

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **3rd day of October, 2023**, 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:

Jessica Gonzalez	President
Daniella Lopez Valdez	Vice-President
Denise Garza	Secretary (arrived at 5:37 p.m.)
Carlos Elizondo	Member
Eddie Garcia	Member
Frank Ortiz	Member
Tim Ramirez	Member

ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Rene Gutierrez	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 Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President at 5:30 p.m.

II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools.

III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice-President.

IV. Roll Call: Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President announced that all Board Members were present and Ms. Denise Garza would arrive shortly.

Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated I would like to remind everybody, I would like direct our legal counsel to monitor this Board including myself and the superintendent along with all of the speakers of this meeting to enforce the meeting procedures and decorum as required by our local policies and our state law. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Board Attorney replied yes madam president.* Ms. Gonzalez stated I would also like to remind my colleagues that as per Board Policy BE (Local) and Robert's Rules of Order, limits debate to two opportunities. A Trustee may debate a motion for 3 minutes on the first speaking opportunity and two minutes on the second opportunity and it is printed on page two. Legal can you give

us a quick refresh on what that means. *Mr. Maddox stated, yes madame president so whenever the formality of debate is in vote, as it has been by the Board President, it will be three minutes to each Board Member but it will not be what I will call popcorn discussion, where you go back and forth for three minutes. Each Board Member has three minutes to discuss or to talk about whatever they want regarding that item, until either three minutes is up or until they waive the rest of their time. So, for example you would not speak, for example thirty seconds, listen, speak for another thirty seconds, you would speak all in one block or waive the rest of your time. Once every trustee has had an opportunity to use their time, then we go into rebuttal round which is two minutes same procedure. Does that make sense.* Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, question. *Mr. Maddox stated yes.* Ms. Peña questioned why. *Mr. Maddox replied because the Board President has invoked formality of debate.* Ms. Peña stated so it's her choice and her choice alone. *Mr. Maddox stated it is printed on your agenda ma'am.* Ms. Peña stated, I understand but it's a choice, because I don't believe in that, I see what you are saying, it just limits people on how when they speak and I know that the Robert's Rules of Order were made to run a meeting not to be a dictator or communist mentality. So, I have a disagreement, I see what you are saying, because you get paid to say what they ask you to, and you have to abide, I respect that. I just don't agree with the fact that if they want to stop and then have them run out of their three minutes, they should be allowed because of the freedom of speech and what we are doing to serve the community, we should be given the respect to be able to say something politely; and that is just my opinion. *Mr. Maddox stated madam president would you like me to keep time.* Ms. Gonzalez stated, please do so.

V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of October 3, 2023 with any corrections/deletions.

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of October 3, 2023 with no corrections as stated by administration. (6-0-0)

VI. Superintendent's Report: * SB1566

A. Conference Presentations:

1. Recognition of Jesus Antonio Garcia, National Civics Bee State Qualifier.

Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, Ms. Rose Longoria will cover this item, go ahead Ms. Longoria. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Ms. Longoria, can you just double check the mic. **Ms. Rose Longoria, Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools stated, good evening.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, there you go. **Ms. Longoria stated, thank you, madame President, Dr. Gutierrez, Members of the Board, Administration and esteemed guests, I want to take this moment to recognize and celebrate an outstanding achievement by one of our former Stillman middle school students.**

Denise Garza arrived at 5:37 p.m.

Jesus Antonio Garcia who is currently at Veterans Early College High School, Jesus was among the few middle school students elected to participate in the National Civics Bee at the local level. This prestigious competition was held in Brownsville Event Center on April 22, 2023. Ms. Longoria continued with her presentation, she introduced the student, his parents and the principal. Jesus Antonio Garcia was presented with a Medal of Recognition. Administration and the Board were very happy to join said students in recognizing them for all their hard work and dedication. Upon conclusion of the presentations, group photos were taken.

2. Recognition of National School Bus Safety Poster Contest Winner.

Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, Mr. Jason Moody. Mr. Jason Moody, Public Relations & Community Engagement Director stated, good afternoon madame President, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gutierrez and Member of the Board and administration and community members. It's an honor and privilege to recognize a talented individual from Garden Park Elementary, I'd like to have Cesar Murillo, our principal joins me as well as our Transportation Director Mr. Eliud Ornelas and Sylvia Saldana, Assistant Transportation Director, join me as well, thank you. One Brownsville ISD student placed in the National School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness regarding school bus safety and to give an opportunity for students to showcase their talents. The National School Bus Safety Poster Contest is sponsored each year by the American School Bus Council National Association for Pupil Transportation, the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services and the National School Transportation Association. Mar de la Cruz, from Garden Park Elementary earned 3rd place in the Division One category in the National School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The Division One category is Kinder thru second grade, she was recognized in May, 2023 for earning first place in the Division One category in the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation Poster contest. National School Bus Safety Week is October 15th thru the 21st. Mr. Moody continued with his presentation, he introduced the student, the principal and department administration. The student was presented with a Certificate and a Medal of Recognition. Administration and the Board were very happy to join said student in recognizing her for all her hard work and dedication. Upon conclusion of the presentations, group photos were taken.

3. Recognition of the Vela Band for being selected as a National Winner in the 2023 Mark of Excellence.

Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, go ahead Ms. Longoria. Ms. Rose Longoria, Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools stated, thank you, madame President, Board Members, Superintendent Dr. Gutierrez, Administration and esteemed guests. With great honor and pride, I stand before you today to recognize another remarkable achievement from our Fine Arts Band Program at Vela Middle School. This achievement is the prestigious Mark of Excellence Project which seeks to award outstanding excellence in the performance. To put into prospective, only the top 25% of entrants are bestowed with this esteemed titled National Winners. I am delighted to share that out of more than 40 Class A middle school entries throughout the United States, our very own, Vela Middle School band has achieved a distinction that sets them amongst the top 10 in the country, earning them the illustrious title of national winner. Furthermore, this incredible accomplishment marks the 2nd time in our school district that the Vela Middle School Band has been named a National Winner and even better, Vela Middle School is the sole National Winner south of Austin, Texas. Ms. Longoria continued with his presentation, she introduced students, band directors and campus principal. All students were presented with Medals of Recognition. Administration and the Board were very happy to join said students in recognizing them for all their hard work and dedication. Upon conclusion of the presentations, group photos were taken.

4. Recognition of Pace student Michael Dominic Barron. Actions taken in assistance of special needs child. (Board Agenda Request - Eddie Garcia/Board Support Jessica Gonzalez)

Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, go ahead Mr. Garcia. Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated, Mr. Zarate. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Mr. Zarate, go ahead. **Mr. Sergio Zarate, Down by the Border Representative stated, good evening, madame President, Superintendent, Members of the Board and our community, my name is Sergio Zarate, I represent an organization called Down by the Border, I am one of the co-founders and beside me here I have Ms. Mirayah Alvarado and Mr. Sebastian Flores. They are part of our ambassador program, our ambassadors are more, close to 400 that have signed up, they are all from high school and UTRGV and they serve our special needs community. We also have with us Officer, Chief Officer Luna and Officer Salinas who will be making a presentation right behind me. Today, we are here to honor Michael Dominique Barron, would you please come up here Michael. On Sunday, July 30th, Michael was driving home in the afternoon when he noticed a young lady walking across a busy intersection not really paying attention to the traffic that was oncoming. Because of his time spent with organization and his intuition, he felt something was not right and circled back to see if she was okay. Lucky for her parents and our community, Michael avoided a possible nightmare that many of us parents with special needs kids fear, our special needs children walking out of our house into a world that may not understand her. He realized that she was non-verbal and possibly a child with autism, which he was absolutely right. He called Brownsville PD who did an outstanding job of investigating the situation and found her parents. We at Down by the Border applaud this young man for his caring heart and reminds us of this young generations awareness of those who need them the most. Thank you to his parents for helping teach their son about our beloved children. Michael, on behalf of our organization, your fellow ambassadors, our parents and their children and on behalf of our family and Zorriah, we thank you for stepping up and standing up for our community and our children. Mr. Zarate continued with his presentation, he introduced the award recipient, his parents, Pace ECHS administration, the ambassadors from Down by the Border and Brownsville PD representatives. Mr. Barron was presented with two Resolutions, a Certificate of Merit and a Medal of Recognition. Administration and the Board were very happy to join Mr. Barron in recognizing him for his swift action and dedication to community service. Upon conclusion of the presentations, group photos were taken.**

5. Brownsville Independent School District Financial Report for the period ended September 30, 2023.

Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools asked, any questions for Mr. Cespedes? Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member asked, Mr. Cespedes, yes, just a real quick rundown on where we stand as a district? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer asked, Mr. Elizondo, do you want me to go over the financial report as far as the fund balance?** Mr. Elizondo replied, yes. **Mr. Cespedes stated, okay, so, again, the report that we presented is as of September 30th, so, as you all can see, we've received about, and I'm going to go over the general fund, which is everything from**

Food Service, all the way through general fund. We've received about 43 million dollars in revenue, that's for the first, the first payment from TEA came in, they started in September. Our expenses have been approximately, a little bit over 98 million dollars, but again, a lot of this is some of the carry over budgets. So, some of these are the payments that we've been giving out for some of our construction projects, things of that nature. So, just as of right now, based off revenue that's come in and expenses that we have, were at a deficit of 54 million, but again, we have to have those revenues come in, which are the TA payments, that's the bulk of it. Again, and I know we talked about this last time at the Board meeting, you know, the unassigned fund balance, there is, as of June 30th, 2022, we are currently still in our external audit so it still stands at 132 million dollars. But of course, as we all know, we adopted a deficit budget, last month, we brought in, a couple of Board meetings ago, we brought a budget amendment of a million dollars. So right now, you know, we still don't know what our 22-23 audit is going to look like, our external audit, but on our fund balance, let's say everything played out the way it is, it would be around, you are looking at about 117 million dollars in unassigned balance, right. And that is really, I, I highly recommend just, we have to see what the 22-23 audits going to look like. Any other questions on that one or? Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member interjected, yes. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña asked, and I just want to make sure, because we are waiting to see what they are going to give us and the money comes in, so. Are we pretty good in feeling that we are going to be okay or do you think there is going to be some kind of drastic, you know, changes where we won't get the funds that we are expecting? Mr. Cespedes replied, the drastic change has already happened when the state didn't do anything as of June 30th. So, I, at least for me, on my point, being fiscally responsible, I cannot hang on to the Legislation giving us additional funding. Ms. Peña asked, okay, so, if the Legislature doesn't give us any additional funding, where will we stand with our fund balance after all that is said and one? Mr. Cespedes replied, like I mentioned, we still don't know the numbers for the 22-23 audit, but let's say everything played out the way we budgeted this year, our unassigned fund balance would go down approximately from 132 to 117 million dollars. Ms. Peña asked, so hopefully, we will still be able to have over 100 million dollars in unassigned balance after everything is said and done, is that what I'm hearing you say? Mr. Cespedes replied, it all depends on our 22-23 audit. Ms. Peña asked, but we are pretty okay on that, like are you more pro or more, no, that's what I, you see what I'm saying, like, we are hanging on the fence and I just want to make sure that we feel that we are going to be okay. Mr. Cespedes replied, right, well, I mean, let's remember right, our Board, our local policy says that our, in our undesignated fund balance, we have to have at least 75 days, right? So, that would be. Ms. Peña interjected, (inaudible), what, 65 million dollars? Mr. Cespedes stated, that would be, depending on, according to the language there, it says that it's on our average daily expenditures and I remember I was talking about this a couple of months ago, our average daily expenditures, because it could go many ways, right, depends on what sources we look at. You are looking at about a million, 1.5 to 2 million dollars per day, right? So, would we look, how can I say this, our fund balance can quickly be depleted if we don't get additional resources. And, if we continue to adopt deficit budgets. Ms. Peña stated, right, but, and hopefully that's not going to happen, it's just the way that things are in the country right now, everything is on hold, slow, because everybody wants to wheel and deal their way and they are doing it by threatening with money. But hopefully, if

everything goes well and I really hope that we pray that that does, we should be okay if everything goes well, am I correct sir? **Mr. Cespedes stated, right, yes.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you very much. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you guys, thank you everybody, next up is Public Comment.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susan Ruvalcaba – 5 – Ms. Ruvalcaba stated, good afternoon BISD Board Members and Superintendent Gutierrez, my name is Susan Ruvalcaba, a concerned citizen and a parent of a child in the district. On September 22nd, there was a Board meeting held where there were intense but valid questions regarding insurance topics. I was appalled, however, at the lack of clarity being offered and the blatant disregard to concerns of duplication of services and wasteful spending by some Board Members. I am here to speak specifically, however, on an agenda item to reprimand Board Member Carlos Elizondo. Although the reason for this agenda item being placed by Board President Jessica Gonzalez and Board Member Eddie Garcia is not clear, I can tell you that everyone in that meeting was frustrated and spoke out of order. So, I can only assume by singling out one Board Member to the reprimand that this is more than just a violation of Roberts Rules of Order. I can tell you as a nurse in the medical industry for over 30 years, the Board Members who had a concern regarding duplication of wellness programs are absolutely on point. Every major medical program has wellness programs, a simple pause and a true vetting could easily prevent wasteful spending. Imagine going against what the district has done, historically, and instead of frivolous spending, actual cutting unnecessary services saving the district money. Let me remind you that that you were elected equally by the people, not one of you has authority over the other, you are supposed to equally act in the best interest of this district that includes being fair, just and most importantly, impartial in your decisions and actions. A meeting is a deliberation between a quorum of a Board, you as Board Members may not like the questions being asked by your colleagues or the tone they use, but that doesn't mean they are not valid. You can't silence someone for having a valid concern no matter their approach. We elected people who we thought could represent the best interest of us, cut wasteful spending, end corruption and rebirth a school district to be proud of. If you haven't seen or heard, your district is falling apart before your eyes and under your leadership physically, emotionally and morally and we are here speaking because some of you want to focus on reprimanding a fellow colleague because your feelings got hurt. Students at the schools are suffering with no AC in classrooms where the temperature in the 100's outside, although the air in here feels great. You are not elected to make friends with each other, you are elected to serve. I'm going to go to the end, the Board is separate of you superintendent, you have no right to influence the Board Members, they have a, we are, they are elected to hold you accountable, I brought a copy of the organizational chart if you need to see it. When you speak to someone right next to you, that because suspicion and creates division. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Legal Counsel interjected, okay, thank you ma'am, that is your time.* Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Ms. Ruvalcaba. Ms. Ruvalcaba continued, I hope the Board gets it together.

Caty Presas Garcia – 5 and Concerns – Ms. Presas Garcia stated, good evening madame President, esteemed Board Members, fellow audience, I am here today for the simple reason that I was going to say something else but after hearing the Chief Financial Officer about our budget status and the situation, what a shame. Here you are, worried about censuring somebody, spanking somebody, reprimanding somebody, you have other things to do that are more important and they are priority. We've had a lot of issues in this district, I just received a test message, Ms. Presas, this is the worst we've been in our district. How dare you run this district down? Not only are we paying a superintendent more than we had ever paid somebody to lead our district in the right direction, but you

know what, our tax payers' dollars need to be spent wisely. Enough is enough, you know, you are going to pay SHARS, SHARS is a company that does all the billing and I believe one of the Board members is involved or connected with the company, what a shame. You guys need to go back and get some training or start reading your policy and procedures and learn them, like a bible and make sure that you understand what your job is. We elected, I'm going to say the name, Carlos Elizondo, because I myself voted for him and if I need a voice, I expect for him, that when I call him, that he says my concern and brings it to the Board, okay, that's the way it's supposed to work, whether you like it or not. My vote matters and that's why I'm here, I'm here to support him because I went through the same situation that he went through and Ms. Peña went through. Now, there is supposed to be an agenda item that you are supposed to evaluate the superintendent and that agenda item is supposed to be a standing agenda item just like for self-evaluation for Board Members. Who took it off? Because that was supposed to be there for a reason, okay, so let me tell you, as a tax payer, let's get it together because there's an election coming up real soon, November 2024. You are hiring people that cannot run the departments, maybe that's a problem, I heard that in Maintenance, we hired somebody in the medical profession, what a shame. Are we becoming a mediocre district when you hire people or are we going to be the best of the best? Let's get it together guys, thank you.

Iza Nieto – VI, Senate Bill 1566 – Ms. Nieto stated, good evening Board Member, Dr. Gutierrez, members in the audience and people at home. I'm here today to go over Senate Bill 1566 under TASB, the Need for Local School Boards. Our system of local School Boards, districts and Boards of Education epitomize this representative and participatory government citizens elected from their community, making decisions about educational programs based on community needs, values and expectations. School Boards are entrusted by the public to translate the needs of the students into policies, plans and goals that will be supported by the community. This is under TASB, looked it up yesterday. So, let's go over the needs of the students, the needs of the community, are the needs of the students to be without air condition for a full day while we visit for couple of minutes? Are the needs of the students to have administrators moved to departments that they have no experience with, September 22nd meeting, about the chillers, just because we can, it's just wrong. Our employees have given their blood, their sweat, their time and just because we can, we move them to different departments, that is so sad and so bad. Are the needs of the students being met when there is no cap on students, teacher ratios in Kinders, we can go up to 30 in a class and nothing is going to be done? That is a safety concern, I wonder if the parents out there know that this is happening? That in kinder, just because we signed a waiver, we can just put as many kids as we can and that's a big safety concern. What happened to the quality of education in BISD? These couple of years have been downhill, the morale of this school district has been at its lowest point. I've been here for 25 years, this is my 25th year, and I've never seen it like this before. I want the Board Members to get together, that's the point, it's not about you or me or he or them or they, it's about us coming together, coming together and the leader needs to be the top person to bring this community, bring this Board together. One more point, due to the incidents about Manzano Middle School yesterday, I want to make sure that their security cameras are around the whole campus. Because the outside perimeters of Manzano Middle School, we need to make sure that the safety of the students is of utmost importance. The cameras need to be checked because there is areas that have blind spots. Please, make our students safe, make our teachers safe, please check out Manzano. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Legal Counsel interjected, okay, that's your time. Thank you, ma'am.* Ms. Nieto added, and all the schools, thank you.

Celia Saiz – IX A2 – Ms. Saiz stated, good evening Board Member Gonzalez, President Gonzalez, Dr. Gutierrez and Members of the Board, my name is Celia Saiz and I am a leader of BEST AFT, a union of professionals, I am also a Pre-K teacher at Skinner Elementary. Tonight, I am speaking on agenda

item IX for Resolution number 023 in support of a COLA for retired educators. BEST AFT would like to thank the Board and Dr. Gutierrez for listening to our request and supporting the BEST AFT created resolution in support of a COLA, cost of living adjustment for all retired educational employees. As the resolution states, educational employees have not received an increase in their pension pay in 19 years. Inflation has increased by 60% in that time, the average retired employee receives \$2,175.00 a month. Current educational employees, can you imagine retiring now with two thirds of your top 3 or top 5 years of living off on that for the next 19 years? The recommended increase has unanimous bipartisan support in the Texas Legislature plus the signature of the governor. The retired educational employees still need a majority of Texans to approve this at the polls this fall. Citizens of Brownsville, we need you to support those who serviced your children in any capacity while they worked for Brownsville ISD. It does not matter if you were a teacher, bus driver, food service worker, clerk, secretary, principal, custodian, no matter your job, they need this increase. Early voting begins on October 23rd and election day is November 7th. Thank you for your support, support your retirees at the polls and have the best of evening, thank you.

