

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **13th day of February, 2025**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met in a **Special Called Board Meeting** at the Administration Building, 1900 Price Road, Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that came before the Board and with the following to wit:

PRESENT:

Daniella Lopez Valdez	Vice-President
Minerva Pena	Secretary
Carlos Elizondo	Board Member (Via Zoom) (arrived at 5:44 p.m.)
Denise Garza	Member
Jessica Gonzalez	Member
Frank Ortiz	Member

ABSENT:

Erasmus Castro	President
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ALSO PRESENT:

Alejandro Cespedes	Superintendent Designee
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 **Special Called Board Meeting** has been duly given in the manner and for the length of time as prescribed by law. The meeting was called to order and declared ready for the transaction of business with the following to wit:

- I. Meeting called to order by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice-President at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Daniella Lopez Valdez.**
- IV. Roll Call. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member** announced that all Trustees are present, Carlos Elizondo via zoom, and Erasmus Castro was absent.
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Special Called Board Meeting of Thursday, February 13, 2025, with any corrections/deletions.**

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, ma'am I have a question. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice President stated, before we begin, Pat, I would just like to remind my colleagues to be respectful and courteous to our staff, to anybody who is approaching the podium, as well as to each other and legal counsel, could you just please invoke the time? *Mr. Nick Maddox, Board Attorney replied, yes, Madam*

President, would you like the three minutes and the two minutes? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, that would be great. *Mr. Maddox continued, okay, Board, I'll go ahead and hold my hand up when you have 30 seconds left, so it gives you a little bit of an indicator when your time might be up.* Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, okay, repeat what you said, three minutes and two minutes, I don't understand. *Mr. Maddox replied, yes, ma'am, so it'll be three minutes per Board Member for the first round, all Board Members that wish to speak get three minutes first, and it is a use it or lose it situation. After everyone has had a chance to speak then you have two additional minutes per a second round of speaking.* Ms. Pena stated, okay and Pat when you get a chance give me the copy of that policy when that was voted on by all the Board to have the three minutes in the two minutes can you get me a copy. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, it's on page 2. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant replied, it's on the agenda ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, oh you already have it on here the policy. Ms. Gonzalez stated, it always has been. Ms. Pena stated, no, but I want to see when it was passed, that's what I need, the date. The date of when it was passed. **Ms. Perez replied, yes ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, and I thought. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pat could you proceed. Ms. Pena stated, excuse me. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, proceed with public comment. Ms. Pena stated, excuse me, I'm not finished yet. I heard him say he had a question. **Ms. Perez stated, okay, that's what I was asking for the record.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Elizondo you have a question. **Ms. Perez stated I need a vote for Mr. Elizondo.** Mr. Elizondo continued, yes, ma'am. Who's present in the meeting? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Elizondo, Pat needs a vote for you for the approval of the agenda. Mr. Elizondo stated, ma'am, I got to call a question, I'm questioning, Mr. President, I have a question. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, go ahead. Mr. Elizondo continued, thank you. Ms. Pat, who's on the, who's president at the Board Meeting right now? **Ms. Perez replied, presiding is Ms. Daniela Lopez Valdez, sir.** Ms. Elizondo stated, who else is (inaudible). **Ms. Perez stated, I'm sorry?** Mr. Elizondo stated, who else is present, at this meeting? **Ms. Perez replied, present is Ms. Pena, Ms. Daniela Lopez Valdez, Ms. Jessica Gonzales, Mr. Frank Ortiz and Ms. Denise Garza, and Mr. Castro is absent sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, who is going to do the presentation on this agenda item. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we are about to get started with the agenda Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, we have a first and a second, right who is going to do the presentation before we vote (inaudible). Ms. Lopez Valdez replied, you have the agenda in front of you? It was posted four days ago, three days ago, excuse me. Mr. Elizondo stated, that wasn't my question. My question is, who is going to do the presentation (inaudible) is that what I said? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, first, I think we need your vote to move on with the agenda, and then we will go on with the presentation, which would be, we will hand it over to Mr. Cespedes. Mr. Elizondo stated, what's up the vote for right now? **Ms. Perez replied, right now, sir, we're approving the agenda of the Special Called Board Meeting for today.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I vote yes. **Ms. Perez stated, you vote yes? Thank you sir. Ms. Perez stated, motion passes 6-0 unanimous.**

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Special Called Board Meeting of Thursday, February 13, 2025, with no corrections/deletions, as stated by administration. (6-0-0).

