

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **4th day of February, 2025**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met in a **Regular Board Meeting** at the Administration Building, 1900 Price Road, Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that came before the Board and with the following to wit:

PRESENT:

Erasmo Castro	President
Daniella Lopez Valdez	Vice-President
Minerva Pena	Secretary
Carlos Elizondo	Board Member
Denise Garza	Member <i>(via zoom)</i>
Jessica Gonzalez	Member
Frank Ortiz	Member

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Alejandro Cespedes	Superintendent Designee
Eden Ramirez	Attorney for the Board
Eric Flores	Attorney

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 Erasmo Castro, Board President at 5:32 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Erasmo Castro, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant** announced that all Trustees were present and Denise Garza would be participating via zoom.
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, February 4, 2025 with any corrections/deletions.**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, February 4, 2025 with the amendment as stated by administration. (7-0-0)

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated the following Amendments:

XII. C. Personnel Matter(s)

Item 1 Retirement agenda item reads 1 – should read 3

Item 2 Resignations agenda items reads 3 – should read 1

Item 5 Will be deleted from agenda and backup

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, February 4, 2025 with the corrections/deletions as stated by administration. (7-0-0)

VI. Recommend approving the minutes with any corrections:

A. Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the minutes of the Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, December 10, 2024 with no corrections as stated by administration. (7-0-0)

VII. Superintendent's Report: * SB1566

A. Conference Presentations:

1. Recognition of College Board 2024 AP Honor Roll to Brownsville Early College High School, Platinum Level and 2024 AP Access Award, and Veterans Memorial Early College High School, Silver Level and 2024 AP Access Award, Recipients.

The AP School Honor Roll is a prestigious annual recognition program established by College Board that celebrates schools whose AP programs have done outstanding work to welcome students into AP courses and support them on the path to college success. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing a college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness. The AP School Honor Roll offers four levels of distinction: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. We recognize Veterans Memorial Early College High School for their Silver designation. The 2024 AP School Honor Roll, also honors Veterans Memorial Early College High School with the AP Access Award for actively promoting inclusive and equitable opportunities for underrepresented minority and/or low-income students to participate in AP courses. We recognize Brownsville Early College High School for their Platinum designation, the highest level of distinction, in college culture, credit, and optimization. The 2024 AP School Honor Roll also honors Brownsville Early College High School with the AP Access Award for actively promoting inclusive and equitable opportunities for underrepresented minority and/or low-income students to participate in AP courses.

2. Open Public Hearing: Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) Annual Report for the 2023-2024 School Year.
3. Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) Annual Report for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Dr. Ronni Rentfro, Director Assessment/Research/Evaluation GT stated good evening again, Board President Mr. Castro, Mr. Cespedes, respected Board

Members, our amazing staff and students and our stakeholders. Tonight, we are doing the required District annual Public Hearing and report. District Board goes over certain sections that are important for our public and our district to follow to see how we're performing against norms as well as against the state, the region, and our own prior performance. One of the sections is our 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report, often called the TAPR, and this is going to include data about our district and each of the campuses in the district. It includes our PEIMS Financial Standards reports. Now this would be the 2022-2023 financial action report for the district as well as for our campuses. We have our district accreditation status, campus performance objectives, report on violent or criminal incidents on student performance in post-secondary institutions, progress towards our Board adopted goals, and of course there's a glossary. Now this full report will be posted within the next week on our District's website, but tonight what I will be doing is covering just a little more information about each of these sections and what you would expect to find there. For example, on our TAPR, TEA compiles this information for every district and campus in Texas. It includes our data that comes from our PEIMS system, which is our student management information for the entire state. It gives us a lot of details about our students, as well as our student assessment data. The 23-24 TAPR, again, is published as a PDF, so it stays standardized. This information covers everything from performance in the students, as I said. It also breaks it down by our different student populations, including ethnicity and socioeconomic status, and it provides extensive information about our school and district staff and programs. So, if you were to look at the TAPR itself, we've got a little snapshot of what that cover looks like. The cover page includes our accountability rating. Now as you may be aware, they have continued this year also in not actually publishing any A through F ratings or distinct designations. This is because of the court case that is still holding this, and so it is still pending. At this point you will not see, just as last year, you will not see our A through F ratings. It does include the special education determination status, which is a district status, and it will include information as well about our ASVAB for military enrollment students. More specifically, it provides us with the performance rates at approaches, which is approaching grade level, meets grade level, and masters grade level performance for our students. It does this by each of the assessments and it also provides it by each of the different populations that are tracked for state and federal accountability. And again, we have a small snapshot just in this case of our third-grade reading and math information to give you an idea of what is covered there. It also will include SAT, accelerated testers, and additional information about subjects. It does also include an annual growth report. This is also again reported by grade and subject, primarily in the areas of math and reading language arts, or RLA. It does include the performance of our students who have not been successful on our STAAR and EOC assessments prior and whether or not they are making progress. It does have academic growth normally, which is a combination of annual growth and accelerated learning, but however, again, you are not seeing the accountability because that is still on hold. Our Texas Academic Performance Report or TAPR also includes information about our bilingual education program, which includes English as a second language. It will include disaggregated data for the programs. It will include STAAR performance, and this will be recorded for two years so that you can see whether or not we're making progress across all grades, all subjects, and all areas. It does have annual growth. We just went off. Thank you. Annual growth and