Viola Currier – IX A2 – Ms. Courrier stated, buenas noches Presidenta Gonzalez, Dr. Gutierrez y Miembros de la Mesa Directiva del distrito escolar de Brownsville. Mi nombre es Viola Courrier y yo fui conductora de autobús, despachadora de transporte, coordinadora de rutas de educación especial y secretaria, pero hoy, jubilada. Hora soy leader de la unión BEST AFT Retired Plus. Esta noche hablo sobre el artículo IX A2 de la agenda resolución número 23 en apoyo de un COLA para educadores jubilados. BEST AFT Retired Plus desea agradecer esta junta y al Dr. Gutierrez por escuchar nuestra solicitud y apoyar la resolución creada para BEST AFT. El apoyo de un ajuste del costo de vida que también se reconoce como COLA para todos los empleados educativos ya jubilados. Como lo establece la resolución, los empleados educativos no recibido un aumento en su pago de pensión en más de 19 años. La inflación a aumentado un 60%, el empleado jubilado de promedio recibe \$2,074.00 al mes. ¿Empleados educativos actuales, se imaginan jubilarse con dos tercios de su 3 o 5 años principales y vivir de eso durante los próximos 19 años? El aumento recomendado cuenta con el apoyo bipartido río unánime en la Legislatura de Texas, además con la firma del gobernador. Nosotros los empleados educativos jubilados todavía necesitamos que una mayoría de Texanos aprueben esto en las urnas de este otoño. Ciudadanos de Brownsville, necesitamos, excuse me, necesitamos que apoyen a quienes prestaron servicios a sus hijos en cualquier capacidad mientras que trabajaban para el distrito escolar de Brownsville. No importa si usted fue maestro, conductor de autobús, trabajar de servicios de alimentos, oficinistas, secretarias, director, consejero o conserje, no importa su posición de trabajo. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Legal Counsel interjected, thank you ma'am, that is your time, thank you.* Ms. Currier stated, thank you.

Bea Maldonado – IX A6 – Ms. Maldonado stated, good evening Board President Gonzalez, Dr. Gutierrez and Members of the Board, my name is Bea Maldonado, I'm a leader with BEST AFT, Brownsville Educators Stand Together and AFT, American Federation of Teachers, I'm also a social studies teacher at Hanna High School, Early College High School. Tonight, I'm speaking on IX A, IX A6, providing a stipend for Early College High Schools Class Sponsors. BEST AFT wants to thank administration and the Board for recommending and hopefully approving this stipend. Class sponsors spend hours with their grade levels in planning for events such as proms, homecoming court, along with senior class planning for graduation, fund raising events to pay for the events, homecoming dance. Sponsors spend countless hours during school and the weekends working with students to make them successful, shine and help their campuses also shine. Compensation for their hard work and endless hours to make schools successful and help students succeed should be given. While on the subject of stipends, we do want to express one concern, many of our retired educators are substitute teachers in

the district, at a recent Board meeting, the Board voted to adjust the stipend for substitutes from 180 days to worked, to 60 days worked. HR is not telling the substitute teachers that they had to work 60 consecutive days, we do not believe that that was the Board's intent nor the maker and second of the motions, Mr. Garza, Ms. Garza and Mr. Elizondo, we believe that your intent was to provide the one-thousand-dollar stipend to all substitutes who worked 60 days or more last year. Many of these are retired educators who are supporting the resolution tonight, they need this money and we again as you to show your unwavering support in clarifying this issue for them. BEST AFT and AFT Retired Plus thank you for respecting the time and efforts that class sponsors put in and for clarifying that all substitutes who worked for 60 days or more will receive the stipends. Thank you for your time and have the best evening possible.

Patrick Hammes IX A2 and 5 – Mr. Hammes asked, Board President Gonzalez, with your permission, I'd like to pass my 3 minutes to Esmeralda Garcia Barajas, BEST AFT leader? Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President asked, you are not going to speak? Mr. Hammes replied, if I have the Board President's permission, I would like to pass my 3 minutes. Ms. Angie Villarreal, Audience Member interjected, it was not allowed when I (inaudible). Ms. Gonzalez stated, go ahead Mr. Hammes. Ms. Villarreal exclaimed, oh. Mr. Hammes asked, we are passing, I can pass my time? Ms. Gonzalez stated, you can give your time to Ms. Barajas, she didn't sign, correct? She'll have 3 minutes. Mr. Hammes stated, we had signed up, signed her up and then there was an accident in Olmito and she wasn't sure she would make it so I crossed her off. Ms. Gonzalez stated, she can have 3 minutes. Mr. Hammes stated, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I'm sorry, two and a half, I'm so sorry.

Esmeralda Garcia Barajas – Ms. Barajas stated, thank you, good evening President Gonzalez, Dr. Gutierrez and esteemed Board, my name is Esmeralda Garcia Barajas, a BEST leader and a sped teacher at Castaneda. Tonight, I will be speaking on the campus improvement plan and on behalf of affected BEST members, we have an essential question to ask. Does the district plan to hire more teachers and follow the improvement plans? Because on the improvement plans that we read, one of the essential actions is the following: recruit, select, assign and retain a full staff of highly qualified educators. Tonight, we bring you a list of just some of the schools currently experiencing overcrowded classrooms in Pre-K to 4th grade over the 22/1 ratio. The last information we heard that BISD was again, planning on submitting waivers. These teachers and students are waiting for support and BISD is just ignoring their pleas once again. Currently, the list we gathered in less than 24 hours is as follows and it continues to grow: Castaneda, all of 3 second grade classrooms are 23 students to one teacher. Two Pre-K classrooms sharing one para instead of having one para for each Pre-K 4 teacher as stated in the budget allocation plan. Keller, all of second grade is over the TEA requirement ratio, recommended ratio of 22 to 1 as well as 1st grade. Peña, two Pre-K 3 classrooms with 24 to 1. Russell, two Pre-K 4 classrooms with 23 and 24 to 1 and two Pre-K classes who finally were relieved with a teacher but are now sharing a para instead of having a para for each teacher. Sharp, two Kinder classes with 25 to 1, where teachers can't teach and are overwhelmed daily due to behavior issues. Breeden, second grade, all three teachers are 23 to 1 or 24 to 1. El Jardin finally got relieved with subs in Pre-K 3, but again, hiring subs is not the same as hiring highly qualified, certified teachers. I assure you that BEST can find a lot more classrooms around BISD that look the same. Lastly, the secondary classrooms are also busting at the seams but since TEA has a fuzzy formula for those, it will be more difficult to break down those ratios, but that is on the BEST list of research to do. BEST respectfully asks Board Members to do an information request for all the classrooms around the district that are over the TEA recommended ratio including secondary campuses. As always, keep in mind that our working conditions are our students learning conditions. Have a great evening and thank you for listening to our best talk.

Erasmus Castro – 5 – Mr. Castro stated, Dr. Gutierrez, BISD Board Members, BISD staff, thank you all so much for having us here, back here again, it's good to be back in this Boardroom and it's good to see a lot of familiar faces here. And I think one of the main reasons that we all come together is because we have the right to speak and I think Ms. Peña made mention of it, we are still in America you know, we have a right to speak and freedom of speech is something that I wish a lot more individuals in the community would take advantage of, you know. And come out here and express their concerns. It's good to see a lot of former Board Members here as well, I saw Ms. Caty Presas and Luci Longoria and I make mention of them because of the item that is being brought up today and we are here, I am here to show support for Board Member Carlos Elizondo. And I mention that because the item that is placed on the agenda today is really, really very unfortunate, it is unfortunate because a lot of the individuals like the ones that I mentioned, Ms. Longoria and Ms. Presas and myself and I think Ms. Peña as well have gone through this little process where you've got individuals that sit on the majority and tend to think that, you know, their voice is a lot louder than the individuals that sit in the minority. And that is not the case, one of things that I shared with Eddie Garcia, Board Member, Eddie Garcia, when he became a Board Member was, you know, it is our hope and dream that all of you all will continue to work together for the good of the district and the good of the community. You know, the community and the district has gone through some very, very horrible things, even as of recent, you know, we went through the pandemic, they mentioned today the AC situation and the morale, the teachers leaving and retiring early, those things are really, really very concerning and I have faith that you know, that they are a pressing matter and that you all are doing things in order to remedy and rectify a lot of the things. Putting an item on here to reprimand a fellow member is really, really very unfortunate and a lot of us out there in the community tend to wonder, you know, if, if, if what we went through back then, having to deal with individuals, shady individuals, is what's happening now. We hope that's not the case, we truly hope that you come together as a Board and work for the greater good of all our students, all our staff and our community. Thank you all.

Veronica Borrego – IX A2, A5, E1 and X A5 – Ms. Borrego stated, all of the agenda, basically, good evening Dr. Gutierrez, Board President Gonzalez and Board Members, my name is Veronica Borrego and I am the proud president of AOB, the Association of Brownsville Educators, the largest and longest serving association in BISD. AOB would like to express our support for the resolution brought forth this evening in reference to the cost of living adjustment or COLA. TSTA, our state affiliate, has been fighting hard for this at the state level. TRS retirees have not received a cost of living adjustment to their monthly annuity since 2013 and that 3% adjustment only applied to TRS members who had retired before August 2004 so this is a very much needed adjustment. We would also like to express our support for the increase in substitute pay, this will help to cover the many vacancies campuses are struggling with which has because an overwhelming number of students in one classroom and help to alleviate the substitute shortage we often see. In reference to the agenda item that speaks to rewarding the Medicaid billing to Onward Learning, I ask on behalf of many, if not all of the special education staff to please leave it as it is. Not only have we had the same company for so many years with no issues, we are currently still getting used to the new program called Same Goal. Although I personally love the new Same Goal Program, we are still going through some growing pains and learning the program. So, trying to get used to Same Goal and having another new program thrown at your special education staff would not only because undue stress but take time away from what is most important, the students. AOB has always expressed concern with retaliation in this district, retaliation occurs when an employee or when an employer punishes an employee for exercising their basic and fundamental rights, which include the right to have an opinion that may at times, oppose that of upper administration. Retaliation also occurs when a person is a non-conformist and goes against the grain to push for

answers and transparency. Having an opinion and pushing for answers is not a reprimandable offense, it should be commended. Thank you to the Board Members, including Mr. Elizondo, who take their elected positions seriously and continue to ask questions that we want answers to and to push for transparency and what is right and just for the community, the tax payers, the employees and the students of this district. We will remember in November.

Angie Villarreal – IX A2 – Ms. Villarreal stated, good evening everybody, you thought I was gone, well I'm back, I made it back, why am I here? My goodness, I'm here to speak on X A5, Mr., who, Elizondo, sir, I hear you are being reprimanded. I would like to know how you are going to reprimand him, are you going to put him in a corner? Are you going to give him time out? Or, are you going to isolate him? What is it that you're going to do? How are you going to reprimand him? Would you let us know, we are the public, we need to know, we're the community, I would like to know? I can't understand, because he's asking for transparency, shame on you, shame on you for trying to reprimand him. He is asking for what we are asking for, transparency, we need transparency and we don't need it next year, we need it now. We need to know what you're all doing and we don't know, but I do know that when I need something and I call Mr. Elizondo, he answers, but not only does he answer, he acts upon it, he fixes the problem. You're going to reprimand him for fixing my problems? And guess what, they are not my problems anymore because I'm retired. And why did I retire? Because of you guys, you said, hold on Angie, hold on, we are going to give you a raise, were going to give you less work, you're going to be able to teach, there's not going to be anymore software. You decide what you want, those lesson plans, they're going to be shortened, I said, Amen, all of this is going to happen for teachers. Guess what? You said it, it never happened, why was I going to stay, was it worth it? No, no it was not worth it and I will say it again as I did before, you are in an A campus because of these people that are killing themselves, giving of their time. You do not reprimand this man, if it's up to the community, we are going to stand behind him because he's about transparency. And that's the only reason why I got out of bed this afternoon and I'm still waiting for my reading academy stipend. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Legal Counsel interjected, thank you ma'am, that is your time, thank you.*

Adina Alegria – Proposition 9, Sub Pay and Respect – Ms. Alegria stated, good afternoon President Gonzalez, Members of the Board, Dr. Gutierrez and esteemed guests here with us today and those joining us from the Brownsville ISD YouTube Channel. My name is Adina Alegria, executive director of Texas Valley Educators Association, affiliated with Brownsville Union Coalition. Many retired teaches in Texas stand to receive their first cost of living adjustment in almost 20 years, providing them a little relief. Though Senate Bill 10 passed both the Texas Senate and House of Representatives, to be fully passed, on Tuesday, November 7th, majority of Texans will need to vote on the COLA that will read as Proposition 9 on the ballot. TVEA urges all to vote yes in favor of proposition 9. With everyday items such as groceries and gas being at an all-time high, Texas Valley Educators Association commends this Board and administration for the consideration and possible action to adjust the pay scale for substitute teachers. I also ask that this administration explore another stipend for long term substitutes that work 5 or more days to an additional rate of 15 to 20 dollars, as many substitutes may take on everyday tasks as a teacher of record. In the past several years, our country has seen growing polarization on many issues, dividing our country and allowing hate to spread within our community and at times, the incitement of hate can often be seen in this room. We must treat one another with respect, gratitude, trust and integrity. We can and must do more as a community leaders and professionals and stand for unity. The community is watching, our children are watching and the change that this world, that our community needs starts within each of us. I encourage you, each of you, to ask what you want your legacy to be within the next couple of generations. How would you want to be talked about and remembered if you passed today? I read something today that said,

“Someday your kids will figure you out, I promise you they will. The type of parent you are, the type of spouse you are, how you treat other people. You are either going to be someone they look up to or someone they never want to be like. Always remember they are watching and they are absorbing”. And as Gandhi said, “Be the change you want to see in the world”. Thank you for your attention.

Pierce Grove – X A1 – Mr. Grove stated, good evening Dr. Gutierrez, President Gonzalez and BISD Board Trustees, my name is Pierce De La Cruz Grove, I’m here, and I came here today to speak on behalf of the Veterans Memorial Class of 2024, concerning the start time of our graduation. As of right now, our ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 31st at 7:30 in the morning. We respectfully ask the Board to reconsider this time and schedule it instead in the evening. As we all know, graduation is a special milestone shared by students, parents, grandparents, family and friends. The consequence of scheduling at 7:30 a.m. start time on a workday, during working hours, affects first and foremost, working parents and families. This means making the difficult decision of going to work or attending graduation. It also places unnecessary stress and challenges for many of our beloved grandparents that depend on special assistance from family members. Is it the best choice for BISD to ask grandma to wake up at 5 a.m. so she can watch her grandchild graduate as the sun rises? Is it the best choice to because stress and difficulty for the people who love us and helped us graduate? In addition, because our graduation is at 7:30 in the morning and all the high school graduations are stacked one right after the other, it makes graduation practice much harder to schedule. In past years, it was straightforward, each school would hold practice in the morning and the ceremony in the night. With this proposed, proposed schedule, our class would not have the graduation practice the night before because Rivera would be having their graduation. This creates the problem of scheduling graduation practices so none of the high schools are coinciding with one another. It again places stress for those juggling school, work, family and other commitments. The class of 2024 spent 4 years working hard and raising money for this moment, our efforts resulted in thousands of dollars raised for graduation expenses. Our plan was to have a fireworks display at the end of our ceremony, those dreams and efforts are squashed with the 7:30 a.m. start time. Is it the best choice to select some high schools to enjoy the excitement and convenience of an evening graduation and the others like Veterans and Porter do not? But complaints and concerns without outreach and organization have limited chance of becoming compromises or solutions. Therefore, upon learning of the 7:00 a.m. start time, we organized, students, parents, faculty, all supported the change, we sent out an electronic petition through change.org. We received 351 signatures, that’s majority of our class. We also had a positive discussion with senior class faculty and are grateful for their supports. Please consider this for the family and community members you guys represent.

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

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

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

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the agenda items as reflected on the Consent Agenda. (7-0-0)

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| IX. A. General Function | 1, 3, 7 |
| B. Payments | 1 |
| C. Budget Amendments | |
| D. Contracts/Agreements | 2, 3, 5 |
| E. Bids/Proposals/Purchase | |

(All presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

IX. Consent Agenda:

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

1. Recommend approval to declare surplus/obsolete vehicles, supplies, equipment, furniture and portable buildings to be disposed in accordance with Board Policy CI (Local) School Properties Disposal. **(Consent Agenda)**
2. Recommend approval of Resolution #023/2023-2024 in support of the Brownsville Independent School District fully supporting and endorsing the passage of Proposition 9 and encouraging the Brownsville community to vote “yes” on Proposition 9 – COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustments).

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, motion to approve. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, second. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Dr. Gutierrez, you have resolution to read? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools replied, yes, let me just read the resolution in support of the COLA for retired educators. (Dr. Gutierrez proceeded to read the resolution out loud and upon conclusion, the following transpired.)** Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, thank you and I agree with this, it’s been a long, long time, as we heard earlier this afternoon, it’s been almost 20 years and we do have a lot of our retirees and future retirees that we are going to benefit from this. Unfortunately, you know, it’s a statewide vote and I’m hoping that not only citywide, but statewide, that our voters learn to appreciate our educators and as was mentioned earlier, during the public comments, that it’s not just teachers, its administrators, its custodians, its anybody that pays into TRS. 20 years is a long time with the way inflation is, so, I do encourage all of our voters to please go out in November and support this and statewide also, you know, please go out and support this for our educators. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Lopez Valdez and then Ms. Peña. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice-President stated, yes, I’m also in support of this, I think it is, it was long time coming and I think it’s important that we recognize our educators for everything they do to keep our, they are the one profession that educates all professions and no other profession does that. I also wanted to thank our Senator Morgan La Mantia and Representative Erin Gamez who worked really hard with many of you all and a lot of the groups to make this happen and please, turn out to vote. They watch, the way things get done is voter turnout, so, it’s just so important to make sure that our educators know how respected they are in the community. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member interjected, yes, and I agree with my colleagues and one thing I want to say is that we can make a difference in this country we are the best country in the world because of educators and I’m going to say that till God calls me home. Every teacher made everyone here in this country, there’s no other country

in the world that mandates that you give your children to them from the age of 4 to 18 and they raise them for you while you go make a living and be able to do things for your children. We need to stand firm and elect officials that look at teachers like the wonderful people that they are because every teacher made every millionaire, every billionaire, every successful person in this country and the United States of America is the best country on the planet because of our education system. So, thank you and we are going to vote hard and we are going to push that we get people that recognize the value of the teachers, because without you we are nothing. Thank you for not giving up on us, God bless you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, yes, I just want to reiterate, this is, this is good right? Its long, long overdue, but I was listening to some of the comments out there, I think it's like, not even 3 thousand dollars a month that some of these teachers are getting. This is why it's so important for us as Board Members to continue to look where we can to give these teachers a raise before they actually retire. And so, this is why I've been pushing, I've been pushing, I'm sure you guys will too, is pushing the superintendent to look for those avenues, to be able to give the teachers what they deserve. Because when they do retire, we have to depend on a state level vote to get them what they deserve. So, I challenge each and every one of us to look at that and making sure that we, we are able to find anything we can to put it back in the pockets of our employees. Thank you. Ms. Gonzalez asked, ready Ms. Pat?

