'am, I think Ms. Emerson has it.** Ms. Pena stated, I think she has it. **Ms. Emerson stated, it is ADSY planning and extension full year redesign program.** Ms. Pena stated, oh, there's a lot of letters in between that, isn't it? Thank you. And then how did we come up with the schools? I mean, were they chosen or they chose to apply? Or how do we decide? I mean, they're excellent. I'm very happy. Can we do more in the future or are we limited? Can you explain that process? **Dr. Rentfro stated, the schools were initially selected because of their performance that we had seen. Some of these schools we already knew were probably going to be targeted schools from our federal accountability and we were looking at a cluster of schools that could work to function as a small group pilot for this activity.** Ms. Pena stated, and any BISD student in that grade level can come and be part of those programs, no or do they have to be? **Dr. Rentfro replied, first grade.** Ms. Pena continued, no, I know, but I mean any first grades, if you go, let's say to Hudson, you're saying only the students that are enrolled there. Here's a million-dollar question. What if the, we're in the US, parent decides, you know what, I'm transferring my child to Palm Grove next year. Goes and signs them up in the summer. Is he going to be eligible to go to this program? **Dr. Rentfro replied, they have to be currently enrolled and coming into the program from those schools.** Ms. Pena stated, my question is, the last day of school, they decide to move and they go and enroll, because the schools don't close down

and shut down they're still open so they go and enroll prior to these dates, will you allow them to attend those programs and are officially enrolled in that school prior. **Dr. Rentfro interjected, they are officially enrolled, yes.** Ms. Pena stated, I'm sorry I can't hear you no but I need to hear it we record it here like the answer. **Ms. Emerson stated yes ma'am we will honor it.** Ms. Pena stated, thank you so much, it is an excellent program. Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, just a follow up here. Going back to those 10 days in July, Ms. Emerson, who is going to be overseeing that program at the schools? **Ms. Emerson replied, the ADs that we chose in July, the grant will be paying for a Lead Teacher. By that time, the principals, the APs, the data entries, the secretaries are there. But because it is such a tedious time, being the start of the school year, as you remember, and people are called out to meetings, we will have, we did budget for Lead Teachers for each of those five sites so that that way we have someone in charge if the administration is at a meeting, whatever meeting they may be at.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, well thank you, that was going to be my recommendation, Lead Teachers, due to the fact that we all know we as administrators, we come back during those weeks and they're usually pulled out for trainings and professional development and so forth and then they're trying to get the school ready because on the 5th the teachers come back you know so of August so I just wanted to make sure that we weren't going to overburden our administrators so if y'all are going with the lead teacher that does that's a good recommendation. **Ms. Emerson stated, it'll be four days the first week and four days the second week. We figured that would incentivize the students, maybe not coming on a Friday, the teachers would want to work because we would like the teachers that worked in June to come back in July and work this program for those first-grade students.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Garza stated, yes Ms. Emerson, kind of piggybacking off of Mr. Ortiz, let's just not forget about our classified employees, our data entries, because I know that is also a very busy time for them. They're enrolling students. They're also withdrawing students, because we're, you know, parents move in the summer. And I know as they're preparing for that new school year, they're also having to input information for this program that's going to be happening those two weeks. So, let's just also be considerate of our data entry, our PEIMS staff and our office staff as well. **Ms. Emerson stated, we will have to, we will work with the Computer Services Department because we would have to probably open up the calendar and it would be any student that's currently enrolled at the campus that would be able to come. So, it shouldn't be very much work except for taking attendance for these students that we have, we just need to make sure that whoever came in June, that those are the kids that would roll over because we would have to go through the rollover. Would be, we need to work with Ms. Banda to see about having those students just automatically be in for these eight days also.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, yeah, just because I know when we did that jumpstart a few years ago, I know our PEIMS staff was kind of stretched thin, and so I just want to make sure that we cover them also, because it's a very busy time for them as well. **Ms. Emerson replied, yes, ma'am.** Ms. Gonzalez stated motion to approve. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated second. Ms. Pena stated, and great program, thank you everyone who participated in getting this done here.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Option A Calendar as the 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar. (5-0-0)

2. Recommend approval of the Professional Development Requirements for 2025-2026 that serves as the required training for the District.

