

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)**

**COUNTY OF CAMERON**

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on the **14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met in a **Special Called Boar Meeting/Canvass** 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:**

Erasmio Castro	President
Daniella Lopez Valdez	Vice-President
Minerva Pena	Secretary
Carlos Elizondo	Member
Denise Garza	Member
Jessica Gonzalez	Member
Frank Ortiz	Member

**ABSENT:**

None

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez	Superintendent of Schools
Nick Maddox	Attorney for the Board

**ALSO ABSENT:**

None

**WHEREUPON**, a quorum being present and it appearing before the Board, it is hereby so found that notice of this **Special Called Board Meeting/Canvass** 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. Special Called Board Meeting/Canvass called to order by Jessica Gonzalez, Board President at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Jessica Gonzalez, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member announced that all Trustees are present.**
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Special Called Board Meeting of Thursday, November 14, 2024, with any corrections/deletions.**

Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated, for the record, I'm sorry, we're going to do a show of hands, please.

**Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Special Called Board Meeting of Thursday, November 14, 2024 with no corrections as stated by administration. (7-0-0)**

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, I am sorry yes, for the first two votes, correct, we're going to be doing a show of hands.

**VI. Canvass of Elections Returns (General Election held November 5, 2024).**

**A. Place 3, 5, 6 and 7**

- Place 3 – Jessica Gonzalez
- Place 5 – Daniella Lopez Valdez
- Place 6 – Minerva Pena
- Place 7 - Erasmo Castro

Description	Mail-In	Early Voting	Election Day	Total Votes
<b>Position 3 – 4 Year Term</b>				
Victor Caballero	467	13,639	5,241	19,347
<b>Jessica Gonzalez</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>14,793</b>	<b>6,164</b>	<b>21,505</b>
<b>Position 5 – 4 Year Term</b>				
Caty P. Garcia	209	6,506	2,650	9,365
<b>Daniella Lopez Valdez</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>14,027</b>	<b>5,729</b>	<b>20,249</b>
Nelda Rocha	319	7,869	2,847	11,035
<b>Position 6 – 4 Year Term</b>				
<b>Minerva Pena</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>14,546</b>	<b>6,115</b>	<b>21,133</b>
Marisa Leal	539	13,840	5,178	19,557
<b>Position 7 – 4 Year Term</b>				
<b>Erasmo Castro</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>9,906</b>	<b>5,191</b>	<b>15,397</b>
Tim Ramirez	326	6,547	2,208	9,081
Farley Trevino	286	9,692	3,241	13,219
Augustine Anduiza	105	3,008	1,056	4,169

**Note: Total votes cast updated to reflect canvass**

Early Voting	33,581
Mail-In	1,235
Election Day	13,590
<b>Total Votes Cast</b>	<b>48,406</b>

**Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to Canvass Election Returns for the General Election held November 5, 2024 from Place 3, 5, 6 and 7. (7-0-0)**

**VII. Certificate of Election issued to the newly elected Board of Trustees.**

**A. Place 3, 5, 6 and 7**

**Certificate of Election issued by Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent.**

**Place 3 – Jessica Gonzalez  
Place 5 – Daniella Lopez Valdez  
Place 6 – Minerva Pena  
Place 7 - Erasmo Castro**

**VIII. Statement of Elected Officer issued to the newly elected Board of Trustees.**

**A. Place 3, 5, 6 and 7**

**Place 3 – Jessica Gonzalez  
Statement of Elected Officer issued by Juan A. Magallanes, District Judge  
Place 5 – Daniella Lopez Valdez  
Statement of Elected Officer issued by Gloria Rincones, District Judge  
Place 6 – Minerva Pena  
Statement of Elected Officer issued by Eloy Cano, Jr., Justice of the Peace  
Place 7 - Erasmo Castro  
Statement of Elected Officer issued by Erasmo Castro, Reverend**

**IX. Oath of Office issued to the newly elected Board of Trustees.**

**A. Place 3, 5, 6 and 7**

**Place 3 – Jessica Gonzalez  
Oath of Office issued by Juan A. Magallanes, District Judge  
Place 5 – Daniella Lopez Valdez  
Oath of Office issued by Gloria Rincones, District Judge  
Place 6 – Minerva Pena  
Oath of Office issued by Eloy Cano, Jr., Justice of the Peace  
Place 7 - Erasmo Castro  
Oath of Office issued by Erasmo Castro, Reverend**

