

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **1st day of April, 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
Vacant	Vice-President
Minerva Pena	Secretary
Carlos Elizondo	Board Member
Denise Garza	Member
Jessica Gonzalez	Member
Frank Ortiz	Member

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez	Superintendent of Schools
Nick Maddox	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 Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent.**
- 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.**
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, April 1, 2025 with any corrections/deletions.**

Dr. Jesus Chavez stated the following:

- VII. A. Conference Presentation, Item 10 Delete from agenda and backup**
- XIII. D. Contracts/Agreements Item 1 Delete from agenda and backup**

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, April 1, 2025 with deletions as stated by administration. (6-0-0).

VI. Recommend approving the minutes with any corrections:

- A. Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 14, 2025
- B. Special Called Board Meeting of Monday, January 27, 2025

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of minutes for the Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 14, 2025 and Special Called Board Meeting of Monday, January 27, 2025. (6-0-0)

VII. Superintendent's Report: * SB1566

A. Conference Presentations:

1. Recognition of the Purchasing Department for the TASBO Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations (AOM) 2025.
The AOM recognizes Texas school districts, open enrollment charter schools, and education service centers that are committed to following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services. The Texas Association for School Business Officials Purchasing and Supply Management Research Committee evaluated the award criteria to ensure that it represented the latest best practices. For 2025, only 80 recipients in the State met the stringent criteria to qualify for this prestigious award. This award was presented to a Team of Purchasing staff at the TASBO 2025 Annual Conference.
2. Recognition of 2025 District Spelling Bee Winner and Finalists.
On Saturday, February 1, 2025, the BISD District Spelling Bee was hosted by Vela Middle School. The event was held at Veterans Early College High School. The top 3 students will advance to the Rio Grande Valley Regional Spelling Bee that will be held at the Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance on Saturday, March 8, 2025.
3. Recognition of BISD Elementary School Science Fair Winners.
On November 2nd, and November 9, 2024, BISD Elementary students participated in the Annual BISD Elementary Science Fairs for the 2024-2025 school year. The Science Fair Clusters are scheduled to host on a rotational basis. This year, we are excited to announce the Hydration Hero Award for projects related to water conservation and drought conditions. This topic is critical to South Texas and so is this type of research and we want to recognize students contributing to research in this area.
4. Recognition of Patriotism ALIVE! Kids Voting Campus Winners.
Since 2004, BISD students from Kindergarten to 12th grade have participated in Patriotism ALIVE! This initiative has been in partnership between BISD and UTRGV College Access and K-12 Partnerships Department to illicit more patriotic awareness for our students. For 20 years, UTRGV has worked with BISD to mentor the activities for Patriotism ALIVE! by hosting the fall professional development at UTRGV the week before Constitution Day, the Brownsville Kids Voting Mock Election, and sponsoring the spring Patriotism ALIVE! Poster Contest. The awards today recognize the elementary and secondary campuses that reached an 80% above for the KIDS Voting Elections held from October 15-25, 2024.

5. Recognition of 2024-2025 Elementary UIL Campus Division Champions.
Every year the Brownsville ISD campuses compete against each other in a variety of Academic University Interscholastic League (UIL) competitions. The Elementary Academic UIL divisional competitions were hosted by six elementary schools on January 25, 2025. Students in 4th and 5th grade participated in various academic events including: Art Smart, Music Memory, Spelling, Reading Writing, Oral Reading (Poetry for this year), and Number Sense.
6. Recognition of 2024-2025 Middle School UIL One Act Play Campus Division Champions.
Every year the Brownsville ISD middle school campuses compete against each other in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) One Act Play. The program promoted the growth in the realm of educational theatre as students prepare for high school. The UIL divisional competitions were hosted by Hanna Early College High School November 21-22, 2024. Students performed selected short plays and were critiqued in the following categories: Acting (60% of points) and Directing/Stage Mechanics (40% of the points) as well as the overall effectiveness of the production.
7. Recognition of 2025 Regional Mock Trial Competition.
Mock Trial offers students valuable learning experiences in teamwork, collaboration, oral presentation, critical thinking, productive argumentation, professionalism, and confidence. Teams of 6-10 high school students, guided by a team advisor, prepare to compete against their peers in a structured regional competition. Each team must master both sides of a case study-Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense while students take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a simulated trial. The 2025 Regional Mock Trial Competition was held on Saturday, January 25th 2025. During the Regional Competition, students have the opportunity to earn individual awards in each round.
8. Recognition of 2025 Regional Mock Trial – Courtroom Artist Competition.
Each artist includes to year a document Courtroom Region the One Artist court Education proceedings Competition. Service by The depicting Center "Courtroom an holds actual a Sketch Regional courtroom Artist" Mock scene category, Trial observed requires Competition during student team's trial. This year's competition was held on January 25, 2025. Brownsville ISD recognizes Armando Perez from Rivera Early College High School as the 2nd Place Regional Winner in the category of "Courtroom Sketch Artist" at the 2025 Regional Mock Trial Competition. Armando qualified for State and advanced to the State Tournament in Dallas, Texas.
9. Recognition of BISD Mock Trial Senior Recognition.
Each year, Brownsville ISD honors seniors who have been dedicated participants in the BISD Mock Trial Program for all four years. This recognition highlights their full involvement in the program, including attending practices, participating in the Student Clinic, and competing in both District and Regional Competitions over the course of their high school careers. Brownsville ISD proudly recognizes the following student and awards her a Mock Trial Senior patch and plaque in recognition of her commitment from Fall 2021 to Spring 2025.
10. Recognition of Texas Thespians Scholar Distinction Award.
Amendment: **VII. A. Item 10 Delete from agenda and backup**

11. Recognition of Outstanding Achievement for Matilda Villarreal.
Administration congratulates Matilda Villarreal for an outstanding achievement in Rivera High School inaugural wrestling season! Matilda secured a spot at the UIL State Wrestling tournament proudly representing BISD in Cypress, TX. Her dedication and hard work are truly impressive.
12. Recognition of Outstanding Achievement of Hanna Unified Basketball Team.
Administration congratulates the Hanna Unified Basketball team for their fantastic participation in Corpus Christi as they participated in the regional Tournament! Their teamwork, dedication, and good sportsmanship truly represented the excellence of BISD Athletics. Great Job Team!
13. Recognition of 2025 State Powerlifting Qualifiers.
2025 State Powerlifting qualifiers who are advancing to Abilene where they will compete for championship titles. Christian Plata and Alonso Mireles will be representing Veterans, Job Chapa, and Jesus Olivarez will be representing Rivera, and Pedro Ochoa will be representing Hanna.
14. Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP will report on the Delinquent Ad valorem tax collections for Brownsville Independent School District for the period covering July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.

Mr. Hiram Gutierrez, Managing Partner of Purdue Brandon stated, good evening Dr. Chavez and honorable members of the board. It's an honor to be here before you this evening. My name is Hiram Gutierrez. I'm the managing partner of Purdue Brandon's Valley Offices. And I'm here to present you with your delinquent tax collection report for the first six months of 24-25. That being July 1st of 2024 through December 31st of 2024. The Delinquent Tax Collection Program for Brownsville ISD is designed with working with your taxpayers to resolve their delinquent tax problem. To that end, our local call center has made over 11,300 calls involving delinquent taxes owed to Brownsville ISD. We have also conducted mass mailings, mailing out over 7,300 delinquency notices to your taxpayers. When those letters are undeliverable and they come back to us, we do skip tracing address research. We have corrected addresses on 238 accounts during this period. When the letters and the calls don't have the desired effect, we sometimes will try to visit the taxpayer either at their home or if it's a business at the place of business. During this period, we have conducted 317 field inspections. And once we contact your taxpayers, they're not always able to pay in full. So in some cases, we'll enter into payment agreements. During this period, we have entered into 380 payment agreements involving over \$800,000 in base tax owed to the district We always leave litigation as a last resort we don't file Lawsuits as soon as the accounts get turned over to us. We try the phone calls the letters the field inspections, but when we have to we do enter into litigation. During this period we have filed 439 petitions and interventions involving \$2,058,000 in base tax owed to the district. Another tool we have when it's business personal property, it's a business, some type of business, we can ask for a tax warrant. We ask the courts for a tax warrant, we apply for that. During this period, we filed 19 tax warrants involving just over \$46,000 in base tax owed to Brownsville ISD. We also represent

you in federal court, mainly in bankruptcy court. During this period, we filed 36 claims on behalf of the district involving over \$25,000 in base tax. What this graph here shows you is one single year of delinquent tax collections, the 2023 delinquent tax year. That year was turned over to us on July 1st of 2024. And the blue shows what has been resolved during this period, the first six months. 2,581,000. What's left is 1,919,000 or just over 57% of the 2023 tax year has been resolved in the first six months of this fiscal year. This here shows you the 2022 tax year. That was the first year that was turned over to Purdue on July 1st of 2023. The first 12 months, the bar on the far left, as you can see there, \$2,911,000 of that was resolved the first year, the first 12 months, or 68.54% of what had been turned over to us. The bar graph on the left now shows 18 months of collections, all the way to December 31, 2024. As of December 31, 2024, \$3,166,000 of what had been turned over to us has been resolved, or just under 77% of the 2022 tax year. One of the projects that we have been undertaking is identifying old delinquencies that are no longer collectible, mainly business personal property accounts that for whatever reason were not collected. So far, we've identified 78 accounts involving over \$209,000 in base tax owed to the school district and that's an ongoing project that we're working on. This bar graph shows you three years of collections, three fiscal years. The far left is the 2022-23 fiscal year. It's the first six months. During that period, in the first six months, the collections were \$2,679,000 in base tax and an additional \$698,000 in penalties and interest for a grand total of \$3,377,000 during that period. The one in the middle shows the last fiscal year, the first six months only, not the whole year. During those six months, collections were \$2,767,000 with an additional \$652,000 for a grand total of \$3,420,000 during those first six months. And then on the far right is this fiscal year, the delinquent-based tax is \$3,022,000, additional penalties and interest of \$740,000, for a grand total of \$3,762,000. Now I want to bring something to your attention, that those red bars that you see, what's that all about? Those are refunds. Refunds happen all the time. There're taxes collected and for whatever reason, the taxpayer's entitled to a refund, money goes back to the taxpayer. On the far left, as you can see, during those six months, refunds were \$233,000. The past fiscal year, refunds jumped to \$605,000 during that period. And just this fiscal year, refunds are at over \$1.4 million. You're wondering what is that all about? Why is that happening? Well, a lot of it has to do with homestead exemptions the homestead has increased more people are becoming aware about homesteads and you know, they could go out actually three years back on the homestead and if they've already paid those taxes, they'll get a refund. So that's one of the things that's happening The other thing is a lot of mainly businesses, hotels, large businesses, they're not only filing protests, but if they don't get their way at the protest level, they're filing lawsuits. And when those lawsuits are, it's in their favor, they'll end up getting a refund. So, we're seeing a lot of that as well. So, there's a big growth on those refunds. Money has to come from somewhere. It comes from the collections that we bring in. So that's the end of my report, and I'd like to open that up for any questions you may have. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, sir. Just a question here, earlier in your presentation, you were indicating the amounts that were collected. Now, the ones that were in red indicate remaining. What are we doing with the remaining ones? Are we still going and trying to collect? Can you clarify what remaining means? Mr. Gutierrez replied, yeah. I think you're talking about this, right?