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated second. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, and this, Mr. Céspedes, trying to open the, oh my gosh, computers today, too many. On these professional development programs, because I have a real big concern on them, and please forgive me, and our scores kind of reflect what's going on. And constantly having meetings, professional development, and let's do this training, let's do that training, let's do this, let's do this, let's do this, and I worked for the state for several years, and one thing that I found out with the troops when I was overseeing them that there's certain things that we can do and send them a memo, give them a Zoom when they can see it on their time, and can we work on allowing and please having our teachers have as much time as necessary in the classroom instructing and having them be able to focus on getting these children up to par and not have training after training after training after training after training. And here's a million-dollar question that I have. When do they have time to teach? When do you have time to go and implement everything you've been taught when weekly, weekly two or three times, weekly, it's like I've never heard of this. And then my biggest concern and my biggest fear is the more training you have, the more meetings you have, the more scores are going down, which means we're failing the area that needs to be paid attention to for our children to be able to succeed. And I know this is very meaningful, very important, but can we find a way where we can do it, where teachers can do it at a time where they're allowed to do their teaching, take care of the students, make sure they're up to par, and not be so repetitious on this? Because I know that training is required. And get us a list, please, of what the hours of training are mandated by the state of Texas per teacher, per year, per subject. Give me all of that because I want to research it because our teachers really need to be given time to teach. **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, can you repeat the request for list of hours?** Ms. Pena stated, the list of the hours per teacher. **Dr. Cynthia Castro, Director for Professional Development interjected, Mr. Cespedes, they are on my website per teacher, not per subject, but teachers.** Ms. Pena interjected, no, I want per everything. **Dr. Castro continued, teachers, they fall under the state, teachers fall at the requirements, and they're all posted on the PD website.** Ms. Pena stated, and I wanted to find out how they're supposed to do it, what time they're supposed to be, and what is optional, and what can be done differently, because I know, you know, it's just like please forgive me like I said I work for the state when you have the boss of the boss of the boss of the boss of the boss who the heck's going to do the job in the front lines and to me the front lines is what makes you guys shine and they're having a hard time right now and I want to make sure we can make it a little smoother please thank you. And if you can get that, oh its on the website? **Dr. Castro stated, yes, ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, if you can email me so I can look it up and look at it. Thank you. That way we can compare what is required and what we're actually doing and how much we're actually doing. **Mr. Cespedes stated, we can just do a printout, ma'am, and put it in the weekly letter.** Ms. Pena stated, oh, yes, yes, that would be excellent. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, there's also a really nice attachment there for reference. **Dr. Castro stated, we go through TASB recommendations, the Clearinghouse, and SBEC, along with the Texas Administration Code for the requirements. And truth be told, the requirements are this thick. There's a ton of them that are optional. And the ones that are being presented are the ones that we meet as department directors. And we say, what is it**

that they need? Give me just the main, main, main, main requirements that the teachers need. And we have decreased the number of requirements that teachers need. I can tell you that at one point, they used to require 12 technology hours. Right now, we only require one because that's what the state requires. Bilingual used to require a ton of hours and we've minimized it to the bare minimum that we have to, have to have to meet. And the reason we do that is because we still remember what it is to be teachers every day. And it is very, very hard to stay on top of our game, trying with the way that the world moves in artificial intelligence. I can just say that there's a lot of need right now for our teachers to start learning how to implement that in their classrooms. And so we will continue, we will give you that information, Ms. Pena, and I'll forward that to you, Mr. Cespedes. Ms. Pena stated, and I want to to thank you because, remember, recommendations are recommendations, not mandate. And please, we live in a very, please forgive me, I'm going to step on the whole world's toes. We live in a very money hungry planet right now. And I want to make sure that we're not burning our teachers out because people want to come in and make a recommendation. Remember, put yourself in that classroom, put yourself in that position, how will it affect you? So, let's minimize so we can give our teachers the time to teach because our scores will reflect how we're failing our teachers. And if we fail our teachers, our teachers will not have a good program for our children and then we'll fail our children and I don't want to do that. So please look into that and get me that information. **Dr. Castro replied, absolutely.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Castro, I also wanted to just say thank you because I know it took a lot to help reduce the training. I remember when we did that process and thanks to everyone who was involved on that and for those who don't know, I mean with the 89th legislation going on right now, there's a lot more training being added. So please remember to advocate because we want to make sure that our teachers are allowed to teach because they really do know what they're doing. Ms. Pena stated, and I want to leave with this. You guys are doing an excellent job. My heart goes out to you because you have the hardest job. It's never been this hard. So, thank you for not giving up and for going strong and for helping our teachers. **Dr. Castro stated, we appreciate it. Mr. Cespedes stated, thank you, Dr. Castro.**