Ms. Pena stated we are doing Public Comment. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we are moving with the agenda exactly how it is currently written so right now we are moving on to public comment. Ms. Perez could you please lead us.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Caty Presas Garcia - Good evening, Vice President and members of the Board. My name is Cathy Presas Garcia and I am here today to share some concerns on behalf of many citizens of Brownsville. It's a shame, first of all, to see, it's a shame and an embarrassment of the tension that is felt even on this Board amongst you all. I've been on your place but let me tell you there's been a lot of respect. Right now you touched base that if there's any it we need to be respectful when we come before the board and speak in a very respectful manner but not long ago I heard booing here on this board in this board meeting when someone was speaking and they were booing her. Well shame on the board member that didn't stop that and didn't escort that individual out because if it's good for the goose it's good for the gander. Let me get to the topic right now. BISD right now currently as citizens were afraid because we have no leader. The Superintendent is out. The Board is completely divided. Not good. They've been asked before this district has been asked for a five-year plan for maintenance and facilities. I don't know how hard it is for you all to put one together but I used to do it with my former administrators when I was in in maintenance and facilities and every year, we had a five-year plan. And if you guys don't know how to do it, call me up and I'll come and help you do it. All you need is a spreadsheet with the campuses and make sure that you go and out, that you do the evaluation, which has already been done, much easier for you guys. And let's start getting this district in the right direction. This district has no direction, no direction, no leadership. Our campuses are struggling. Some of them only have 40 to 50% of occupancy rate, which means that you only have 40 to 50% of the students attending our schools. You're going to continue to lose more schools because some of those schools out there that are competing with you, they've already purchased some more land to build their schools. So, they're growing. Let's start focusing on why we're losing the students before you introduce a bond, which is going to cost us taxpayers more. And you guys might think it's easy, let's just go back and ask them for a penny. A penny here, a penny there, it adds up to our taxpayers. So, let me tell you guys, put your house in place before you ask for 350 some million dollars to be approved by the taxpayers. I'm going to tell you I'm going to work very hard. If I have to knock on doors, I'm going to ask the public, the citizens to vote against this bond. We're not ready. We're not ready. You guys have a lot of work to do. Start focusing on how you're going to keep your students. Start focusing on helping the educators that need help on the campuses. Make sure you have the right staff that has the qualifications to lead the campuses, to lead our departments. We have failed. This district has failed because of the poor leadership. And let me tell you, I own what I say because I'm going to tell you, I know what management is. It's not easy. But until you guys understand what your responsibility and obligation is, this district will get to the next level. But let me tell you, people that come from out of town, east coast and west coast, they don't ask for BISD. They ask for the charter schools and I'm going to tell you I'm a realtor. I hear it all the time. I ask that you focus on what you need to focus on. Thank you.

Ms. Beatriz Maldonado. Good evening, Mr. Cespedes and members of the Board. My name is Beatriz Maldonado and I'm the vice president of BEST AFT, Union Local Number 3877. I'm speaking on agenda items VII. A. BEST AFT supports the Citizens Facilities Committee's recommendations to focus on the renovation of campuses. Our children go to school every day, as well as our teachers, counselors, librarians, food service workers, custodians, and administrators. This is where they spend the bulk of the day. It is not our children's fault, nor the employees that pass School Boards, have not kept up with school renovations. It is not our children's fault that we do not have enough money to repair every campus that needs repairs. It

will be the fault of the Board if money is taken away from desperately needed renovations to spend on the Performing Arts Center. BEST AFT is not opposed to the Fine Arts Performance Center nor are we opposed to a new CTE building but the majority of the money needs to go to school roofs, HVACs, and making campuses ADA accessible for special education students. You, the Board of Trustees, have the option of either adding the Performing Arts Center as a standalone proposition this year or deferring money until next year giving you the school district the opportunity to agree to the size and scope of the Performing Arts Center and a suitable location for it. We owe it to our children to update as many schools as we can for the safety and welfare of our children. The decision is not difficult, I'm sorry, the decision is difficult but we hope that you will make the choice that positively impacts the most children in our district. Thank you for listening and have the best evening possible.