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Resolution #023/2023-2024 in support of the Brownsville Independent School District fully supporting and endorsing the passage of Proposition 9 and encouraging the Brownsville community to vote “yes” on Proposition 9 – COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustments). (7-0-0)

3. Recommend approval to authorize the Superintendent to submit to TEA a Board approved remote instruction homebound waiver for ten (10) special education students. At no cost to the District. **Consent Agenda**
4. Recommend approval of 2023-2024 District Improvement Plan as required by the Texas Education Code. The District Education Improvement Plan will serve as a guide to District and Campus staff for the improvement of student performance in order to attain and surpass state and federal standards.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Mr. Elizondo has a question. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, yeah, just get a little, maybe presentation for the public. **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools asked, Ms. Rentfro, can you come up to the podium for this item?** Mr. Elizondo stated, the expert, Ms. Rentfro, thank you so much. **Dr. Ronnie Rentfro, School Improvement Department Director stated, good evening Board President Ms. Gonzalez, Superintendent Gutierrez, Dr. Gutierrez, Board Members and public audience. I lost the mouse, so, the district education improvement council, or DEIC, which has representation from all of our campuses as well as elected representatives from out district and as well as community business, parents and business representatives gets together as a group. They work throughout the Spring to develop our plan, so, for example, starting in February, we go over what our progress has been in the district on accomplishing our goals until the mid-year. We start then looking at needs to see if our needs have changed with this group, they**

break into subcommittees, they do some research, they bring things back to us. After we look at our needs and they do a ranking of the needs for prioritizing them, then this group also gets together and reviews all of the districts performance objectives and strategies and makes recommendations to the whole committee for changes. We bring that back to the whole group as, in May, and then again, we've addressed it in September with them and have the DEIC vote for support of bringing our district improvement plan as it was, and it's a working document, but at its current state to the Board for approval of the performance objectives or goals for the district. Mr. Elizondo asked, thank you, just to reiterate, so, so, what you are saying is we have the experts within the school district to be able to guide us through this process? **Dr. Rentfro replied, for the annual plan, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, yes, so we don't have to hire consultants or anything like that to come and tell us what to do or what we need to do? **Dr. Rentfro replied, in working with, if you are referring to last month's strategic action plan, that's a different level of work.** Mr. Elizondo stated, no, so, what I want to say, in this, in this plan right now, we are using our own staff, we don't have to have anybody else outside coming in. **Dr. Rentfro stated, I do bring in, occasionally, consultants for components of it to provide some additional information or guidance or we go to get training to bring it in to the district, one of the two things. But we do bring, we do use outside expertise when it helps us to develop a better or more effective plan or set of activities.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you ma'am. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member asked, I heard you say that you use people when a different level of work, so, that means when you run into something and you have some information or then we can go out and get those people to do some training, is that what I'm hearing you say? **Dr. Rentfro replied, we do look for expertise at the regional, state and national level to support the work that we do. We, obviously, the more that we can learn from them about what maybe more effectiveness, we want to bring to our district and then share that across the district.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you and I guess my last question would be, when you do, do this, is there a group of people that maybe goes out and asks the classroom teacher? Because I'm a real, I was brought up that the front line is what makes you, without the front line, no one is needed. The people that work in the front lines are the reason you have a job, so, my connection is, when you do go out to look for this, do you go out and get information from the front line and, please forgive me, and not just boggle them down with a lot of stuff to learn that maybe they think they might not use or how do you do that, how do you decide that? **Dr. Rentfro asked, are you talking about resources?** Ms. Peña stated, when you decide, to, yes, yes. **Dr. Rentfro asked, resources and materials?** Ms. Peña replied, yes, yes ma'am. **Dr. Rentfro replied, we have a, district wide, we do comprehensive needs assessment surveys and as a component of that, we do have surveys where every teacher has the opportunity and staff members have the opportunity to put in their feedback. We have also been expanding this to even include our teachers of the year as a roundtable to also be able to give us some direct feedback from those that are experts at, been recognized as being experts at their campus. But, having been in our district for 37 years or so and working with programs, we do recognize that we don't know it all in house and we do want to bring in folks that can help us do perhaps accelerate or expand on our growth.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you so much. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you ma'am, I would like to make a motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, second. Ms. Gonzalez asked, ready Ms. Pat?

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of 2023-2024 District Improvement Plan as required by the Texas Education Code. The District Education Improvement Plan will serve as a guide to District and Campus staff for the improvement of student performance in order to attain and surpass state and federal standards. (7-0-0)

5. Discussion, consideration and possible action to adjust the Pay Scales for Non-Degreed, Degreed and Certified Substitute Teachers for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice-President stated, second. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Frank has a question. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, this is long time coming, so, Dr. Gutierrez, could you just let our community know how, by how much we are adjusting these, these certain areas of non-degreed, degreed and certified, I'm sure our substitute teachers want to know. And I'm sure our community wants to know as well, because they deserve every single penny, so could you clarify please? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, yes sir, we are proposing, on this agenda item, to increase our non-degreed substitutes from \$90 to \$100, the degreed from \$110 to \$125 a day and the certified from \$135 to \$150 dollars. This would put us probably at the top of substitute pay in our area.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yes sir, I have checked and it pretty much puts us, puts us there so thank you. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member interjected, thank you for that. Ms. Gonzalez asked, ready Pat? **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote.** Ms. Peña asked, this goes into effect immediately? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, yes ma'am, after it gets Board approved.** Mr. Ortiz interjected, starting tomorrow. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Secretary asked, can we, can we go back to October 1st to begin the first of the month or Monday? Since, yeah, retroactive because we are already on Tuesday, so anybody that worked yesterday. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member interjected, Mr. Cespedes over there is having a seizure, I think, go ahead Mr. Cespedes. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Cespedes. Ms. Garza stated, just so we can begin the month. **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer stated, it would be a yes, we had discussed that and we would recommend that it be October the 2nd, starting Monday, thank you sir.** Dr. Gutierrez asked, amend the motion, who made the motion? Mr. Garcia stated, I'll go ahead and amend the motion to begin October 2nd, which is Monday, so, that's my motion. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, second. Mr. Elizondo asked, does that make it okay with your staff there Mr. Cespedes, in your office? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes sir, yes, so, you all said October the 2nd?** Ms. Gonzalez stated, yes. Ms. Peña added, yesterday. **Mr. Cespedes stated, yes, so, that will work.**

Amended motion made by Eddie Garcia, seconded Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to adjust the Pay Scales for Non-Degreed, Degreed and Certified Substitute Teachers for the 2023-2024 School Year, effective October 2, 2024. (7-0-0)

6. Recommend approval of Stipend Payment to Early College High School Class Sponsors, \$500.00 per Sponsor, up to two Sponsors per class, for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board

Member stated, second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I have a question. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, question. Mr. Elizondo stated, I have a question. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, well, Peña circled it, let me get her and then I'll get you. Mr. Elizondo stated, sure. Ms. Peña asked, okay, here I go, Mr. Cespedes, take a deep breath. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Legal Counsel interjected, madame President, who is our motion and second, we need it for the record?* Ms. Gonzalez stated, I believe all of us spoke at the same time but I know I motioned, I don't know who you got first? *Mr. Maddox asked, Board, can someone give us a motion please?* Ms. Peña stated, I motioned, he second. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña, your question and then so Carlos can ask. Ms. Peña stated, okay, here I go Mr. Cespedes, are you there? I like this, I'm so sorry, but I'm going to say it, because I've worked all my life for free, serving children, since I was 19, being a Den Mother, so, I've always enjoyed it, so, I know how hard it is. I would like to, Dr. Gutierrez, find out if we could please move it to a thousand dollar per sponsor, per event, we are talking about 12 months and I've you do a thousand, that's less than 100 dollars a month. And you think that in the summer, oh, they go home, they don't do anything, they are working really hard to make sure when they come back, for the next school year, for the event, they are ready. Also, because, a lot of their money comes from their pocket to make sure those children and those events get to where they need to go. I know because my husband would ask me, every baseball season, what's happening to my paycheck? Because it would disappear a lot faster because we would make up for the children whose parents did not have the money to pay for the uniform and we were going to be darned as sponsor, that that child didn't go and get on that team to play that sport. So, I would really want us to consider to paying the sponsors a thousand dollar per sponsor and not five hundred. I've always been a firm believer, there's always more money than time and there's always more time than life and we keep it in that order, you will never lack. So, can we please consider that? Because they work super, super hard and because of them and the extra activity, the children are able to survive and make it through school. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo asked, did you amend your motion? Ms. Peña stated, I'd like to amend the motion that we do a thousand dollars per sponsor. Mr. Elizondo stated, I'll second that. Ms. Garza asked, are we going to reevaluate the other sponsors because right now, the agenda item states, high school class sponsors, because were, currently they receive no sponsor, so are we going to reevaluate all other sponsors, is that what you are asking for Ms. Peña or are you specifically talking about this one because? Ms. Peña replied, I think we should, I would like to do this now and then bring the other ones forward because I think all. Ms. Garza asked, during budget time? Ms. Peña replied, yes ma'am, because I think they deserve it and they work really hard and they don't make enough money as teachers and they use their money for those children who have no money. Ms. Gonzales stated, I have a question for Mr. Cespedes, Mr. Cespedes, what would be the fiscal implications of this? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer replied, for the five hundred dollars, you are looking at fiscal implication of about 33 to 35 thousand, so, if you double that, you are looking at about 70 thousand dollars, per year, that's correct sir.** Ms. Peña stated, you can do it, we can do it, please. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Ms. Pat, are you ready? **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote, Ms. Lopez, motion passes, 6 yes, 1 no.**

Amended Motion made Minerva Peña, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Stipend Payment to Early College High School Class Sponsors, \$1,000.00 per Sponsor, up to two Sponsors per class, for the 2023-2024 School Year.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

Ms. Peña interjected, question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña asked, and will this be retroactive to the 25th, or when? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, well, it's a stipend Ms. Peña.** Ms. Peña asked, yeah, so when does, when does it start, because the stipends will start effective what? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, well, its effective after the vote and you know.** Ms. Peña stated, okay, want to make. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, but it's a stipend so it's a.** Ms. Peña added, yes, I just want to make sure that, yes, we know the date when they are going to do it, yes. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Pat.

7. Recommend approval to reschedule the Board Meeting of November 8, 2023 to November 14, 2023, due to elections. **Consent Agenda**

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 \$1,832,170.33. **Consent Agenda**

C. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments:

1. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #013 in the amount of \$10,001,172.00 from Local Funds. (Reallocation of \$158,719.00 requested by campus/departments and additional funding of \$9,842,453.00 for the Teacher Incentive Allotment).

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Mr. Ortiz has a question on this. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member asked, questions, yes, this goes to Mr. Cespedes as well. Mr. Cespedes, obviously, these are amendments, you know, we know that budget changes don't come to the Board for approval because it's done within, moving monies around within the functions themselves. An amendment, obviously does need a, a Board approval because we are moving money from one function to another, is that correct sir? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer replied, that's correct sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, and I'm just saying this so that our community knows what I'm talking about. When we talk about functions, we are basically talking about funding sources, I'm looking at your backup sir, here on the first page and this is taking, moving monies around from a budget that had already been approved, is that correct? **Mr. Cespedes stated, yes, this is from the Board approved 23-24, Board approved budget.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, so now, we started the year, beginning to move money around, was this looked at when the budget process was going, we were going through our budget process? This is like, this is where we are going to put the monies now and now that the year started, now we are going to

move it somewhere else. So, did we have foresight during the budget process to see where we were going to be needing money? **Mr. Cespedes stated, right, so, whenever, you know, campuses, departments, prepare their budgets, you know, we have an idea, you know, how we want to spend our monies. But once the school year starts, there might be other things that come up or other priorities that might take place and some of those are the ones that might require these budget changes from one function to another.** Mr. Ortiz interjected, well, they are amendments. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I'm sorry?** Mr. Ortiz asked, they are amendments, right? **Mr. Cespedes replied, right, amendments, yes, and so these are the amendments that, it's a combination of campuses or departments where they, you know, they decided that, you know, there's a priority for a different purchase and that has to be done through a different function and that's why they have to move those monies. But as you stated, if it's to a different function within the general fund, it has to be Board approved.** Mr. Ortiz asked, okay, so we are taking monies from one function putting it into another function, obviously, that's why it's an amendment. But I'm looking at, at your backup here and I will look at function 12, which is library services, it's in parenthesis, 24 thousand dollars, does that mean we are taking 24 thousand dollars away from library services? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, we are not taking it away from library services, but we are taking it away from that specific campus or department budget.** Mr. Ortiz asked, so we are cutting their budgets. **Mr. Cespedes replied, again, we are not cutting their budgets, their overall budget is still staying the same, they are just reallocating those resources to a different function.** Mr. Ortiz asked, so, but my question is, that it goes out of library services and because you are going to a different function, is that correct? **Mr. Cespedes replied, it goes out of function 12 and it would go into a different function.** Mr. Ortiz asked, okay, so, to me it tells me that you are taking money away from library services, the way I see it here because that's what you're telling me, is that correct? **Mr. Cespedes replied, if that's what the department wants, the department or campus, if that's what they want to do.** Mr. Ortiz interjected, it's only a yes or no sir. **Mr. Cespedes stated, their overall budget does not change.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, because I see here, 24 thousand from library services, 3 thousand from instructional leadership, 270 dollars from guidance and counseling, health services, 13 thousand, from extra co-curricular activities, 111 thousand 977, so, you know, we are moving these monies around and I'm just thinking, its, they are going to stay without some money because you are taking it out. So, you know, what are they going to do now? **Mr. Cespedes stated, right, again, the, everybody has to prioritize their needs, so, when they prepare the budget, it's based on their needs, those needs change as the year goes on. And so, just like any department or campus, they have to prioritize a different purchase for one that they had initially budgeted for, again, that is why they have to do that budget. But, I want to be clear, their overall budget is not being reduced, the functional category is changing, yes, but their overall budget is staying the same.** Mr. Ortiz stated, I'm not quite convinced, but okay, I'll take that. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I'm sorry, I had forgotten to move for the motion before the discussion, so, before we keep going, I will make a motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice-President stated, second. Ms. Gonzalez stated, and Ms. Peña and then Mr. Elizondo. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, okay, Mr. Cespedes, Mr. Cespedes, okay, I know what you are saying, it's just like, let's say you have 3 kids at home and you give them an allowance the same, but one of them is a little bit more frugal, has more money left over, but the other two are short on something. So, now the house comes together and says, everybody, bring you money that we have left over, because we

got to make a difference because “A” over here didn’t have enough money but “C” says, but I’m going to use it but I’m not going to use it now, library, I’m not going to use it now, but I have some plans for the future. Well, since you haven’t used it now and I need it over here, I’m going to move it over here now, that’s exactly what we are doing, am I correct? The answer is yes, not a hard one, it’s not your fault, that’s what, you are just overseeing it, you are not making the decisions, am I correct, they are not your decisions? **Mr. Cespedes stated, no, every campus makes their own decision.** Ms. Peña stated, and that’s the suffering part about it because I’ve spoken with librarians, I’ve spoken with teachers and it depends on who is in charge at the top, decides whether you are going to keep your money or no, I need it more over here. And it breaks the heart of the people that were going to do something with it and what we are teaching our generation to do and our teachers is spend that money fast, fast as possible, do not wait for that new item coming up why, because there are going to take your money away and you are not going to get a thing. There’s nothing you can do about that, that’s just the way the system works, am I correct Mr. Cespedes? **Mr. Cespedes stated, I’m not sure about that’s how the system works, I just have to remind people we adopted a 14-million-dollar deficit budget.** Ms. Peña asked, but you don’t know if you are, if I am correct when I say that the library has this extra money because they didn’t spend it, but now the school or that area needs it in another area and they are asking permission just to move it to use it in other areas, am I correct? So, the answer is easy and I’m sorry it feels like I’m putting you in the spot because these are not your decisions, this is just the fact of life. **Mr. Cespedes stated, right.** Ms. Peña continued, you don’t spend it, you might lose it for other things in the future because we are short on funds, is that correct? **Mr. Cespedes stated, right, priorities do change and that’s where they have to asses.** Ms. Peña stated and the people that are in charge of it have the authority to make those changes, am I correct? **Mr. Cespedes stated, the departments or the campuses, yes ma’am.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member asked, just really quick, it says here function 36, it’s your co-curricular activities, what, do you know what some of those activities and are going to be less 111 thousand? **Mr. Cespedes replied, the bulk of that sir, comes from 100 thousand dollars where under function 36 they had budgeted for vehicles and that is being moved to function 51 for the purchase of herbicide, I believe, and that’s for the maintenance of the fields. So, that’s where 100 thousand of that comes from there, so gain, its moving from one function to the other, it’s still stays with that department, with athletics, but again, they are moving it from function 36, they had budgeted under vehicles, its being moved to function 51.** Mr. Elizondo asked, and the reason we don’t need the vehicles, ours are pretty good, you would think? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I’m not sure on the condition of the vehicles, but my assumption would be that maybe the fields would take a higher priority than the vehicles.** Mr. Elizondo asked, the field is in worse condition than the vehicle? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I would not know the condition on those but, according to the budget amendment, that is where they want to move it.** Mr. Elizondo stated, if you’re shifting the monies from vehicles to fields, they feel. **Mr. Cespedes interjected, fields, for herbicide, I believe if I’m pronouncing it correct.** Mr. Elizondo asked, herbicide, is that what we are getting Mr. Gutierrez, herbicide? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools replied, I think every department gets a set budget and the directors, the administrators or the departments, they make their adjustments or changes, they don’t lose the money, they just move it into another area of purchase that they may want because they change, priorities change, demands change and that’s what they are doing here. So, whatever**

money they have, they are just moving it around from one area to another but it's their money, it's their priorities and they're just changing it to other areas where they need to buy, you know, based on the function and sometimes we have to move it to a specific function so that the purchase can be made and that's what they are doing here. Mr. Elizondo asked, I agree, I know the shift of monies, I understand that, but are they doing that more now because we gave them less? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I would have to look at how many budget amendments or the activity that was done last year to be able to answer that, whether the activity is more now than previous years.** Mr. Elizondo asked, is it, if you see, and I have to kind of agree with what my colleagues are saying, if you are taking from Library Services, I think that would be a high priority, right? To shift those monies to herbicide or vehicles, see what I'm saying, it doesn't have the same, I guess, in my mind, significance from taking away from library services to shift over to herbicide. **Mr. Cespedes stated, right, and that's, well, I don't know about library services being moved to herbicide, but the department is moving it from library services to another function, that's the department or the campus's decision.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, okay, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Lopez Valdez. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez asked, yes, I just wanted to point out, this was actually brought to us by a campus, right, so, I just want to make sure, right? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, that's correct, all these budget changes are brought to us by departments or, and or campuses.** Ms. Lopez Valdez asked, base off of their needs, so it's a campus-based decision? **Mr. Cespedes replied, that's correct.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, I also just wanted to point out, I know that this is a budget amendment number 13 and as you spoke earlier, we still, we finally got our first payment, right, from the state, we still don't know what's going to happen, they still haven't called a special session, it's supposed to be this month. So, I think it's just really important that our community really knows what's going on at the state level, it's important that we realize that it, public education is under attack and we need to stand strong together and continue to unite to make sure that we do continue to get our funding because we are the number, one of the main pillars of our community if not number one. Because of everything that we do to serve kids, to employ 6 thousand people and to make sure that our community has a bright future. Ms. Gonzalez asked, ready Ms. Pat?