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the Professional Development Requirements for 2025-2026 that serves as the required training for the District. (5-0-0)

3. Recommend approval to declare surplus/obsolete vehicles, supplies, equipment, furniture, and portable buildings to be disposed in accordance with Board Policy CI (Local) School Properties Disposal. **(Consent Agenda)**

B. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments:

1. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #016 in the amount of \$12,680,608.00 for Local Funds. (Reallocation of \$116,370.00. Fund Balance of \$1,992,500.00 and Additional Funding of \$10,571,738.00) **(Consent Agenda)**

C. Recommend approval of the following Contract(s)/Agreement(s):

1. Recommend to enter a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Air Force acting through Commanding General, Training and Education Command, and Brownville Independent School District for the establishment of a Junior Reserve Office Training

Corps (JROTC) Unit at Rivera High School at no cost to the District.*

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated second. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, this is C1, am I correct? Is anyone here, like I think this is an exciting, I just wanted to see if we can get a little bit of explanation. I think it's exciting, especially when we talk about working with the armed forces and it's something that this is what makes this nation so wonderful, people wanting to come and defend and fight for our country. Can we get a little intel, just a little maybe? **Mr. Obed Leal, Rivera ECHS Principal stated, yes, we have the ROTC program in all the high schools. At Rivera we have the Air Force ROTC. So what do we do? That's one of the CCMR points that we could get for students that joined the military, so that's also very important for accountability. So we have some instructors. Every year we have an inspection that they have to come in, and they do bring people from the actual Air Force, and they talk to our kids. Our kids, not only do they have to carry themselves, they have to do community service, they have to go, and there's just so many things they have to do. They have to do the marching, they have to present the flag the correct way. So there's a lot of different things that they have to present in order for them to be approved. So I was part of the inspection this year and they drill the students, the instructors are not even there and they have to present how many community hours. So this year we did very well at Rivera We did meet the highest Inspection that we could get, the highest grade that we could get but they gave us some of ways of your improving even more. So nowadays now they're doing even more community service, so after school, they'll get a trash bag and they'll go clean up the whole school. So they set up the flags in the morning, they put the flags down. So there's a lot of things that they're doing. We have great instructors at Rivera. We also have, and very important, is the number of students that need to be present in the ROTC program. We have three instructors because we're meeting our quota of 150 students that want to join ROTC. If those numbers drop, we could lose one of the instructors. So that's very important, the numbers and what they do. It's about, many of the students, I'll be honest, sometimes don't want to join the military, some do, but what they're learning, the respect that they give to others as well, it's very important. So that's been very successful, at Rivera and all the high schools in BISD, that we all have that program.** Ms. Pena stated, and I want to thank you for that and keep it going because I have a nephew who went in just for a little while to decide and he had a tough, tough, tough, tough, good, smart, very good looking young man. He joined for a little while Air Force. He's been there going on 20 years as a counselor and totally understands, even came back, I won't say his name, even came back and told mom and dad, for giving you such a hard time when I was a high school student because he understands it now and this is an excellent program and I would want for it to, for all our schools to have that. So thank you, thank you very much for getting this program to be part of our district because it does help our students a lot. Great program.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend to enter a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Air Force acting through Commanding General, Training and Education Command, and Brownville Independent School District for the establishment of a Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) Unit at Rivera High School at no cost to the District.* (5-0-0)

2. Recommend approval to contract with the Intercultural Development Research Association for services regarding the IDRA Youth TechXperts program to be implemented at Vela Middle School at no cost to the District.* **(Consent Agenda)**
3. Recommend approval to enter into a Distribution Agreement between Brownsville Independent School District and Soles4Souls for distribution of shoes for our Homeless children and youth enrolled in our Early Childhood programs through 12th Grade for the 2024-2025 school year. No cost to the District.* **(Consent Agenda)**
4. Recommend approval for the Administration to continue collaborative service agreements with the Brownsville Historic Association in the amount not to exceed \$35,280.00 from budgeted Local Maintenance Funds. (Annual Agreement) * **(Consent Agenda)**