Remaining? Yeah. Mr. Ortiz stated, that is correct. Mr. Gutierrez continued, yeah, that's just simply what hasn't been collected at that point. So like in this bar graph to the left, on the first 12 months, 2.9 million had already been collected just of the 2022 tax year. Okay, the first, from the time it was turned over to us, 12 months later, 68.54% of that tax year was already collected. By the end of the first six months of the next fiscal year, additional monies were collected, where now there's only \$1,087,000 left. So next year, you know, I'll be able to show you, okay, now 87% of that has been collected or, you know, whatever, wherever we're at that point. So yes, we'll start, we'll continue collecting on that. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, very good. Thank you for the clarification. I just want to note that we're still trying to collect these things that are remaining. Mr. Gutierrez, absolutely Mr. Ortiz, thank you. Mr. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, I had a question because I know it's kind of, it rarely, but it happens where they accidentally charge the wrong person the property tax. Have you seen that? Because that kind of happened to my parents, I guess because of the name, and they paid it. Then they find out that they've never lived in that neighborhood, so that's something that they can easily go in and take care of, right? Mr. Gutierrez stated, that would happen, those kind of mistakes happen at the appraisal district level, where for some reason the wrong owner is put on a particular piece of property. Sometimes you'll have where it's really not the appraisal district's fault, but when the property was subdivided, maybe this property was put under this person's name, but what they actually purchased was the property next door. Those are very rare, but those things do happen. And you know, we work with the appraisal districts, we work with a tax office to try to correct those issues when they do come up, they are rare. This is not something that happens a lot, but it does happen. Ms. Pena stated, they're kind of oopsies. Mr. Gutierrez stated, yes. Ms. Pena stated, and sometimes people find them, and sometimes you don't realize it. Mr. Gutierrez stated, yeah, and a lot of times it's really, it's not the Appraisal District's fault, it's not the tax payers' fault. It's when the property was transferred to that owner there was a mistake in the deed. And that happens and you know we'll have to figure out how to how to correct that. Ms. Pena stated, but they can get it they can get it fixed real easy because I know. Mr. Gutierrez stated, well I'm not going to say it's real easy but it can be fixed. Ms. Pena stated, sorry yes you're right you're correct. Thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, thank you Mr. Gutierrez. Sorry, I was going to call you Hiram and I blanked out and went, it's Hiram's last name. Thank you for saying that. What caught my attention is when you were talking about the refunds for the last three years back. That was very interesting. That's actually the first I hear of it. I do know that our brand new Tax Assessor is here in the audience. If he doesn't mind getting up and be recognized, you guys might know him. So I am just wondering, is that something that can be, I guess, advertised? I think this would be very helpful for people to maybe want to get the attraction more, because I know I've heard some people are still afraid of quote-unquote applying for the homestead. Mr. Gutierrez stated applying for a homestead. Ms. Gonzalez stated yeah crazy I know yeah. Mr. Gutierrez stated, I don't I don't know why anybody would be afraid yes it does happen that people just don't know that. Ms. Gonzalez interjected, or understand. Mr. Gutierrez continued, or they don't maybe realize the benefits the full benefit of getting the homestead exemption, especially now that it's a hundred thousand dollars that gets accepted from the value of your property. So, if you have a property that's worth a hundred thousand dollars, you're

not going to pay any school district taxes. And of course, even if it's a hundred fifty, well, you're just going to pay on the fifty thousand dollars that the property value is, not the whole 150. That's a big savings, big savings. You're talking about over a thousand dollars. Ms. Gonzalez stated, correct, okay, so I'm glad to know that those people can be possibly refunded for the past three years. That's great for them to know. I'm worried about it being said in the past that people are losing their homes because of our taxes. Is anybody losing their homes because of our taxes? Mr. Gutierrez stated, I can tell you we have not foreclosed on any homes. It's been vacant properties. You know, we're not the only ones operating here, but we try very, very hard to work with your taxpayers and try to resolve the issue. You know, sometimes, somebody passes away, the heirs are not interested or they just can't get along and work things out, so they'll just step back and let the home go, but when it's a homestead and there's somebody living there, then we're going to do everything that we can to work with them, give them as much time as they need to resolve their delinquency. And sometimes taxpayers will just say they're going to sell the property. Well, we'll give them time. Go through the process. Put the property up for sale. Whatever you need to do, we're going to work with the taxpayers. And also, don't forget, if the taxpayer, if it's a homestead, and they're over 65 and or disabled, they can apply for a deferral. And no, the taxes don't go away, but as long as you are entitled to that deferral, they cannot come to foreclose on your property. Ms. Gonzalez stated, that's good to know, thank you. My main concern is also, I just didn't want any, well, I don't want anybody to lose their home for that matter, but I especially don't want them to lose their home because of us, the school district. So thank you for that. I don't have anything for you. Ms. Pena stated, is it possible that we can get a copy of your presentation? Mr. Gutierrez replied, absolutely, I think it's in your packet already. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, it's on the back up Ms. Pena, on the Boardbook. Ms. Pena stated see if I can get a copy because I don't have the, my ink I am running out of ink at home, its really another ink, no offense, it's expensive. Okay, thank you.

15. Brownsville Independent School District Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2025.

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer stated, thank you, Dr. Chavez. This, the monthly report is for the month as of March 31, 2025, under the general fund, which includes Food Service. We've collected in revenue about \$327.8 million. We have expenses of \$367.2, so it does show currently a deficit of about \$39.4 million. We're still collecting in our, very little in our property tax collections because we already collected the bulk of it, but we're still collecting monthly payments from TEA all the way through August. Our deficit has been reduced from last month. It has gone down about \$6.2 million, 6.3 million. So we'll continue to monitor that all the way through our payments in August. For the next one in our special revenue, that's all of our grants, whether it's state or federal grants. All of these are 100% reimbursable basis, meaning that on these we don't have a deficit or a profit. All the expenses that we have, eventually our Finance Department works on doing drawdowns on them. So right now we do, we have collected, done drawdowns a little bit over \$26 million. We have expensed about \$39.7, 39.8 million dollars, so it does show a deficit of about \$13.7 million, but we continue to draw down, our staff continues to work on that as well. And the next one is our debt service, and this is the one to purely pay our bonded debt

through the I&S side. This is all done through a combination of, the majority of it is our local property tax collections and some state aid that we get for to pay off our debt. We've collected almost \$20 million. We've paid out about \$13.2 million so it does show it does show a surplus there about \$6.7 million dollars and we are working to in our budget amendment we are bringing to increase the budget as we did a defeasance on our I&S to collect additional money to pay off some of our bonded debt ahead of time and so we'll be bringing that to you later. And then the final report in the financial report is your self-insurance fund. There we've collected about \$37.2 dollars. This is a collections on behalf of employees, the bulk of it is from the employers since we do pay for our employees health insurance. We've paid out about 41.5, 41.6 million dollars so it does have a deficit of about 4.3 million. That also has gone down from last month. Last month the deficit was about 6.1 so we'll continue to monitor that. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Mr. Cespedes, just a quick question. When you said we are collecting very little on property taxes, could you elaborate on that? Mr. Cespedes replied, right, what I mean is we collect throughout all 12 months, but the bulk of it we collect, remember that the tax year starts in October, so the majority of the tax collections come in October, November, December, also because taxpayers do get a bit of an incentive there to pay it off, but we continue to collect all 12 months. The point I was trying to make is the bulk of it comes in in those three months and still in January, and then it just starts dwindling little by little, but we do collect throughout all 12 months.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Denise Chavez - Good evening, everyone. I'm Denise Granado Chavez. In the many roles that I have served within this community, one of them has been that of Rotary President. And when I was Rotary President, at each meeting there were four statements that I would always make sure to make at our meetings. Those statements would guide our actions and our decisions as Rotarians. These statements are as follows. Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? And will we be beneficial to all concerned? Now as a Board, we would surmise as the public that your decisions would be based on what is beneficial to taxpayers, what is beneficial to the staff, and what is beneficial to the students. The reason that I'm here today is because I failed to see how putting on the agenda that you need to fire the Superintendent and replace him a few times during this year. I've also seen some other things on the agenda such as firing council and replacing council. I'm not sure how those things are beneficial to taxpayers, to staff, or to students. I wonder what the agenda is connected to that. What I can tell you is that Dr. Chavez, and I know some of you already know this, but I'm going to reiterate, he was born in Brownsville and raised in Southmost. I was raised in Southmost as well. He went to BISD schools. He's a product of BISD. He went to TSC and he taught at BISD. And recently he came back to serve, to get out of retirement and serve as our Superintendent. Since then I believe that he has been very effective in his role as Superintendent and has immersed himself back into this community, which is his community, his home. He is exactly what we need in a local leader. We don't need a revolving door of out of town Superintendents. What our district needs is continuity, and it needs a leader that can relate to our staff and to our students. It is my humble opinion as a community member that this decision fails to be beneficial, if you fire him, this decision, fails to be beneficial, if you fire him, this decision fails to be beneficial to taxpayers and to students and I stand against it. Thank you.

Beatrice Gossage. Hello, good evening, my name is Beatriz Gossage and I think I've spoken to pretty much all the Board Members and Superintendent up there. I'm a parent for a BISD student and he is involved in chess. He's an avid chess player. And so, I wanted to thank the Board Members for bringing

up chess on the agenda to fund the individual and teams, and the individuals and the teams who earned first, second and third place at regional and or state tournaments. The rules in place have been ambiguous and I understand that there have been some budget cuts so I just wanted to let you know that this year our families businesses have fully funded two individual chess players from Rivera High School. They were qualified to go as a team to go. They were in the top 10. And individually, they placed fourth and sixth overall BISD in the state chess tournament. We hope that next year that you all are able to set aside some funds. We hope that next year you are able to set aside some funds and allow the individuals and teams that qualify at regionals and or state to represent BISD. Brownsville was once recognized for its chess players, but that is no longer the case. And we hope that with your continued support, we can get that recognition again. Our students are going to be going to represent BISD, so I hope that they make you proud. Thank you.