accelerated learning for our students. STAAR participation, again we are expected to have as many as possible of our students participate and this data is reported by assessment and those not tested. The reports for STAAR participation, again we've got a couple of samples here so you can see the types of information that are there. An additional area in our TAPR report is our attendance, graduation dropout rates, and these are reported for 2022 and 2023. This is because this is what they call lagging data. This is information that will not be available until a year later for the classes. So, the graduation profile at this point in our TAPR will be the 22-23 graduates. Our TAPR includes our college and career and military readiness data. Again, you're seeing that this is a lagging data because it takes a little while to process and follow up on all of our graduates' information. It does have the other post-secondary indicators, and you have, again, a snapshot here to see some of the information that would be found if you were to go through the actual, when you go through the actual report. A huge volume of our PEIMS data, this is our student information, our staff information, and our program information. In this case, you see a snapshot of our 23-24 membership and enrollment with accounts by grade level, by ethnicity, by gender, and by other information. You're also going to find in the consolidated report Financial Integrity Rating for our BISD, and please recognize that our BISD has earned the PASS status and a superior rating of an A in 2022-2023. Another one case where this data comes out a year later. Our accreditation status. Every year, generally, the TEA would assign one of four accreditation statuses to the district and the state. In assigning that accreditation, the state looks at our accountability, our financial accountability, our data integrity, and other program areas known as results-driven accountability that looks at some of our other populations' performance. Again, TEA has not issued the accreditation status for 23-24 due to the A-F hold on the 23 and 24 ratings. So, our latest accreditation status would have been the 22-23 status and at that point we were designated accredited. Campus Improvement Plans, the Board just approved the performance objectives for our campus improvement plans here at our last meeting and all of these plans are posted on the District website and are updated periodically on the website and the district and campus websites so we can track our campuses' progress towards meeting their performance objectives. We are required to report on violent and criminal incidents. We have to publish this as part of an annual report, although we do want to note that when numbers are smaller than five, we do mask that data so that there would be no chance of identifying specific students or situations at the campus. This information is also available from the District upon request. Our post-secondary student institutions data, this data has not been published yet this year. We expect it any day now, literally. And that report will include our 21-22 high school graduates and how they're performing in Texas post-secondary institutions. We also have a section here about our Board goals. And as some of you may recall in June of last year we updated those Board goals for the next five years and the district had met or exceeded most of the goals that were in that report and that information will be made available to you as well. And the final document that you will find when you go to the website after we finish posting all these pieces is a glossary that helps you to see what they mean by all of their large volume of academic terminology and abbreviations of the information. And at this point, if we have any questions, I'll be able to assist. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, Dr. Rentfro, just for clarification purposes, I know that you stated a while ago that within two weeks it will be posted on the district website. What are the other public

places where this is going to be posted, just so that our community knows? **Dr. Rentfro replied, we also make a copy available at our main office here. We make a copy available at the library, and then we also have it available through CAB if they make the request for us there. The campus information will be available to every campus.** Mr. Ortiz stated, the library, I'm thinking the main library here, right? Not the Southmost Library? **Dr. Rentfro replied, we can make it available there as well.** Mr. Ortiz stated, it would be nice so that our community in that section, in case they want to see it, they can certainly access it. **Dr. Rentfro replied, certainly.** Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, the information, you put it on the website, am I correct? **Dr. Rentfro replied, yes, and parts of this information are already posted on our website, but we consolidate it as part of the annual report for ease and reference.** Ms. Pena replied, and being that we're like in 2025, and people can't stay off of Facebook, it breaks my heart, but will we put it on there also so they can be able to see that information? Are we allowed to do that? **Dr. Rentfro stated, on Facebook, it wouldn't stay in place. Remember, this is a document that contains a large volume of documents. I think if we print out it takes up, you know, a four-inch binder. So generally, it's actually on a website where there's a stable link that you can go to. The note that is posted we will certainly work with PIO to make sure that people know that it's available from our website and to access it.** Ms. Pena stated, could you post on the Facebook how to get to the website or the website. **Dr. Rentfro replied, yes, that is what I am saying, we can do that part, yes ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, and also on the accountability, what is the hold up? In the beginning when you said? **Dr. Rentfro stated, there is a court case still pending for the 2023 and now a second court case holding for the 2024 A-F accountability.** Ms. Pena stated, and do we have the details on that court case so the public will know what is holding all this up? **Dr. Rentfro replied, it is available if you search the court information and the TEA does have just a brief statement on the TEA website.** Ms. Pena stated, on the website. **Dr. Rentfro stated, yes, ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, thank you, dear. Mr. Castro stated Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, yes, thank you. Real quick, you are able to get the A through F accountability grades if you do the calculations, right? **Dr. Rentfro replied, not really. Everybody can make some sort of an estimate, but we, there are no, we're, the TEA says there's no ratings because the court case has got all that info on hold.** Mr. Elizondo stated, the reason I asked, I've talked with other districts that are in the same predicament and that they were able to get the A through F just to see where the actual district is. It's not something we can do. We don't have the ability to do that, but they can. **Dr. Rentfro replied, in-house we have looked at some of this information, but it is not published because it is still not real data.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I understand that but we can do it because right now you said we couldn't, but we can do it, right? Is there any way that we, this Board can get that record just so we can see where this school District is at? **Dr. Rentfro stated, that would be...** Ms. Beatriz Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer stated, we can certainly share the overall percentages, not necessarily with the actual A through F, but certainly the overall percentages, yes sir. Mr. Elizondo stated, well, that's what I'm looking for. I'm looking for the A through F, because that's going to be the ultimate, right, grade, not the maybe. **Ms. Hernandez stated, yes, so just for purposes of the legal case going on right now, the document wouldn't have an actual ABCDF. ABCDF, it would have just a percentage. But yes, we can share that.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but you can do that for us, for our sake, right? **Ms. Hernandez replied, yes, sir, not for the public.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Mr. Castro stated, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms.

Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, question Dr. Renfro. The numbers look good. I was especially looking at page 10 on the attendance report and dropout rates. What concerns me is the chronic absenteeism. What defines chronic? **Dr. Rentfro replied 10 days or more absent.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, consecutive? **Dr. Rentfro replied, no.** Ms. Gonzalez stated semester? **Dr. Rentfro replied, yes.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Pena stated, question. **Dr. Rentfro stated, and we generally start tracking on the fourth day as chronic.** Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, Dr. Rentfro, I heard you say that we had received an A, was that last year? Is that what you had said? I just heard you say we received a superior rating. **Dr. Rentfro replied, that's our financial account.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, oh, the financial one, okay. **Dr. Rentfro stated, that's not on hold.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you and I know that just for clarification for the community and legal, if you could please help me, it's because in the first year when the A through F rating came out in 2023, they moved, TEA moved the goalpost in the middle of the game. And so basically, they didn't release what it was to require us to meet a certain rating until after the school year had started. And we all know we already have benchmarks and everything else in place, so it's very difficult to obtain a whole new rating system in the middle of the year. So that's why the lawsuit is happening. Mr. Castro stated Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, Dr. Renfro, you mentioned a little while ago that chronic absenteeism is considered two absences or more a semester? **Dr. Rentfro replied, no, 10.** Mr. Ortiz stated, oh, 10, okay, I thought I had heard two, that's why I'm questioning here, I said, my gosh, that's, okay. **Dr. Rentfro stated, but our teachers on our campuses start looking, by the third absence, they're out there looking for those kids.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so it's ten, not two... **Dr. Rentfro stated, yes sir, I'm sorry, I have a little bit of a lisp.** Ms. Pena stated, question, question. Mr. Castro stated Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, yes, and I want to address Mr. Cespedes on this. As far as the absences, I know that we've been cutting personnel and we've had personnel that were just in charge to take care of that absentee, especially in our elementaries and our junior high schools. So, are we making sure that we have the proper personnel, because back in the older days when you had personnel that were in charge of that, they were really going out there and knocking on doors, and having our parents and understand the severity of them not coming to school because they get behind and it affects the children in the long run. So do we have the proper personnel to make sure, because I know we can stand up here and Ms. Rentfro is only going to say what she heard and what she's told from the schools but the actual personnel in these actual schools I've heard where they don't have the proper time to work on these children that are absent or find out. So are we working on making sure we have the proper personnel to go out and make sure that these children are in fact going to come to school and not be absent, not realizing they're ruining their future. **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee replied, yes ma'am, as you know that as you all know, Dr. Cantu has been spearheading an attendance initiative and we actually provided them with three additional attendance liaisons. So, they've been working with the campuses. I'm sure that as of late the campuses have seen that initiative, you know, go into play. And so they've been working with the campuses to stay on top of the attendance.** Ms. Pena stated, thank you and I want to make sure that we focus on that because that's really important for our district. Thank you.

4. **Close Public Hearing:** Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) Annual Report for the 2023-2024 School Year.

5. Brownsville Independent School District Financial Report for the period ended January 31, 2025.

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee state, yes, so for the monthly Financial Report, I'll go ahead and report these are all expenditures that we have and revenues collected as of January 31, 2025. So, I'll go ahead and start with the General Fund. As of the end of January, we've collected a little bit over \$249 million in revenue. We've expended about \$274.8 million, so we do have a current deficit of \$25.8 million. Again, just as I mentioned every month, recall that we are still collecting TEA payments. Those just started in September even though we have been doing expenditures since July. The second part is our property tax collections. We just started collecting for the new year in October, so we will continue all the way through the end of the fiscal year and then even into the next fiscal year. And as far as our Special Revenue Funds, that one actually got a pretty big scare last week with the executive order from the Office of Management and Budget and then that was amended, so we are good now. But remember that for Special Revenues, it is all of our state and federal grants. Those are on a 100% reimbursement, meaning that by the end of the fiscal year, our expenditures and our revenues will always match. There won't be a deficit and there will not also be an excess. As of right now, as of January 31, we've collected about close to \$18 million in revenue. We have expended about \$32 million, so we do have a deficit of 14. Our Finance Team continues to do those drawdowns on those. In our Debt Service, again, we've collected a little bit more on our local revenue. The majority of it comes from our property tax collections from the County Appraisal District. We've collected about \$18.4 million as of the end of January. Our expenditures still remain the same. It's \$4.6 million. That is attributed to our August interest payments to our Bond. Next month when I report on the February, you'll see that increase substantially because in February is when we do our bond principal and interest payments. And then the last one that I have in there is our Self-Insurance Fund. This one, again, as of January 31, we all are Self-Insurance Fund district. We've collected about \$29.5 million. This is all through the employer contributions and some employee contributions as well. We've expended about \$33.8 million, so we do have a deficit of about \$4.2 million. That one's actually gone down. Last month it was about \$4.9 million deficit. So, you know, we're working on that. We're monitoring that one as well. Any questions? Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I have questions. Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated, excuse me, no questions? Mr. Castro stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated thank you, sir. Real quick, you were talking about the health insurance. We're still on the deficit, correct? **Mr. Cespedes replied, as of right now, yes, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I'm just going to ask you, do you know or has it brought to your attention that there's less, or there has been some, I guess, less benefits for some of our employees when they go to the clinics or urgent cares? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I believe actually Ms. Pena brought that up last month as well, so we have been looking into it. We're preparing a sheet to prepare it to the Board.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so there is? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, I don't know, like I said, I've been working with our Benefits Department to get us that information. We requested some of that information, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, do you know when you think you're going to have that for us? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I can continue to follow up with them to see when we can get that.** Mr. Elizondo stated, please, who's spearheading that? **Mr. Cespedes replied, the department currently right now is under the direction of Dr. Cantu. Dr. Cantu is not here today, sir, but I will definitely give them the message.**

Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, it's just a concern that some of our employees, even though we said that they were not going to have any reduced benefits, are actually having reduced benefits as we speak, yet we still have a deficit in the (inaudible). **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, and we're definitely looking into that, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Mr. Castro stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, yes, and I'd like to piggyback on that because we're self-insured, am I correct, sir? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, so we have a third party that runs our insurance benefits, am I correct, sir? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I believe so.** Ms. Pena stated, that third party doesn't pay a penny out of their pocket for any of the charges for our individuals, am I correct, sir? **Mr. Cespedes replied, well, if we're paying them, then that's correct.** Ms. Pena stated, no, the insurance company that we have, they're a third party to tell us what is good, what is not. It's not costing them a penny and they're not paying a penny for anything for our employees, correct? **Mr. Cespedes replied, like I said, I would have to take a look at it closely.** Ms. Pena stated, who is your specialist here for insurance in your administration? **Mr. Cespedes replied, actually, the one in charge, they are on administrative leave and Dr. Cantu is not here today, she is at a conference.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, the answer to that question is yes. They don't pay a penny. We are 100% self-insured. Everything comes from and they recommend yes, pay for this, no, don't pay that. And my question is we need to be very conscientious because we should not have the authority and the power to choose who lives and who dies. We should not have that authority because we want to save a penny and we're spending money on stuff that we don't really need. Please be very conscientious because I've seen this happen. The administrator, the Third-Party Administrator doesn't pay a penny because they even tell the insured, it's your district that doesn't want to pay, it's not us, talk to them. And when we have this life and death and these people not getting their medicine, like a young man came out on the news, he ended up dying of an asthma attack because the insurance refused to pay for his nebulizer and for what he needed because it went up to \$700 a month for him to get the medication. Can we please be very conscientious, please and work harder to make sure we take care of our Employees who do all the hard work so that we can be a number one district. **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes ma'am I will get with Dr. Cantu on this.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you really quick just, Mr. Castro do you have any recommendations for this Board on this on this item? Is there anything that you maybe would want to recommend? Mr. Castro replied, in regards to the interest, we are going to have a financial meeting coming up soon. And a lot of those others that haven't been mentioned, other things that we have mentioned, is we could deal with it first with the engineers meeting, and then bring it back to the Board. Mr. Castro stated, what I was talking about is the Health Insurance. I know the financial has a lot of components, but right now the health insurance, the way it is and what I had mentioned about them having reduced benefits and the cost continued to increase. Do you have any recommendations on that maybe to this Interim Superintendent? **Mr. Cespedes stated, um mm.** Mr. Elizondo stated, this was a question for Mr. Castro. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I'm not an Interim Superintendent, I'm the point of contact.** Mr. Elizondo stated, well, you're sitting there now, so. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I just want to be clear.** Mr. Elizondo stated, you've got to make sure you take the whole bull by the rein, horns. **Mr. Cespedes stated, on a volunteer basis, yes.** Mr. Elizondo stated, not just the tail, Mr. Cespedes, you sat there, you're going to get it. So, Mr. Castro, that's why I think I just want to maybe hear from you if there's any recommendations that we can give, especially on these benefits specifically, because there's a lot of concern out there in the public, especially because I'm in that field and a lot of people are calling me saying, I have no idea. I'm going to ask the

question. So this is why I'm asking you, do you have any recommendations for the health plan and how is it that the benefits continue to drop and decline when the amount of money keeps increasing? *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, so I just want to be able to kind of bring it in real quick because the item on the agenda is specifically the first financial report and not the employee benefits issue.* Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you and I know that but because the Superintendent brought it up, oh I am sorry, Interim Superintendent brought it up, that's why I wanted to ask maybe some direction from our President. Ms. Pena stated, and it was inside that financial report as a highlight a little bit, so yes, everything is covered in finances, 100%. Mr. Frank Ortiz stated, I was going to follow up but. Mr. Castro stated you want me to respond? Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, I mean I want to know what you think. Mr. Castro replied, well, just one of them actually is that I've met with staff here in regards to being ready, being prepared as for what we're going to go in through with any income, outcome. We have asked for reports to be brought forward and bring it back to the Board after the Insurance Committee Meeting. We are going to stick to the five-minute time. (inaudible) Mr. Castro continued, I apologize, we definitely have to deal with a lot of issues that you all have spoken about and other folks in the community are concerned about, is the employees' health care benefits and all the other. But we will be bringing it back and forth until we (inaudible). **Mr. Cespedes stated, I just want to make one final comment. So we brought this up, we talked about it very briefly at the last board meeting. And so, Mr. Castro had consulted with our legal counsel and they did have a request on some of these things that Mr. Elizondo was mentioning. Just really quick, I know there was some data that we're trying to gather in terms of the census with the plan coverage selection noted and dependent status, the SBSC for each health plan offered, and then of course some of the costs associated with that. So we had received an email from our, from not ours, but from the Board Council that had consulted with Mr. Castro after last month's meeting. So, I'm still trying to gather all that data again from our Benefits Department, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, Board Council, meaning O'Hanlon? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, yes.** Mr. Elizondo stated okay, you? *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Legal Counsel stated, not me, but I'll talk to Mr. Maddox.* **Mr. Cespedes interjected, no, with Mr. Maddox.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, maybe we can have a dialogue with what those conversations were, right, for the rest of the Board, because, I mean, this is the first time I hear of it. **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, no, again, and it's just for us to gather some of the information to provide to you all.** Mr. Elizondo stated, exactly, so, that's what I'm saying. I'm glad you brought it up in public, but this information is just, again, just brought up to me right now. I mean, this is the first time I know about it. But maybe you can give us some more. **Mr. Cespedes replied, well, I think you guys brought it up last month.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I know, but the information that Mr. Castro had with our Board Attorneys. Maybe you can give us a synopsis of what happened so we're all on the same page. *Mr. Ramirez replied, we will do Mr. Elizondo, we will get that.* Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, sir. Thank you. Mr. Castro stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz stated, yes, I had a question here, but counsel, since Insurance was part of the Financial Report, you are saying, I thought I heard you just say right now that if there are certain questions that I am asking about benefits, I can't ask those questions? *Mr. Ramirez replied, so the Financial Report is covering the finances of the fund, not the specific benefits that the fund is controlling. So, if you're talking about the merits of the fund or your third-party administrator of the benefits and the denial coverages, that's not part of the financial report of the actual fund. So, you can ask questions pertaining to the financial report of the fund, that's its draws, its withdrawals, its deposits, its running balance, and*