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Veronica Borrego** – Good evening, Board President Gonzalez, esteemed board members, Superintendent Dr. Chavez, and all watching this evening both here in the boardroom and at home. My name is Veronica Borrego, and I currently serve the district as an educational diagnostician, and I am also the proud president of AOBEB, the Association of Brownsville Educators. This evening, I would like to congratulate all sitting Board Members. The reset button has been hit, and this Board has the opportunity to make real change. I invite all Board Members to join AOBEB in making real improvements in the district. We have an amazing opportunity to continue to evolve as a school district and make the necessary changes to ensure that our students, teachers, and community and stakeholders continue to elevate and promote public education. AOBEB will be reaching out to you all. We look forward to working with you to not only promote public education, but to recruit and retain students and high-quality teachers. As you are aware, public education is under attack and we must work together to combat vouchers and other anti-public education policies. Thank you for giving of your time to serve

our district and community. Again, congratulations on your appointment. Thank you for your time and attention and have a wonderful evening.

**Caty Presas-Garcia** - Good evening, Dr. Chavez, Superintendent of BISD and esteemed Board Members. I'd like to congratulate those who got elected, those who got reelected, and the entire Board. This is a time to come together. Some of you already took an oath as a refresher to understand what we need to do. It's a hard job. I've been there. I know how hard it is sometimes. I know that there's division sometimes. But there's a lot of challenges ahead of you. We continue to lose students. The time is now where you guys can regroup, come together, change maybe management style. I don't know. Sometimes I want to tell you that they don't leave BISD. Students leave management or customer service. There's a lot of issues with our buildings. I know that there's a bond that wants to be passed. All of you have a team out there that is walking our campuses, going through the schools. What happened? No one knows what really happened. You're new in the BISD, Dr. Chavez. You cannot be blamed for everything, but there's things that need to be changed. There's things that are happening in the schools that some of you might not know what's going on, but let's try to bring this district back to what it used to be. Let's stop losing students. Let's focus on our customer service. Let's do what BISD was doing a while back and let's stop losing students to the charter schools. As Ms. Borrego just said, the vouchers are out there. Governor has already said what he's planning on doing. We cannot afford to take more hits. We've already closed schools. Let's start paying attention. Let's start working together. Let's roll up our sleeves and let's do what needs to get done. There's no time to waste. There's no time to waste. So as a taxpayer, as a former Board Member, as a mother that put three to BISD and very proud of BISD, what they did, the teachers were amazing, amazing. My kids would not be where they're at if it wasn't for BISD teachers. Thank you, and I wish you all the best. It's time to come together. And I'm emphasizing it. Please work as a team. It's important. Do it for the community, do it for the students, do it for your staff members, do it for your educators. There's a lot of stress out there. People are overwhelmed. Start listening to them. It's important. Thank you and God bless.

**Jorge Jasso** - on behalf of BEST AFT, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on your recent election to the Brownsville Independent School District Board. This is a significant achievement, and I am confident that through your vision, leadership, we will have a positive impact on this district. On behalf of BEST and AFT, we're here to work with you. We look forward to working with each one of you to make this district what it is, the best district in South Texas. We've always been grateful for your support and know that we're here to help and if there's anything we can do to help this Board, just let us know and we're here to help. Again, thank you for your sacrifice because we understand that sitting up there is not easy. You take many hits from all over the place. It's hard we understand that but at the end of the day you're there and you're our leaders. It's your vision that will guide this district as a teacher and as a representative of many teachers, you know, we look to you for our vision and our leadership. Again, congratulations and we look forward to working with you all. Thank you.

**Adina Alegria** - Good evening, President Gonzalez, members of the Board, Dr. Chavez, and esteemed guests here with us today and those joining us from the Brownsville Independent School District YouTube channel. My name is Adina Alegria, Executive Director of Texas Valley Educators Association. It's a new day, but certainly a familiar setting for all those elected to the Brownsville ISD Board of Trustees. On behalf of myself, TVEA Executive Board, and our members, we congratulate President Jessica Gonzalez, Vice President Daniela Lopez Valdez, and returning faces Minerva Peña and Erasmo Castro on their successful campaigns and return to the dais. As one part of the TVEA team and on behalf of our membership, we look forward to working with all. Each of you will have a hand in making decisions for the district that will have a lasting impact for years to come. I often say associations

and or unions advocate for three items for their members. Continuous increase in pay, affordable and good health benefits, and a healthy work environment, both physically and mentally. By continuing to foster collaborative and respectful relationship with school Board members, TVEA hopes to help provide an environment that benefits students, staff, and our community. There is still continued work to be done. There are mounting issues to battle surrounding the attack on public education. And we hope that this work always finds the ability to work together for the greater good of this district. I pray for each of you to have the resilience and the fortitude to help lead this great district into the future. President Gonzalez, on behalf of all of us at TVEA, thank you for serving as BISD president for the last two years. You brought a new way of thinking and leading to this Board, all while doing so with your style, always maintaining professionalism, and exhibiting great love for service. And now let's roll up our sleeves and get into some good trouble. Thank you for your attention this evening.