Adina Alegria. Good evening Vice President Lopez Valdez, Board of Trustees, Mr. Cespedes, and those joining us from the Brownsville ISD YouTube channel. My name is Adina Alegria, Executive Director of Texas Valley Educators Association. I stand before you today to discuss an important matter that affects the well-being, comfort, and future of our beloved district. We are in a crucial juncture where we must make significant decisions that will ensure facilities are not only safe and functional but also conducive to the growth and development of children and future generations of this District. Community, it's time to put your money where your mouth is and invest in our children. This community has always been a place of pride where families thrive and children are given every opportunity to succeed.

Carlos Elizondo arrived at 5:44 p.m.

We have fantastic schools. However, as we all know, time and wear take their toll on our buildings. The roofs that once provided shelter now need repairs. And our HVAC systems, which are critical for maintaining a comfortable and healthy environment are in dire need of updates. I'm sure many of you can agree that our schools are more than just buildings. They are the heart of this community. Think of all the memories you have made at one of these campuses. But when these facilities fail to provide a safe and comfortable environment, it impacts everyone. Leaky roofs not only cause structural damage, but also can lead to unhealthy mold and mildew. Inefficient HVAC systems not only compromise our comfort, but also lead to higher energy cost and pose health risks. To address these urgent issues, the Brownsville Independent School District are proposing a special bond that will fund the necessary renovations to our roofs and HVAC systems among other items. This bond is an investment in our community's future and once these funds they'll be able to replace aging roofs to ensure that buildings remain safe and sound, upgrade HVAC systems to improve air quality, energy efficiency, and comfort. Provide the children and community members with facilities that enhance their learning and living experiences. Don't you want that? Passing this bond will have far-reaching benefits, such as protecting our investment in community assets by preventing further deterioration. Let's reduce long-term costs by addressing issues before they become more severe and expensive. Let's improve the health and safety of our community members, our stakeholders, our teachers, the employees that work in these buildings. Let's enhance the overall appeal and value of our community, making it a desirable place to. But we cannot achieve this without your support. I urge you to consider the long-term benefits and vote in favor of this bond. Let's come together to ensure that our community remains strong, vibrant, and ready for the future. By passing this bond, you're making a commitment to ourselves, our children, and generations to come. Together, let's build a better future. Thank you for your attention this evening.

Cynthia Perez. Good evening, distinguished Board Members, to the next speaker. Good evening distinguished board members, vice president Daniela Lopez, Mr. Céspedes, my name is Cynthia Pérez, secretary with Texas Valley Educators association and proud pre-k teacher at Villa Nueva Elementary. Many of our schools are in aging buildings and outdated infrastructure. I'm sorry, inadequate heating and cooling systems and classrooms lacking modern technology. Additionally, constant classroom relocating due to the (inaudible) malfunctioning of the air conditioning system disrupt a student's learning and prevent from engaging effectively. A school bond would provide the necessary funding to renovate the facilities, creating stable, conducive learning environments. We're not asking for more than what we need, but the investment required to ensure our school meet today's educational standards. Your support for modernizing our facilities including the CTE Center will have a lasting impact in our students and teachers and families. As educators we witness daily how the condition of our schools affect student learning. Passing this bond is not just about building upgrades, it's about giving every child a safe, well-equipped environment to succeed. Thank you for your leadership and vision in shaping a brighter future for our students. Your efforts will benefit generations to come. Thank you.