D. Recommend approval of the following Bid(s)/Proposal(s)/Purchase(s):

1. Recommend approval CSP #25-094 Internet Services District-wide (E-Rate 25) to Foremost Telecommunication, Dallas, TX and Smartcom Telephone, McAllen, TX for a three (3) year term ending June 30, 2028. **(Consent Agenda)**
2. Recommend awarding CSP #25-017 Third Party Monitoring of OCR Compliance for BISD Website to Apptegy, Little Rock, AR. The term of this contract is effective from March 4, 2025, to March 4, 2026. The proposal is for three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term. Year one (1) of a five (5) year contract.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated motion to approve. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, is this C4? **Ms. Minnie Almanza, Executive Assistant replied no it is D2.** Ms. Pena stated, because I asked to circle C4. Ms. Jessica Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, I don't think we didn't call that one out in the beginning. Ms. Pena stated, yeah, but I asked, you came over here and I showed it to you. That's the one I circled, C4. Okay, yeah, remember I said about the historic? I'll get the information later. Yes, I did show it to you. I'll get it later then. Okay, what are we voting on? Are we going to discuss before we vote? To approve? Somebody seconds and then we'll discuss. Yes or no? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, did anybody, this one was officially circled. D2 was officially circled and I have Ms. Pena as the question but we do need a first and a second. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I did motion to approve. **Ms. Almanza stated, okay, may I have a second?** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, second. Ms. Pena continued, yes and this this third-party monitoring compliance have with the BISD web-site, wanted information just to share with the community, this is something that we have been doing for a while now, am I correct Mr. Cespedes? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated yes ma'am, so the OCR that is the office of civil rights, it is really for us to remain in compliance with a lot of the civil rights requirements. We are going with a new company, Apptegy, so it is going to really revamp the whole website. It's going to be a whole new website. We are going with a vendor that's actually going to lower the costs. The other one is set to expire June 30th. So that's why we're bringing this one to the Board now. We do need about four or five month implementation process.** Ms. Pena stated, and what's the cost on here? **Mr. Cespedes stated, so the initial first month the cost is going to be around \$107,000-\$109,000. Ms. Isabel De la Cruz, Public Information Officer interjected, it's \$109,000 to start off with. It's \$88,000 a year. But then the startup fee is \$29,000. And then after that we won't need the startup fee anymore so**

it'll be \$88,000. They will increase by 5% every year but we're still paying significantly less than with the current company that we are with. **Mr. Cespedes stated, that's correct.** Ms. Pena stated, okay and because we didn't do we put the money amount on the agenda because that one year has proposal the term. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I believe that the amount is there yes.** Ms. Pena stated, because maybe I'm on the wrong one. We're on D2? **Mr. Cespedes stated, yes.** Ms. Pena stated, recommend awarding third party monitoring to OCR compliance for BISD website, that one? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes.** Ms. Pena continued, the term of the contract is effective? **Mr. Cespedes stated, so on the backup, I believe.** Ms. Pena interjected, no, no, I'm asking for the public to know the money amount. Is the money amount, because people can look at the agenda. **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, so the money amount for the first year is going to be \$88,200.** Ms. Pena stated, why wasn't it on the agenda listed as the cost to the district. Why wasn't it listed public the money amount? Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, it's actually on the backup on page six. **Mr. Cespedes stated, but on the main agenda it does say estimated usage of \$110,000.** Ms. Pena stated, on this one? **Mr. Cespedes stated, on this one I'm not too sure.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, my question is the public gets just this or they do get the backup also? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, the public can access the backup. Ms. Pena stated can the public on the board book. **Mr. Cespedes stated, they can get the agenda item yes.** Ms. Pena stated, on the board book you can go to backup because they say. **Mr. Cespedes interjected and that one will have the amount, yes.** Ms. Pena continued, okay there's certain stuff that they don't but on this they do have correct? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, it's on page six. Ms. Pena stated, no no I'm asking mija because I got a call and so maybe it was a mess-up on the program that they were using. **Mr. Cespedes stated, but I do want to note that it is less than what we currently have. And actually, I believe they were the first recommended, but it was going to be astronomically a lot more, I think almost \$300,000 if we wanted to continue with the same company.** Ms. Pena stated, and I guess the question is confusing, and I guess why they ask. For example, one of the items you put for the historical not to exceed \$35,000 but you know these we don't put it on there do we know why we do it that way. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I'll make a note of them, just to make sure that we include it.** Ms. Pena stated, so we can have some kind of a pattern that we're consistent and not cut it off because, it looks very conspicuous when we don't do it that way. **Mr. Cespedes stated, we will make a note on it.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah just for clarification on backup here I know that there was a number (inaudible) in about \$88,000, but I see here on backup, I mean just for clarification purposes, Mr. Cespedes, as I see the amount expended for the previous 12 months was \$97,400, and it says fiscal implications, I see \$110,400. So the numbers that you were given right now are different than these. Is there any particular reason? **Mr. Cespedes replied, they're not different sir. Let me explain to that last year. We paid \$97,000 this year we're paying \$88,200 plus a one-time fee of 34,500 because it's going to be brand new right we have to have a one-time startup cost and training costs. After that every year is going to go up 5% from the \$88,200. So for example, year two will be \$92,610. Year three will be \$97,240. For year four, we'll have to come back to the Board because I believe you're approving a three-year term with a possible one-year renew for up to two years, for a total of five years. Now this, if you compare it there in the breakdown, we would have stayed with FinalSite, I believe that's the name of it. They were already, all of their five years were above \$100, but it didn't include a lot of the features. So when we compare a lot of the features that we wanted to add, FinalSite was actually going to come in at around \$300,000.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, I