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Budget Amendment #013 in the amount of \$10,001,172.00 from Local Funds. (Reallocation of \$158,719.00 requested by campus/departments and additional funding of \$9,842,453.00 for the Teacher Incentive Allotment). (7-0-0)

Mr. Nick Maddox, Legal Counsel interjected, excuse me Board for the interruption, so, as charged, I have been keeping time, we have been going over, so, forgive me whenever I begin to enforce time for the next few items, thank you. Ms. Peña interjected, and if I may. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña stated, I would really respect that you not do that, please, because this is an important issue, I know you work for us and I appreciate it, but please let us conduct a meeting without having to fear that you are going to butting in, sorry about that. I really would respect that because we are going as fast as we can, thank you. *Mr. Maddox stated, I don't have any discretion over it, Trustee Peña, I'm sorry.*

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

1. Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Brownsville Independent School District and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, United States Border Patrol (USBP), Cameron County Juvenile Justice Department (CCJJD), 484th District Court (484th) & Cameron County Court at Law # 5 (CC#5) will provide a mentorship program for at risk youth, at no cost to the District. *

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Secretary stated, second. **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools asked, Ms. Clough, can you just come to the podium and just give us a summary of this item?** Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member interjected, and if you have anyone that's going to be part of the program, if they can come up with you, I would like to see. **Ms. Diana Clough, Homeless Youth Project Director stated, good evening, madame President, Dr. Gutierrez, Members of the Board, so this evening we bring to you this MOU between all that Ms. Pat mentioned and our school district. I don't know if Agent Garcia, if you want to elaborate a little bit on the program, will be, it's a mentor program and so they will be conducting the classes and go into a little bit more of what we will be doing with our at-risk population. Ms. Peña stated, thank you. Mr. Joey Garcia, Agent, Border Patrol stated, thank you for having me today, am I on a time pack, it's my first time here? I'm not trying to be funny, I just. Ms. Gonzalez asked, a total of, presentations are five minutes, do you need more than five minutes? Mr. Garcia replied, no, that should be enough. Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, then you are good. Ms. Peña stated, we didn't mean to scare you. Mr. Garcia stated, so, I just got here, it's my first time here and I see the time and all that stuff going on, okay, so, I'm originally from Brownsville, Texas, I attended Brownsville Rivera High School, you know, I attended UTRGV, I joined the Marine Corp, I went off, traveled the world, combat, deployments, I joined the Border Patrol. When I joined the Border Patrol, I ended up in El Paso for the first 10 years of my career, it took me about 10 years to transfer, the closest I could get was McAllen, I was in McAllen for 4 years and now I have been back in Brownsville for 3 years. While I was in El Paso, we created a program, it's called the REAL Mission, rewarding education, attitude and leadership. And the way that it works is we would work with the school department, right, the local judges, in our area, in our counties, we are going to have two judges that are going to be working with us. And we would take kids from the schools, so a lot of times, a lot of our kids get suspended, right, for various different reasons. Sometimes, you know, it's beyond our control, right, the rules state, what the rules state, there's nothing you can do about it even though you feel maybe, hey, this is a really good kid that made a mistake, but those rules are the rules, right. So, what this program does, right, it gives you that opportunity to give that kid that second chance. So, I know for example, when we were running this program in El Paso, one of the big things over there was Spice, that was the big thing that was going on right now, what's going on at this moment, right, is those HTC pens, right, those kids are automatically, you know, getting hit with felonies right off the bat, right. So, if you get caught with an HTC pen, and for those of you not familiar with the HTC pens, they look like highlighters, right, they are neon pink, neon yellow and they come with flavors like birthday cupcake, right, strawberry kiwi and they smell just as awesome as they sound, right, like incense. So, it's not like when we grew up and we were going to school and it looked ugly, right, sounded like "mota", it**

smelled ugly, right, everything about it was bad, right, there is a stench to it. This is actually appealing to the kids and this is tuff that they can get at shops. Right, so, it's to them, it looks legitimate and this is stemming all the way from elementary all the way to high schools. So, if a kid gets caught with this, right off the bat, they are done, right, they are out of the school and then you put a felony, they get charged with a felony, that's put on their record. I don't have to tell, everybody here is educated, with that, it's going to be very difficult, they can't join the military, can't go to college, I mean, they are going to have a hard time getting a minimum wage job. For something that's, you know, a mistake, a simple mistake, right, so, the whole point of this program, and that's just one example, it could be anything else, it's to get these kids run through a mentorship program with the US Border Patrol, right, we are out of the Fort Brown Station, right here by Veterans Bridge, so it's already been approve on our end, with the Border Patrol and by our Chief, Gloria Chavez, who is also from Porter High School herself, a graduate from there and she's completely behind the program. To complete this program, there is going to be stuff with community service, they are going to have higher education sources and talk to the, right, like colleges, technical schools. We are also going to have the military come and talk to them and they are going to have also Cameron County sponsors that will come and talk to them about substance abuse, you know. Also, all the other law enforcement agencies to include like Sheriff Garza, right, Brownsville Police Department, BISD Police Department, each one of them are also going to come and do presentations for the kids. And so, the whole point is trying to let these kids know, like hey, you are not in this one alone, your life is not over, right, there is a chance to get out of here and a lot of these kids are going to be vetted, like, by the judges and ourselves, that we feel like hey, you know what, this kid really does have an opportunity if we can just give them that second chance. And they can go on in life and say, they can't say, hey, you know what, I never got that second chance, so these kids will legitimately be able, to, you know, get to, complete, whatever it is that they wanted to do with their lives before they made that mistake. I think that kind of explains the program, do you have any questions? And, and its free, it's free. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña does have a question. Ms. Peña asked, yeah, and this will be, I'm sorry Ms. Clough, she will be in charge and making sure that the children get the attention and the need, I think it's an excellent program, I thank you for that. Because every child deserves a chance and they are human, they make mistakes, thank you sir, because you are part of this program, I know it will make a difference. Thank you judge, because you care about our kids, because what we do now, will affect our future and I want to be, I ask God to give me till 99.9 even if it's a walker, but I want to be able to walk across the street without getting run over because a child doesn't stop. So, I want to make sure that you continue this and I'm very proud of you, I'm excited, thank you from the bottom of my heart and we are here for anything you need. Judge Adela Kowalski Garza, Judge for the 484th District Court stated, and I want to thank all of you and I'd like to thank Agent Garcia and the United States Border Patrol on behalf of the 484th District Court, I'm the Juvenile Judge, Adela Kowalski Garza, serving all of you, if you need anything, just let me know. I'm the San Benito Judge, I'm the Darrell Hester Juvenile Center, if you need anything just call me, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Garza has a question as well. Judge. Kowalski Garza stated, yes. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member asked, yes, Ms. Clough, after we take a vote, have we already identified which students could begin this program

already? **Ms. Clough replied, yes ma'am, have, we are just waiting for you all's approval.** Ms. Garza stated, thank you. **Ms. Clough stated, thank you.** Ms. Peña asked, one more question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña asked, is there a limit or are we going to everyone that needs the help? Mr. Garcia replied, so for this first class, we are going to try to stick to the 15 kids and then see how that program works and then we can adjust from there, we can get back together and make it larger, make it smaller, depending on, depending on the, how, the success of the program. And we looking to start off with the high school kids right now, 15 to 18 years old more or less. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Ortiz also has a question. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, just a question for Ms. Clough, I believe the Agent just said 15 students. What's the number at this point in time? **Ms. Clough asked, in regards to how many children?** Mr. Ortiz replied, yes, because you said you already had them identified. **Ms. Clough replied, yes sir.** Mr. Ortiz asked, so what is the number at this point? **Ms. Clough replied, we currently, we, I think they are going to start with 10 and its 13 thru 18 and we currently have 12 on the list, just in case, we have a couple of alternates. But, if we are going to do 15, we have them ready as well.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, thank you. Judge Kowalski Garza stated, but, I have 5. Ms. Gonzalez stated, on the microphone please, Ms. Judge. Judge Kowalski Garza continued, yes, but we have already identified 5 other students from the JJAEP class, the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program that we have and we'll get 5 from there so we'll combine them and get the 15. Mr. Ortiz stated, well thank you very much Judge. Ms. Gonzalez asked, ready Ms. Pat.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Brownsville Independent School District and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, United States Border Patrol (USBP), Cameron County Juvenile Justice Department (CCJJD), 484th District Court (484th) & Cameron County Court at Law # 5 (CC#5) will provide a mentorship program for at risk youth, at no cost to the District. *

2. Recommend approval to enter into Agreement with Cameron County Community Service Centers to provide Adult Basic Education/Adult Secondary Education, High School Equivalency, English as a Second Language and certification for in demand occupations classes for the 2023-2024 school year at no cost to the District. * **Consent Agenda**
3. Recommend approval of an MOU between BISD, Brownsville Community Foundation and Public Wireless for the 2023-2024 school year to provide students access to grant application to qualify for free internet services (for the grant duration of approximately 3 years) and a tablet at no cost to the students through the Educational Technology Program as provided by the Public Wireless Program. No cost to the District. * **Consent Agenda**
4. Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Education Service Center Region 6 in Collaboration with Education Service Center Region 1 and the Brownsville Independent School District. The purpose is for the ESC to provide professional development and training to implement the Texas Lesson Study Program. The contracting period is from August 10, 2023 to June 30, 2024. There is no cost to the District.*

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Mr. Ortiz has a question. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, I believe this question, I think I can direct to Ms. Hernandez, being with the curriculum and instruction, obviously. Not all schools are participating in this program, as a matter of fact, it's only about 5, you know, the number is very, very small, so, just so that the public knows, what is the Texas Lessons Study Program? **Ms. Beatriz Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer stated, it's a collaboration with Region 1 and Region 6, it's at no cost to the district, it's like you mentioned, a very few campuses. We have a middle school and an elementary that this would be their second year, we have two elementary schools signing up for this school year. Its support, additional support for teacher planning, discussing, reflecting on best practices and then going back to the classroom. So, it's an additional planning support.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, thank you. **Ms. Hernandez stated, thank you.** Ms. Gonzalez asked, ready Ms. Pat?

Motion made by Eddie Garcia, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Education Service Center Region 6 in Collaboration with Education Service Center Region 1 and the Brownsville Independent School District. The purpose is for the ESC to provide professional development and training to implement the Texas Lesson Study Program. The contracting period is from August 10, 2023 to June 30, 2024. There is no cost to the District. * (7-0-0)

5. Recommend approval to enter into an Affiliation Agreement between the Tri-Agency Convener and Brownsville Independent School District to remain in force until the end of grant. No cost to the District. * **Consent Agenda**
6. Recommend approval to enter into a new Affiliation Agreement with Valley Regional Medical Center and Brownsville ISD to provide students enrolled in the Junior Level Course, Health Science Technology, with clinical observation experience at no cost to the District. *

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Ms. Peña has a question. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member asked, yes, Dr. Gutierrez, on this, Valley Region Medical Center, is this going to be just that particular hospital since we have several hospitals or is, are they going to be allowed to do the rest of the hospitals to be able to have more students or how is this going to work? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools replied, for this particular item Ms. Peña, its only with this hospital but I'm sure there's other hospitals that we can provide this service. We can bring other memorandums of understanding, but in this case, it's for, with Valley Regional Medical Center.** Ms. Peña asked, okay, and then if the other ones, are we entertaining that they will come back in the future for, for future? **Dr. Gutierrez stated, that's correct.** Ms. Peña stated, okay, thank you. **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote.** Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I got a question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, oh, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo asked, and what are the programs that are involved in that MOU? **Dr. Gutierrez asked, Ms. Benita, is she here so, go ahead, the programs that are going to be specifically in partnership with the hospital? Ms. Benita Villarreal, Career & Technical Education Director replied, good evening, we are referring to the juniors, because we have two items, one is for the junior level and**

then for the senior level. This is, what we are doing is we are just renewing the contract that we have had and going back to your question, Ms. Peña, you are correct, this only pertains to one but we do receive services and we are in partnership with other, with another hospital. The difference this year is that for the junior level classes, because they are only observations under the medical program, the students don't get to do hands on. So, in this case there's not going to be cost to the district because the students are not going to have to go through, in this case, the finger printing that is required for the kids who actually, in the medical program, need to do the practicum their senior year. So, that is the difference and that's why we have to separate because that would be what's changing for this particular entity, did I answer your question, I want to be sure? Mr. Elizondo stated, no. Ms. Villarreal stated, it's the medical program, okay. Mr. Elizondo asked, so what is it, is it EMT, BCT, CNA, Phlebotomist? Ms. Villarreal replied, the ones that offered at the comprehensive high schools, for example, EMT, obviously it's a contracted service that we have at the center, this same thing for the Pharmacy Tech, so, it's only the programs that are at the comprehensive high schools, the junior and the senior level course. Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, the reason I'm saying, is because a lot of people don't know how many programs we actually have and we have a lot of programs. Ms. Villarreal stated, oh yeah, we have 54 certifications. Mr. Elizondo stated, so that's why, right, so I wanted to make sure that you mentioned some of those names so that our kids do know that we offer many, many programs, not just one, you know. Ms. Villarreal added, 26 programs of study and 54 certifications. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you ma'am. Ms. Villarreal stated, of course. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Ortiz has a rebuttal and then Ms. Peña. Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, just a follow up, I know we, you told us about the different programs that we have and this is why I've been big, ever since I got on this Board about promoting our district and marketing it and certainly get, maybe our KBSD to go out there and, you know, make some commercials or just get things together so we can put out into the community because we do offer a lot of great things in BISD. I know it's no cost to the district but we are paying 5 thousand dollars and this is just so that. Ms. Villarreal interjected, yes, for the seniors. Mr. Ortiz asked, the criminal background checks that the hospital requires, is that correct? Ms. Villarreal replied, correct sir. Ms. Peña asked, yes, can we combine 6 and 7? I would like, I make a motion to combine. Ms. Villarreal stated, it's just the difference of the junior class and the senior level. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I just need an amended motion. Ms. Peña asked, yeah, just time out, yes, can we amend the motion? Ms. Garza stated, let me amend my motion Ms. Peña, I motion to combine agenda item number 6 and number 7 together. Mr. Garcia stated, second. Ms. Perez stated, excuse me, I already started the vote for item 6, so. Ms. Peña stated, okay, let me ask her a question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, we are ready to vote for. Ms. Peña stated, wait, wait, let me ask, questions? Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña asked, okay, okay, I was going to ask, for item number 6, that means that the reason you don't have any need for any kind of background criminal or thumbprints or anything, because this is just going to be a classroom setting? Ms. Villarreal replied, no, the students get to go but they only observe, they are the junior level students. Ms. Peña asked, okay, I'm confuse here, okay, I'm lost, help me here, here's the thing, they are going to go into the building? Ms. Villarreal replied, correct. Ms. Peña asked, are they going to be patients in the building? Ms. Villarreal replied, yes, but this is the, this is a requirement from. Ms. Peña asked, here's my thing, let me finish, the ones that need fingerprints are going to be hands on, is that why they have to be fingerprinted? Ms. Villarreal replied, correct. Ms.

Peña asked, so, but the other one that is just going to be in observation no fingerprinting? **Ms. Villarreal replied, no ma'am, because they are going to be under the guidance of a, of a teacher.** Ms. Peña asked, but only in observation? **Ms. Villarreal replied, absolutely.** Ms. Peña asked, but they can be in the same room with strangers or with patients? The body is going to be inside there? **Ms. Villarreal replied, correct.** Ms. Peña asked, but the body won't make contact? So, my concern is, please forgive me, coming from law enforcement, the fact that you are in the room at the same time but you don't do any touching and the other one does, how do I know what's going on in this mind and if he does something at the last minute and we didn't do the fingerprints, we are going to be liable, do you follow what I'm saying? **Ms. Villarreal replied, I understand.** Ms. Peña continued, because they are in the building, they are not supposed to touch anything and you are only doing the background on the ones that are hand on but not the background on the ones that are literally there close enough to be hands on if they want. Because they are in there physically, am I correct? So, if that child moves up, say, no, no, no, move back because you are not supposed to, but you know what I'm saying? What's the difference, why did we choose, why is it done that way? **Ms. Villarreal replied, this is not a BISS requirement, this is something that changed, the hospitals, going back to the, we work with different hospitals, I believe the other hospital kept it that way where the juniors were observing and the seniors would have to go through the same process. So, that's a pending MOU to renew, but in this particular case, the restrictions are different.** Ms. Peña asked, okay, so it's not, as long as it's not our choosing and our doing. Because to me, if you are inside the hospital room, whether you are hands on or observing, you are already in there. **Ms. Villarreal stated, absolutely.** Ms. Peña added, and so we need to make sure you are okay to be in there, but, it's not our doing, then we are okay. **Ms. Villarreal stated, and as a matter of fact, if they were to come back, we have allocated money, because we believe, you know, obviously, in safety and making sure, I mean, we understand that we are working with students, so the money is there and its allocated in case the hospital comes back and requests that we do that.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, so just for clarification, we're voting on only 6, correct? **Ms. Perez stated, yes ma'am, I have a motion and second, Ms. Lopez, motion passes, 7, 0, unanimous.**

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to enter into a new Affiliation Agreement with Valley Regional Medical Center and Brownsville ISD to provide students enrolled in the Junior Level Course, Health Science Technology, with clinical observation experience at no cost to the District. * (7-0-0)

7. Recommend approval to amend the Clinical Affiliation Agreement between Valley Regional Medical Center and Brownsville ISD. CTE Categorical Funding: \$5,000.00 is to be utilized for criminal background, drug and alcohol tests as per hospital policy. *

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, to make the motion for, to approve 7. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, second. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member interjected, and my question, my, my, questions were answered, so, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay great, so we are ready to vote on 7 as well. **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote, please vote.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you ma'am.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to amend the Clinical Affiliation Agreement between Valley Regional Medical Center and Brownsville ISD. CTE Categorical Funding: \$5,000.00 is to be utilized for criminal background, drug and alcohol tests as per hospital policy. * (7-0-0)

8. Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Southmost College for contracted services to deliver non-credit Workforce Training and Continuing Education (WTCE) Training for the 2023-2024 school year. CTE Categorical Funds: \$60,000.00 for Tuition and Certification. *

Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member interjected, question. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Mr. Elizondo had this one second, I mean, circled, I'm sorry and then Mr. Ortiz has a question. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, go ahead Mr. Ortiz. Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay. Mr. Ortiz asked, just a question, again, on this particular item, these are going to be 11th and 12th graders, is that right, I don't know who I'm addressing? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, yes, okay, go ahead, Ms. Villarreal from CTE.** Mr. Ortiz asked, these are our 11th and 12th graders, is that correct ma'am? **Ms. Benita Villarreal, Career & Technical Education Director stated, this particular year we are starting as an added certification with 12th graders and I will explain why. Obviously, we want our kids to graduate and the reality is that if we give our juniors that certification, they would more likely, you know, seek a job and not finish school, you know, we run the risk. So, what we are trying to do is in the future, open up a program of study with the hopes that in the next few years, once we have our own personnel and certified facilities, we will be able to have a program of study and coursework that leads not only to Pipefitters Level I, but Pipefitters Level II certification. And in that particular case, we would be offering it to the juniors and seniors, for this particular cohort, we are looking at the seniors and we're also working with adult education as an added certification after school hours.** Mr. Ortiz asked, okay, thank you ma'am, now, these are going to end up being pipefitters, is that correct? **Ms. Villarreal replied, correct sir.** Mr. Ortiz continued, okay now, by certification, are they going to be licensed or just certified? **Ms. Villarreal stated, license and certification pretty much mean, like in this case, for NCCER purposes, these students will be taking the test, they will have somebody who is certified provide the course work so in the MOU, we have the quote, specifically letting us know that the students are going to be receiving instruction by a certified instructor and then these students will be taking the test. Obviously, if the students take the test for NCCER Core and Pipefitter Level I, they will receive the certification and this is a certification that is nationally accredited and its accepted like in the case of the port, like Amfels and in this case, BECHTEL. So, they are hoping to recruit 35% of the local workforce, so it's definitely something that they already started hiring for.** Mr. Ortiz stated, great, I just want to make sure that they are going to be licensed. **Ms. Villarreal stated, yes sir.** Mr. Ortiz continued, which means that once they are licensed they can go out there and get a good paying job, you know. **Ms. Villarreal stated, absolutely.** Mr. Ortiz added, and that's my biggest concern, that they be licensed and not just go out there and be helpers, but licensed pipefitters. **Ms. Villarreal stated, yes, Pipefitters Level I sir, that's our, that's our goal.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, I have a question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, go ahead Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo asked, so if they, let's get