Veronica Borrego. Good evening, Board President Lopez Valdez, esteemed Board members, Superintendent Dr. Chavez, and all those watching this evening both in the boardroom and at home. My name is Veronica Borrego and I currently serve the district as an educational diagnostician and I am also the proud president of AOB, the Association of Brownsville Educators, the largest and longest serving association in BISD. This evening I urge you to unite for the district. We are in a hostile political climate and public education is under attack with significant uncertainty. We need stability. Based on feedback from members, parents, students, and your constituents, you are not providing it. As Board Members, it is your responsibility to set aside personal agendas and prioritize our district's needs. Instead of division, working together and collaborate, especially now, is what we need. This is a time for bipartisanship, active listening, empathy, and open communication. Identify our district's underlying needs and find mutually acceptable solutions through compromise and collaboration. We need action, not deadlocked votes. AOB asks for a decision on filling the vacant Board position and stability with a long-term Superintendent. We have a common goal, or we should. We need better. Maya Angelou said, do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better. Thank you, have a good evening.

Teresa Lamas - Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to state a few personal statements. I would like to take a few minutes to congratulate a group of individuals that was recognized earlier this evening and very deservedly so. I chose this particular group because they, the Purchasing Department, along with the Bilingual Department, the Warehouse Department and Dr. Nellie Cantu have a very special place in my heart. But tonight, right now, it's all about the Purchasing Department. This wonderful group of professional individuals were recognized for excellence in what they do, not only locally and within this entity, but by a group of their peers at the state level. I hope that they are as proud of themselves as I and many others are proud of them as well. Although each and every one of those staff members at one time or another throughout many years were very helpful to me there are two people in particular that I'm going to mention and so that it can be recorded for posterity and these two individuals are Ms. Rosario Pena and Mr. Eliud Ornelas. Our history together as co-workers goes a little bit further than with most and that's why I'm singling them out. Let's say give or take 39 years and because they are also to my pride and joy personal friends. These two professionals are workplace mentors of mine who shared their knowledge and experience with me over the years and taught me how to do things procedurally, professionally, gladly, and compassionately. I can never repay their kindness but I can thank them today live and in color so they can hear me express my unending gratitude, respect, support, and love. The rest of the staff in that department also played an invaluable part in the accomplishment of my duties throughout the years that they and they always helped in a manner that was cheerful. They made me laugh too many times to mention and we all shared many wonderful moments throughout the years. Kudos to them and congratulations. Keep up the good work

everybody. I wanted to do this even though it was not easy for me to be here because all of them are very worth my effort because I want them to hear good things about themselves and take them with them tonight as they go home to their families and realize that the sacrifices that they made with them because they were here at work were worth it and they've paid off and you're being recognized for it. I for one am very happy that you were recognized for the work that you do because it extends past the door of your office to every nook and cranny of this district. You make operations possible and effective, you change lives, and you help our children and teachers, our foundation. Thank you, thank you, thank you, and again, God bless each and every one of you and your beautiful families. Up next, national honors, and I know you can do it, you've got it, but for today just go out and celebrate. Felicidades a todos. Gracias.

Reba Cardenas McNair Good evening. I'm here as a business person in the community who served on the Facilities Committee, the Citizens Facilities Committee, and I noticed that you have board self-evaluation on your agenda as well as discussing Dr. Chavez. And I would like to say how disappointed I am in the performance of the school Board in having these three-three votes all the time. I do think that is not you're not making the community progress and the BISD progress. You're not keeping the students at the front of your efforts and to bring this up when you know it's going to be a 3-3 vote is an exercise in futility. And I, like others, I'm asking you to be cooperative and work as a team. You had all of these students here earlier, all of them progressing, all of them doing good things. And yet the behavior of your Board is dysfunctional. And I will just give you some examples and I hope you have this self-evaluation and I hope you really take what I say to heart. You ignored the recommendations of the Citizens Facilities Committee. You had a hundred people working to go to all the schools, and believe you me, if you've been to the schools, you've seen all the deferred maintenance, yet you ignored that. Then you didn't vote to let the issue go to the voters. Let the voters decide if they're going to spend \$300 million on these facilities, which they all needed work. Every facility needed something. There was maintenance needed at every ... and you did not let the voters decide. Why not? That made no sense. Then, the reality of your diminishing school population. You have a diminishing school population, schools are going to have to be closed. There's just no question about it and you're not facing up to the reality. Then putting Dr. Chavez again on the agenda. Why can you not decide that he's really doing a good job and you need to acknowledge it? And whatever else you need to know, you know that it's going to be a three, three vote. So why are you putting it on the agenda? So people like me and Denise have to come and say, this is not progressing. This is not what you want to model to your students. And in fact, this is what you would not want your students to do. This is the opposite of what would be good behavior, a good example to anybody in this community. So anyone encouraging you in this dysfunctional behavior has something other than the best interests of this school Board at heart. And you need to really think about that because you have an obligation to this community and you are not doing what is best for the community and anyone that says otherwise is not thinking of what is best for the community.

Adina Alegria Good evening President Lopez Valdez, members of the Board, Dr. Chavez, administrators, and those joining the Brownsville ISD YouTube channel. My name is Adina Alegria, Executive Director of Texas Valley Educators Association, affiliated with Brownsville Unions Coalition. The following is taken from policy. A district is governed by a Board of Trustees who, as a body corporate, shall oversee the management of the district and ensure that the superintendent implements and monitors plans. The trustees constitute a body corporate and have the exclusive power and duty to govern and oversee the district's public schools. Unfortunately, there is no proper working Board here today. When public education is under attack by our Texas governor and two billionaires, we have a non-working board. Where HB1, the budget appropriations bill, would allow for unlimited funds for

school vouchers and swift action needed to be taken, we have a non-working board. When Texas is ranked 38th in funding and energy should be focused on better funding and how to do that locally, we have a non-working board. Where Texas teachers earn less than the national average and energy should be focused to figure out how to pay teachers more, we have a non-working board. Where this board had a distinct opportunity to make sure your children and loved ones are cool and safe from the elements by replacing HVACs and roofs because let's face it, in Texas, temperatures do get over 100 degrees. We had a non-working board. When this board had the distinct opportunity to have an election for the position once held by Erasmo Castro and finally continue to get some work done and cease the games because someone had to pay the piper, we have a non-working board. We are now entering our third, maybe fourth, dog and pony show on this witch hunt to terminate our superintendent, an individual who has never been so respected and revered. We have a non-working board. Those here and watching today, Brownsville ISD trustees have a duty to govern and oversee the district's public schools. And instead of expending energy on what I mentioned before and what is knocking at our back door, which is the fight against school vouchers, vouchers that if implemented in BISD would drain the district of \$15 million, which could mean 283 fewer teachers. But instead of really fighting for your children and employees of this district and going up to Austin and fiercely advocating for the children of this district, we have individuals that want to waste our time and your tax dollars, excuse me, on this consuming and weird and intense focus on firing the superintendent. One individual always tells us what they were taught growing up. You want to know what I was taught? Respect is not given, it is earned. If you can't take it, don't dish it. If you can't do the job, step aside so someone else can do the job. Maybe it's time for certain individuals to step aside, stop wasting our time and taxpayer money and let the adults advocate to ensure the future success of the students, employees, and this district. Respect is earned, not given. We stand with our superintendent. Thank you for your attention.

Celia Saiz Good evening Board Vice President Lopez Valdez, Dr. Chavez, and members of the Board. My name is Celia Saiz and I'm speaking as the President of BEST AFT Union Local 3877. I am going to speak on agenda items VIIA2, XIIIA2 and XIX9A2. BEST AFT wants to congratulate BISD administration, campus administrators, sponsors and coaches along with our amazing students on their accomplishments. They found the good. It is all around us. We see it at every board meeting. The district showcases it. Community members start believing in it. BISD is the best choice for your child. Find the good. BEST AFT supports item number two, recommending the resolution opposing Texas school vouchers, education savings accounts, taxpayer savings grants, and other mechanisms that take public school funding. These voucher scams give public funds to those who need it the least without any accountability. Parents have always had a school choice as Representative Janie Lopez of San Benito and Brownsville told our members on Lobby Day March the 17th. The rich used to complain that their taxes went to public school districts like San Benito, Los Fresnos and Brownsville ISD. Well the shoe now is on the other foot. We can complain about our money going to the wealthy and rich so they can buy a boat, build a pool or go on an extended vacation. The voucher bill in its current form would drain \$15.1 million from BISD and could affect 283 of our employees' job status. Just a quick reminder, the resolution is not a policy, but a belief statement, much like the one the Board approved in February for an Educational Employees' Bill of Rights. Thank you, trustees and administration for showcasing this scam and speaking out against it. BEST AFT would like to wish all of our students, staff, and campuses the very best on the STAAR test. April is the testing month, and we want everyone to know that we support you. Continue to be the superstar that you are. We believe in you. Have a great evening, or the best evening possible. Thank you.

Beatriz Maldonado I'm a little bit under the weather, so please excuse my voice. Good evening, Board President Valdez, Miss Lopez Valdez, Dr. Chavez, and members of the board. My name is Bea Maldonado, and I'm the Vice President of BEST AFT. I also teach world history at Homer Hanna High School. I am speaking on agenda items IX. A2 and XI.A4. BEST AFT would like to wish everyone April Fool's Day. When I first looked at the agenda, we thought for sure that the agenda items IX. A1, IX. A2, XI. A1, and XI. A2 were all part of an April Fool's Day prank. Sad to say that I was wrong. BEST AFT thought there was a misprint where we didn't see an agenda item on the personal professionalism. We were also amazed that there isn't an agenda item to censure a Board Member for conduct unbecoming in which one employee was bullied and harassed by a sitting trustee and another employee was cursed at not once but twice. Is that the personal professionalism that is being discussed tonight? Or are some Board Members ignoring what occurred to shine the light on an employee who after being cursed at investigated, responded in the same fashion. Said issue was investigated and the employee was placed on administrative leave without pay. What is the consequence for the Board Member? Does the Board Members at condone this conduct? We ask when is it ever appropriate for a Board Member to curse at an employee of the district? And Board Members speak about being booed during a Board Meeting. Bad behavior is bad behavior. The employee suffered a consequence, but the Board Member has not. And other Board Members support this behavior. We need all of you on the same page to fight the voucher scam at the state level that takes money away from our children. The voucher scam will only lead to the loss of more students, the potential increase of school consolidations and closing, and in the reduction of force or layoffs of the employees of this district. Those are my words last month. Thank you for placing an anti-voucher resolution on the agenda. Finally, we at BEST AFT support Dr. Chavez and his administration. We wish the Board would focus on the issues that we all face, reduction in funding in public education, reduction in funding from the federal government, working on an outline for the 25-26 budget, determining how we are going to update ACs and HVACs without the bond moving forward. Important issues. If you want to know how the employees feel about him, then do a campus climate survey. Thank you for listening and have a best evening. Thank you.