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

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

**XI. Action Item(s):**

- A. Discussion, consideration and possible action for Re-Organization of Board of Trustees including President, Vice-President, and Secretary.**

**Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza to recommend approval for the appointment of Erasmo Castro, President, Daniella Lopez Valdez, Vice-President, Minerva Pena, Secretary**

**The following vote was recorded**

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

**Motion Carried: 5-2-0**

Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated, thank you all, and if I may, what was said out there by the individuals that spoke to us from the community is that it is time to work together and to continue to make this district what it is, the right choice, the best choice, the only choice for our children here in the community. In order for us to do that, we have to come together as a Board, as a District, and as a community, and together we will make it happen. I have faith. Thank you all.

**XII. Announcement(s):**

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Vice-President stated, first of all, I wanted to thank Ms. Gonzalez for her service as Board President during these times. I appreciate you. And I also want to thank Ms. Marisa Leal and Mr. Eddie Garcia. We've gone through a lot together and we've made a lot of progress. So thank you all so much for your service. I wanted to let the community know that it's been an incredible honor to stand before you serving this beautiful community that I love so much. These years have been some of the most rewarding, and I promise

to continue pouring my heart and soul into our shared mission. In times of uncertainty, we find our strength. We remain resilient because our commitment to the students, teachers, and families is stronger than ever. We fight for the quality education that our community deserves, and I pledge to advocate each day for the resources, opportunities, and support our children need to thrive because every child deserves access to a free, high quality public education. This is not just a privilege, it is their constitutional right. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey, to our community, thank you for your trust. It is a privilege to be entrusted with leading us through these challenging times. May we continue to raise our children as critical thinkers, seekers of truth, compassionate individuals, and as future leaders who understand the meaning of service to others. Today, as we face uncertainties in the future of public education, both at the state and federal levels, we must remember this. Our democracy and our world depend on well-educated, empowered generation. Our children deserve leaders who will serve themselves, serve selflessly, leaders who will uphold their best interests and seek unity. Together we will rise above these challenges and build a brighter, stronger future for our students, our families, and our communities. Thank you.

Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Secretary stated again I want to thank everyone for the vote, for going out, especially for your prayers, and I'm here to tell you about the uncertainties. I'm here to guarantee, and I will fight, that every penny that belongs to BISD that is given to us by the taxpayers will go to the schools, to the teachers, to the employees, to everyone that serves us, because nobody deserves the money more than the people that are working for BISD, and I will fight hard to make sure that we get rid of duplicate stuff that we don't need, because our money does not belong, please forgive me, I'm stepping on toes, to vendors, it belongs to the district, it belongs to the teachers, it belongs to the students, and it belongs to everyone serving this district. And I give you my word that we will fight hard to make sure because a guarantee to help our students succeed, to help our students prevail, is to give every penny that we can to make sure they get to where they need to go to become who they need to become. And we do that because we did it for years in the past. And BISD was thriving. And we were flourishing like we had no idea, but every penny went to the schools, to the students, to the teachers, to the employees, to bus drivers, maintenance, to everyone that serves the district. Because in my eyes, I will always fight for the front line because I've said this a thousand times, without a front line, they don't need administrators. Without a front line, they don't need a superintendent. Without a front line, they don't need any Board members. The front line is who we need to take care of because when the front-line shines, we shine because they are our future for tomorrow. So when God calls us home, we leave people behind who know how to take care of their community and the most important asset and valuable people that are placed on this planet by God which are our children. You want to know where the fountain of youth is? Serve your children. Look at your teachers. Forty-five years ago, my teacher still looks the same because God said, help my children and I will help you. Give them everything you can and I will double it back to you. Give it a try. It is a true thing and we will work hard to make sure schools get everything they need before anybody else outside the district gets it. Thank you so very much.

### **XIII. Adjournment.**

Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, I just have one announcement. On November the 19th, we have a Special Called Meeting right here in the Boardroom at 530 p.m. That's all I've got. Thank you.

**Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval adjourning the Special Called Board Meeting at 6:25 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Erasmio Castro, 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 Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting held on January 14, 2024)