everybody in the program, right, and then they go take the test, if they fail that test the first time, are we covering the second attempt? **Ms. Villarreal replied, what we are trying to do, once again, this is our very first, cohort, so, its 160 hours that we are going to have to accommodate in one semester, so, it would run pretty much from January to May, so, obviously, our goal is to make sure that our kids are successful. So, in other programs of study, what we have done is we have obviously given them some reteaching opportunity for them to be successful and obviously take the test. So, those are some of the details, once again, this is going to be our very first cohort, so, the goal is to get them tested pretty much my May, so we are hoping that we will have enough time before graduation, that's why we are going to be benchmarking them throughout the process, because obviously, we have to meet the 160 hours, so, we are hoping that everybody does well because it's going to be very close to graduation.** Mr. Elizondo stated, and that's what I'm saying, because if you graduate them before they take the course, most of these individuals either go to the military or away for college and you will not catch them again. Just want to make sure that the deadline is before the actual graduation so we can get them certified or through the process and if they fail their first attempt, make sure that they come back and get that second, I don't know, I guess, one to one with the instructor so they can take the test. **Ms. Villarreal stated, absolutely.** Mr. Elizondo stated, because we've seen other programs where they graduate and they are gone, right. **Ms. Villarreal stated, that is the goal, we just need to get 160 hours out of the way because that's a requirement and we are going to get them tested.** Mr. Elizondo stated, test them as quickly as possible. **Ms. Villarreal stated, absolutely.** Mr. Elizondo state, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña has a question. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member asked, yes, really quick, the way this is written, where it says, recommend approval to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Texas Southmost College for contractual service to deliver non-credit workforce training and continuing education, what, what does the word noncredit workforce training, why is that in there, what does that mean? **Ms. Villarreal replied, because this is a certification course of 160 hours, this is not like a dual enrollment or academic course. So, even though we are in partnership with TSC, for example, for dual enrollment under criminal justice or the academic courses for the associate's degree, in this case, what we are just stipulating that it doesn't count towards like, it's not going to go in their transcript as an academic course. So, this is a certification, so, BISD, like our instructors would give them the credit for the high school component, but they would only be responsible, in this case, for providing the credentialing, the training and the actual testing.** Ms. Peña asked, and tell me why, because TSC also offers certifications. **Ms. Villarreal replied, correct.** Ms. Peña asked, so why would TSC not allow them to get credit on something that they are going to be involved in helping us get, am I correct in saying that TSC will be involved in this? **Ms. Villarreal replied, yes.** Ms. Peña continued, so why would they not allow that credit, because they have certification programs at their campus and those people are doing that, so, now they are saying because you are doing it through BISD, we are not going to give you credit as being here at TSC, why? **Ms. Villarreal stated, no, what we are saying is that at BISD, under the course listing guide, we don't have a program of study.** Ms. Peña interjected, I'm talking about TSC not BISD. **Ms. Villarreal stated, let me, let me explain how, how dual enrollment works. So, in our Board approved program of studies that we are publishing in our course listing guide, we established a relationship between the, in this case, TSC or TSTC offering dual enrollment courses and we have the course numbers. In this case,**

under that plan, because we wanted to get this started, we don't have a program of study under TEA because that would be a pipefitter/plumbing, so, the way that we are getting a head start is by getting TSC to work with us and create a course just for the certification. But, I have Dr. Fuentes from TSC who could explain in terms of their crosswalk because that is something that they do offer, would, would you be okay if she explained? Ms. Peña stated, I just want to ask her one quick question. Ms. Villarreal stated, absolutely. Ms. Peña asked, is it possible that you can get this to where you do show some kind of credit for TSC in case the child or the student wants to continue their education there and maybe add more certifications? Can you work with our district to make this as part of the course credit? Dr. Angelica Fuentes, TSC representative stated, madame Chair, BISD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Gutierrez, I'm happy to answer your questions, we do not offer a pipefitting program of study at TSC. For higher education, you offer credit and non-credit, there's two goals for higher education, either get some credits to transfer to university or an employment. And so, for pipefitting, its non-credit because it's meant for employment, it is a training, that we, on TSC's side, even a TSC student, we do not have a credit program for pipefitting. Ms. Peña stated, and, and that's why my mind is really boggled, you don't offer this but you involved in this, so, like TSC is part of this. Mr. Nick Maddox interjected, Trustee Peña, that's time. Ms. Peña stated, yeah, but I'm sorry, this is important attorney. Mr. Maddox stated, Trustee Peña, it's my job to maintain the decorum of this Board. Ms. Peña continued, let me, let me just finish please, can you please just finish. Mr. Maddox stated, please finish your thought. Ms. Peña stated, I will, please, my concern is that if TSC is involved in doing this and they are not getting credit for it, does that mean we could have gone elsewhere or how, I'm confused how you are part of it but you are not part of it. Dr. Fuentes stated, it is a training that we offer to your students and offer to our students, so our students receive the same certifications that your students will. Ms. Peña asked, so then you do have pipefitters there at your? Dr. Fuentes replies, yes. Ms. Peña stated, okay, I understood you to say no. Mr. Maddox stated, Trustee Peña, that's time. Ms. Peña stated, I'm sorry, thank you so very much and I, please excuse our attorney. Dr. Fuentes stated, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you guys, Ms. Pat, are you ready, we have a first and a second? Ms. Peña stated, thank you Ms. Benita.

Motion made by Eddie Garcia, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Southmost College for contracted services to deliver non-credit Workforce Training and Continuing Education (WTCE) Training for the 2023-2024 school year. CTE Categorical Funds: \$60,000.00 for Tuition and Certification. * (7-0-0)

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

1. Recommend awarding RFP #24-177 Medicaid Finance and Consulting Services, to Onward Learning Texas Special Education Software Solutions from Austin, Texas, and to authorize administration to negotiate and execute a contract. Annual proposal with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement.

Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz asked, I would like to address Ms. Lippa if she is here. Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, yes, yes sir, Ms. Lippa, can you come to the podium

please? Mr. Ortiz asked, good evening Ms. Lippa, how are you doing? **Ms. Adriana Lippa, Special Services Department Director replied, good evening sir, good evening madame Chairman Ms. Gonzalez, Dr. Gutierrez and Members of the Board.** Mr. Ortiz asked, okay, this strongly pertains to the Special Education Program, specifically, SHARS, which is the School Health and Related Services and they basically recoup eligible funds for the Special Ed program, is that correct ma'am? **Ms. Lippa replied, correct sir.** Mr. Ortiz asked, okay, we recuperate, let's say, or recoup maybe around 8 million dollars, is that correct? **Ms. Lippa replied, that is correct.** Mr. Ortiz asked, okay, who is currently doing this? **Ms. Lippa replied, Houston ISD sir.** Mr. Ortiz asked, how long have they been doing this? **Ms. Lippa replied, I believe it's about 10 years sir.** Mr. Ortiz asked, 10 years, we have, have we had any issues with them? **Ms. Lippa replied, no sir.** Mr. Ortiz asked, so why the change? **Ms. Lippa replied, I know that TEA announced the takeover of Houston ISD and there was some uncertainty in regards to the services for, on our part, in regards to Houston.** Mr. Ortiz asked, but we've never had any issues with them? **Ms. Lippa replied, no sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, alright, according to the backup that I was looking at, I know there were 4 bidders that were submitted but actually only 3 were, were interviewed and I commend you because you did have a big, big committee that was vetting them, okay, so I commend you for that. But then again, they were the, the ones that, the one that came out on top was TASB, is that correct? **Ms. Lippa stated, correct sir.** Mr. Ortiz asked, why are we going with the number 2 choice? **Ms. Lippa replied, after we checked references provided by Texas Education School Boards, the references that came back were concerning in regards to the references that they gave us and so that is the reason why.** Mr. Ortiz asked, but I go back again, if that was the case and you're saying that Houston has been doing it for the last 10 years, why don't we just stick with them? **Ms. Lippa replied, that is certainly something that we, I believe, with Purchasing and in collaboration with Mr. Cespedes, financial, we talked about and certainly, one of the things that we looked at was that because the ranking committee had ranked TASB first and Onward came in as a second and the spread was narrow, so, then that was the reason sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, the only thing that I'm, questioning here is that if we have Houston ISD that's been doing it and I understand the problems they have, but if they've been doing it for the last 10 years and we have not had any complaints or any issues with them, why would we want to leave them? That's my only question and concern. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, yes, my question is, you say you did the research on the references and the references didn't come out good. Now, here's the million-dollar question, did you go research the reference that you were given? For example, somebody says, oh, well so and so got in trouble, back in the day, this, bla, bla, bla, blab, oh, go find out, was it true? Did they get in trouble, was it just a bunch of attack, political, did we research the reference and the talk that we gave, oh, we don't like them because of X, Y and Q. Did we go research X, Y, Q or just take the word of the people that gave you that information? **Ms. Lippa replied, we basically took the word of the people that TASB, TASB provided, TASB was the one that provided the references and so we called those references and they are the ones that provided the information.** Ms. Peña asked, so, TASB, unknowingly, provided references that didn't make the look good? **Ms. Lippa replied, yes ma'am.** Ms. Peña stated, and that's kind of scary because look at the 2023 world we are in right now and everything that is happening to all of us. So, I would take that with a grain of salt, if everything has been doing well, let's leave it alone, let's leave it alone because we can get in a bigger and deeper trouble and the people who put us there

will eventually walk away and say, not my problem because they don't work here and it's not affecting them, so, let's be very careful please. **Ms. Lippa stated, yes ma'am.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, I actually have a question, did I see Ms. Rosie, I do see Ms. Rosie Peña back there from Purchasing, Ms. Peña, I have a question. Ms. Peña, just a really quick question, to my understanding, what we as a Board have been doing is although somebody might have the bid and the contract for years and years and years, we are trying to get more into the routine that when they are due, we go out, correct? **Ms. Rosie Peña, Purchasing Department Director stated, that is correct ma'am, the only ones that we are doing multiyear right now, I think I explained this before to the Board are our local maintenance bids because we have issues with local participants so we try to lock them in in the multi-year. And this happened after Covid, but Houston ISD has been with us since 2014.** Ms. Gonzalez asked, and they came in 3rd, correct? **Ms. R. Peña replied, as per the ranking from Special Ed, they were 3rd, yes ma'am.** Ms. Gonzalez asked, okay, Ms. Pat, you ready? Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member interjected, I have a question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Lippa, this is for you ma'am. **Ms. Lippa stated, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, so when you said you had the references, are those listed in our backup here? **Ms. Lippa replied, I do not believe so.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I can answer the question if you like, they are not. **Ms. Lippa stated, okay.** Mr. Elizondo asked, on another note, the references weren't questioned, right? **Ms. Lippa replied, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, Houston is in question, but not the employees of Houston ISD, who are actually doing the work. **Ms. Lippa stated, correct sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, so, we have no issues with Houston ISD? **Ms. Lippa replied, correct sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez asked, did you have your hand up, Ms. Lopez Valdez. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice-President stated, yes, I just wanted to thank our Special Education Department, you all are, I think the state has recognized our Special Education Department as one of the top in the state and I think it's important that we go with what you recommend. I know that what we've been seeing with Houston ISD being taken over by TEA, this is a very questionable time, like as I've said before, public education being under attack and something that we do in public education that, that is not able to be reproduced by any other education system is special needs and all our special needs kids are 6,000 special needs kids deserve to have that type of attention and they deserve to have the quality that we provide and our special needs program has never been fully funded by the state. And so, thank you for making sure that we do, do what is best for our students. **Ms. Lippa stated, thank you.** Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, I have a follow up. Ms. Gonzalez stated, give me a second Mr. Elizondo, Ms. Peña has a follow up and then you can do your follow up, go ahead. Ms. Peña asked, may I ask Ms. Peña? **Ms. Lippa replied, yes ma'am.** Ms. Peña asked, how long have we've been with Houston ISD? **Ms. Rosie Peña, Purchasing Director replied, since 2014 ma'am.** Ms. Peña asked, have we had any major issues, even though they've been under a lot of turmoil for the last, what, year or so? **Ms. R. Peña replied, my department has not received official complaints up until Ms. Lippa asked us to float an RFP.** Ms. Peña asked, so, the answer to the question is no, we have not? **Ms. R. Peña replied, not, no official written complaints to my department.** Ms. Peña asked, so they have been doing well up to now, that's not a hard question, yes or no? **Ms. R. Peña replied, I, I am not privy to the revenue, but no, we have not received any complaints.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you my dear. Ms. Gonzalez stated, go ahead. Mr. Elizondo asked, okay, Ms. Lippa, the rankings, the average score of ranking committee members, Texas Association of School Boards is

89? **Ms. Lippa replied, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, Onward Learning is 87? **Ms. Lippa replied, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, and Medicaid Finance and Consulting Services is 75? **Mr. Lippa replied, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo asked, would that put TASB at number one? **Ms. Lippa replied, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Ms. Pat, are you ready? **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant for the Board of Trustees stated, please vote.** Mr. Elizondo interjected, can you clarify the motion? **Ms. Perez stated, recommend awarding RFP 24-177 Medicaid Finance and Consulting Services to Onward Learning, Texas Special Education Software Solutions from Austin, Texas.** Ms. Peña stated, question. Is Onward Learning, it's not TASB, am I correct Pat? Onward Learning is not the TASB? **Ms. Perez replied, correct.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you. Mr. Elizondo asked, the motions are ma'am? Who are the motions, who motioned it? Ms. Gonzalez stated, me and. **Ms. Perez stated, motion by Gonzalez, second by Lopez.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. **Ms. Perez stated, motion failed, 3 yes, 3 no and 1 abstention.**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez to recommend awarding RFP #24-177 Medicaid Finance and Consulting Services, to Onward Learning Texas Special Education Software Solutions from Austin, Texas, and to authorize administration to negotiate and execute a contract. Annual proposal with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement.

The following vote was recorded

Yea:	Ms. Lopez, Mr. Garcia, Ms. Gonzalez
Nay:	Mr. Elizondo, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Peña
Abstain:	Ms. Garza

Motion Failed: 3-3-1

Ms. Peña stated, Dr. Gutierrez. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña asked, Dr. Gutierrez, oh, yes, yes, so, at this point in time, we continue as is? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, yes ma'am.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you sir and I, like I said, when it's not broken, I'm a very firm believer, since 2014 they've been doing a good job, I do not want to fix what's not broken, so thank you. Mr. Elizondo asked, Ms. Lippa, really quick, this is not going to give us any issues, we are just going to continue business as usual for the Special Ed Department? **Ms. Lippa replied, yes sir, business as usual.** Mr. Elizondo stated, yes sir, business as usual. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you so much.

2. Recommend awarding CSP #24-113 Pharmacy Benefit Manager and Specialty Pharmacy as ranked by the Employee Benefits Committee on September 25, 2023, and allow Administration to negotiate a contract, subject to favorable terms and conditions or continue to the next responsible bidder. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the District. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with the option to renew for a two (2) additional one (1) year term.

Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I have a question. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Secretary stated, second. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President asked, okay, hold on, got it Pat? Okay, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo asked, is the party here? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, go ahead.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, we do have our Valley Risk and then we also have a presentation from our EBC. Mr. Jaime Solis, Valley Risk Consultant stated, yes. Mr. Elizondo asked, so the name of the company is, is what? Mr. Solis replied, the company, well, I'm representing Valley Risk Consulting, I'm Jaime Solis. Mr. Elizondo asked, Mr. Solis, are you the one from Lee's Pharmacy? Mr. Solis replied, yes sir, I am sir, are you asking about the company that was the number one ranking? Mr. Elizondo stated, yes. Mr. Solis stated, I didn't get the rankings until today since it was confidential, I apologize. So, the, they were all ranked by the Employee Benefit Committee, they were the ones that actually did all of the rankings. There's a copy of all of the rankings by each individual that was provided to the Board as well, so the number one ranked pharmacy benefit management company was PCARx, they were awarded, 4,703.6 points, second was ProAct at 4,573.6, they were ranked number 2, Araya Rx was ranked, they had a total of 4,313.6 points, they were ranked number 3, Versus Rx, 3,669.6 points, they were ranked number 4, Serve You Rx was 2,657.8 points and they were ranked number 5 sir. Mr. Elizondo asked, and so the recommendation is going to be PCARx? Mr. Solis replied, that was the recommendation from the Committee sir. Mr. Elizondo asked, and this company is located from? Mr. Solis replied, San Antonio. Mr. Elizondo echoed, San Antonio, what is the cost to the district at this point? Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member interjected, it says, not to exceed 1.5 million on there. Mr. Solis echoed, not to exceed 1.5 million sir. Mr. Elizondo asked, and administrative costs are in, in this? Mr. Solis replied, yes sir. Mr. Elizondo stated, and also, let me ask you, are, are they billing per script, is that how this works? Mr. Solis stated, they have a management fee sir. Mr. Elizondo asked, what is that management fee? Mr. Solis replied, well, the management fee is going to be determined in the contract, that's something that needs to be reviewed and if there is going to be a per script charge that would also have to be looked at. We haven't seen the actual copy of the contract, just the bids. Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. Mr. Solis stated, those will be negotiated by. Mr. Elizondo asked, when are they going to come to? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, one, if the Board approves it, then the next step is to negotiate the contract and bring it to the Board.** Ms. Peña interjected, question. Ms. Gonzalez asked, you're done Mr. Elizondo? Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña stated, okay, it says, not to exceed the 1.5 million, so, this is for prescription services, am I correct Dr. Gutierrez? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, I think it's for all medicine, right? Mr. Solis stated, yes sir.** Ms. Peña stated, well, prescription is a medicine. Mr. Solis stated, prescription service. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, well, there's compound medicine, and prescription.** Ms. Peña stated, but this one is prescription, it's all covered under there, my question is this, are they, the company is going to be paying for the employees' prescription or the district, because we are self-insured, we pay the prescription and they are getting paid to manage the program? Mr. Solis stated, that is correct ma'am. Ms. Peña asked, so then, we are paying. Mr. Solis interjected, you're a self-insured program, so yes, the district actually pays the money and they hire a company to actually provide the benefit. Ms. Peña stated, and the reason, please forgive, no offense, we cut a lot of stuff in teachers, we don't give students, we cut, cut, cut, cut, cut, but we have a 1.5 million to have someone give us a recommendation on

something that we are going to pay for ourselves. So, I'd like, I mean, I just have a problem with that and I do appreciate the help, I just think that's a lot of money to go and ask a 3rd party what do you think of this, when it's something that we are going to have to pay ourselves when it comes to medication and everything is always online. So, I'm just a little concerned with the amount that it's going to cost us to get a 3rd party to tell us, okay, give them that medication, no, maybe not that one, just this one. Please forgive me, I just have a concern with that because we are so short on funds. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you, thank you Mr. Solis. I do know that we do have our EBC Chair, Mr. Meza, would you mind coming to the podium really quick, sorry, I'm sorry. My question is more for them Mr. Solis, Mr. Garza. Mr. Tony Meza, EBC Chair stated, esteemed Board, it is an honor and a privilege to be in front of you all, leadership, thank you, ma'am, how can I help you ma'am? Ms. Gonzalez asked, thank you Mr. Meza, I actually just wanted to have you here pretty much just to thank you. I know you guys aren't done, I know we still have a lot more major EBC committees to come, but to my understanding, this was the top ranking from your group? Mr. Meza replied, that is correct ma'am, that is correct, yes, this is our group which is represented by our employees from all the campuses and the departments. Rest assured that we value you all's judgement and just because our group says something, doesn't mean it's right. In the end, we value your leadership and we understand that you are after our best interest, but this is what the committee voted upon but we will gladly revisit all products if you deem so and necessary. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Mr. Meza, I just want to thank you and make sure if you could pass along the message to the entire committee that this Board, I want to say, I speak for the Board on this, that is we are all extremely grateful of all that you guys have been doing. Mr. Meza stated, thank you very much. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Elizondo has a follow up. Mr. Elizondo stated, I have a question Mr. Meza. Mr. Meza stated, yes sir. Mr. Elizondo asked, do you feel that it needs to go back so that you can get, did you get all the information that you needed or were just presented with some of the stuff that is only given to us? Mr. Meza stated, you know, Mr. Elizondo, all of us respect the Board, if the Board wants us to revisit, we will gladly revisit it, that is not a problem. At the time, this is what we chose, but if the Board feels we need to go back, we respect what the Board does. Mr. Elizondo stated, sir, my biggest concern is, I want to make sure that it's the greatest benefit for you, not, not for our vendors because the most important person is the user, which is going to be you and whoever is on this plan. My concern is the cost to the plan, so, those costs will be placed back into your pocket, that's what I see. So, I want to make sure that if everything was given to you, then that's what you want to do and if you have to pay more, that was your choice. Mr. Meza stated, well, in the end, this is what the members felt and so I must respect how they felt, but again, if the Board wants us to go back and reevaluate, we will gladly go back to reevaluate. We just want to make sure that the Board is happy with what we have done. Mr. Elizondo stated, I'm happy saving you money. Mr. Meza stated, and we all appreciate that. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Ortiz also has a question. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, just a comment sir, thank you for your kind words, but also, on my behalf, I respect the work that you all do, okay, I truly respect all the work because it takes time to sit down and review all these vendors that put in bids. If you feel that your committee is telling us that this is the best choice, I respect that and I respect you and the committee as well. So, if you're telling us that this is who you all recommend, then I don't have a problem with that. Ms. Peña stated, question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña has a follow up. Ms. Peña asked, yes, and my