anything related to the fund of the self-insured fund, but not on the benefits portion of the third-party administrator. Mr. Ortiz stated, then I'll go ahead and wait until we have an insurance committee meeting. Mr. Elizondo stated, just real quick, but he can ask about the monies. *Mr. Ramirez stated, sure.* Mr. Elizondo stated, not the actual benefit, maybe he didn't explain it explain it correctly. You know, there's a lot of attorney talk. Ms. Pena stated, yeah, you can ask about the money. Mr. Ortiz stated, no, no, this deal's about benefits, okay? This was pertaining to benefits, alright, okay. Ms. Pena stated, one main comment, Mr. Castro? One comment, Mr. Castro? Mr. Castro stated, have we already done the five minutes, on Ms. Pena? *Mr. Ramirez stated so we started the time in this conversation in the middle, so it was hard to keep track of where we started. So, I was going to wait for the next item to begin the five-minute markdowns.* Mr. Elizondo stated, so we're going back to the time, Mr. Castro? Mr. Castro stated, we have, it's on there, we have a limited amount of time. Mr. Elizondo stated, I just want to be, because the conversation we had when you first were elected that you were going to take the time out. So, I don't know, the time is back now? Mr. Castro replied, it's back now. Mr. Elizondo stated, the time is back, okay, thank you.

6. Quarterly Investment Report for the period ended December 31, 2024.

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes stated, yes, so this is the Quarterly Report, the second quarter for the fiscal year, which is covers the month of October through December 2024. So as of December 31, 2024, given the interest that we've earned through all the various investment instruments that we have. The District earned about approximately \$2.3 million in interest. The different investment instruments, they varied in interest rates. They went from about 3.3% around December in one of our PNC pools all the way to about 5.08 interest yields. That was like in our Lone Star Investment Pool, that was around October. So, we have seen a bit of a slight decrease in our interest rates in October and then November and then December. So, we'll continue to monitor that as well. If there are any specific questions on the investments or the overall interest earned? Mr. Erasmo Castro stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, okay, thank you, sir, Mr. Cespedes, on the interest, total interest on the investments that we have here totaled to about a little over 7 million plus, is that correct? Or did I read that wrong somewhere? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, so the interest would be a total of 2.3 million that we've earned over all the instruments for the quarter.** Mr. Ortiz stated, not a 7 million plus? **Mr. Cespedes replied, correct.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, with that interest, where does that interest go? Does it usually go into the General Fund? **Mr. Cespedes replied, so when we prepare our budget, we actually estimate part of our budget preparations. We estimate how much interest we're going to earn. So this has already been budgeted for our overall general fund budget.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, so you're saying that since you all plan ahead, you already have an idea of how much interest we're going to get. So that interest is already spent? **Mr. Cespedes replied, it's already been incorporated in the budget. Yes, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, before we even get it, we just go in estimates. **Mr. Cespedes replied, that is how we do our whole budget, by estimates.** Mr. Ortiz stated okay.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:
Jesus Ontiveros (XI. A. 3)

Good evening President Castro, Board Members, Mr. Cespedes, my name is Jesus Ontiveros. I am an English teacher at Hanna High School and I'm also the Head Tennis Coach. Speaking on agenda item XI. A. 3, considering naming the tennis courts after Coach Terry Hoover. Coach Hoover is the longest serving tennis coach in Brownsville ISD history. He was a head coach 43 years and is currently the assistant coach the past seven years. That is a dedication of 50 years to BISD. In 2022, Coach Hoover received the Loretta HRNCIR Dedication Award at the Texas Tennis Coach Association Under Convention. The award speaks for itself, dedication. A coach nominated for this award is clearly dedicated to the sport. He has spent countless hours on the court during his 50 years of service and continues to motivate athletes to perform at their best. He seems to have an endless amount of energy and motivation even to this day. I hope that we can honor him by naming the Coach Terry Hoover Tennis Complex. 50 years of service is a lot and I think we owe it to him for his service. So on behalf of Hanna High School, myself, all current and former tennis players, I thank you for your time and consideration.