just wanted clarification because I heard different numbers and I saw different numbers here so I just wanted that to be clarified. **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes sir.** Mr. Ortiz continued, on the other hand I know that we're using local funds and categorical funds. Is that a combination of categorical funds or is it one funding source that's coming from categorical funds? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I need to double-check do you know ma'am the exact amount that we get from categorical? We can look at that sir.** **Ms. De La Cruz replied, no we do not.** Mr. Ortiz continued, okay yeah because I know local I know that where it's coming from but categorical there's several of them so I'm just wondering which categorical funds we were using to fund the rest of it. **Mr. Cespedes stated, yes sir we'll get that information.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you. Ms. Garza stated, Ms. De La Cruz with this new company that's going to be coming in and looking at our website and developing our website, will they also be helping our campuses develop a website as well for their? **Ms. De La Cruz replied, yes, absolutely. So that is why they need the four months to be able to transition everything over. They will set up websites for all the campuses. When we were looking at some of the things they were offering, it was a lot better training services than the current company that we are with. Some of the districts in the Valley already use them. Some of the larger districts in Texas use them. El Paso ISD, which is 50,000 plus students, they use them. So, we felt very comfortable going with them. We've seen those websites and they seem very user friendly. And this is a great opportunity for everybody to get trained again.** Ms. Garza stated, thank you, Ms. De La Cruz, because I will tell you that I believe when I first got elected was when we transitioned to our new website. I used to be an employee here for the district, so I was very familiar with the previous website, which was very easy to navigate. And I will say that many of our parents, along as me as well, and some of our staff, it was very hard to navigate this current website. You had to use the search tab. It doesn't take you to where you need to go. So maybe something for the thought, when you're speaking with this vendor here that we're going to be approving, just to look at making it a lot easier for our community. **Ms. De La Cruz replied, yes, absolutely.** Ms. Garza stated, thank you. Ms. Pena stated, question? And just to piggyback on Denise, when I worked for the state, there's one thing they always taught us. Something, going to give instructions, do it so a second grader can understand and do exactly what needs to be done. Make it as basic and as easy and not so complex because then you wonder what's going on and then you don't know exactly what's happening but you will be held liable for everything you do. So with that also, the page where it says, Mr. Cespedes, that it says amount expended for previous 12 months was 97,400 and fiscal implications, it estimated uses of 110,400 dollars. So categorical funds. So, does that mean it goes higher when it says physical implications and estimated 110,000? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, so that's the estimate amount. So the exact amount was 109,000.** Ms. Pena stated, so then it's going to be more than previous because it says previous was \$97,000. **Mr. Cespedes stated, yes so like I was explaining to Mr. Ortiz, the first year it is a little bit higher. But if we would have stayed with the current company, with the features that we want, it would have been almost around \$300,000.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, so can you, when you get time, can you give us a comparison of that information? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes.** Ms. Pena continued, and send us what you looked at to make the decision and the prices and stuff? Can you do that? **Mr. Cespedes stated, there is a comparison already there for you all, for you to see.** Ms. Pena stated, from with the \$300,000 it was going to go up? **Mr. Cespedes stated, not with the \$300,000.** Ms. Pena stated, no that's what I want you to, I want, I want to see what you are saying that \$300,000, show me where they are saying so we can make sure