follow up is, sir, I respect you, you are a wonderful person, my only concern is to give them a 1.5 million dollars to be a consultant to tell you what medicine take and not take and that's one thing that needs to be stressed because I don't like that we cut the budget for the front line but when the vendors are in line they are like in line with millions of dollars to their pocket and I'm a very firm believer that we can talk to them and when you guys make a decision, you say, how much is this going to cost us? Because at the end of the day, whatever they pay up there, remember, like Mr. Elizondo said, get shortened in your end. So, that's my concern, if the committee looked at how much they were going to charge the district to tell the, oh, yeah, this aspirin is good, go ahead and take it, seriously? I mean, that's just how I see it. Mr. Meza stated, you know Ms. Peña, we have always agreed, but I do believe that there is a misunderstanding here as to what the product is going to be because the way we were told is, this is the company that's going to be paying the medications. Ms. Peña stated, no sir. Mr. Meza stated, that's what somebody needs to come and help me clarify this, because I believe there's a misunderstanding Ms. Peña. Hopefully in a few minutes you can, from what we were told. Mr. Elizondo asked, can we get Ms. Zarate to explain to them? **Ms. Maricela Z. Puente, Employee Benefits Department Director stated, yes, we had a presentation for the EBC committee on September 13th and at that meeting, there was presentation as to how the pharmacy works and what were the things that we look for and some of the things that we are looking for is what they charge as a fee. And then the other thing was the credits or rebates that they would also give us. And so, when you look at the net, that's one of the things that the committee members will remember that we said, you know what, we need this, the PBM, the pharmacy benefit manager, to provide this service and they are going to charge a fee. And then, but we are also looking for the rebates that will also help us, so with that in mind, they scored the ranking, they looked on a side by side and you have the tallies in front of you or you have it with you. Then, we went a step further, September 25th we called them back up because we said, you know, we want to amplify their understanding of each of these companies, so they were able to listen to the vendor presentations.** Ms. Peña asked, if I may address her? Ms. Gonzalez asked, Ms. Peña, you have a follow up with that? Ms. Peña replied, yes, so, in awe of what Mr. Meza understood, they are not paying for the medication for our employees. **Ms. Puente asked, the who is not paying?** Ms. Peña replied, the vendor, he understood that the vendors were going to pay for their medication, that's what I just heard him say. That is not correct, they are our consultant service to help us get rebates, help us get this, help us get that, but they get 1.5 million dollars from our pocket to their pocket but none of that is going to be benefited to go into the savings of, maybe it might save, but the district and the employee pay for the medication, not this vendor, am I correct in saying that? **Ms. Puente replied, they, the Employee Benefits Committee, even as early as last year in the spring, we were talking about we are a self-funded program.** Ms. Peña interjected, but, let me just, please, I'm so sorry but, in second grade terms, the vendor is not paying for the medication for the employee, we are because we are self-funded, am I correct? **Ms. Puente stated, yes ma'am.** Ms. Peña stated, so they, somehow, somehow, someone spoke and they understood that they were going to help them pay for some medication and they are not. So, we need to be very careful how we do it. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Dr. Cantu wants to clarify something. **Dr. Nereida Cantu, Deputy Superintendent for Business Operations stated, thank you madame Chair, Dr. Gutierrez and Board Members, I had the opportunity to sit at the EBC Committees, both Committees with Ms. Zarate**

and when you are looking at that table that has the five options, what the EBC Committee did, one of the things, the whole goal of going out and separating the pharmacy and the health program was because the pharmacy had climbed in the district about 30 something percent. So, the idea of having a pharmacy benefit manager is, we are paying for them to develop a preferred list of pricing, in other words, they are going to be negotiating the pricing. They are also going to negotiate rebates for us, they are also going to negotiate prices with the pharmacy so there will be, the work that they have is to negotiate what's best for the employee. At the end of the day, the BISD employees have been assured that it's not going to be a change in medication, if they are taking a certain, a medication A, there will be no change in that medication and there will be preferred providers, there will be a pharmacy that will be recommended or pharmacies I should say, that will be recommended. So, that's what the pharmacy benefit manager does, their job is to make sure they get the best pricing for us, make sure that they negotiate rebates and make sure that they also negotiate prices with the pharmacies that will be selected. So, it is a benefit to the employee because we will get better pricing on medication that, whatever it is that we are taking already. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Dr. Cantu for clarifying, Ms. Pat, you're ready, we are out of time. Mr. Elizondo interjected, I got a question ma'am. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Legal Counsel interjected, Mr. Elizondo, you have used all of your primary and rebuttal time sir.* Mr. Elizondo asked, for this item? Ms. Peña interjected, Ms. Jessica, would you please let my colleague speak. Mr. Elizondo asked, 3 minutes, I've used 3 minutes? *Mr. Maddox replied, yes sir, as well as your rebuttal time, if you don't use all of your time, then you waive the remainder of it.* Ms. Peña asked, Ms. Jessica, would you please allow him the time? Mr. Elizondo asked, but isn't, isn't that per motion. Ms. Peña interjected, you have that authority to, you have that authority Ms. Jessica, not the attorney. *Mr. Maddox replied, its per item sir.* Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña, hold on, one at a time. Mr. Elizondo asked, and I've done 3 minutes? *Mr. Maddox replied, its 3 minutes per item and 2 minutes rebuttal per item.* Mr. Elizondo asked, and you took my time? *Mr. Maddox replied, no sir, you took your time.* Ms. Peña stated, this is a different speaker. Mr. Elizondo stated, no, no, no. *Mr. Maddox stated, I don't understand the question.* Mr. Elizondo asked, you took my time, it means you have a clock, that's what I asked? *Mr. Maddox replied, yes sir, yes sir.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, I'm sorry I don't speak, so I'm not going to be allowed to continue? Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member interjected, we have a first and a second. Ms. Gonzalez echoed, we have a first and a second, we are going to be following Robert's Rules of Order. Ms. Peña interjected, no, please, Robert's Rules of Orders is to conduct a meeting properly, not to dictate or become, I'm sorry ma'am, let him ask the question, this is important, this is health benefits for our employees and I signed up to serve them, not myself or you, please, please, please, please. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña. Mr. Garcia stated, this is a meeting. Ms. Peña stated, I'm sorry, I'm sorry to step on your toes, please let him ask the question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you, thank you for your opinion Ms. Peña, Ms. Pat, we are ready to vote. **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote.** Ms. Peña stated, at this point Pat, I'm going to abstain because I don't have my questions answered, nothing against the committee, the committee is excellent, keep up your good work. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, ma'am, I'm going to vote no for the lack of transparency ma'am. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you. **Ms. Perez stated, motion passes, 5 yes, 1 no and 1 abstention.**

Motion made by Eddie Garcia, seconded by Denise Garza, to recommend awarding CSP #24-113 Pharmacy Benefit Manager and Specialty Pharmacy to PCARx, as ranked by the Employee Benefits Committee on September 25, 2023, and allow Administration to negotiate a contract, subject to favorable terms and conditions or continue to the next responsible bidder. The term of this contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Services will be rendered based on the needs of the District. The proposal is for a three (3) year term with the option to renew for a two (2) additional one (1) year term.

The following vote was recorded

Yea:	Ms. Lopez, Ms. Garza, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Gonzalez
Nay:	Mr. Elizondo
Abstain:	Ms. Peña

Motion Carried: 5-1-1

Ms. Gonzalez stated, and for the record, we are going to combine, on A, 1 and 2.

X. Board Member Request(s)

A. Action Item(s)

1. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding the 2024 BISD High School Graduations Times For All High Schools. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Peña/Board Support Frank Ortiz)

Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, move to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President asked, approve what? Ms. Peña replied, the motion 1 and 2. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, well no, there's questions that we have here. Ms. Peña stated, well yeah, but we have to make a motion for the item before we can discuss, so we have to have a first and a second and then we can open for discussion. Mr. Ortiz stated, I second. Ms. Gonzalez stated, but you said motion to approve, but just can you verify what exactly your motion to approve specifically. Ms. Peña stated, the possible action that we will discuss, and if with all due, I'm sorry. Ms. Gonzalez asked, are you saying to keep the graduations at 7:30, is that where you are headed? Ms. Peña replied, yes, yes, yes dear. Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, so we have a first and a second on that. Ms. Peña stated, 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ortiz stated, I second that. Ms. Peña continued, and I'd like to clarify, I don't know what happened, but I pulled one of the items out because I had put a second item instead of this one so I don't know what happened, but next time I will make sure it doesn't happen that it went in twice because I had pulled this one because somebody else had put it in, if I may? Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, so just for clarity, the motion is, Ms. Pat, for, to keep 7:30 p.m. graduations, you have that right? Ms. Peña added, for all six high schools. Ms. Gonzalez echoed, for all, for all high schools. **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, yes ma'am.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, Ms. Peña, go ahead and start your comment. Ms. Peña stated, hold on, I'm turning on my timer, sometimes his timer goes a little fast, I've already seen that, but anyway, I'm going to turn on mine, I'll tell you when to start sir, go. Okay, here goes, no, it's not funny, it's crazy, but ni modo, I have to acclimate myself to where I'm at. Okay, my concern is that we have a lot of

children, I commend that young man that came and spoke because at 7:30 in the morning, that means you have to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning, get dressed, get breakfast and make it out to make good parking space to make sure you get on time, with all due respect, please let's keep our graduation ceremonies at 7:30 in the evening so people can go out and have a quick snack and then they can celebrate the next day. Ladies and gentlemen, it is very difficult and I'm going to say this and I apologize for stepping on toes but I've got to do it. We have people in this universe right now that are tired, they're overworked, they've been here 20, 30, 40 years, time to go home, you know why it's time to go home, because they don't want to work anymore after 5 o'clock, they want to go home. I don't want to go play a game at 7 o'clock, I want to go home, hey our kids are on the street, you are not doing the football games at 7:30, no, I don't want to, I'm tired. Guys, if we are so tired that we don't want to be here at night anymore to serve our children lets go home, lets retire, let's get the young people to come in and have our kids play baseball, football, everything, 7:30 at night. Let's have our graduations at 7:30 at night, there are parents that don't have sick leave, there are parents that cannot take the day off to come to graduation. Please, I'm pleading with you, help us help our children. If you are the kind that wants to go home at 5 o'clock, I'm tired, "ya me canse", please retire, for God's sakes, lets retire and not hurt our children because our children need to be out there at that hour to have something to do. You know how many people that are employed here that I hear say that? Oh, I'm too tired, I don't want to do it, they want to go home Saturday night, go party, go this, then you know what, then you don't want to be here no more, you signed up to serve us, serve us. I had teachers that were there at night with me that I could go play baseball, I could go play, be in the track team, I can go do everything that I needed to do, thank God for that. I'm asking please, please, please, keep it at 7:30, the parents have called me, they're upset, they're hurting, they're like, crying, I can't go at 7:30, please, please, be considerate of our community, that's all I ask. And I'm sorry, I'm just very passionate when it comes to serving our children, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Garza. Ms. Peña stated, 2 minutes 9 seconds. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member asked, this question, do we have someone from the graduation committee here? Dr. NIC, you can stay where you are at, I know this agenda item comes on every year, I think it's been like this for the past 3 years and depending on how the motion goes, if it passes to keep them at 7:30 can we like drop it and not bring it back for future years to come? **Dr. Norma Ibarra Cantu, Executive Director for Secondary Education stated, yes ma'am.** Ms. Garza stated, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Ortiz has a question. Mr. Ortiz asked, I think it's a good idea Ms. Garza, glad you brought that up because here we are again, I know we discussed this back in January, February, you know, of this year and we had two schools again, that were going to be having the graduation in the morning. And I remember asking Dr. Gutierrez if he would just survey and he did so a survey and it came back that, you know, they wanted to have the graduation at 7:30. Oh, I don't know why in the world now, we see it again, the two more schools are graduating at 7:30 in the morning. We heard from students, you know, we heard from them, they are our stakeholders, it's their special night, I've received calls from parents, you know, so, I don't know why we keep on going back and forth, so, if we, if we do, you know, pass the motion that its, that all schools stay at 6, at 7:30, all 6 schools stay at 7:30 p.m., then I think that that's a good idea, we'll just keep it like that so we won't be, we won't have to be dealing with this issue every single year. Ms. Peña stated, amen to that. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Lopez Valdez. **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, I was just going to say, we were thinking of leaving it alone, obviously, because we've brought it before, the only thing that**

changed is that what we went through this past June, with the rain storms. We had two graduations that we had to move, one of us caught us in the middle of, I mean, we were like three minutes away from, you know, possible something, a hail storm that came in. We just thought about it that we have to always take weather as a factor and when we have six nights there's always a possibility that something is going to happen in one of those graduations. And furthermore, the kids that or the schools that are towards the end of the six days, we lose kids from not going to graduation because we are taking a little too long, but we will leave it alone. We'll leave it at 7:30 p.m., we won't bring it back and we'll just deal with the weather as it happens and adjust as we need to. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Lopez Valdez. Mr. Ortiz interjected, as far as the weather, I mean, it can happen in the morning too, we can't predict the weather, you know, we can't predict mother nature, so, I just wanted to say that. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, and then we can move it as well.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Lopez Valdez, go ahead. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice-President stated, yes, I just wanted to commend the student for coming up here and voicing his opinion, but I also wanted to remind everyone what happened last year, it was very scary. You know, having to wheel everyone underneath the stadium and I actually looked up on the weather service and storms in the summer are actually more prevalent because of lighting and the moisture that it creates on the ground. But I think it's important for us to listen to our community and thank you to administration because I know I see you all and not only administration but our Sams Stadium staff who set up and all hours of the night. I know you all were there non-stop making sure that everybody had water, that our elderly people had a room to be in underneath the stadium when it was really hot and when the storm was going on. And made sure all of our staff, all of our students were safe, so, I just wanted to give a shout out to them. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I just wanted to go on the record to say that I have not gotten a concern from the community, the calendar has been out since July and I am a firm believer that if we are preparing our children for college, I know my daughter has already graduated, has what, had like 3 graduations. One more to go, hopefully and they've all been at 8 in the morning, well at least the last masters, bachelors, so. Anybody else, if not, Ms. Pat, we are ready to vote. **Ms. Perez stated, please vote.** Ms. Peña asked, would you read the motion Ms. Pat? **Ms. Perez replied, to keep the graduation ceremonies at 7:30 p.m. got all six early college high schools.** Ms. Peña asked, can you add to that motion from here on out, so it doesn't come back again? **Ms. Perez stated, I had already started the vote, but yes ma'am.** Ms. Peña stated, never mind, you are correct, it can still come back, you are very right, I was wrong. **Ms. Perez stated, please vote, motion passes, 6 yes, 1 no.**

Motion made by Minerva Peña, seconded by Frank Ortiz, to recommend approval regarding the 2024 BISD High School Graduations to take place at 7:30 p.m. for all six ECHS's. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Peña/Board Support Frank Ortiz)

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Mr. Elizondo, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Garza, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Peña
Nay: Ms. Gonzalez
Abstain:

Motion Carried: G6-1-0

2. Discussion, consideration and possible action keeping Veterans Memorial ECHS and Porter ECHS Graduation Ceremonies at 7:30 p.m. at Sams Stadium. (Board Agenda Request Frank Ortiz/Board Support Minerva Peña) (G 6-1-0)
3. Discussion, consideration and possible action on the hiring of consultants to work with low-performing schools. (Board Agenda Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Frank Ortiz)

Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees asked, do I have a motion? Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, motion. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I second it. Ms. Gonzalez asked, motion for? Mr. Ortiz replied, I just want to discuss this because I think it's already happened. Mr. Elizondo asked, who's? Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I just need the motion to clarify the motion and then the second so that we can discuss. Mr. Ortiz stated, correct. Ms. Gonzalez asked, so can you clarify your motion, I'm sorry? Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, I move to discuss and possible action on hiring consultants to work with low performing schools. I want to make a motion that we discuss, if it's possible, well, I want to make a, how do we do this sir? Mr. Elizondo asked, let me make a motion? Ms. Gonzalez stated, hold on, hold on, we have a motion on the table. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Legal Counsel stated, is there a particular consultant that you would like to recommend to the Board?* Mr. Ortiz replied, no, no, I want to discuss whether the district is hiring consultants to work with low performing schools? *Mr. Maddox asked, oh, is it discussion item only sir?* Mr. Ortiz replied, yes. Ms. Peña interjected, well, no, no, it's a possible action because do we need consultants and if it's not needed, how do we do it? *Mr. Maddox stated, then you would authorize your administration to hire consultants if needed potentially, I don't understand what we are (inaudible)?* Mr. Ortiz stated, for clarification purposes, okay, Legal, I am under the understanding that we are hiring consultants to come and work with targeted schools when we have personnel on board that can do the same job. That's my, that's my question that I want to discuss and find out if in essence its taking place or not. Ms. Peña asked, Legal, could we put like, discussion, consideration not to hire consultants when we have our own BISSD personnel doing the job for the schools that need help in low performing? Mr. Elizondo interjected, yes. *Mr. Maddox replied, yes ma'am, you can, to the extent that those consultants are before the Board, that it's not within the superintendent authority to hire collateral.* Ms. Peña interjected, in other words, we have to find out who they are right now? *Mr. Maddox stated, well, you can capture it in your motion, I believe by saying that I motion that we freeze hiring of any consultants before the Board.* Ms. Peña stated, oh, excellent. *Mr. Maddox added, in our underperforming campuses.* Ms. Gonzalez asked, so, so I believe it was Franks motion, so, Mr. Ortiz, can you just amend to what Legal said? Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, which is? *Mr. Maddox stated, yeah, let me.* Ms. Peña interjected, come on Legal, repeat it. *Mr. Maddox stated, let me rephrase that.* Mr. Ortiz echoed, rephrase that. *Mr. Maddox stated, so, I, I move to freeze hiring of any consultants to contract with the Board, that will be working with low performing schools, you can just say so moved if you want.* Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, I so move to, say it again sir. Ms. Peña echoed, to freeze hiring of consultants to work with low scoring schools. *Mr. Maddox stated, to freeze hiring of any consultants brought before the Board to work with low performing schools.* Mr. Ortiz interjected, I'm the junior Board Member here, okay, so I still need to learn how to address these, these motions. *Mr. Maddox stated, this is a complex item, it really is.* Mr. Elizondo stated, I second. Ms. Peña