Ms. Nancy Beltran. Good evening, Vice President Lopez-Valdez, Board Members, Mr. Céspedes, coworkers and colleagues. My name is Nancy Beltran. I am Vice President of Texas Valley Educators Association and proud kindergarten teacher at Pena Elementary. First, I would like to extend my gratitude for allowing me to have been part of the Facilities Committee. I would like to bring into focus the recommendations by the Facilities Committee to all the important repairs that are in demand by our schools in our district. As a teacher for 19 years, I can attest to having my personal classroom flooded by rain bringing down the roof, literally. Working at a school where mold was found in the walls and the roof. Working at a school where students was found in the walls and the roof. Working at a school where students had to work while roaches crawled into their backpacks. At a school where air conditioning has been going in and out for the past four years. Where have I personally bought fans to cool my students down during the day? This district, ladies and gentlemen, it should not be happening. I am asking point I was asked point-blank by an area supervisor where are all the kids going from my previous campus and I told her exactly this to San Benito, Los Fresnos, Garden Park and Yturria. Would you like your grandkids to be going to a school that they found asbestos, mold and that there's no programs after school? This is a serious topic and many are afraid to speak but I am here to answer would you want that answer to be given to you Board Members that all our students are leaving because the buildings that they go into every day are not equipped. I'm here to ask you to please pass this bond and allow the voters to decide at the ballot. We are not asking for all that is truly needed in our campuses. All we're asking is for our necessities to be met. To our schools to be safe from leaking roofs, causing mold, health issues for teachers and students. We're asking for our classrooms to have working air conditionings. Not just sometimes, but every day, all day. I am asking for our Board Members to fight for our students and our teachers for our bare necessities. If anyone can if everyone here can put their personal agendas aside and really focus on what our students deserve then you can rest assures that we as teachers in BISD can work with anything that comes through our doors. But to ask for us to wait to replace and repair what is already necessary, that would just bring more school closures and the repairs will be more than what is needed right now. Then, who really wins? Please put your differences aside and vote yes on the bond proposal. I am asking our community to unite in this endeavor to pass this bond to make the necessary repairs and replacements needed in our district. Our students, our teachers deserve their necessities to be met. BISD students deserve buildings free

from leaks, roaches, and scorpions. They deserve to go into a classroom with working air conditioners and to be mold free. To clean air, to have these students and teachers work in a good environment, pass the Bond proposition, and help pass the Bond election. Allow the greatest district that has served our community for decades to shine. Thank you for your attention and like always I would like to wish you a terrific, very successful, extraordinary and amazing evening, a TVEA evening.

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

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

VII. Action Item:

- A. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding an order calling a Bond Election to be held by the Brownsville Independent School District, making provision for the Joint Election, and resolving other matters incident and related to such election.**

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I have a motion. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, Ms. Gonzalez? Ms. Gonzalez, continued, I'm going to make a motion to approve and honor the district-wide facility Subcommittee recommendation to call a Bond election for Priority items 1 through 42 to also include a Performing Arts Center for a total not to exceed 350 million dollars at no tax increase to the taxpayers. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated second. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I can repeat that. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second, Mr. Cespedes. **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes stated, yes so just to go over that with the Board in the red folder that would be your Option three.** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, what are the priorities on the option three? **Mr. Cespedes replied, so option three would be in the last two meetings that we had on Thursday and Monday. All the line items 1 through 42 that were presented. The very first one was setting 25 million dollars aside for the building of the CT Center. The rest of the lines would be all related to HVAC or roofing. The total for those would be, let me get that the total for those would be 283 million and then the one for a Performing Arts Center would be not to exceed about 61.8 million the total would be 350 million.** Ms. Pena stated, okay. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Mr., hold on Ms. Pena are you wanting to address Mr. Cespedes, Ms. Pena you can address Mr. Cespedes. Ms. Pena continued, yes and sir, I know that some of the schools that were listed as repairs, have we checked to see how those were done with the ESSER Funds and repaired but they're still on that list, do we know why? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, so just as a reminder for ESSER yes, with ESSER we had had about 18 to 20 schools that were addressed. Now with ESSER, we used about \$38 million from ESSER funds, but none of these were for a complete replacement of HVAC at any campus. Some of them were just to replace either their air handler, the condensing unit, but none of them were to replace whole schools HVAC systems. For some of these we're calling to replace entire chillers, entire HVAC units, and so forth.** Ms. Pena stated, do you have the report on the person that came in and did the evaluation and of course has that background and will show us that it needs to be replaced like if your air condition goes down at home you're going to find out what you need to do and you don't have to replace everything you're only going to replace what you need. So do you have the report on those people in every school and everybody that you put on here that needs to be completely repaired, where they looked and they compared? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, I can provide that. It's a combination, it's not just one firm. It's**