(inaudible). Ms. De La Cruz interjected, I can touch on that so when the contract was going to be up, the contract's going to be up June 30th, we contacted FinalSite and FinalSite said, okay, we can go ahead and renew, but we're going to renew now at \$300,000 a year. And we said, well, no, that can't happen. And then that's when we went out for bid. Ms. Pena interjected, can we get that? No, I know exactly what you're saying. I just want to see, did they give that to you in writing? **Ms. De La Cruz replied, yes, I believe so. This was done before we got here, but yes, we do have that.** Ms. Pena stated, if we can get that, yes. **Ms. De La Cruz replied yes, absolutely.** Ms. Pena stated, it is for our eyes only. **Ms. De La Cruz stated, yes.** Ms. Pena stated thank you.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend awarding CSP #25-017 Third Party Monitoring of OCR Compliance for BISD Website to Apptegy, Little Rock, AR. The term of this contract is effective from March 4, 2025, to March 4, 2026. The proposal is for three (3) year term with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term. Year one (1) of a five (5) year contract. (5-0-0)

X. Board Member Request(s)

A. Action Item(s)

1. Discussion, consideration and possible action to allow BISD to continue funding 3rd place winners to their national competitions; in all UIL, DI, Chess and all competitions that BISD students participate in that have a State and National Competition Level. Just like it has been done in the past. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Peña/Board Support Frank Ortiz)

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, second. Ms. Garza stated, I would like to know why we hadn't included third place because I believe the last time we had mentioned it was going to be first, second, and third. We had mentioned that maybe about a what year, year and a half ago? Ms. Pena stated, no a little longer when you started. Yeah. Ms. Garza stated, but I think last year we redid something and that's when we said for a second and third to be funded so I'm just wondering how or where did it come about only first and second what changed where did it change? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, so this actually came up remember that we started the budget the budget committee process last year with the budget committees there was a recommendation brought forth by the entire budget committee. We had several budget meetings with the Board and it was presented in the final reports that we presented around May. And those were some of the recommendations to only fund first and second. Now of course, every organization is different, right? Whether you have HOSA, BPA, DI, CHESS, everybody has different criteria on who's eligible to qualify. So we're not saying that those students did not qualify to advance. We were saying the district would fund first and second place, but it was brought forth to the Board during the Budget committee process last year. And then of course it was approved when the Board approved the budget in June.** Ms. Pena stated if I may, because I remember when, you can go back and look at the video, when Dr. Chavez is the one that made that, ahh we can only pay for a second, we don't need to be doing third. And when he said, well, we approved it, but please forgive me, it wasn't something that we realized we were approving because it's something that wasn't, it was a little vague, and that's not something that I approved. But according to what they say, that's why it's very important that we look at and go into detail because at the end

of the day, we're responsible for making the decisions. And if we don't know the detail, we get blamed and we hurt our students without meaning to hurt them. So I remember when he made that recommendation and that kind of like bothered me, but I thought it was just a thought he was having. I didn't realize it went in because I don't think we as Board Members wanted to do that to our students. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I just wanted to say, well thankfully there is a motion to approve first, second and third now. But yes, I do remember having that conversation during budget season. I guess that, was just a little bit of miscommunication in all of our parts. But I do remember us saying let's send first, second and third. But I'm glad that we do have a motion for this on the table. Ms. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yeah, I just want to add on to that. We don't want to penalize any of our students. We're here for them. And if they've earned a spot, I certainly strongly feel that they should be allowed to attend. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, and I just wanted to mention, I know this budget process was a long process and it was the community who brought this to us because they were tasked with the, well it was the committee right, and the committee is the one who was tasked with trying to figure out how to save funding. And I know that it was a long discussion and our kids do deserve to go, you know, they work hard and they do deserve to go. And I hope that we can continue to have these amazing programs and that we can continue to advocate to fully fund public education. We must continue to do that together. **Ms. Almanza, we got a first and a second.** Ms. Pena stated, and real quick, I'd like to comment, I want to thank you. Thank you, Daniela, because that is our only job. Our money and our priority, our children, take care of our children. We are here because of them. Without them, none of us are needed. So thank you because we need to focus and give them all the opportunities that we were all given in our lives and we were able to succeed and to make it because somebody cared and put their money to be able to house and help us. And I want to make sure that we put them first and priority is funding children and our teachers and our classes before we fund anything else. The money for BISD belongs to BISD and the children and activities. So thank you, sir, for that.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Minerva Pena, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to allow BISD to continue funding 3rd place winners to their national competitions; in all UIL, DI, Chess and all competitions that BISD students participate in that have a State and National Competition Level. Just like it has been done in the past. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Peña/Board Support Frank Ortiz) (5-0-0)