asked, ok, can you repeat it Pat? *Mr. Maddox stated, so it's a motion to freeze the hiring of any consultants before the Board for low performing schools.* Mr. Ortiz stated, I couldn't have said it better. Ms. Gonzalez asked, okay, and then we have a second, is there discussion? Mr. Ortiz replied, yes. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz asked, I guess I can address Ms. Hernandez on this because this deals with Curriculum & Instruction, again. Ms. Hernandez, are we hiring consultants to come and work with targeted low performing schools? **Ms. Beatriz Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer replied, yes sir.** Mr. Ortiz asked, is that Denise Gallegos, Consultant? **Ms. Hernandez replied, they're, she is one of several consultants that's coming in.** Mr. Ortiz asked, where are they based out of, where is she based out of? **Ms. Hernandez replied, Brownsville.** Mr. Ortiz asked, okay, what type of services is she going to be providing to us? **Ms. Hernandez replied, specifically on that one is technology integration with focused on the early childhood grades for one campus and 3rd thru 5th in two of our other high priority campuses.** Mr. Ortiz asked, are some of the technology platforms I-Ready, EduSmart, STEMScopes, Elevation, K-12 Summit? **Ms. Hernandez replied, I'm sorry?** Mr. Ortiz asked, are some of the applications that she's going to provide us services for or training on, is it for the I-Ready Program, EduSmart, the STEMScopes, Elevations, K-12 Summit? **Ms. Hernandez replied, it's a broad range, depending on the need of that particular campus, the intent of reaching out to outside additional support for our high priority campuses is to tailor that support to the needs of either the campus or the specific grade level or the teachers. For example, with this particular consultant, one of the schools, based on their needs, the, they decided to focus on the early childhood grades and not 3rd thru 5th, they wanted Region One to focus on the upper grades. For the other two elementary high priority campuses, they decided to focus on 3rd thru 5th when it came to technology integration.** Mr. Ortiz stated, but my question is, don't we have personnel on campus that can provide this training to our teachers and on these platforms, I-Ready, EduSmart and so forth that she is supposed to provide us some additional training on, how to integrate technology successfully in the classroom, we're paying these companies a pretty penny. They have people on board that they can send to the campuses to provide this training, I don't think we need to bring somebody else from the outside when we have our own experts here within the district, we have specialists, okay. These platform companies, as I mentioned, that we pay for a lot of money, they've got people on board that can come in and continue training our teachers on how to use this technology. I'm just thinking of duplication of services here, my biggest concern is the pay, how much are we paying for this consultant? **Ms. Hernandez stated, this consultant is.** Mr. Ortiz stated, I can tell you, 37 thousand 500. **Ms. Hernandez echoed, 37 thousand 500 dollars for the 3 campuses.** Mr. Ortiz stated, that's a lot of money to have somebody come in to do what our professional staff and our experts here on campus can do, that's two paraprofessionals sir, you know, if you really look at it. And I'm just concerned and I know that the cap is at 50 thousand before it comes to the Board, maybe we ought to consider bringing it down to 25 thousand so that we won't end up with issues like this and paying people this amount of money when we have our own experts here at the district level and these companies, and I'll say it again, for these other platforms, they've got consultants, they've got their trainers that come in and they can provide these services to us. I'm just concerned about, we talk about financial responsibility, well, I'm looking at this here and I have questions with that and I have concerns with that. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Elizondo asked, Ms. Hernandez, is this the only consultant that's on payroll right now? **Ms. Hernandez replied, no sir.** Mr. Elizondo

asked, so, how many do we have and what is it costing us right now? **Ms. Hernandez replied, for a high priority campus, we also have Region One coming in to support our high priority campuses, we also, Region One for the STAAR component and also for TELPAS, we have Impacto, the one that Mr. Ortiz just mentioned, that in essence is not necessarily just supporting specific software's but again, its technology integration in the classroom. We have parental component, parental support for high priority campuses and we have teacher created material which is focusing on the STAAR writing 2.0, that one is district wide, the teacher created materials with Kim Carlton. Mr. Elizondo asked, and so what is the cost right now? Ms. Hernandez replied, the Region One, when we focus on the high priority campuses for Del Castillo, it would be 45 thousand dollars for the entire year. For other two campuses, 72 thousand dollars.** Ms. Peña interjected, question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I just want to make sure Mr. Elizondo is done, hold on Ms. Peña. Mr. Elizondo asked, how many seconds do I have left? *Mr. Maddox replied, you have 1 minute and 34 seconds sir.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. *Mr. Maddox added, but if you don't use it now, then you waive it, that's what's been happening.* Mr. Elizondo stated, I don't even wave my hair man, let alone time. Ms. Peña stated, we will need to correct that in the future. Mr. Elizondo stated, so, anyway, we are at 45 thousand and 72 thousand, plus the 37 thousand that Mr. Ortiz was just told, or is that it? **Ms. Hernandez stated, yes.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so, its 37 thousand, 45 thousand, 72 thousand, anymore? **Ms. Hernandez stated, those are our high priority campuses, so far, based on the preliminary data that we have from TEA.** Mr. Elizondo stated, about 165 thousand is what we are paying right now on consultant fees, do we not have any people that we can use here and allow that, maybe move, shift those monies into our own employees who are, you know, experts in that field? **Ms. Hernandez stated, we do have staff in terms of specialists at the Curriculum & Instruction level, content specialists, we have two at the elementary level targeting the RLA, we have two at the elementary level targeting the RLA, we have two supporting the Math, we have one Bilingual Specialist, we have the support staff from the Gifted and Talented Department, we have two at the elementary level and in Special Education, we also have some support personnel there.** Mr. Elizondo asked, but can we use that staff to cover some of these expenses and pay them out of the 165 thousand dollars that we are using? **Ms. Hernandez replied, we are currently using that staff already, these are additional supports, as again, they are standing below that 70 percent in terms of the preliminary data.** Mr. Elizondo asked, can we not additionally support them with 165 thousand to our staff that is already doing this work? **Dr. Gutierrez interjected, Ms. Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez stated, yes. Dr. Gutierrez continued, on the low performing campuses, are we required to do some above and additional supports for those campuses, is that a state requirement? Because these campuses may be below the 70 percentile and there might be a requirement for us to do something different. Ms. Hernandez stated, and it certainly is and that's where this additional support is stemming from, specifically, we are trying to close the learning gaps and again, going back to the data, the preliminary data being released by the state, with our high priority campuses, which at this time are 3 elementary campuses, we have the basic, the support from the resources in house, this is additional support that we are providing the campuses, based on the needs, based on, again, going back to the data. Some of these funds that are being utilized is ESSER funds which is the whole intent of the ESSER grant, is to support our high priority campuses and that's the intent of that additional support and to close the learning gap.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I agree with

closing the gap, what I'm trying to say is that you are giving these individuals extra duties but no extra pay. We are paying people to come out to the district, 165 thousand or more, we just don't know that for sure, can we not allocate the funds that we are paying someone outside of the school district to pay the employees that are doing the work already even if they are added more duties, because we adding duties to administrators and we are paying them, is what I'm trying to say, why can we not allocate, instead of hiring consultants and reach out to the individuals who have been or are here doing the work already and pay them extra. *Mr. Maddox interjected, that's time sir.* Mr. Elizondo added, give them that extra stipend. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I want to give a chance. Mr. Elizondo stated, it was one minute and 21. *Mr. Maddox stated, actually, I let you go a little over.* Mr. Elizondo stated, that's okay, I don't need any more time. Ms. Gonzalez stated, before we move forward with the questions, I would like to give a chance to the two AA's because it's you guys campuses that you guys are in charge of. So, is there anything, both, either one, both of you would like to add? **Ms. Alma Cardenas Rubio, Assistant Superintendent/Elementary Schools stated, I would, I would like to add, there is a model called the TPACK model, the TPACK model focuses on the teaching methods which our specialists really focus on teaching methods and the content method. But one area that we need to improve is in the technology method, how do you intersect all three. How do you intersect the content, how do you intersect the pedagogy and how do you intersect technology? What Denise Gallegos does, is she does an assessment, which she has already done an assessment on all 3 schools. She does an assessment in each individual teacher, and she has a range between the SAMR model, are you at the lowest level of technology implementation, are you at the highest level? So, she takes the teacher from where they are at and she moves them forward because the STAAR 2 is all interactive, it's all technology, it's all drop down, so, she's teaching them the methods of how to use the content, how to use the teaching strategies to raise the level of usage of technology. This district has spent over 3 million dollars on a year on technology, what we need to do is invest more time on making sure that we are using the technology effective for independent empowered learning. Every single teacher that gets pre-service at the university is taught how to use the eastern standards, how to use technology in the content area. What Denise is doing, she has a master's in educational technology at the university, she has all the certificates on blended learning, personalized learning, so she has used that skill with all of these three schools, assess them and now each teacher is going to have their personalized level of growth in the technology use. So, the goal for this is to model this at these three schools that are struggling so then use that model for the remaining schools so once you learn the skill, how to use blended learning, how to use rotations, how to bring that teacher to the next level, you then know how to use it at these other schools. We are just having to use it first at the three schools that are needed, we need to invest a lot more time in teaching teachers how to use the integration of the technology that we currently have. She has done an amazing job in doing a self-assessment for all the schools. Please keep in mind that before Denise Gallegos was introduced to us, she happens to put a bid for this district and she presented herself to the schools. She first presented herself at Del Castillo, made a presentation to the principal, the principal approached us and says, I really would like to use this. So, we introduced that to the other schools, would you like to also join? So, the three schools had the priority, so I just want to let everyone know that our job is to make sure that the students are successful with the 2.0 and we believe that's investing more time in the**

TPACK model and the SAMR model which is the same thing as Bloom’s Taxonomy, but for technology is the approach to use for not only currently but for the future. Ms. Gonzalez asked, thank you, Ms. Emerson, would you like to add something? **Ms. Dolores Emerson, Executive Director/Elementary** replied, yes, as far as **Region One** is concerned, for them coming in, they will be targeting Reading and Math and their targeted approach would be personalized coaching for each of the teachers in 3rd, 4th and 5th in addition to the personalized coaching that they will do, they will also be doing classroom observations and specific feedback to each teacher. They are going to do resource sharing and also data analysis. Now, what they are doing in the coming into the classrooms, it’s non-putative, it’s to help each teacher in order to work on their craft for the Reading and Math. I truly believe that I’ve been working very hard with Canales Elementary and I know that this Region One coaching and the model that is being used will be a game changer for the campus. I believe that Ms. Rubio feels the same way for the other two campuses as far as assisting the teachers with the Reading and the Mathematics. Throughout the years, our specialists have worked with each of the campuses, they do, do work with each of the 34 campuses. We have two Reading Specialists and two Math Specialists and they do service all 34 campuses, this is a targeted approach in order to close the learning gap we are using our ESSR funds in order to do that, in order to assist the teachers, assist the campus to provide additional support so that that way, that we want to make sure that the gaps are closed not only for Reading and Math, but also for TELPAS and pedagogy. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you ladies. Ms. Peña interjected, question. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Ms. Peña, you want to follow up? Ms. Peña replied, yes, okay, Dr. Gutierrez, these Specialists, how many of our administrators here have gone through the training so that they can do what the Specialists do? Have you been trained by those Specialists that come in and do such wonderful jobs so you can do exactly what she does, do you have the complete program? Because I think you need to, because to say, well, let’s pay her to come do it, well you get paid the same thing, you get paid to do a job. So, I want to know how many of you have, I know you are trying to talk to her and tell her what to say, hold on Ms. Emerson. So, my concern is, as much money as we are paying that you need to sit and pick up their training so you can turn around and you can do it to all the schools, that’s how I was trained when I was at work. You know how to do everything from the front line to the very top, now when somebody says, how do you do this, hold on, so and so, come over here and explain, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, you get paid very well, you get paid very well, you need to know how to do the top to the bottom. So, Dr. Gutierrez, those people that are coming in to train our schools, how many of our administrators have gone through that and everything the school and the principal learned and will do and the teachers, they can also do it. Because it’s very important and we will save the district money and we will make them a lot better administrators instead of saying go to A, B, C and D because I can’t help pull you forward. Can we do that and make sure that once we pay that, they know exactly what was being taught to their campus and they will teach it to the rest of the campuses. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, that’s a good point, to have a trainer of trainers within those consultants.** Ms. Peña stated, yes, because I noticed that they say they have two Specialists that service 34 schools, that’s a lot of schools. So, you guys should be able to do the same thing that your Specialists do, everything I ask a Specialist I can ask you and both of you will give me the same question, the same answer and the same results. And that makes you a good leader and a good performer of your job. Mr. Ortiz interjected, hey Legal, Legal, I’m out of time? *Mr. Maddox stated, you have used your primary 3 minutes, you have 2 minutes of rebuttal*

which we are just sort of using as follow up this meeting, so, you have 2 minutes sir. Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, I do want to follow up on what Ms. Peña was saying, you guys hold your administrators at the campus level responsible for whatever happens there and their scores and everything that they're doing there. But if you are not trained and you don't know what this consultant is going and doing in there, how are you going to help them?

Ms. Cardenas Rubio interjected, I would like to respond to that, I've been spending the last 10 years of my career studying educational technology integration, I'm actually a doctoral student studying curriculum and instruction with emphasis in educational technology. When she presented herself with her pedagogy presentation, I understood everything she was trying to do. So, what I want to say to you is that I do believe your recommendation is to make sure that we really understand how this implementation can help other campuses once we work with these two schools. I understood that she was going to do the technology integration method, I understood that she was going to use the SAMR model, I understood that she was going to use the level of Boom's Taxonomy, and the SAMR model. Very few people that have those skills will not, will not be willing to invest all the time at 3 schools in one district, they usually are seeked all over the nation, all over the state. We are very lucky that this teacher, a former BISD teacher who helped implement the iPads back in 10 years ago, who was the one that all the teachers would go to with the blended learning. Also received the 2017 award from the district in technology integration, she understands our culture, but I do hear what you are saying, you have a great comment about, okay, once we learn this, can we make sure that we follow this model and that we move it, that is our goal. Because we will not have the, we don't know if we will have these funds in the future to be able to see it piloted at these 3 schools that mostly need it. But I can rest assure you, if I invested this much time in this need, I will make sure that it gets followed and use in the remaining 34 elementary schools.

Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, that's good and I agree with what Ms. Peña said a little while ago about the trainer of trainers, so, I congratulate you for having the 10 years of technology training, okay, so if that's the case, then we will see you at the class, at the campuses doing what this consultant is doing and helping out the other schools?

Ms. Cardenas Rubio stated, absolutely, I have to model it.

Mr. Ortiz stated, okay sir.

Dr. Gutierrez stated, and I'd like to say that these are the 3 most needy campuses in the Southmost area, these are the campuses that have the lowest grades and we need to do something differently because if we continue doing the same thing, we going to get the same results. So, we have to use our ESSER funds that is for that purpose, to bring up struggling campuses and when you have Cromack, Del Castillo and Canales, those are the most deprived kids that need the most resources and professional development that we can possibly get for the kids to come up and be just like every other kid in our district.

Ms. Peña stated, I agree sir, just make sure that your top administrators shadow those people so they can do exactly what they do because it can be done because that's how all of us work, unless you don't want to do the job.

Dr. Gutierrez stated, and that's correct Ms. Peña, you are right.

Ms. Gonzalez stated, I just want to add really quick, I know that we are ready to vote, but I do know an AP, I won't name them because then it's going to be obvious who told me. But she was at a struggling campus, has now moved to a little, a little higher performing campus and I was very happy to hear her say that what she learned at the quote, unquote struggling campus, she still continuing it even though it's not necessarily needed at where she is now. But it's just that wealth of knowledge that she brought with her that she's now showing the new campus. So, there is always a positive.

Ms. Pat, are you ready? *Mr. Maddox interjected, Trustee Ortiz, I streamlined the motion a little bit, I'm going to make sure this captures your intent sir, freeze hiring of any consultants within Board purview for low performing schools, is that accurately capture your motion sir?* Mr. Ortiz stated, not just for low performing schools, just across the board. *Mr. Maddox asked, okay, for all campuses, district wide?* Mr. Ortiz replied, that is correct. *Mr. Maddox asked, and then our second was, Mr. Elizondo, is that our second?* **Ms. Perez stated, yes.** *Mr. Maddox asked, do you second the revised motion sir?* Mr. Elizondo asked, how many seconds do I have? *Mr. Maddox replied, 4.* Mr. Elizondo stated, yes. *Mr. Maddox stated, thank you sir.* Ms. Peña stated, I guess in other words, not, not just go and hire them because we find out that they hired after the administration comes and tells us, why are they hiring these people because, you know, please forgive me but, you like somebody, oh, I like you, come in and work for us, and then we don't need that. Mr. Ortiz interjected, Legal, can I say this, not to freeze but to come to the Board before they get hired, prior to getting hired, yes present, yes. This way we know what they're doing. Ms. Peña stated, yes. Mr. Elizondo stated, I'll second that, is that okay? Ms. Peña asked, can you read it again, sir? You are really working today. *Mr. Maddox stated, so, I motion administration to bring all consultant contracts to Board prior to hiring district wide.* Mr. Ortiz stated, correct. Ms. Peña stated, excellent sir. Ms. Gonzalez asked, ready guys. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, I have a question though. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Garza. Ms. Garza asked, does this affect anything that we have right now, like, you have Denise Gallegos already, she's already there, so were good with what we have, this is just moving forward, okay. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Lopez Valdez. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, I just would like to also make sure, in the future, because I know you all need to move quickly, I know we mostly meet once a month and I want to make sure that it's not going to affect you in your future outcomes on what you need to do to run an effective district. Mr. Elizondo interjected, we can motion to meet twice a month if you want, I have no problems with that. Ms. Gonzalez stated, we already have a meeting scheduled later in October, Ms. Pat, ready? *Mr. Maddox stated, sorry, we are entering the new language Board.* **Ms. Perez stated, please vote, motion passes, 7, 0, unanimous.**

Motion made by Frank Ortiz, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval that administration bring all consultant contracts to Board prior to hiring District-wide, (7-0-0)

4. Discussion, consideration and possible action to name the football field at Sams Stadium after Joe A. Rodriguez, for his lifelong dedication to Brownsville Independent School District. (Board Agenda Request Daniella Lopez Valdez/Board Support Jessica Gonzalez)

Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Secretary stated, second. Daniella Lopez Valdez stated second. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, discussion, Ms. Lopez Valdez, this is your item. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice-President stated, yes, based on an extensive and impactful contributions of Joe A. Rodriguez to the Brownsville community and beyond. On behalf of the Board, I am happy to bring this to the, bring this for approval of the football field at Sams Stadium to name it as Coach Joe A. Rodriguez Field. Coach Joes unwavering dedication to sports, education and leadership has left us an indelible mark on countless lives. His commitment to leveling the playing field for valley players, his advocacy for

student athletes through scholarship initiatives and his belief in the transformative power of sports are testaments to his legacy. Beyond his professional accolades, Coach Joes genuine passion for serving the Brownsville community and his role as a mentor and father figure to numerous BISD students, exemplified the values we hold dear. Naming the field in his honor would be fitting tribute to a man who lived by the principal of living by example and believed in the potential of every student to succeed. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña asked, yes, I have a little concern about putting the name on the field, I wouldn't want my dad's name there because they are going to accidentally spit on it, throw up on it, step all over it. I would like to see, personally, because I see how big that building is, the new concession stand, it's really nice and big and I would love to see his name up on that concession stand, in memory of Joe, Coach Joe Rodriguez and every time people walk in there, they look up and they see it. Chances of it being seen on the field, by everyone, it's going to be very slim because only the football players are going to be on it. They are going to be covering the name, you are not going to be able to see it, I would love to see that name on the concession stand that is being built and put, in memory of Coach Joe Rodriguez and people would be very conscientious that its part of his memory for everything that he did except putting it on the ground where everybody is going to step on it. That's just my personal opinion because I would like for them to be able to read it and know that we are doing this as a thank you for everything that he did for us. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Ms. Peña, Ms. Garza. Ms. Garza stated, thank you Ms. Gonzalez, to the Rodriguez family here today, I want to say thank you for sharing your father with BISD and our community for the many years of service that he gave to the children here. To the many athletes that went through his program and the coaches that worked under him, thank you because I know he put a lot of time into our district. So, thank you, because I know he put a lot of time into our district so thank you for sharing your father, your brother, your uncle with us. Ms. Peña stated, I want to ask Daniella a question. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Ms. Peña, do you want a follow up? Ms. Peña replied, yeah, Daniella, I don't know, but would you reconsider putting it on the concession stand as opposed on the field because it won't get seen as much and it will get torn and then by the time, please forgive me, it gets repaired. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, I will keep mine, I will keep mine as on the field as previously. Ms. Peña stated, okay. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Pat, Ms. Pat, are you ready? Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member interjected, alright, so you just want to make sure that you advocate that so that there is no confusion with the public, you want to say that? Ms. Peña asked, can you tell us exactly how it's going to be, Dr. Gutierrez, what do you recommend sir, what do you recommend? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools replied, well.** Ms. Peña stated, speak freely. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, well, I can't recommend but I'm going to comment on it because I can't recommend, I don't have authority to vote.** Ms. Peña asked, how do you feel sir? **Dr. Gutierrez continued, but I can say this, the field is in memory of Coach Joe Rodriguez, there won't be anything, as far as a name on the field, per say, but perhaps we can have a plaque there by the stadium that identifies the field to be named after Joe, Coach Joe Rodriguez, like a monument, plaque.** Ms. Peña stated, right. **Dr. Gutierrez continued, by the entrance as I've seen it before as a way of recognizing that the football field is named after Coach Joe Rodriguez and we will put a monument there by the entrance of the stadium, a really nice monument with a plaque and identify the field under Coach Joe Rodriguez, for all visitors to know.** Ms. Peña asked, so, it won't be on the actual field? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, no ma'am, no.** Ms. Peña stated, yeah, okay. **Dr. Gutierrez added, it will be a monument there at Sams**