several firms as well as our Maintenance Department. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza. Ms. Garza stated, yes, so I like just to remind our community, it's been years, you know, for years our district has failed to prioritize facilities. We have neglected to develop a long-term plan that would ensure our campuses and departments remain in a top condition. A bond is desperately needed to address these long overdue issues. Unfortunately, some Board Members have chosen to rally against this bond despite having been in leadership positions for years without taking meaningful action to address our district's infrastructure's needs. My question is where have you all been these past years? Being a Board Member is not about political appearances or coming up here and throwing a show. It is about leadership, responsibility, and serving our students and staff. Some of the same individuals now claiming this process is rushed have been part of previous decisions that impacted our district. Yet, they only voice concerns when it suits a political narrative. If anything, this initiative has been delayed for too long and our students and staff should not suffer due to inaction and misinformation. When I was elected in November of 2020, along with some of my colleagues here today, we immediately began addressing critical issues that had been ignored for years. Policy had not been updated in over decades. Facilities had been left on the back burner and no long-term plan was in place to address our maintenance improvements. I recall when Dr. Cantu came in and she showed us a study that revealed that many roofs had not been touched in over 20 years and this study was done in the spring of 2021. Then admin began to look and they lined up everything they strategize and now this current leadership stepped up took action and worked to create a strategy to fix these longstanding problems that our district has suffered. It is very disheartening to see some Board Members spreading misinformation to derail process, the progress, sorry. How can anyone elected to represent this community not support the best possible facilities for our students and staff? This same Board successfully pursued a VATRE for salaries and we delivered the promises and our educators and employees got their raises and decompression. This bond is no different. It is an investment in our students, our schools and our future. There's always two sides of a story, so I always urge you to always listen and reach out to the other side, because misinformation leads to negativity, and we are here to work together and not focus on the negativity. So just remember that we have delivered on promises on a previous bond, the VATRE, and had we not passed that bond, we would still be behind in salaries and pay. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated yes, and I agree of some of the things, especially that Ms. Denise has stated, but the thing that I want to really stress is, we've pushed this, and I've been here for a while, and we pushed this to get fixed, to get repaired. We have asked, oh we are going to do it, yes we are going to do it. Then we ask, and I investigate and they say no they didn't tell us to do it. So to turn around and say that it was the Board, no, because every time that I was sitting here, and we would get the complaint to go fix this, go fix that, it didn't get fixed because the people on the inside said, well, we're going to use the money for something else. But that's not what we said the money was for. No, we're going to use the money for something else. So I don't sit here and throw rocks at people. I'm here doing an investigate. And when I see that something is dangerously wrong, I bring it up, but instead people throw rocks, I don't work like that. I work on facts, and the fact that a lot of these repairs and some of them have already been done and they're still on the list. So why are you putting them on the list and including them in that total when they've already been fixed? I don't, I haven't got an answer to that. Why is it that the last 15 years? We've been asking fix this fix this fix this in a while in a while and it doesn't get fixed And I don't know what the Superintendent's been told I don't know what the reasoning is, because we cant come inside and find out, because then it is governance. My concern is that this is something that we have been fighting. Right now, we don't have any guarantees and it bothers me that we're asking for something and we get booed by people that we support because if these people in these associations are booing us, how can I expect them to be good teachers and not