John Shergold (Dept of Education)

Ladies and gentlemen of the Board, I came down here tonight to, I'm a resident of the ISD school district. I wanted to share my concern as a community member of the horrible news that came out today regarding our current president who has now stated that he wants to remove the department, eliminate the Department of Education. This is very serious and as a member of the community, I wanted to come down here today and state the importance of what the Department of Education means to every citizen in every school district in this country, not to mention the Brownsville Independent School District. And we need, as a body politic and every community member, needs to realize that we need to stand up to this type of dark age mentality that has permeated our entire society to a certain degree. Each one of us has the power within us and within our hearts and within our minds and within our spirits to act against this, and I encourage everyone on the Board, every person that's listening to me, every school parent, every school employee, and everyone to pick up their phone, write a letter to their representatives, and tell them that not only are you against it, but you're for public education. And public education has to have the Department of Education involved. And let me tell you why. I got some statistics here that I want everyone. The Department of Education establishes policies on federal financial aid for education and distributing as well as monitoring these funds, collecting data on America's schools and disseminating research, focusing national attention on key educational issues, prohibiting discrimination and ensuring equal access to education. Without the Department of Education, there are, and there will be, multiple instances of discriminatory behavior within each state, within each area. And that's why every person has to understand the importance of this most vital department. And by the way, it was advocated created in 1980 by our former President, Jimmy Carter, who we all know and loved well. Also, I want to go ahead and talk about some other things. The amount of money, I've heard about some of the financial issues that this district has, which is not only in this district, but throughout all public schools in all areas of the state. I travel and represent many employees all over the state and each public school is having an issue because of what's happening financially. Let's talk about the amount of money. Pell grants, the Department of Education responsible for 28 billion dollars in Pell grants. Federal direct student loan programs, 23 billion. Title I grants, 14 billion, special education, 14.3. Just quickly here. Thank you very much. Let's get out there and let's get our elected officials and let them know that this is not what our democracy was built on. This democracy was built on public education. It's a vanguard of democracy and it stops tyrants. And I just want to say that Elon Musk stated in his website last night. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated time* Mr. Shergold Mr. Shergold continued, the tech billionaires who President Trump has tapped as the head of this new department. *Mr. Ramirez interjected, Mr. Shergold you are out of time Mr. Shergold.* Mr.

Shergold continued, boasted on his social platform on Monday night that Trump will succeed in the new management department of human efficiency.

Nancy Beltran (TVEA X. A. 1)

Good evening President Castro, members of the board, Mr. Cespedes, and those joining us through the BISD YouTube channel. My name is Nancy Beltran, Vice President of Texas Valley Education Association, and a proud kindergarten teacher at Peña Elementary. On January 21st, we experienced an Arctic freeze that forced the district to close. We know that this takes a team effort to figure out if the closing of a school is the best option for everyone's safety and well-being. TVEA would like to thank all administrators and those who have made it possible and made the right choice to have our schools closures and for keeping our students and employees safe alongside their families. Everyone knows that when the school district closes due to inclement weather questions arise. One of those questions being, are full-time employees being paid? Paying employees when schools close due to bad weather is a great gesture and goodwill and a reflection of an ethical and great leadership. Tonight, the Board will be recommending the approval the Resolution No. 25/24-25 to excuse and pay for the time missed caused by the inclement weather on January 21, 2025. By doing so, you ensure employees receive their full salaries, helping them maintain their financial stability. With the help to ensure that employees' morale and loyalty and mental health due to stress, due to our financial stability. Compensation during closures shows that the district values our staffs and helps to foster loyalty and high morale. These gestures are simply humanity. Can we lead to increased productivity and positive work environment? Treating employees just and fairly can help the district's reputation with our community. By ensuring that our employees are safe and helping them, their mental health, from an ongoing stress of our next paycheck. BISD can ensure that staff members are ready and willing to give their all when returning to work and helps reduce disruption in our educational process. Therefore, paying our employees during such periods demonstrates the commitment from our to our hard-working employees, their well-being. By reinforcing the integrity of our district, TVEA encourages that all Board Members approve unanimously of this issue this evening. And I would like to end with a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter". Thank you for your attention and I would like to extend to you a terrific, very successful, extraordinary and amazing evening, a TVEA evening.

Cynthia Perez (TVEA E. 2)

Good evening President Castro, Members of the Board, Mr. Cespedes, and all those joining today. My name is Cynthia Perez, Secretary with the Valley Educators Association and pre-kindergarten teacher at Villanueva Elementary. Over the last couple of months, I've had the opportunity to be part of the Citizens Facilities Committee. Facilities Committee, we have taken the time to understand the facility needs of the district. On that is very vital and can be very expensive is HVAC, also known as Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems. Tonight, the Board will recommend approval of indoor and air quality collection, analysis and reporting for asbestos and microbial abatement district-wide. And let me tell you why this is important. I teach at a school that is 90 years old. And some of the air ducts are dirty, black, and moldy. Rooms have a smell that I cannot even describe. By maintaining clean air, you then can find healthy learning environments, improve attendance, better concentration and performance. Scientific data suggests that good and air quality can positively impact concentration, cognitive function in students and teachers can focus better, leading to improve academic outcomes. We hope that this Board approves the agenda item tonight so that students and employees alike

have the right to breathe clean air. And I will end with a quote from Martin Luther King, "life's most persistent question is, what are you doing for others" Thank you for your attention.

Celia Saiz Broushard (XI A. 4 and X. A. 1)