Orlando Lopez Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to address you all. Good evening, Board President Valdez-Lopez, Dr. Chavez, and members of the Board. My name is Orlando Lopez, and I'm the BEST AFT officer as well as a special education itinerant teacher for the Regional School for the Deaf. I am speaking on agenda item XI. A, the termination of our superintendent. This has to be, it's April Fools. It doesn't make sense? Does it make sense to anybody that this gentleman who came to Brownsville, lives in Brownsville, lived in Brownsville, came to school in Brownsville, and worked in Brownsville, and he was the superintendent of three other districts, where in which we also were told from Mr. Ray McMurray, which is an AFT, he worked with him and he was asked about Mr. Chavez and he quote said, Dr. Chavez is the gold standard in which to compare other superintendents to. He is the real deal. This is the person we're trying to terminate, makes no sense. In the short time he has been superintendent for BISD, he has demonstrated and brought different things to this district. We should be celebrating a homegrown BISD success story instead of planning the crab in the bucket game where some tried to bring him down to the level of frustration and inadequacy. Certain board members are acting like children who, when they don't get their way, stomp their feet and hold their breath. This isn't the time to be childish. The district faces significant issues in the state legislature when it comes to public funding. The continued and anticipated loss of 1,200 students a year for the next six years and crumbling infrastructures. If you don't want to be part of the solution, then you're a part of the problem. If you are here to support our children and our staff, then get serious about solutions. If you can't, then get out of the way and let others do their job. Thank you for listening and have a best evening. Thank you.

Denise Garza stepped out 7:51 p.m.

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.

IX. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084.

Denise Garza returned 7:54 p.m.

- A. Board Member Request(s):**
 - 1. Discussion on matters related to Superintendent's Evaluation and Employment Contract. (Board Agenda Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Minerva Pena)
 - 2. Discussion regarding personnel professionalism. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)

X. BOARD RECONVENES - Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session. 9:07 p.m.

- A. Recommend approval of agenda item IX. A. 1. Discussion and possible action on matters related to adopting Superintendent's Evaluation and Superintendent's Employment Contract. (Board Agenda Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Minerva Pena)**

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Legal, could you please direct us on the next two items? *Mr. Nick Maddox, Board attorney replied, yes, Madam President. So X. 10A, the Board will take no action based on a future workshop planned on this. No Action Taken*

- B. Recommend approval of agenda item IX. A. 2. Recommend approval regarding personnel professionalism. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)**

Mr. Nick Maddox, Board Attorney stated, on X. B, Ms. Pena, I believe you had a statement. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, I just want to make sure, Dr. Chavez, that we iterate and just stress to all personnel, every employee, the respect and the honor that we have towards each other every day when we work, to the parents, to the children, to just like the Board, we need to respect each other in everything we do. I just want to make sure that we stress that and we have empathy and compassion when things happen. Like right now, everyone's under a lot of stress because of the STAAR test, I'm sure you know that. It's amazing. So I just want to make sure that we are compassionate and empathetic and tell everyone to be like that with each other and respect each other, look out for each other because this is what makes a successful district to make sure we take care of that.

XI. Board Member Request(s):

- A. Action Item(s)**

Mr. Maddox stated, and Madam President, members of the Board of Trustees, Superintendent Chavez, for XI. A1 and XI. A2 the Board will take no action. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have

Ms. Gonzalez who wanted to add to the statement. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I'm sorry yes thank you. I just wanted to reiterate that it is also important that us as Board members definitely set the example for professionalism here in the not only here in the boardroom but outside in the public as well. It starts with us. Thank you. Mr. Carlos Elizondo stated, yes just real quick I just want to thank the Board for agreeing on a one to take it to a meeting and the Superintendent agrees so this is a reason, workshop, thank you. We're not going to go with one and two, we're going to bring it back and make sure that we can all get along.

1. Discussion, consideration, and possible action to give Superintendent notice of non-renewal and or termination. (Board Member Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Minerva Pena) **(No Action taken)**
2. Discussion, consideration, and possible action to name an Interim Superintendent. (Board Agenda Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Minerva Pena) **(No Action Taken)**
3. Discussion, consideration and approval for BISD to fund the chess k-1 teams/individuals for the Super Nationals Chess Tournament in Orlando, Florida in May 2025. This request includes funding all teams and individuals who earned 1st, 2nd and 3rd place at the 2025 regional chess tournament and/or the 2025 state chess tournament. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated second. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Secretary stated, may I make an amendment, please? Yes, I'd like for this to read for BISD to fund the national chess tournament to the top three BISD schools in the top five places at regional or state chess tournament, K1 grade level, middle school, grade level, high school, and for the top students placing at the regional state level in the top five. And funding for the girls national tournament also that will be granted so they can go, the same thing, the top three teams or the top four, because believe it or not, Dr. Chavez, we've been national chess girls champions, and Brownsville, Texas is the Texas state capital of the chess program. And I know, you know how to play chess, sir? **Dr. Jesus Chavez replied yes.** Ms. Pena continued, okay, then we can play, we can probably beat each other in three moves. But my thing is, this is a very worthy program, it teaches a lot, and I'd like to make sure that we continue to fund them sir because I have seen so many of these children and students they're not our top teachers some of them are top teachers coming in and teaching our kids teaching them talent teaching them programs. So I just want to make sure that we can do everything we can to support our students 100% . Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, legal question we have a first and a second on the first item so that means we have to vote on the first or the second right I mean sorry on the first item before we amend? *Mr. Nick Maddox, Board Attorney replied, no so the easiest thing to do Madam President would be if the Board is entertaining it would be to revoke the motion on the table and start fresh otherwise we have to go through kind of a complicated series to amend the motion that's currently on the table. So my advice would be let's just start fresh and walk back those motions.* Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I can retract my motion if she wants to include that. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza, I know you have a question, and Ms. Gonzalez, you have a question. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, yeah, and my question is for Mr. Cespedes. May I, Dr. Chavez? Mr. Cespedes, by adding the fourth and fifth place, I know we hadn't budgeted, because we had set up a

committee during last budget to review some of this stuff. Do we have funding? I just want to make sure we do have the funding, because I know that a parent spoke during public comments that I believe the fourth and fifth place had sponsors, right, that they had, their teams were sponsored by somebody. Ms. Pena stated, no, but these are only three teams, it's only still going to be three teams. Ms. Garza stated, okay. Ms. Pena stated, no mija, this is only going to be three teams that make. Ms. Garza interjected, its because I heard fourth and fifth. Ms. Pena interjected, no the top three of the first through fifth place, it's whoever make the top three of first through fifth place, I its only three teams I'm not adding four. Ms. Garza stated, oh okay all right I just need a clarification. Ms. Pena stated, yes, yes dear. Ms. Garza stated, disregard Mr. Cespedes. Ms. Pena stated, shall I read it again? Ms. Gonzalez, stated, yeah if I guess I'll actually... Ms. Garza interjected, I'll retract my first and Ms. Pena can just go ahead and read it again so we can start fresh. Ms. Gonzalez stated, just for clarity, just for clarity. So you're asking Ms. Pena, first, second, and third? Ms. Pena replied, yes, only three teams will be going from the first through the fifth. Whoever plays from first to fifth place, in other words, the fifth-place team is the top three of BISD from the first to fifth on national and regionals that they get funded. It's not going to be more than three, that's going to stay. Okay, so I'd like to put on there that BISD fund the National Chess Tournament for the top three schools in the top five places at the regional and or state chess tournament from grade level K1, K-1st, middle school grade level, high school grade level, and also the top eight students placed in the regional or state. In other words, if a child got first through fifth and the first three places and they get first place, they got second place, they get funded individually. And funded for the girls, and funding please for the girls national chess tournament be granted for the top three BISD teams who scored in the top four. But I don't think there's more than one team that scored. But I want to put it like that so we can fund the girls because they're outstanding. Like I said, we've already had national titles. Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, motion to approve. Mr. Elizondo stated, Second. Ms. Garza stated, and for, okay, but for future, can we make sure that we add that to our budget on the policy when it comes to? Ms. Pena interjected, yes, dear 100%. Ms. Garza, stated, that way we don't have to be bringing it back. Ms. Lopez interjected, lets make sure it following the proper process and the board workshops when we go into budget. And we will start that soon. And that's when we will discuss the rest of this. Ms. Pena stated, and we can maybe put it like in a handbook for Chess or something so it will be something that we don't have to worry about every year like we used to in the past, I would appreciate it. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Dr. Chavez are we good on funding on this for this May because, I know that's coming up soon. **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, sure and I guess just let me add a little bit more information as well. The reason we're talking about this item is because last year planning this year remember we were over 23 million short. And so, you know, we needed to look at some changes, right? And so we looked at some changes. It had always been my intent that if indeed we got to a better funding situation from the state or a more balanced budget from our district, that yes, we would add some of these items up. So I'm in support in adding the items up. I'm keeping my fingers crossed with regards again to what the state is going to provide and that yes you know we have the necessary funds for all the other expenses that we have in the district. But I think we will be in a better situation, a lot better situation, than we were last year. And I certainly want to recognize our Chief Financial Officer for just the tremendous work that he's done as well as some of his staff with regards to taking a look at our budget and getting as much money as we could from state, locally being manageable with**

how we did our own budget. Anyway, just wanted to also mention that as well. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you all for your hard work on this budget. I know it hasn't been easy. We have a first and a second. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote. Motion passes.** Ms. Pena stated, well, thank you, God. Thank you, Mr. Cespedes and thank you, Dr. Chavez.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of BISD fund the National Chess Tournament for the top three schools in the top five places at the regional and or state chess tournament from grade level K-1st, middle school grade level, high school grade level, and also the top eight students placed in the regional or state competition. Inclusive of the girl's national tournament. (6-0-0)