XI. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. 8:02 p.m.

XII. BOARD RECONVENES - Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session.

A. INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT;

1. Discussion of the findings of the intruder detection audit report.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval grouping Personnel Items B. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. (5-0-0)

B. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

1. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Retirements. (9) **(G5-0-0)**
Adanela Alaniz, Jesus Alaniz, Ted Carver, Zandra Fernandez, Anne Kurta, Agripino Olbera, Ruby Olvera, Juan F. Trevino, Monica Vega
2. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Resignations. (2) **(G5-0-0)**
Mark Edward Ottolino, Patricia Saenz
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Jesus H. Chavez)
4. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year(s) – Registered Nurse. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (2) **(G5-0-0)**
Janice Morales-Del Castillo/Morningside Elementary School
Beatrice Portales-Rivera ECHS
5. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year(s)-Assistant Director Computer Services. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **(G5-0-0)**
Reynaldo Villanueva – Computer Services
6. Recommend approval for the proposed non-renewal of a term contract professional teacher (M.C.G.) at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval for the non-renewal of a term contract professional teacher (M.C.G.) at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, as recommended by administration. (5-0-0)

7. Recommend approval for the proposed non-renewal of a term contract professional teacher (L.T.) at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, to recommend approval for the proposed non-renewal of a term contract professional teacher (L.T.) at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year, as recommended by administration.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Ms. Lopez Valdez, Ms. Garza, Ms. Gonzalez, Mr. Ortiz
Nay:
Abstain: Ms. Pena

Motion Carried: 4-0-1

C. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. **Staff Attorney**
 - a. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Cause No. 23-40640; Martha Chavez vs. Brownsville Independent School District.

Mr. Ben Castillo, Board Attorney stated, no further action need by the Board

2. Board Attorney:

- a. Legal Update with Board Counsel.
- b. Legal Update on vacant Trustee Position.

D. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

E. Board Self Evaluation.

XIII. Announcement(s):

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, I do have some announcements. Coming up on March 5th, which is tomorrow, we have the Making a Difference Together, One Team, One Dream at 5:30 p.m. at Lucio Middle School. March the 8th, we do have the Chess Tournament, 8 a.m. at Manzano Middle School. March 10th, we do have Spring Open House at all the comprehensive high schools and the Alternative schools at 5:30 p.m. March 11th, we have the Spring Open House at the middle schools at 5.30 p.m. March 13th, we have Spring Clinical Teacher Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at CAB Cafeteria. And then of course, we have the Spring Open House for the elementary schools at 5:30 p.m. March 15 and 16 we have the South Texas Scholastic Chess Championships at 8 a.m., starting at 8 a.m. at Stillman Middle School. And of course, the Spring Break, holiday break for the district is March 17 through the 21st.

XIV. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 10:57 P.M. (5-0-0)

- There being no further business appearing before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.
(HANDOUTS ADDED TO OFFICIAL MINUTES)
(AUDIO/VIDEO TAPES OF THE OPEN MEETING AND THE WRITTEN CERTIFIED AGENDA
OF THE CLOSED MEETING ARE ON FILE)

Approved by:

Daniella Lopez Valdez, President of the Board

Date

Attested by:

Minerva Pena, Secretary of the Board

Date

Notes: Font style designation

Board of Trustees

Administration

Board Attorney

Staff Attorney

Speaker/Presenter

(Minutes presented at Regular Board Meeting held on May 6, 2025)