Stadium for the visitors to see. Ms. Peña stated, because you can't have it on the field. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, correct.** Mr. Elizondo asked, Mr. Gutierrez, you, you probably would want to meet with the family, right, before any of that is done? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, yes sir, because I would need to get some information to include in the plaque, the years of service that he had for BISD as a Coach, Athletic Director, Board Member, so I would need all that information to include in the plaque, as a way of recognizing Coach Joe Rodriguez.** Ms. Peña stated, and like I said, I would like to see that plaque on the wall because everybody goes to get snacks at football games and they will see his name every time they go up to buy something as opposed to somewhere in a corner. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Ms. Lopez Valdez. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, yes, I just wanted to make sure that we make sure the family's wishes as well as our administration and Legal and all of our departments meet together to make sure that we make this a very nice ceremony, a very nice memory to Coach Joe A. Rodriguez. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Ms. Pat, you ready? **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote.** Mr. Elizondo stated, laying low in the tall weeds. **Ms. Perez stated, motion passes, 7, 0, unanimous.**

Motion made by Eddie Garcia, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to name the football field at Sams Stadium after Joe A. Rodriguez, for his lifelong dedication to Brownsville Independent School District. (Board Agenda Request Daniella Lopez Valdez/Board Support Jessica Gonzalez) (7-0-0)

5. Discussion and possible action to reprimand Trustee Elizondo for conduct at September 22, 2023 Board Meeting. (Board Agenda Request Jessica Gonzalez/Board Support Eddie Garcia)

Attachment 1 - Resolution to Censure added to official minutes

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, motion to approve. Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated second. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I placed this item on the agenda due to the unfortunate disruptive behavior of my colleague, Mr. Elizondo at the September 22nd meeting. This is a government entity and we must follow decorum, Mr. Elizondo refused to follow direction from me, as Board President. He was talking over me, encouraging another colleague to break the rules. He told me, I unquote, "be quiet" unquote, and later, I quote, "don't ever interrupt me again" end quote. The irony in all of this, is, Mr. Elizondo also stated that as Board President, my only job was to run a meeting which was exactly what I was trying to do. There is Board policy for everything and it is important we, as elected officials, set the highest bar for our students, our staff and their families. But we must set the example, if we are chaotic, then why question when some of our staff and administration are. Again, we set the bar and it's up to us where it stands. So, I'm making the motion to censure Mr. Elizondo for his outbursts during the last meeting and I am also recommending the superintendent schedule a team building training and governance training for us to ensure this doesn't happen again. We do have a resolution, Mr. Maddox, can you read that for us please? *Mr. Nick Maddox, Legal Counsel asked, madame President, would you like the vote to commence first or would you like me to read it first?* Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member interjected, read it first. Ms. Gonzalez stated, go ahead Mr. Maddox read the resolution out loud, upon conclusion, the following transpired. Ms. Peña stated, question. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Mr. Maddox, Ms. Peña, discussion. Ms. Peña stated, you said something about lie, read that line again, where you used the

word lie. *Mr. Maddox stated, I'll have to find it.* Ms. Peña stated, yes, you will, I'm sorry, I'm just heartbroken that we are adults and we are doing this to each other after I apologized that day for our conduct. And I was asked by my colleagues, including Dr. Gutierrez, to apologize for our conduct and then we come and we do this. It breaks my heart, it was unnecessary, it is wrong, we signed up to serve and if anybody votes yes for this, please forgive me, and I'm going to say it, I hope you enjoy your last time ever serving the community because it is wrong what you are doing. It is very wrong and we should not do this. But can you please, I misunderstood the word lied, where did you say that he lied? *Mr. Maddox stated, "whereas Mr. Elizondo accused the district of, the districts consultant for a preferred provider organization of lying to the Board.* Ms. Peña interjected, thank you, thank you, I misunderstood, I didn't get that part, I thought you said he lied. *Mr. Maddox stated, no worries.* Ms. Peña stated, then you. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Mr. Ortiz, discussion. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, I strongly agree with Ms. Peña, there is no need for this, we discussed it in executive and then we came out and a statement was made on behalf of the Board and that should have been it okay. We realized, you know, during the executive session and we came out here in public and we made a statement, so, I don't know why we have to do this. I think its uncalled for and I think it's a black eye for BISD, this, we don't do this. Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, yes, I do have something to say. Do I have a time limit? *Mr. Maddox stated, yes sir, everyone's gotten 3 minutes and 2 minutes of rebuttal.* Mr. Elizondo asked, just, just so we understand, what policy specifies the reprimand? *Mr. Maddox replied, that is available to a Board, to censure its Members when the Board feels they have violated the district policy of the Board operating procedures.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, my question is, what policy specifies the reprimand? *Mr. Maddox replied, a violation of any policy can result in the censorship of a Board Member.* Ms. Peña interjected, which policy? *Mr. Maddox stated, the one.* Mr. Elizondo interjected, which policy is that? *Mr. Maddox stated, BF Local is the policy violation in the resolution.* Mr. Elizondo asked, BFA Local? *Mr. Maddox stated, B as in boy, B as in boy, F as in Frank Local.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, that's the policy for the reprimand. *Mr. Maddox stated, yes sir, the violation of BBF Local.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. *Mr. Maddox added, as well as the, the Boards operating procedures.* Mr. Elizondo asked, the operating procedures is under Robert's Rules of Order or is it a policy as well? *Mr. Maddox replied, it's not, it's neither, its actually adopted by the Board to self-govern.* Mr. Elizondo asked, and that was already adopted? *Mr. Maddox replied, you all, I think you all adopted that two meetings ago.* Mr. Elizondo asked, and specifically it says, states, here? *Mr. Maddox asked, states where sir, states what?* Mr. Elizondo asked, what are you talking about? *Mr. Maddox replied, I don't understand your question.* Mr. Elizondo stated, I know, you don't, what I'm asking you is, where does it state, I just asked you the question twice, where does it state, you refer back to the policy, what policy is that? *Mr. Maddox stated, its BBF Local sir.* Mr. Elizondo asked, and the second part? *Mr. Maddox replied, Board operating procedures.* Mr. Elizondo asked, that's a policy? *Mr. Maddox replied, it's not a policy, it's the Boards operating procedures.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, it's an operating procedure is what I asked, it's not a policy, so the reprimand, there is no policy reprimand. *Mr. Maddox stated, the only policy referenced in the resolution is BBF Local.* Mr. Elizondo stated, what I'm asking you, is there a policy on reprimand? *Mr. Maddox stated, there is a censorship under Robert's Rules of Order as well.* Mr. Elizondo stated, what I'm asking, am I not making myself understood or? *Mr. Maddox stated, a censure is an action available to a Board as a body corporate when they believe one of its Members has violated a policy*

or a procedure. Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, so it's a reprimand. *Mr. Maddox stated, I wouldn't call it that, I would call it a censure.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. Mr. Ortiz stated, that's not what's on the agenda. Mr. Elizondo asked, so, on the agenda, can you read the agenda item? *Mr. Maddox replied, I can.* Mr. Elizondo stated, and you will. *Mr. Maddox stated, I will, discussion and possible action to reprimand Trustee Elizondo for conduct at September 2023 Board meeting.* Mr. Elizondo asked, so where is the policy against the reprimand? *Mr. Maddox echoed, where is the policy against the reprimand?* Mr. Elizondo stated, on the reprimand, we are talking about a reprimand. Ms. Peña interjected, there is none. *Mr. Maddox stated, right, there's, I wouldn't call it a reprimand, I would call it a censure.* Mr. Elizondo asked, what does the agenda item say? *Mr. Maddox replied, it says reprimand.* Mr. Elizondo asked, well, what are we talking about, censorship or reprimand, because there's, there's two totally different words, what you think and what you agree with is your opinion? *Mr. Maddox stated, your agenda says reprimand.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. Mr. Ortiz asked, so why are you saying censorship? *Mr. Maddox replied, censure is the more appropriate word for it in my legal opinion.* Mr. Elizondo stated, I agree, but we can only go by what is on the agenda, am I correct? *Mr. Maddox stated, you have to stay germane to the agenda, yes sir.* Mr. Elizondo asked, and the agenda, germanely states, reprimand, right? *Mr. Maddox replied, it does.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, anybody else? Ms. Peña stated, yes. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Ms. Peña, you have a follow up? Ms. Peña replied, yes, yes, on that section of the law that you read, on the violation of the conduct, give me that section of the law again? *Mr. Maddox asked, the BBF Local ma'am?* Ms. Peña replied, no, 42 something. *Mr. Maddox stated, 42.05 of the Texas.* Ms. Peña interjected, read, read that, read that law. *Mr. Maddox stated, "whereas pursuant to Texas Penal Code Section 42.05, it is a state crime to disrupt a Board meeting by physical action or verbal utterance. The Board has determined that Mr. Elizondo's actions pose a threat to the integrity, decorum, ethical standard and professionalism of the district at large".* Ms. Peña asked, and that's a matter of opinion, is it not? Because I have been attacked. *Mr. Maddox interjected, it's a matter of the Board, it's a Boards.* Ms. Peña interjected, it's a matter of opinion, that's all it is, am I correct? Mr. Ortiz interjected, and that's absurd in my opinion. *Mr. Maddox stated, if the Board votes to pass this.* Ms. Peña interjected, I'm asking you a question, yes or no, pretend we are in a court of law and the judge just wants you to answer yes or no. *Mr. Maddox stated, okay.* Ms. Peña continued, attorney, is that a matter of opinion, when they decide if that has been violated? *Mr. Maddox replied, yes, by vote.* Ms. Peña stated, and my question is this, because when I was told by my colleague, "you are wasting our time", I could have said, I'm going to charge you, you just mistreated me and you just attacked me. *Mr. Maddox interjected, oh, no ma'am, this is not a criminal charge.* Ms. Peña stated, no, no, but I'm talking conduct, like, like, in other words, I have a problem with this because sometimes we get excited and we speak up and we've all done it to each other. And to reprimand and do this to each other is heartbreaking because some things you can't come back from and there's no need for them. Were here to work together, we apologized at the last meeting and we meant it sincerely, I really did and worked hard to make a difference and now we got this on the table. It's like we want to go back and keep this going, we cannot do this, we signed up to serve and be respectful and look out for each other and that's all I ask that we do. Ms. Gonzalez asked, ready Ms. Pat? Mr. Elizondo stated, I have one more question before we vote. Ms. Gonzalez asked, Mr. Elizondo you have a follow up? Mr. Elizondo asked, yes, is reprimand part of the Penal code? *Mr. Maddox replied, no sir.* Mr. Elizondo asked, it's not, right? *Mr. Maddox replied, no sir.* Mr. Elizondo stated,

okay, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez asked, ready? **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote.** Ms. Peña asked, will we get a copy of the resolution Ms. Jessica? Ms. Gonzalez replied, yes of course. Ms. Peña asked, and Dr. Gutierrez, why didn't we get it before the meeting? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools replied, I don't know when this, was this today, I'm not, I wasn't aware the resolution, when it was drafted, was it today?** Ms. Peña stated, I had no idea there was a resolution, why didn't we get? *Mr. Maddox stated, the administration didn't get a copy of the resolution.* Ms. Gonzalez stated, it was a Board Member request item. Ms. Peña asked, but there was a resolution drawn up and it wasn't given to us, nowhere did it mention you were going to do a resolution with all that in there. **Ms. Perez stated, Ms. Peña, there you go, motion passes, 4 yes, 3 no.** Mr. Ortiz stated, unbelievable.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, to recommend approval to Censure Trustee Elizondo for conduct at September 22, 2023 Board Meeting and for Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent schedule a Board Training. (Board Agenda Request Jessica Gonzalez/Board Support Eddie Garcia)

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 4-3-0

XI. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. 8:54 p.m.

XII. BOARD RECONVENES - Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session. 11:16 p.m.

A. LEVEL III GRIEVANCE(S):

1. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Level III Grievance No. 003/23-24 on J.R.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Minerva Peña, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Level III Grievance No. 003/23-24 on J.R., as discussed in Executive Session (7-0-0)

2. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Level III Grievance No. 004/23-24 on S.C.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Level III Grievance No. 004/23-24 on S.C, as discussed in Executive Session. (7-0-0)

B. PERSONNEL MATTER(S)

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approval grouping XI. B. Personnel agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. (7-0-0)

1. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Resignations. (1) (G 7-0-0)
2. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Rene Gutierrez) (G 7-0-0)
3. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2023-2024 school year(s) – Athletic Coordinator. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) (G 7-0-0)
(Luis E. Juarez-Perkins MS.)
4. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2023-2024 school year(s) – Educational Diagnosticians. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (2) (G 7-0-0)
(Sabina Guerrero and Elisa Gallegos)
5. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2023-2024 school year(s) – Coordinator, 21st Century CLC. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) (G 7-0-0)
(Alondra Cantu)
6. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2023-2024 school year(s) – MCJROTC- Marine Instructor. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) (G 7-0-0)
Raul Rodriguez, Jr.-Pace ECHS
7. Recommend to approve the proposed termination of the Term Chapter 21 contract professional (M.V.) for good cause for the 2023-2024 Fiscal School Year.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend to approval the proposed termination of the Term chapter 21 contract professional (M.V.) for good cause for the 2023-2024 Fiscal School Year. (7-0-0)

8. Recommend to approve the proposed termination of the Term Chapter 21 contract professional (D.G.) for good cause for the 2023-2024 Fiscal School Year.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend the proposed termination of the Term Chapter 21 contract professional (D.G.) for good cause for the 2023-2024 Fiscal School Year. (7-0-0)

C. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney
 - a. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Cause No. 2019-DCL-06158-E; Jasmin Leal vs. Brownsville Independent School District, regarding Agreement for Mediation.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Cause No. 2019-DCL-06158-E; Jasmin Leal vs Brownsville Independent School District, regarding Agreement for Mediation. (7-0-0)

- b. Discussion, consideration and possible action concerning resolution of BISD v. D. Wilson Construction et al., Cause No. 02-DCL-04719, in the 357th District Court of Cameron County, Texas. **No Action**
2. Board Attorney
 - a. Legal Update with Board Counsel.

D. REAL ESTATE PROPERTY

1. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate property. **No Action**

E. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

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

F. BOARD SELF EVALUATION

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

XIII. Announcement(s):

Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools stated, yes, some announcements for the month of October. The month of October, yesterday was Custodian Appreciation Day so a big thank you to all our custodians in our district for all the work they do. This coming week on Friday, October the 6th, we have National Coaches Day. Next week, from October the 8th thru the 14th, we have Fire Prevention Week. On Monday, October the 9th is Columbus Day, that will be a Holiday for the district. Saturday, October the 14th, we have the 5A and the 6A Pigskin Marching Band Contest in San Benito. On the week of October, the 15th thru the 21st, we have School Bus Safety Week. On Monday, October the 16th is National Bosses Day. October the 19th, Thursday, is the Buddy Fun Meet at 9:30 at Sams Stadium. On October the 21st, on a Saturday, we have the 6A Area G Marching Band Contest. The week of October the 23rd, on Monday, starting on Monday the 23rd, we have Red Ribbon Week, all of that week, from the 23rd of October thru the 27th. On Wednesday, October the 25th, we have Teacher of the Year Roundtable meeting here in the Boardroom from 1:00 to 3:00. On Friday, October the 27th, a very important date, it's the PEIMS snapshot so we need to keep track of that for us to be coding all our kids into our system. Then Saturday, October the 28th, we have the 5A Area G Marching Band Contest in La Joya. The week of October the 30th thru November the 15th, actually a couple of weeks there, but starting on October the 30th thru November the 15th, we have the Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive, it starts on October 30th. And then, this month of October is the National Principals Month, so, a big thank you to all our principals as instructional leaders at our campuses. Those are some important dates that I just covered for the month of October and any others. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, I have something to add too, yes, I have two things to add, just a reminder that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so, you know, if us women, just a reminder to go get ourselves checked. Men, please remind your wives, your moms, your sisters, it's very, very important that we take care of ourselves. Shout

out to all the survivors out there, you are our heroes. And, we are celebrating a very important birthday later this month, join me in wishing a happy birthday to Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez who celebrates a birthday later this month. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, happy birthday.** Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, and if I may really quick, Dr. Gutierrez, on Monday, the 9th, the district will be closed completely, no classes, nothing, we are going to have a closed, Columbus Day is completely closed. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, yes.** Ms. Peña asked, am I correct? **Dr. Gutierrez echoed, yes ma'am.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you very much. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, at Sams Stadium, on October the 28th, but can you all elaborate on that because I don't see it in my calendar.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, well, we are going to have a Special Called meeting before the 28th, so we can announce it. But you have something to announce? Ms. Peña interjected, oh, really quick, also. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, go ahead Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña stated, men, go get checked, because men are also vulnerable to breast cancer. Ms. Gonzalez stated, that's true. Ms. Peña added, not just women. Mr. Elizondo stated, yes, that's true. Ms. Peña stated, so men, also get checked. Ms. Gonzalez stated, yes, go ahead. Mr. Elizondo stated, yes, I want to make a record of the fact that the resolution and censure were not on today's agenda, therefore the approved item is in violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act and I am filing a TEA complaint against the Board President and Board Attorney. In addition, I am going to file a complaint with the State Bar of Texas against our Board Attorney for violating the Open Meetings Act and failing his ethical obligation and responsibility of keeping all Board Members informed of the resolution which he proposed for Board approval in violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act, thank you. Ms. Gonzalez asked, anybody else? Motion to adjourn. Ms. Peña interjected, did you find the event, Ms. Denise? Ms. Gonzalez stated, I'm going to hold my motion, Denise, go ahead and say the event. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, yes, so for October 28th, it's a Saturday, from 8:00 to 11:00, we will be having our first Annual Children's Festival, its Special Services Department partnered up with Down by the Border and we are promoting acceptance, awareness and inclusion and this is at Sams Memorial Stadium October 28th from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Ms. Peña stated, thank you, second. Mr. Elizondo stated, second. Ms. Peña stated, oh, yes sir, the Blue Ribbon. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, yes, we have also, thank you Mr. Ortiz for reminding me.** Ms. Peña interjected, the Blue Ribbon. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, we have the Blue Ribbon celebration at Ortiz, this Thursday, from what time to what time, 9, starting at 9 o'clock at Ortiz. Big celebration to our National Blue Ribbon School, one out of 26 campuses in the state that is being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. And we are honored to have and proud to have Ortiz Elementary, one of those 26 here in Brownsville ISD.** Ms. Peña asked, will they be recognized in Washington, DC sir? Mr. Elizondo stated, Ortiz. Ms. Peña stated, yes, they will be recognized in Washington, DC. **Dr. Gutierrez echoed, they will be recognized in DC sometime in November.** Ms. Peña stated, yes. **Dr. Gutierrez stated, they are going to fly over there to pick up their award.** Ms. Peña asked, and you will be going with them, yes? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, probably, yes.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, we have a first and a second. **Ms. Pat C. Perez, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Trustees stated, please vote.** Mr. Elizondo asked, you will be donating it, right sir? **Ms. Perez stated, motion passes unanimous.**

XIV. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo and unanimously carried to recommend approve to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 11:25 P.M. (7-0-0)

➤ **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:

Jessica Gonzalez, President of the Board

Date

Attested by:

Denise Garza, Secretary of the Board

Date

Notes: Font style designation

Board of Trustees

Administration

Board Attorney

Staff Attorney

Speaker/Presenter

(Minutes presented at Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting held on April 9, 2024)