## PUBLIC NOTICE ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION TO ENGAGE COUNSEL PURSUANT TO A CONTINGENT FEE AGREEMENT

- 1. Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Robstown Independent School District ("Robstown ISD") will be held on Monday, July 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Board Room of the Robstown Administration Building, 801 North First Street, Robstown, Texas 78380 for the purpose of considering and taking action on all matters on the agenda for the meeting, including approval of an agreement with the law firms of JCA Law, PLLC and Guerra LLP as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to pursue causes of action against social media companies relating to student social media usage that has caused disruption to the school environment, safety concerns, and other related issues that may develop during the course and scope of legal representation. The District's desired outcome of the anticipated litigation is the recovery of damages, and any other relief allowed under the law.
- 2. The District seeks to engage the law firms of JCA Law, PLLC and Guerra LLP ("Firms"). Details regarding the Firms' competence, qualifications, and experience are attached as Exhibit A.
- 3. The District has no prior relationship with the Guerra LLP law firm. JCA Law, PLLC currently serves as the District's general counsel and has done so since November 12, 2018. Both law firms are fully qualified to perform the legal services being considered by the Robstown ISD Board of Trustees based on their demonstrated competence, qualifications, and experience. Details regarding the Firms' experience and qualifications are detailed in Exhibit A.
- 4. The specialized legal services for which the District is considering engaging the Firms cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of the District due to the high cost of implementing the appropriate litigation infrastructure and technology and employing sufficient in-house counsel and staff with the level of experience and competence to perform complex litigation services. The investigation, research, and litigation of the anticipated claims against the social media companies will require the expenditure of large sums of money and require the use of specialized technology and the work of numerous attorneys, paralegals, experts, and others.
- 5. The Robstown ISD Board of Trustees has determined that the contemplated litigation is specialized and the District's resources for legal services are limited. The District does not have the financial resources to retain lawyers on an hourly rate without regard to the outcome due to the anticipated amount of legal work required for this specialized litigation, which will include the review of large amounts of electronically stored information and documents and the use of experts. The only practical way the District can pursue its social media litigation claims is with a contingent fee arrangement, which results in no cost to Robstown ISD unless Robstown ISD is able to recover through a lawsuit.

6. Entering into the proposed agreement is in the best interest of the Robstown ISD taxpayers because the school district's social media litigation claims will be professionally and competently pursued without the additional costs to the school district of hiring legal counsel on an hourly fee basis which would be very costly. Robstown ISD has limited resources to advance for litigation expenses, and the hiring of the Firms would require the Firms to advance those expenses and only be reimbursed by Robstown ISD out of any recovery if Robstown ISD is successful. Retaining counsel who will advance the costs to litigate the District's claims will allow the District to use its resources to support its educational operations and programs. The only practical way for the District to pursue its student social media usage claims is with a contingent fee arrangement.

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on the \_\_\_\_ day of July 2025, at \_\_\_\_.

Dr. Marc Puig Superintendent of Schools

## **EXHIBIT A**

## **Guerra LLP**

With a team of 26 lawyers, Guerra LLP is a national law firm with its headquarters in San Antonio, Texas and three (3) additional offices nationwide. Guerra LLP has been actively involved in commercial arbitration and litigation cases, relating to product liability, sexual assault and harassment, environmental torts, mass torts, workplace accidents, aviation accidents, business disputes and construction defect litigation.

Guerra LLP has experience and knowledge a lengthy record of in class-action suits, construction disputes, contract litigation, property disputes and workplace accidents. Guerra LLP also has significant experience representing governmental agencies, including cities, counties, and other municipal agencies across a wide variety of litigation matters.

Guerra LLP offers its clients a contingency fee arrangement that allows the client to participate in costly proceedings without hefty hourly fees and expenses limiting legal options or negatively impacting operating budgets.

Francisco "Frank" Guerra, I.V., is a capital partner in Guerra LLP, and has served as the managing partner of the San Antonio office since 2001. Mr. Guerra received his Bachelor of Arts from Texas A&M University in 1992, where he served as Commander of Squadron 15 and was the first Hispanic Commander of the elite Ross Volunteer Company. He then attended the University of Texas School of Law, where he obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1996. After graduating from law school, Mr. Guerra joined the law firm of Allen, Stein, Powers, Durbin & Hunnicutt, where he practiced insurance defense and civil litigation law. He managed the Rio Grande Valley Office of that firm from 1999 to 2001 and spent his time trying lawsuits every week in front of South Texas juries. He served as co-counsel with Mikal Watts in Garza vs. Holiday Inn, Castro vs. Ford, Garcia vs. Ford, English vs. Bay, Ltd., Rincon vs. Shell, and Strange vs. Penhall., and Longview vs. Huff, in which the jury rendered significant verdicts. Frank was lead counsel in Pribble vs. Sunbelt Rentals et. al, which produced Arizona's largest verdict in 2012.

Jennifer Neal is a partner at Guerra LLP. Ms. Neal received her Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Texas in 2003. After nine years of experience as a paralegal, including at Guerra LLP, she attended St. Mary's University School of Law and obtained her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2016. Ms. Neal completed a two-year federal clerkship with Judge Henry Bemporad of the Western District of Texas San Antonio Division prior to rejoining Guerra LLP in 2019. Ms. Neal's docket includes commercial litigation touching on a variety of issues, including business disputes between government contracting partners and a docket of over 140 military families bringing claims for substandard housing against private companies managing on-base housing. She also handles general litigation matters, including cases involving bankruptcy issues, personal injury, products liability, and mass torts.

## JCA Law, PLLC

JCA Law, PLLC, was established in 2013 as one of South Texas premier school law and governmental defense entity firms. The law firm of JCA Law, PLLC, serves as general counsel to a wide variety of governmental entities including Texas public school districts, counties, as well as regional and state governmental entities. The firm regularly represents clients in a wide variety of matters including civil litigation, construction, transactional, real estate, and employment. With offices in Laredo, San Antonio and Corpus Christi, JCA Law, PLLC is fully qualified to represent Robstown ISD in its pursuit of claims against social media companies. The firm has extensive experience in handling contingency fee cases and understands the complexities that come with multi-party litigation. Juan J. Cruz, the Firm's founder, has practiced law for more than twenty-nine years and has extensive litigation, mediation, and appellate experience handling complex litigation and matters, beginning with pre-litigation investigation, analysis, and advice of legal claims, continuing through mediation, litigation or arbitration, and if necessary, resolving litigation through the appellate process.

JCA Law, PLLC has served as Robstown ISD's general counsel since November 12, 2018. JCA Law, PLLC has the competence, specialized experience, technology, and infrastructure to represent Robstown Independent School District for the recovery of damages authorized under Texas statutory and common law.