teach children to be compliant, be respectful and not disrespectful? Because that means that you are greeting disrespectful people and I will never do that, because I'm here to do what's right and to question and if something touches my heart and my conscience tells me something's wrong here we need to fix it then I'm going to be bold enough to fix it and take the complaints and take the attacks and take the slaps but I'm going to keep fighting for what's right and that's for our children because to me a mandate is take care of our students take care of our kids and how do we do that we take care of our kids, and how do we do that? We take care of our teachers and take care of everything we need to take care of. Right now, I'm not convinced that we're on the right track with what is being done. Thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I want to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to the Citizens Committee, comprised of over 100, is what I'm hearing, committees who dedicated this time that spent countless hours going to all of our facilities, reviewing data, ensuring that we are making the best possible decision for our students and our schools. Your time and your effort and your commitment do not go unnoticed, and we want to honor the work you have done to get to this moment. The timing of this Board is critical. We do not know what will happen at the federal level. We do not know what will happen at the state level. The only thing we can control is this local level and quite literally putting a roof over our children's heads. This is extremely crucial to the success of our students. And I will repeat as many times as I have to repeat because the experts have all spoken that this is not a tax increase. If we delay risking, we lose this opportunity. We cannot leave money on the table. This is a critical time and I feel that we should move to a vote. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, yes, thank you. I just want to applaud each and every one of you that you know prepared a speech for this. It's nice to grandstand like you said Ms. Garza. Unfortunately, right now what's happening is that we are rushing into something that you guys don't even know. There's something here that's being rushed and pushed. Unfortunately, you lost your majority and now it comes down, do you want to speak now? You want your two minutes or you want to let me finish? Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, let's be respectful. Mr. Elizondo continued, thank you, Ms. (inaudible), thank you. And so what happens is that when it's rushed and the information doesn't come to us, like I've already mentioned in previous meetings, you force us to make a \$456 million on the back of taxpayers. (Audience - inaudible) Mr. Elizondo stated, the what? Did she comment something? I wasn't sure. (Audience – stated, she said lies). Mr. Elizondo stated, oh yea. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, let's get back to the, what you wanted to say, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo continued, well, we have to address it, like, we've been addressing everybody else. We almost fired a previous employee here for what these people are doing in the audience, and you failed to redirect this individual and hold the quorum here. Ms. Lopez Valdez, let's go ahead and stick to the topic on the agenda. Mr. Elizondo stated, I just want to make sure that you under right. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I understand very well. Mr. Elizondo stated, good. And so what happens is we continue to push all this, you know, on the back of people who don't have the ability to pay taxes. And you guys sit here and you prepare these speeches that sounds real pretty and tries to force our backs into a wall, but we have a bigger thing here. We have to make sure that we don't just take care of the individuals that are sitting here that are, you know, unions, but also the people that actually pay their salaries, which are the taxpayers who are losing their homes. If you have the tax attorneys here, they'll tell you how many houses have been lost within this last month. Have you mentioned that in any of your speeches? Have you even thought of those families that you're going to continue to push down, down a bankruptcy because they don't have enough money to pay for these increases in taxes? There's no promise here. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, excuse me, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, ma'am. Ms. Lopez Valdez continued, I just want to redirect the comment because you keep saying tax increase. Mr. Elizondo stated, good. Ms. Lopez Valdez continued, and we have said repeatedly. Mr. Elizondo stated, yes it is a tax increase. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, over

this is not a tax increase. Mr. Elizondo stated, you can say whatever you want, this is my time to speak. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, okay, I will let you speak, but please. Mr. Elizondo stated, you will not. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, no longer refer to the tax increase. Mr. Elizondo stated, ma'am, I will speak as much as I want to speak. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, how much time does he have Mr. Maddox. *Mr. Nick Maddox, Board Attorney replied, yes, I've been pausing for interruptions and we're at 53 seconds.* Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, okay Mr. Elizondo, please finish your 53 seconds. Mr. Elizondo stated, of course I will. So again, there is nothing that these individuals up here can promise you, saying that there won't be a tax increase. There most definitely will. Someone has to pay for it. Someone has to pay for what you're going to vote on today. And it does fall back on the taxpayers. Regardless of what you want to do up here, regardless of what you want to say, it will be a tax increase at the end. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, it won't. Mr. Elizondo stated, sure. *Mr. Maddox stated, 30 seconds.* Mr. Elizondo stated, you can say that all you want, keep believing yourself. But again, I warn the public to make sure that you look at the individuals up here and you hold us accountable. Nobody up here can promise you that there won't be a tax increase. And this will fall back on everybody, especially the people that have to work for a living. So, I caution you when you come and make this decision, make sure you make it on the backs of every single taxpayer of BISD, not the select few that comes up here in grandstands. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Mr. Elizondo. I wanted to make sure that Mr. Cespedes, could you please recall the timeline of when we started this meeting? Mr. Elizondo, I know you weren't able to be present at most of them, but all of this information was discussed. And as well as grandstanding, sir, you are one of the ones who grandstands the most. I think it's if you have another option to put roofs, and where do you suggest that money to come from for the roofs and the HVAC? Mr. Elizondo replied, sure, you want me to start? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, of course, I would love for you to start. Mr. Elizondo stated, one, in first most, you shouldn't have paid the Superintendent 450 some thousand, I mean, thousand dollars, that's one of them, okay? The other one is make sure that we audit the TRE like we have been before. You voted three times to do away with it, right? You voted this last time. Find out where you're putting the money in. Same thing that what you're going to do with this one. What are you going to do? You promised TRE monies for a, for a, are you going to let me talk? Are you going to? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I am waiting for you (inaudible). Mr. Elizondo stated, oh, because I saw your finger going under the button. TRE was promised to make sure that there was a PAC that was going to be done. And it wasn't. That was a promise. Just like you're promising now. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, yes and like I said where we get, I hear that some of my colleagues said where we're going to get the money all the money's there that means there to use on what it's important not to duplicate consultant after consultant after consultant and pay five or six people to do the very same thing. I'm very very very picky when it comes to the public money. And I use it properly. That's how I was raised and that's how the majority of us were raised. I know that. Now, some people say, well, we never said that. It came on in the news where they said the TRE and the PAC was on there and they even showed it on Channel 4. We have the evidence that they said that. There's been promises after promises after promises. Please forgive me, we have the money to do the repairs. We have the ability to fix what needs to get fixed. And my concern is right now is not the time to turn around, and I cannot support this because I've been told and guaranteed when they did TRE, when they did other stuff, we're going to fix this, we're going to fix that. And then, oops, we forgot about this. We're going to use it over here. Oops, we're going to go over here. And guess what? We have no say. We have no say in that. So I cannot sit here and say, I'm going to support a bond when I have seen evidence and evidence that sometimes things get confusing. And until we can do more studies, and we can look at more, and look on the list what's already been fixed that can be taken off, then I can see I'm OK with this. But at this point