4. Discussion and presentation by administration on DH (local), DCD (local), and DF (local) policies (and exhibits) relating to personnel professionalism. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)

Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, let me ask our personnel to come forward. I know they've got a presentation that they're going to be working on. And as we review that information, this is general information, but again, we're happy to answer any other questions that you have, and of course, provide additional information after after tonight if we need to as well. Ms. Maricela Zarate, Director Employee Benefits/Risk Management stated, good evening Madam President. Ms. Lopez Valdez superintendent, Dr. Chavez and honorable members of the Board. We appreciate having this presentation because it is very important, and it's a great refresher and a great reminder periodically to go over this topic. So, the purpose of having a Texas Educators Code of Ethics is to establish a clear set of professional standards that all educators in Texas are expected to uphold. So, this certainly is not unique to Brownsville. This is what is common bound in all of the Texas schools. And it's important because it protects students, it promotes professionalism, it defines what ethical responsible behavior looks like, it maintains and it guides the decision making, and it upholds the law. So, this presentation that you have today is just an abbreviation of what is reviewed with administrations and campuses, departments, every year, annually. So, we start off with policy DH Local, is a local and it's actually a unique policy to Brownsville. We've always customized it to make it our own. And I just have on that slide the general areas that it covers, and it has to do with employees' responsibilities. And as you see down the list, including, you know, electronic communication, outside activities, profanity, reports of misconduct, bullying in the workplace, disruptive activities, and so on. Policy DH local, also has an exhibit. So the exhibit, this everyone will recognize because this is the actual Educator's Code of Ethics, and it's got three general standard areas. Again, this is what is expected of Texas educators and it includes professional ethical conduct, practices and performances, and that is in the first section. The second section deals with ethical conduct towards professional colleagues. That's how we engage with each other. And then the third one is ethical conduct towards students. Then I follow with policy DCD local, and this is employment practices of at-will employment. And in this policy, we find general information regarding, of course, at-will employment, suspension, dismissal, and appeal of employment actions. Policy DCD also has a

regulation that is unique to Brownsville, and that is progressive discipline. And it's something we've always exercised, but as you know, in 2016, the Board adopted progressive discipline. So you have different levels of, you know, progressive discipline, which include counseling, verbal warning, written warning, final written warning, and recommendation for termination of employments, and it discusses also severe or dangerous actions. We have the forms related to this in our HR website. And the last policy that was asked to be presented has to do with the termination of employment. So this is the Board's designee, which is, of course, our Superintendent, who will serve as the Board's designee to suspend a contract employee without pay, provide written notice that the person's contract is void. And this is done in certain cases, for example, when there's been a revocation of an SBEC certificate or if the employee, you know, has been convicted or has received deferred adjudication for a felony offense. Those are the general areas of DH series. Are there any questions? Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, any questions? Ms. Minerva Pena Board Member stated, no, you did it really well in a nutshell. So I just want to make sure that people understand. So thank you very much, because we need to make sure that we look out for each other. And you know, there's days that life is hard, but we need to always, I know, please forgive me, some people think that, you know, respect is not given, and I was raised different. Respect is given, no matter what, what's going on, what you feel, respect is given. Because this way the earth continues, our people continue to get along, because we don't have to agree, but we can agree to disagree and respect, go on, take care of each other, look out for each other, so we can continue. Because you know, my sons always said this, in ten years, ain't nobody going to remember what happened, right? But what we will do is remember the success that we've had. And that's what I want to do, make sure we succeed and look out for each other and respect each other. So thank you so very much. **Ms. Zarate Puente stated, thank you for the opportunity to present.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you Ms. Zarate and you know, as Board Members, I hope that we can also uphold these respectful situations and us ourselves monitor our actions towards our employees as well. **Ms. Zarate Puente stated, wise words, thank you, ma'am.**

- XII. 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 Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried for approval of the General Function Items as reflected on the Consent Agenda. (6-0-0)

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| X. A. General Function | 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 |
| B. Payments | |
| C. Budget Amendments | |
| D. Contracts/Agreements | 2 |
| E. Bids/Proposals/Purchases | |

(All presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

XIII. Consent Agenda:

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

1. Discussion and possible action on Resolution #026/24-25 authorizing the Resale of Foreclosed Real Estate Properties for failure to pay ad valorem taxes.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant/Board of Trustees stated, do I have a second?** Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, Yes, second. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Mr. Ortiz, this was your item? Mr. Frank Ortiz stated, yes, Dr. Chavez, who do I go ahead and, you know, ask this question of? It deals with the resale of property? **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, Mr. Cespedes?** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, here's my question, sir. I've taken a look at all the legal documentation. I've taken a look at the pictures. It looks like it's a vacant lot. And basically, we're talking about \$27,000. Can you just kind of clarify this for me? Is this real estate property that the district is getting back and you're asking us to allow it to be sold to this individual that's here in backup? Mr. Hiram Gutierrez, Partner, Purdue Brandon Fielder Collins and Mott, Delinquent Tax Firm. This is foreclosure property. Back in 2010, May of 20, I'm sorry, September of 2010, a judgment was taken. And then again in May of 2020, a second judgment was taken against this property. The property was taken to tax sell, tax foreclosure sell back in September of 2020. There was no winning bid at that tax cell. So what happens then is that the property gets struck off. Essentially it gets sold to the taxing entities. The taxing entities become the owners of that property. Now the property can be sold for any price because at the first tax sale the property has to be sold for the judgment amount or the adjudged value of the property. It didn't sell for that. So once it struck off it can be sold for any amount. The property, a private bidder submitted a bid for \$27,000 for this property. That bid is sufficient to pay all of the current delinquent taxes owed on the property. So in order to sell it to this individual, all the taxing entities have to approve the sale of this property. So that's what we have before you. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, just as a follow-up if I may, what is the value of that property? Was it appraised? Mr. Gutierrez replied, at the time of judgment it was \$5,774. That's according to the appraisal district. That's not a private appraisal of it. Currently it's appraised at about \$13,700. So this \$27,000 is significantly more than what the appraisal district has it appraised at. Mr. Ortiz stated, absolutely, this is why I was asking about that. So it's a plus for us then. Mr. Gutierrez stated, I believe so. I would certainly recommend accepting the bid. Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, question? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, yes, and may I address Mr. Hiram? And I'm glad because I know there was a year one time when they sold an acre for \$100. Mr. Gutierrez stated, yeah, it happened. It used to be a lot harder to sell properties, but currently in the current market. Ms. Pena interjected, when we said no, they went back and got I see that because I remember like you said, there's the family, there's a bunch of them and they said we don't want the property anymore, right? Because they just don't want to deal with it, which is fine. But \$100 for an acre? Hello. And then they turn around and sell it for \$40,000 to somebody, which is fine. So I want to make sure that we do what's right. And I know that people need property and what have you. But you see what California has done, I don't know if you have ever been to California and I have, and the property, and please forgive me. When I was working for the state, we always said this, all our problems come from the West and they move to the East. And I want to make sure that we do get the proper, and I'm glad you're doing this, or what it's worth. And, you know, I want to help people and help them out, but I just don't want people from other parts of the United States to come and take advantage of our people here. Just make sure you keep your eye on that and thank you for doing the job that you're doing. And thank you, Mr. Garcia, Eddie Garcia, for doing this hard job that you've taken on. And I thank you for helping people because it

means the world, because you will keep this county going and keep the people where they need to be. So thank you and God bless you and I wish you all the best. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, real quick. Mr. Gutierrez stated, yes, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo continued, so it's going to be sold for \$27,000? Mr. Gutierrez replied, if you accept the bid, yes, it will be sold for \$27,000. Mr. Elizondo stated, and how much of that is going to come to the district? Mr. Gutierrez replied, the district is going to receive \$7,000.48 of that. Mr. Elizondo stated, and the other 20 go to who? Mr. Gutierrez replied, it's going to go to the other taxing entities. A lot of it's going to go towards costs that were incurred. But Cameron County is getting three thousand four hundred twenty-eight dollars. City of Brownsville is getting three thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars, but they also had a mowing lien that was about nine thousand two hundred and sixty-two dollars. The city had been mowing the property for obviously years. As I stated earlier, I mean that this this property has taxes going back to 2000. Mr. Elizondo stated, so the city is going to benefit more than the school district, right? Mr. Gutierrez stated, yes, I mean yeah, they're going to get their mowing lien paid and their taxes so yeah the city would get the bulk of this yes. Mr. Elizondo stated, okay I just want to make sure that it's not twenty-seven thousand for the school district right, its seven for us and twenty amongst the other. Mr. Gutierrez stated, now these seven thousand dollars by the way is what was will pretty much pay everything that was that is currently owed in taxes to Brownsville ISD. Mr. Elizondo stated, no I agree but just want to make sure that everybody understands that \$27,000 will not go to the school district. Only seven will. The rest, the city will make most of it and the county will get some of it as well. Mr. Gutierrez replied, yeah. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, and I thank you sir. And I thank you for asking that question, Mr. Elizondo, because I myself thought that it was all going to come towards BISD. So thank you for asking that question and for clarification. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena? Ms. Pena stated, yes, I'm sorry, remind me, because my thing, my computer went off. What was it appraised for, sir? Mr. Gutierrez stated, when the judgment was taken back in 2020, the judgment amount was, the adjudged value was \$5,774. Currently, right now, it's appraised somewhere about \$13,300 or \$13,400 and actually I can tell you exactly what it's. Here we go. \$13,387. It does have some sort of structure appraised to it, but if you look at there's a photograph, I think you have the packet, it's just a, I don't know what it is, it's appraised at \$700, but I can't see that it has any real value. Ms. Pena stated, thank you so much.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Frank Ortiz, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Resolution #026/24-25 authorizing the Resale of Foreclosed Real Estate Properties for failure to pay ad valorem taxes. (6-0-0)

2. Recommend approval of Brownsville Independent School District Resolution #027/24-25 of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent opposing Texas School Vouchers, Education Savings Accounts, Taxpayer Savings Grants, and other mechanisms that reduce Public Education Funding.