Good evening Board President Castro, Mr. Cespedes, and members of the Board. My name is Celia Saiz and I'm speaking as President of BEST-AFT, Union Local 3877. I'm going to be speaking on agenda items XI. A. 4 and X. A. 1. We at BEST-AFT want to thank Board Members Daniela Lopez-Valdez and Board President Erasmo Castro for placing XI. A. 4 on the agenda to approve a Resolution in support of the Texas AFT Educators' Bill of Rights. Texas educators are leaving the profession in droves. Many of the reasons they leave the profession is because they are not provided with the rights that Texas AFT is asking for across the state of Texas. The right to a manageable workload, the right to a paycheck that reflects the worth of your work, the right to afford high-quality health care, the right to a safe, healthy working environment, the right to teach the truth without fear, the right to grow as a professional with the support you need, the right to have a life outside of work, the right to a secure and dignified retirement, the right to organize with your colleagues for a better future, and the right to a seat at any table making decisions about your job. What makes our Educators' Bill of Rights different? Well, it was developed by educators and for educators through in-person and virtual drafting workshops in the spring and summer of 2024. We mean educator in the fullest sense with an agenda that reflects the priorities of all our members, certified and classified, K-12 and higher education, active and retired. There are no one-time stipends masquerading as a pay raise here. This package of legislation calls for exactly what our members say they want, and that starts with the root issue in Texas, the lack of state funding for our neighborhood public schools. We are asking the Board and administration to support educators across the state and across the nation. Educators across our state are tired of being belittled and insulted by our state leadership. In the recently filed Senate Bill 2, which is a tremendous giveaway of public tax dollars without any accountability, that private schools receive public dollars do not have to have certified teachers teach our children, they don't have to follow the TEKS or state curriculum, they don't have to provide accommodations for special education students, and they don't have to account for the money. Item X. A., BEST AFT wants to thank the Board Members and the administration for the Resolution to approve paying all full-time employees for the time missed by full-time employees caused by the district closures due to the inclement weather on January 21st. We know that this is a normal standard operating procedure but in the current school climate, we don't take anything for granted. Again, thank you and we wish you the BEST evening.

Veronica Y. Borrego (XI. A. 4 and 5)

Good evening, Board President Castro, esteemed Board Members, Mr. Cespedes, and all those watching this evening, both here in the boardroom and at home. My name is Veronica Borrego, and I am currently serving the district as an Educational Diagnostician, and I am also the proud President of the largest and longest serving association in BISD, the Association of Brownsville Educators, AOB. I'm here this evening to speak about the work that AOB has been doing and will continue to do for our employees. We understand that the way to really make a difference is to listen to our BISD employees, identify their concerns and make actual changes. We survey our members throughout the year to ensure that we understand where their needs are. Time and time again we see that the issues that continue to matter most to our members include salaries, benefits, safety, and working conditions. That is why AOB continues to bring up these concerns and works with the district administration to enact real change to lift up our students, schools, and employees. We know that real change is more than words on paper. It is action. I

don't want any of the work that has already been done and that we will continue to do to be minimized and co-opted. Together we have positively impacted our students and district employees, most recently by working to pass an increasing mid-year holiday stipend and increasing the minimum wage for our classified staff, which included salary decompression. We worked with the district to pass the TRE. AOB has established a collaboration with the district to promote public education and focus on student recruitment and retention efforts, bringing in our National Education Association to fund our RGV Jumpstart for Public Education program. Our lobby efforts at the national level have also included the passing of the Safe Schools Act and the repeal of the GPO-WEB, which is the Social Security Fairness Act. At the state level, I serve as a board member of the Texas State Teachers Association where we have adopted a legislative program and legislative priorities that speak directly to issues we are seeing in education throughout the state. This is where we lobby and advocate for a state increase in funds, school safety, a state increase in the student allotment, and opposing the use of taxpayer money for vouchers, to name a few. Lobbying at the state level is where we want, for example, the cost of living increase or the COLA for our retirees. I ask that you look at our legislative priorities which have been passed out to you already, and I ask you to support them. As elected officials, we know that you have an immense responsibility to do due diligence and make sure that the district is not being asked to make commitments beyond purview or being placed in a compromising position. We continue to ask for transparency and accountability when it comes to taxpayer dollars. A forensic audit would provide the transparency taxpayers have been asking for. Again, I encourage you to support our TSTA legislative priorities to make changes at the state level during this legislative session. Thank you for your time and attention and we look forward to working with you on district issues. Have a wonderful evening.

Patrick Hammes (XI. A. 3)

Good evening Board President Castro, Mr. Cespedes, Board Members. Tonight, I'm speaking on behalf of myself. I want to follow up on what Coach Ontiveros was saying about the renaming of the Texas, I'm sorry, the Hanna Tennis Courts for Coach Terry Hoover. I'm proud to say that Terry's been a friend of mine for 35 years and if you get to know Terry you could not think of a better person who has represented the district, who has represented education, who has stood up for his students and been just a shining light to the district for the last 50 years. If you talk to Coach Terry, if you talk to Coach and you ask him, how are you doing today, Coach? He says, I'm living another day in paradise. And that's how the attitude he's taken to work every day. I know there are some people around the horseshoe that have been his principal. I think they can say the same respect to a man that has dedicated his life to the district in renaming the Hannah Tennis Courts the Terry Hoover Hanna Tennis Courts. Thank you. Good afternoon, Board President, Mr. Castro and the Board.

Susan Ruvalcaba (XI. A. 4)

My name is Susan Ruvalcaba and I am here to speak on the agenda item regarding the adoption of the BESt AFT Bill of Rights. Just before I start, I don't belong to any of these unions. I don't know if how many are here or how many represent Brownsville, but I do have a concern with having a separate union involved in the policies of BISD. So I'm not sure how this passed legal or if legal reviews items before they're being placed on the agenda, but I don't believe that BISD is in any position to go against federal or state laws and welcome potential lawsuits from our Attorney General and some of those items that were listed in those Bill of Rights, although I don't disagree with half of them at least. Also, why is one teacher's union given priority to submit a Bill of Rights to be included in anything into BISD's policies? It seems that that would open the door

to all the other unions or citizens or miscellaneous groups to submit their input as well and ask for it to be inputted. So, for this reason and many others, I am against adopting this resolution being included into BISD. I think their resolutions and their Bill of Rights should stay individually with the unions and not be included in the district's policies. Thank you.