it's not going against the children and not giving them a good building. Why? Because kids don't leave because of the building. They leave because of the treatment. They leave because you don't answer phone calls. They leave because you don't take care of them. They leave because you care like they don't mean anything to you. I was raised to take care of everybody in the community because if the community doesn't function properly then I'm not going to be living in a safe comfortable place. So my concern is at this point in time, it is not clear. Yes, we have the money to fix a lot of the things that need to get fixed, and we need to use the money we have now properly, and it can be done. I'm telling you. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, Ms. Pena, where is the money? I just wanted to know. Ms. Pena stated, excuse me, ma'am, could you stop interrupting us? You have been very rude to us today. Please stop. Let me finish, sir okay, how much do I have left. Mr. Maddox stated, *(inaudible)*. Ms. Pena stated, thank you, I come from a family that has master elections, plumbers, construction and they have all of the detail on what everything is cost, where are we going to have the money, well we have money everywhere, and here is what I am going to do, I am going to ask Mr. Cespedes, please get us an accounting of all of the money, and every budget that BISD holds right now and every penny and what it's designated to so we can turn around and look at that. Mr. Maddox interjected, *ma'am, that's your time, thank you*. Ms. Pena stated, thank you sir. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, I see the why, but I don't want to rush into this. I really want to wait to hear from the Superintendent. I want to know the impact on taxpayers, even though we said that there's not going to be a tax increase, especially now that the county is moving on an arena. Now, I do agree that the reason why we're in the situation that we're in is because we haven't had a long-range plan in many, many years. How can we upkeep our district if we don't have a long-range plan? Two years ago when I came on the Board, I asked that question, and I keep on asking it, where is it? And where is it? And where is it? We're working on it. We're working on it. We're working on it, but it never gets done. This is why we're in the situation that we're in. Now, as far as the Performing Arts Center, I just heard, you know, during public audience that it can stand alone. We've heard presentations that if it stands alone and we put it on the bond, taxes are going to go up. That's a proven, it's been said publicly by Mr. Cespedes. Now, if it doesn't stand alone, then we're taking money away from the schools that need prioritization. The priority list that the committee put in, it's not going to be a priority list. We're going to have to reprioritize if we're going to include the Performing Arts Center. I have an issue with the CTE Center. I've heard rumors out there, well, if we're going to close Perkins, let's convert that into a CTE Center. That's not what we promised our community when we sold Cummins to the city. We said that we were going to provide a CTE Center from the ground up. These are things that concern me. We can wait on this, talk about it a little bit more, but at this point in time, it makes it very difficult for me to go forward. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza. Ms. Garza stated, so, as I mentioned, Ms. Pena, you mentioned the TRE from 2015 and promises, but guess what? We weren't part of this Board. So what happened to the PAC if you were on the Board back then? So what happened? Ms. Pena stated, ask administration. They're the ones in charge and you know that. You and I aren't in charge for the money, or just spending it, don't even throw that out there. Mr. Maddox stated, *okay, Ms. Pena and Madam Vice President. I am just*. Ms. Pena interjected, I am sorry, she asked it. Mr. Maddox continued, *just trying to keep track of who all has time left, so I currently have the primary time and the rebuttal time exhausted for Trustee Pena, Trustee Elizondo, Trustee Lopez-Valdez. I have the primary time exhausted for Mr. Ortiz, and you are on your rebuttal time currently, okay*. Ms. Pena stated, okay, I need to ask the attorney a question, I'm sorry. And this is a very important issue and I want this to be documented. A very important issue. And they're shutting us down. Very important issue for the community and the community money, community building. Very important issue. Mr. Maddox stated, *yes ma'am*. Ms. Pena continued, and they're limiting us shutting us down. Why