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, second. In the spirit of unity, I think it's extremely important that we as a Board recognize the attack on public education. I think this is one item that we can all agree on and make sure that we continue to fight for our children, for their ability to

receive a free, quality public education no matter their race, religion, gender, that they continue to find a safe haven in Brownsville ISD and for the 5.5 million kids across the state of Texas continue to have opportunity. I think it's important that as a Board we unite and we take a stance and we forest through the trees because this is the real battle that we have ahead of us and I think together we are more powerful for the sake of our students and for the sake of our 6,000 employees. Thank you. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, I certainly agree with that Dr. Chavez and I come back to what I said two and a half years ago this is the perfect opportunity to promote and market our district at this point in time. We are going to have to do whatever we can to make sure that we sell our district out there and make sure that people know that BISD is the best choice and I know that we do have a commercial that's out there that's an excellent commercial to where it basically addresses everything that the district has to offer. I think we just need to put it out in the air a lot more often and this is the time to do it. We're going to have to come together and keep our kids here and certainly be able to have other families bring their kids to BISD. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, and I think it's very important because what people are not realizing, this is the only country that I've known and I've been researching on the planet that has a law where you need to bring your child to school from the age of 6 to 18, Monday through Friday, or you have to pay a penalty. Charter schools, you go in, you sign up, I'm sorry, we don't have room, we'll call you, go home. You go to a private school, oh, you don't have enough money, come back. The minute you register into a public school, you get assigned to a class right then and there. But the only way you can bring the United States down is by getting rid of the education that mandates to 18 and if we're not paying attention, we'll become like third world countries where after sixth grade, the child has nowhere to go to school because they can't afford. So please, please, general public needs to understand, we are the best country on the planet because of the education system and I would really like to give a big round of applause to all our teachers, guys, if we can, because of you guys, we have made it this far. So thank you and I'd like to give you a round of applause. **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, let me say that I really appreciate the Board support of the resolution. My bringing it forward with the Board was that as you think of the history the district has had, you know, they started with a small program, right? And so here, that's what the proposal is. But then over time, every couple of years, they continue to add more dollars and more dollars and more dollars. And so that's one of the reasons, in addition again to the difference in education that they provide and the opportunity to provide students, public education provides a great number of growth programs for our students. Yes, we do really well with the education, but we have a lot of other programming for our students where they become very, very successful. So, I appreciate the board support on this and I just want to thank you for it.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Dr. Chavez. Thank you for being our steadfast leader through all of this. Thank you for being an expert in school finance and for helping us continue the charge of advocacy at the capital and now at the federal level. We have a first and a second.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Brownsville Independent School District Resolution #027/24-25 of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent opposing Texas School Vouchers, Education Savings Accounts, Taxpayer Savings Grants, and other mechanisms that reduce Public Education Funding. (6-0-0)

3. Recommend approval to authorize Administration to move forward with the purchase of the Chiller Systems for the HVAC Chiller Replacement at Canales E.S., Hanna ECHS, and Porter ECHS Project. The Delivery Method in accordance as authorized by the Texas Education Government Code 2269, for Construction Services and the use of a District approved CSP. Chiller Systems will meet all specifications set forth by a Construction Services, in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00. Funding from Local Funds 197. **(Consent Agenda)**
4. Recommend approval to authorize Administration to accept BISD intercom Upgrades-District Wide Project for several campuses, as substantially complete. **(Consent Agenda)**
5. Recommend approval of Change Order #002, to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc. for the CSP #21-121 BISD Intercom Upgrades Various School Campuses, of \$39,214.08. The amount represents RFI and Skinner Elementary increase of construction changes under fund 188. **(Consent Agenda)**
6. Recommend approval of Change Order #003, to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc. for the CSP #21-121 BISD Intercom Upgrades Various School Campuses, of \$133,717.69. The amount represents unused funds in the allowances under fund 188 (Credit back to the District). **(Consent Agenda)**
7. Recommend approval of Change Order #002, increase to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Scoggins Construction Co., Inc. – CSP #22-147, Food and Nutrition Services-New Freezer/Cooler Facility of \$122,483.00. The amount represents and increase of construction changes under fund 199. **(Consent Agenda)**
8. Recommend approval of Change Order #001, to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Carrier Commercial Services, for the CSP #23-158 Burns ES HVAC Upgrades Phase I, of \$130,000.00. The amount represents unused funds in the allowance. under the funding 197 (Credit back to the District). **(Consent Agenda)**
9. Recommend approval of Change Order #001, increase to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Araiza General Construction, LLC-CSP #23-176, BISD Transportation New Fuel Station Project of \$28,871.00. The amount represents an increase of construction changes under fund 199.

Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, Dr. Chavez, what caused this increase or what is it that we found out afterwards that it's got to come back for us to? **Mr. Manuel Hinojosa, Administrator stated, good evening, Dr. Chavez, members of the Board. This project is complete right now but one of the things that was pending was at the very beginning, when we designed it, it was several locations that we were picking. At the end, once we engineered this location, at the request of the Transportation Department, they wanted to relocate it another 10 feet. Well, they had already done a block out. The slab's 7 1/2 inches, they had already that they had already started the project taking out you know part of the concrete also remove some of the fill and debris and therefore we had to come back and patch that part up and move the project, the building over a bit. So that cost, we didn't have any contingency on the project, so that cost ended up being \$28,871.** Ms. Pena stated, and that's my concern

because they moved it, but \$28,000, my goodness, welcome to Cameron County. Please forgive me, and I'm sorry, sir. I'm into numbers and I was raised with money all the time to take care of it. And it just makes it very, it's hard to swallow. They moved it from point A to B, same location, \$28,000. So, we need to be very careful because we, I feel that we're at some point Dr. Chavez being looked at as a somebody's piggy bank and charge because we'll pay it so please very be very very conscious of what's going on and what people can pay for and what people cannot do and look for something that's economical and good and a responsible way to use our money for our taxpayers money so please thank you. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, this question here is for legal before I ask the question. I know there's a couple of other items here for instance item number three, five, seven that kind of show increases as well. Is it okay if I ask if that's the same, something similar to this issue that happened to number nine? Board Attorney response (inaudible). Mr. Ortiz continued, sir, once again, item number three shows an increase also by, and number five shows an increase, 39,000. Number seven shows an increase of 122,000. And item number three shows an increase of 1,200,000. Does that pretty much follow the same scenario as number 11, or their other issues that came up here that cost an increase? **Mr. Hinojosa stated, sir, if I go back to those items, there's, what you said increases there was an increase on the on the FNS project The other product the other projects there was two projects on there the change orders were actually Credits back to the school district so they were not there were not increases. This is the other increase.** Mr. Ortiz stated, the only credit that I see is on item number six, credit back to the district. Unless I'm reading this wrong. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, no. If we go back, for instance, if we go back to the...** Mr. Ortiz interjected, see, I'm looking at item number six and number eight. Those are credit back to the district, but the items that I mentioned just a little while ago, it's just an increase that is not credited back to the district. And I just want to know if that's a similar case to number nine. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, okay, on item number, and I'll go ahead and review them with, just so we can see this. Item number six shows a credit...** Mr. Ortiz interjected, I'm talking item number 3, 5, and 7. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, okay, item number 3 is the method for construction. Okay, you know what? I have these numbered differently. Okay, let me just go back to the... let me just look at the... I'm looking at my numbers. Okay, I'm sorry. Yeah, item number three is a construction method. We haven't gone out for bids on that project. The one that we're showing here, on the item number five is Skinner, which is the intercom. Item number four and number five are credits. Actually, that's one project, but there's a credit on number five that represents that project, which the credit is...** Ms. Pena interjected, and number three is that 1.2 million dollars? Is that the one you're talking about? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, so the item that was circled was number nine and we're going back to items that are not circled. Mr. Ortiz stated, that's why I asked legal, yes. Ms. Pena stated, es, and he said we could, but you're talking about the one, that number three, that \$1.2 million? You're talking about that one? **Mr. Hinojosa stated, yeah, the \$1.2 million, that's going out for bids this month. We haven't done that project yet.** Ms. Pena stated, hopefully it'll be next. **Mr. Hinojosa continued, so there's no increases yet.** Ms. Pena interjected, remember. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Mr. Hinojosa, a per our conversation earlier, when I reached out about the questions I had on the agenda, I believe five and six are together. So we're paying out \$39,000 for the intercoms, but we're getting back \$133,000 for the same project. **Mr. Hinojosa replied, exactly, that's a credit for the project. That's not an income. There's no money expended by the school district on those on those two items.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay,

thank you for clarifying. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, yes sir.** Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, Mr. Hinojosa, real quick before you leave, and I'm talking about nine. It says 28,871 and that was just how big was that square? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, it was all the breakdown is included if I go to the breakdown, I will give you the exact information on that. On the breakdown it says, it was 400 square feet of removal on that original part. And it required cutting, demolition work, removal, excavation, and backfill compaction.** Mr. Elizondo stated, right, and are they, is it someone, is it just one person doing the work? Because I was reading the time and labor and it says there that they, two days to put the concrete and two days to break the rock and another two days, you know, were they doing it by hand or in total of nine days of labor just for 400 square feet? **Mr. Hinojosa stated, you know, if you go back in the transportation area, all that's concrete and they had to cut seven and a half inches of concrete, okay, so they had to saw that piece there. And once you, then there's rebar you got to take off and demolition. It's extensive labor. I saw it taking place. And it did take a couple of days.** Mr. Elizondo stated, were they doing it with machines or was it manual labor is what I'm asking? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, it was both. You have to, something like that, you have to use what you can with the equipment, then a lot of it has to be just shoveled out, sir.** Ms. Pena stated, let me interact real quick, yes, because the original order was for 605,882.88, but then when you had to make the adjustment to decide to move the location, same property but a little further from where it was, it increased 28,000 which made the total for this \$634,753.88. Am I correct, that's the total? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, yes ma'am.** Mr. Elizondo stated, just my concern is like we're paying like \$72 a square foot for demo work I mean it's does that little too expensive or isn't that very expensive? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, well it's more the time and labor that was required materials.** This this was at the re this is something that transportation wanted to do. Mr. Elizondo stated, I agree, I understand that but maybe we can work out a better deal for demo at 72 dollars, it's almost like building a brand-new house. Nowadays but, okay. Thank you sir. Ms. Pena stated, and if I may, at this point we have to approve it because we need to get the work done, am I correct? It's kind of pretty much out of our hands. Ms. Lopez Valdez replied, yes.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Change Order #001, increase to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Araiza General Construction, LLC-CSP #23-176, BSD Transportation New Fuel Station Project of \$28,871.00. The amount represents an increase of construction changes under fund 199 (6-0-0).