do they do that? That's a very dangerous way to operate, just FYI. *Mr. Maddox stated, okay, thank you.* Ms. Pena stated that is not on your, that is what you are being told to do, I respect you, because you are just following orders. *Mr. Maddox stated, thank you, ma'am, go ahead.* Ms. Garza stated, okay so this Board, remember this Board in 2023, we went out for a VATRE. We delivered on our promises. We did have Board Members that rallied against that VATRE saying we did not need it, that there was money and that the governor would send that money. That money never came. And had we not acted our teachers would have fallen even further behind on their salaries. Our classified employees would have still been making what a brand-new employee was making. We worked on decompression. We worked on our transportation. We have proven to deliver what we say it's going to happen and with a bond, we will make sure that we deliver what that bond states is what stays, regardless of the turnover of administration and Board. We will ensure that that money goes strictly for what we say it goes to. Now, I can't say what other Boards have done, other administration has done. I'm not here to say what or what think of what they were thinking, but I can say that I will advocate to ensure that what we say is what stays because we are, I'm promising that. So I want to put that on the record. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, just to conclude, every expert has testified. This was what Dr. Chavez had proposed to make a committee out of 100 citizens. This is what the people want. We have to let the people choose. This is about making sure our kids have a roof over our head, and we should give them that opportunity. And again, this is not a tax increase. Let's go ahead and take it to a vote. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I just wanted to briefly say that I for one I'm very ready to invest in in our children and more than anything just know that all we are doing is giving the community a voice. We are saying, you tell us if this is a good idea on how to spend your tax dollars, our tax dollars, because we're all members of the community. It's all we're doing. There's no need for misinformation, there's no need for none of that. All we are doing is giving you a voice, and I 100% support giving my community a voice. That is why I approve and support this, I am sorry. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, lets vote, Ms. Pat. **Ms. Perez stated, motion failed 3- 3.**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, to recommend approval and honor the District-wide Facility Subcommittee recommendation to call a Bond election for Priority items 1 through 42 to also include a Performing Arts Center for a total not to exceed 350 million dollars at no tax increase to the taxpayers.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Failed: 3-3-0

Ms. Pena stated, please note that my vote is reflecting the community calls that I get not to vote this hundreds of people call me all day long.

Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, again, thank you to all of those who spent countless hours on this. I know they started in November and went through January, and I hope you know that your work does not go unnoticed. Thank you, and we are ready to adjourn. Ms. Pena stated, I'd like to thank them too, please. This is not on you and thank you for all the hard work, but this is not on you.

VIII. Announcement(s):

IX. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to adjourn the Special Called Board Meeting at 6:17 P.M. (6-0-0)

- There being no further business appearing before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

(HANDOUTS ADDED TO OFFICIAL MINUTES)

(AUDIO/VIDEO TAPES OF THE OPEN MEETING AND THE WRITTEN CERTIFIED AGENDA
OF THE CLOSED MEETING ARE ON FILE)

Approved by:

Daniella Lopez Valdez, President of the Board

Date

Attested by:

Minerva Pena, Secretary of the Board

Date

Notes: Font style designation

Board of Trustees

Administration

Board Attorney

Staff Attorney

Speaker/Presenter

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