10. Recommend approval to utilize the ADSY Pep Grant Cycle 5 grant funds in accordance to the Memorandum of Understanding as submitted to TEA and was Board approved on 1/14/2025 for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 (pending grant funding) school year. ***(Consent Agenda)**
11. Recommend approval of the 2025-2026 High School and Middle School Course Listing Guides & Secondary and Elementary Grading Procedures at no cost to the District. *

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated second. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, questions here on the individual that I can address this to pertaining to the grading course listings? **Dr. Jesus**

Chavez, Superintendent stated, yes, sir. We have Dr. Nic or also we've got Beatriz as well who's here, right? Mr. Ortiz stated, okay. I did take a look at them and I did see that there were minor changes with the course listings. I did have just a couple of questions here. I know that it says here that feedback was gathered from all campuses. What process was used to gather that feedback? **Dr. Norma Ibarra Cantu, Executive Director/Secondary stated, good evening the process that we use is that the current course listing guide grading procedures are sent to the campuses. The campuses have copies. They're on our website. And it is required that they meet, for example, in the high schools, they'll meet by strand. Our teachers give input. Our counselors meet. All the groups at the schools. And then they submit their input. We also meet with the administrators, with the principals, we come back and bring those items to discussion. So this year we had very minor updates and revisions that we that were able to denote here on these documents.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay so it's pretty much the same process that's been used for several years. **Dr. Ibarra Cantu stated, absolutely sir, yes.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, I remember that process. So, I'm just wondering if it had changed or not. I did take a look at the high school on page 30 of 67, and I think you all addressed the EB students on that one there, just minor. **Dr. Ibarra Cantu replied, yes, we updated as per the state.** Mr. Ortiz stated, correct. The credit by examination, I also took a look at that and I think y'all at it there as well and it's very specific of when how many times per year they're allowed and the specifics on that. Now I do, I wanted to ask and I believe this would go to Ms. Longoria because is at the elementary level on page 41 of 52, I noticed that y'all added the partner PE. Can you, I read it, it sounds very interesting, but can you kind of give me a little bit more on that? Was it Ms. Emerson then? **Dr. Chavez stated, yes, Ms. Emerson, can you respond to that?** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, because I thought that was at the middle school, yes. **Ms. Dolores Emerson, Executive Director/Elementary (inaudible).** Mr. Ortiz stated, oh, did I say elementary? Okay, on page 41 of 52 for middle schools. Because I know at the elementary level there really wasn't any changes. Right. **Dr. Ibarra Cantu stated, so that's with our special education department, the partner PE.** Mr. Ortiz stated, can you give me a little synopsis on that? What is it specifically that they do that? It sounded very interesting, so I just wanted to get some specifics. **Dr. Ibarra Cantu stated, what page are you on sir? I'm sorry.** Mr. Ortiz replied, 41 of 52, middle school. Got it? **Dr. Ibarra Cantu, replied, so this is where in PE class, the students will have a tutor that will be oriented them in the, during that PE time. And it will be for our special education students. So they'll have a partner there with them to assist.** Mr. Ortiz stated, very good, thank you. I just wanted to get a little bit of an explanation on that. One last question. The pictures of those cover pages, are those BISD students? **Dr. Ibarra Cantu replied, we don't have a picture of a student in the middle school one. Let me look at the, but I don't think we do, sir. And we, these are more like the drafts, but we can definitely work on the cover. We want to get some actual pictures of them.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, I just saw on the backup that on some of those cover sheets there were some pictures of students. You know, not every single cover sheet has pictures of students, but some of them do. And I was just wondering if they happened to be BISD students, it'd be great if they were. **Dr. Ibarra Cantu stated, we'll go ahead and make a huge effort to make sure we get some of the students. And I know that we've been working with our public information office so we can get some pictures of students from different schools. But right now these are just graphs, graphics that one of our graph designers put together for us.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, gotcha. Just wanted to ask those questions.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the 2025-2026 High School and Middle School Course Listing Guides & Secondary and Elementary Grading Procedures at no cost to the District. * (6-0-0)

B. Recommend approval of the following Payment(s):

1. Recommend the approval of payments for construction services and/or engineering services throughout the District in the total amount of \$780,384.04.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, yes, just want to give a little presentation on the payments that we're approving tonight. **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, can you go ahead and provide that?** Mr. Manuel Hinojosa, Administrator replied, yes, yes sir. I will surely provide it. Going down the list on the first one, the Sigma engineers, they've arrived at almost a completion on this. The only thing that we're waiting for is a inspection on the gas line that we're waiting a permit from the gas company, but they completed all the engineering because all the construction was done as far as electrical, mechanical. The next four items are carrier, corporation, they're a little bit late in sending bills, but simply because they're all, the first two, which is Burns and Faulk, they're at 100%. The only thing remaining is the retainage on those projects. The Russell is about 86.5% complete. All they need is the software and the controls to complete their project. And the Pena, which is also being done by Carrier, is at 90%.

Jessica Gonzalez stepped out at 9:52 p.m.

It also needs the software and the controls. Number six, the site public sector part is actually two payments. It's shown there and also shown on the next page. There're two payments there that complete the project by paying that final amount on the intercoms. That closes out that project, and so it's shown in those two payments. If I go back to the central heating, which is the last one on the first page, it's the HV upgrades, and that's also requiring software and controls, the other parts already complete. They also have Hanna, and that's also reaching a point that all they need is the commissioning and closeout to finish the project.

Jessica Gonzalez returned at 9:53 p.m.

The next three projects, which is payment 11, 12, and 13 is Ethos Engineering and it is on the upgrades of Faulk, Hanna, and Pena. That school, as far as the engineering, will be paid off. We recommend that we make these payments so they can close out the engineering part. There were some glitches there. That's why they're all three together because we made them go back and rectify some of the payoffs. Once they finished, they all were submitted for our approval or recommendation to you. The last one is the final payment of the intercom replacement system. So all the intercom work that was done was finalized and reached a closeout status. Any questions on those? Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board member stated, yes sir, let me ask you. I see here that we're making another payment for the Resaca Technology Center of \$53,943. Seems to me like we're constantly making payments and payments and payments. When are we going to move into that building? Mr. Hinojosa replied, right, well, let me just give us to answer that question, we're lacking some things. We can everything is operational, now the air conditioner is working. The only thing that's lacking, and that's because the city had required it, is a permit from the state to drain the retainage pond. And that had to be done. So we're right now and the engineers and the contractor tried to get a

permit from the state because it goes into the Frontage Road. And in order to get the final, all of the other permits are complete except the parking because of that and the lacking of the system of the use of that. And the lacking of the system, of the backup of generator that requires gas, we still lack the permit on the gasoline. Just having those things finished, the project is completed. That doesn't mean that you can't use the building, it only means that in order to meet city requirements to have a final on it, that's what we need to do. And we're currently trying to get those two permits done. Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, because it just seems to me, and I see it all the time here, we're paying and paying and paying and paying, and that building is just sitting there. And I hope that we get this done maybe this year, you know, to get our people in there. Mr. Hinojosa stated, yes, sir. Well, I think right now, and Mr. Nichols is here, the only thing he needs to do is really move his network system, his NOC, into his mainframe into the NOC building. Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent interjected, we'll provide you with an update on that and keep you informed. Mr. Ortiz stated, yes that is just a concern that I have because it has dragged on for years. Mr. Hinojosa replied, yeah. Dr. Chavez stated, it has and we're working on it and we'll get you some additional information. Mr. Hinojosa stated, yeah, they can use the facility. It's just, without that in there, it makes no sense to operate out of that complex. Mr. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Mr. Hinojosa. Ms. Garza? Ms. Denise Garza stated, yes, Mr. Hinojosa, I don't know if this is for you or maybe for Mr. Nichols, but I know you did mention that we could occupy this, but we're pending some of the stuff from the city, but yet we still have pending installation of all IT equipment is that going to be installed by our IT team or are we going to have go out and have a company come and install this because there's a lot of installations on the backup still pending, so I don't know how we could say that, it's ready. We could occupy it when we still see a lot of stuff pending. Mr. Todd Nichols, Director stated, we've already encumbered the money, so it's already put in place. It's not that we have to go out with new monies in order, it's going to be a combination of our department and also our third-party engineers. So, we've already encumbered those monies, so it's not what we're going to be asking for any more monies on that. Ms. Garza stated, do you know when we can possibly see already some installation of some of the IT equipment? Mr. Nichols replied, the one thing that we're waiting on is our hot aisle containment. And right now, the hot aisle containment company is going out for their permit. So, they should, they two weeks ago said within the next two weeks, they should have their permit so we can put the hot aisle containment in that way The ISPs then can start moving their data circuits to that location. Ms. Garza stated, thank you Mr. Nichols. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, so going by what you were saying Mr. Hinojosa we have a certificate of occupancy, that they can start moving in... Mr. Hinojosa replied, well going back, the certificate of occupancy is going to be available once they put in the NOC, okay, because. Ms. Gonzalez interjected oh so they can't move in. Mr. Hinojosa continued, they can't really function. Well, what I'm getting at is the other spaces can be utilized, but it doesn't make any sense because they can't operate with it. Now, we don't have the certificate of occupancy until we get the permits, but that doesn't mean we have a temporary use of the building right now. We can occupy it only that it's not an official certificate of occupancy until we get those two permits in place. Ms. Gonzalez stated, that's what I thought, thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, Mr. Hinojosa. Mr. Hinojosa stated, yes, ma'am. Ms. Pena stated, don't sit down, not yet. I'll get you a stool. Quick question. Mr. Hinojosa stated, yes, ma'am. Ms. Pena stated, at one time and point, I remember, and

correct me if I'm wrong, when they were looking at that building they said they might have had some kind of problem with mold and stuff in parts of that building. Did we correct that? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, that's been corrected.** Ms. Pena stated, do you know when that was corrected? Can you give us that information? Because I remember what they said about it, but I never remember them getting the completion and making sure that that building is safe for them to go in once it's done? **Mr. Hinojosa stated, there was a location that was not properly working and it created some condensation that got our attention and we ran some tests. It was an area next to the mechanical room and so we addressed that by providing a remediation and once we got final approval, we patched it up and it's safe now. The mold's not there anymore.** Ms. Pena stated, thank you, Dr. Chavez, can you give me the date and time when that was done, please? Completed.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of payments for construction services and/or engineering services throughout the District in the total amount of \$780,384.04. (6-0-0)

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, and just as a reminder, legal, if you could please continue to help us keep time in order for us to continue to run an effective meeting. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Board Attorney replied, yes, Madam President.*

C. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments:

1. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #017 in the amount of \$8,782,873.00 for Debt Services. (Additional Funding) **(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend approval of the new Sunrise Mall License Agreement between Brownsville ISD and Sunrise Mall in order to provide students with the opportunity of performing at Sunrise Mall during community events yearly and not to exceed in the amount of \$17.00.
*** (Agenda item deleted as per administration)**
2. Recommend approval to the Owner Engineering Agreement with Ethos-Hostistique Holdings/dba Ethos Engineering for the CSP #22-141-LED Lighting Upgrades at Burns, Egly, and Perez Elementary Project. This is due to the increase in both the original scope of work and the established construction budget for the amount of \$46,025.39. **(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend awarding CSP #25-115 Cyber Liability Insurance to HCDT Insurance Agency of San Antonio, Texas for the 2025-2026 plan year. The proposal is for a one (1) year term with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza stated, Second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo stated, yes who's on behalf of this agency? **Dr. Nellie Cantu, Chief Operations Officer replied yes Mr. Elizondo how may I help you?** Mr. Elizondo stated, what is this about? **Dr. Cantu replied, yes, we currently have a contract for cybersecurity or cyber liability insurance. So we had to go out for a competitive seal**

proposal. And there were some proposals that were received. Our employee benefits department has done a tremendous job in bringing our IT staff together and looking at the CSPs that came in. We do have Mr. Jeremy Diller here with us from HCDT insurance. We also have the committee members that served on that, including myself, Mr. Nichols, Ms. Zarate Puente, and Mr. Roger Garza. So let me turn it over to Maricela so she can explain a little bit about this insurance. Ms. Maricela Zarate Puente, Director/Employee Benefits stated, good evening again. We have a very strong Computer Services Department, very strong in security. Every time we log in and we have to do that double authenticity or something or the other, it pays, it pays off. And so we have a such a strong department. Now it's been now coupled with an equally strong policy to ensure that we have a complete package for in case, you know, something were to happen. Like we said, we do have, we do go out to bid. We spent at least two hours during the ranking process studying and comparing. And this was one company that we felt, especially coming from Mr. Nichols and Rey Villa Nueva, who also sat in the committee, who recommended this company because it was very detailed in what they cover, as opposed to very general and leaving no space for questions when we need to claim something. Are there any specific questions? Mr. Frank Ortiz stated, you said it requires double authenticity. Is that correct? Ms. Zarate Puente replied, yes, and probably Mr. Nichols can explain that. The authenticity, when we log in every so often for our computers, we have to do the authenticity process. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, do they follow up with a phone call to your phone? Ms. Zarate Puente replied, yes, that is one of the choices, yes. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, but it's one of the choices, but is it required? Is that what we're going to be asking, or is it just going to be double authenticity? Ms. Zarate Puente replied, when I log in it is required. Mr. Ortiz stated the double and the phone call, is that correct? Mr. Nichols replied, no, it's not double. So, when an employee is off network, they have to do what's called MFA, multi-factor authentication. So, it is required if you want cybersecurity insurance. It is one of the requirements. And we've had this in place for over three years now. So if you're off network, we need to make sure that we are who we are when we log into as far as reading your email, getting into your network, et cetera. So it is, they have a choice of either using their phone or a personal email as a choice to multi-factor. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, I'm familiar with that system and it's pretty effective. It really, really is. Mr. Nichols stated, yes, same as your bank. You know, you have to identify who you are. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, question, have we had this before, Mr. Todd? Ms. Zarate Puente replied, we have had this policy, we had it last year. We had a one-year policy. Prior to that, it was part of our casualty, but it was a smaller scale. As we know times have changed and we have made sure that we have a robust Coverage for this. Ms. Pena stated, so what we did is we increased to get better Protection. Ms. Zarate Puente stated, yes, ma'am. As a matter of fact for what we paid last year to this year because of the change in the market price, we're getting more for actually less. Mr. Nichols stated, we just want to make sure we don't advertise what we went out for, because we have people watching this right now, so we just want to make sure that we keep what we have kind of under wraps. Ms. Pena stated, we're going to be protected. Mr. Nichols stated, we are protected, yes. Ms. Pena stated, bottom line, because believe it or not, sir, there's no secrets on the planet Earth, but I understand what you're saying. It's amazing how our stuff's all over the world. But thank you for looking out for us. Thank you very much. And to the company that's going to help us, thank you so much. Mr. Nichols stated we're

very happy with the coverage. Ms. Pena continued well, I do believe you two are very top-notch, Ms. Maricela and Mr. Nichols for your hard work on this. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you so much for participating on this, thank you to the committee and to the vendor who brought this to us, and as well as Ms. Zarate Puente and Mr. Nichols for your hard work on this.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend awarding CSP #25-115 Cyber Liability Insurance to HCDT Insurance Agency of San Antonio, Texas for the 2025-2026 plan year. The proposal is for a one (1) year term with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year term. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. (6-0-0)

XIV. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. **10:06 p.m.**

A. LEVEL III GRIEVANCE(S):

1. Discussion and consideration regarding Level III Grievance No.004/24-25 on R.C.
2. Discussion and consideration regarding the Level III Parent Grievance No. 002/24-25 on Ashley Arce on behalf of Student E.A.

B. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

1. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Retirements. (7)
2. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Resignations. (1)
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Jesus H. Chavez)
4. Personnel for the 2024-2025 school year(s) - Nurse. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.
5. Compensation for professional employee (E.V.) for Temporary assignment as Interim Principal, Elementary, for the duration of time served.
6. Campus professional staff for Probationary contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year.
7. Campus professional staff for Chapter 21-term contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year.
8. Campus professional staff for Non-Chapter 21-term contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year.
9. Department professional staff for Probationary contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year.
10. Department professional staff for Chapter 21 term contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year.
11. Department professional staff for Non-Chapter 21 contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year.

12. Proposed Non-Renewal of the term contract for professional teacher (S.L.) at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year.
13. Proposed termination of a continuing contract and discharge a teacher (J.J.V) for good cause for the 2024-2025 School Year.

C. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney

- a. Cause No. 2023-DCL-00242-A; Omar Gonzalez vs. Brownsville Independent School District.

2. Board Attorney:

- a. Legal Update with Board Counsel.
- b. Discussion and consultation with Board counsel regarding the appointment of Trustee Place 7 (Unexpired Term).

D. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

1. Status of past, ongoing and completed Board-approved audits.

E. BOARD SELF EVALUATION.

F. INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT:

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

XV. BOARD RECONVENES - Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session. 1:29 p.m.

A. LEVEL III GRIEVANCE(S):

1. Discussion and consideration regarding Level III Grievance No.004/24-25 on R.C.
No Action Taken
2. Discussion and consideration regarding the Level III Parent Grievance No. 002/24-25 on Ashley Arce on behalf of Student E.A. **No Action Taken**

B. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend grouping agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. (6-0-0)

1. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Retirements. (7) **(G 6-0-0)**
Ana Luisa Barron, Steven Burks, Linda Ann Crews-Lerma, Norma Alicia Gandara, Maria Garza, Juanita Martinez, Rogelio Rocha
2. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Resignations. (1) **(G 6-0-0)**
Ramon F. Vasquez

3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Jesus H. Chavez) **(G 6-0-0)**
4. Personnel for the 2024-2025 school year(s) - Nurse. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (Amanda Saldana) **(G 6-0-0)**
5. Compensation for professional employee (E.V.) for Temporary assignment as Interim Principal, Elementary, for the duration of time served. **(G 6-0-0)**
6. Campus professional staff for Probationary contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year. **(G 6-0-0)**
7. Campus professional staff for Chapter 21-term contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year. **(G 6-0-0)**
8. Campus professional staff for Non-Chapter 21-term contracts for the 2025-2026 School year. **(G 6-0-0)**
9. Department professional staff for Probationary contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year. **(G 6-0-0)**
10. Department professional staff for Chapter 21 term contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year. **(G 6-0-0)**
11. Department professional staff for Non-Chapter 21 contracts for the 2025-2026 School Year. **(G 6-0-0)**
12. Proposed Non-Renewal of the term contract for professional teacher (S.L.) at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, to recommend Non-Renewal of the term contract for professional teacher (S.L.) at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Failed: 3-3-0

13. Proposed termination of a continuing contract and discharge a teacher (J.J.V) for good cause for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez to recommend proposed termination of a continuing contract and discharge a teacher (J.J.V) for good cause for the 2024-2025 School Year.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Failed: 3-3-0

C. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney

- a. Cause No. 2023-DCL-00242-A; Omar Gonzalez vs. Brownsville Independent School District. **No Action Taken**

2. Board Attorney:

- a. Legal Update with Board Counsel. **No Action Taken**
- b. Discussion and consultation with Board counsel regarding the appointment of Trustee Place 7 (Unexpired Term). **No Action Taken**

D. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

1. Status of past, ongoing and completed Board-approved audits.

E. BOARD SELF EVALUATION.

F. INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT:

1. Discussion of the findings of the intruder detection audit report. **No Action Taken**

XVI. Announcement(s):

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent stated, on April 2nd that we have the reschedule special Olympics track and field Veterans Memorial Early College High School Stadium at 9:30 a.m. April 5th, BISD Autism Awareness Art Exhibit Reception, Brownsville Historical Museum at 5 p.m. April 8th, we have the FNS Food Show over at CAB Cafeteria at 10 a.m. April 9th, we have the CTE 2025 Financial Education Summit, TSC Performing Arts Center at 9:30 a.m. April 11th, we have the 5th Annual Recycle Rally, BISD Main Building parking lot at 9 a.m. April 11th, we have the 10th Annual Autism Conference at CAB Cafeteria at 9 a.m. And on April 12th we have the 22nd annual Superintendent's Golf Tournament River Bend Resort and golf course beginning at 8 a.m.

Mr. Ortiz stated, Dr. Chavez? Yeah if I may I yeah, if I may. I was going to say tomorrow, but I guess it's today. Okay, yeah, it's paraprofessional day. I'd like to certainly give a shout out to all of our paraprofessionals for everything that they do because we certainly depend on them very, very much. Ms. Pena stated, sir, can you just send us like an email of all this events that are coming up so we can download it? **Dr. Chavez replied I'd be very happy to, ma'am.** Ms. Pena continued thank you, and one more thing I'd like to say. I'd like to wish Carlos Elizondo a Happy Birthday on Monday. He will have a birthday on Monday. So happy, happy birthday, Mr. Elizondo. You are blessed to have another year.

XVII. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to approve to adjourn the meeting at 1:34 A.M. (6-0-0)

➤ 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 Special Called Board Meeting of June 26, 2025)