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

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

IX. 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.

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| X. | A. General Function | 1, 3 |
| | B. Payments | |
| | C. Budget Amendments | 1 |
| | D. Contracts/Agreements | 2 |
| | E. Bids/Proposals/Purchases | 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11 |

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, recommend approval of the General Function Items as reflected on the Consent Agenda.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

(All presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

X. Consent Agenda:

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

1. Recommend approval of Resolution #025/24-25 to excuse and pay for the time missed by full-time employees caused by the District closure due to the inclement weather on January 21, 2025. **(Consent Agenda)**
2. Recommend approval of Change Order #002, to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Beynon Sports Surfaces for the Garcia, Stillman, Stell Middle Schools-Four Lane Tracks Project of \$150.00. The amount represents unused funds in the Contingency Allowances. Fund 197 (Credit back to the District).

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, I would like to call upon Manual Hinojosa. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, if I may I circled that but I'm okay with it. Yea like I got the answer so sorry sir. **Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Board Executive Assistant stated, may I have a motion.** Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, que Paso Mr.

Hinojosa. Ms. Perez stated may I have a second, please. Mr. Elizondo stated second ma'am.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo to recommend approval of Change Order #002, to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Beynon Sports Surfaces for the Garcia, Stillman, Stell Middle Schools-Four Lane Tracks Project of \$150.00. The amount represents unused funds in the Contingency Allowances. Fund 197 (Credit back to the District).

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

3. Recommend approval of the 2024-2025 Targeted Improvement Plans as required by the Texas Education Code for Aiken Elementary and Besteiro Middle School with revisions or updates as needed. These Targeted Improvement Plans will serve as guides to District and campus staff for the improvement of student performance to attain state and federal standards. * **(Consent Agenda)**
4. Recommend approval to continue our program in place with Balli Group LLC. dba Saferide Driving Academy for the 2024-2025 school year to continue providing high-demand job training to participants to transit driver (Class B) and truck driver (Class A) certifications, in the amount not to exceed \$110,000.00.

Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant/Board of Trustees stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, don't we need to have someone. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez stated motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated second. Ms. Pena continued, Mr. Cespedes, how long have we had this program or is this the first time or have someone speak on how this is working? **Mr. Cespedes stated, yes ma'am, yes. Let me call on Mr. Ricardo Rivera.** Ms. Pena stated, because you know that CDL driver and license and that kind of was my specialty for 29 years. **Mr. Ricardo Rivera, Director for Adult Education stated, yes ma'am, I got my license.** Ms. Pena stated, I just want to ask, no I did not, but you know it's very important. So how long have we had this program here? **Mr. Rivera replied, this program started about three years ago. This is part of the grant that we were awarded last Board meeting and we're bringing it to the Board for approval so we can continue this this program with that extra grant money that we got.** Ms. Pena stated, and I'm I think it's a great program and what it concerns me is that I really hadn't heard about this. So how do we go out to recruit the students because it's very important to you know to have your especially a class A and a class B driver license especially you know with bus drivers and they have to get other endorsements. **Mr. Rivera replied, so, we started with a class B and this is an extension of it with how successful that program has been so now we're able to extend it to a class A. It's been in place for three years as class B this is the first time we're going to offer class A with the collaboration of GBIC and the Texas Workforce Solutions**

Cameron. It's a great program. All I can say is that this approval will help us continue to help the community. We go into all kinds of community events, Saturdays, Sundays, Friday afternoons, throughout the week, wherever we get invited, we go and present about the services that we offer and that's how we recruit students for this program. Ms. Pena stated, and how successful or how many of your students have been, or what's the total number that we. **Mr. Rivera Interjected, for the three years, ma'am, we're about 98%, 99% of graduation rate for this program.** Ms. Pena stated, but in numbers, how many, is that 100 students, 10, 15? **Mr. Rivera replied, for this specific, it would be for 30 students. Throughout the three years, it's about 45 students per year.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, and this is offered to students that are currently enrolled with BISD? **Mr. Rivera replied, they are currently enrolled with the adult education program through BISD, yes ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, so they can come in and apply, let's say they didn't get to graduate or they are already out, they can come and apply through your program and be able to have this help them? **Mr. Rivera replied, yes, they have to meet the eligibility criteria and then they are able to apply.** Ms. Pena stated well, thank you because this is very, very important because this is what moves our country. **Mr. Rivera stated, yes ma'am.** Ms. Pena continued, and gets people to school and gets our goods from one end of the country to the other. And that's why they made highways for the trailers and the trucks, but now all the cars use it. **Mr. Rivera stated, I do want to add that there's a big need for Class A and Class B drivers locally. It has been growing, and this is a way to get the certification and get better employment.** Ms. Pena stated, thank you. I really appreciate you bringing this program in. It's very important. Thank you. Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated yes, sir, I also agree with my colleague, it is a fantastic program. I at one time had CDL as well, so I know what they have to go through. There's a lot of testing that they go through. So it is a great program. Now, this is funded through a grant, is that correct? **Mr. Rivera replied, yes, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, thank you, sir. Mr. Castro stated Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, just real quick, thank you. How many of the students that you have currently are actually parents of our students here? **Mr. Rivera replied, I want to say 60%.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, that's good. Thank you. Ms. Pena stated, thank you very much, sir. Keep up the good work. Ms. Perez stated, Ms. Garza yes, it is one, two or three sir, can you vote sir. Is it not working? Is it yes, do you want to say yes. There you go sir. Motion passes 7-0 unanimous.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to continue our program in place with Balli Group LLC. dba Saferide Driving Academy for the 2024-2025 school year to continue providing high-demand job training to participants to transit driver (Class B) and truck driver (Class A) certifications, in the amount not to exceed \$110,000.00. (7-0-0)

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

1. Recommend the approval of payments for construction services and/or engineering services throughout the District in the total amount of \$646,565.38.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez stated, motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez stated second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, just real quick Mr. Hinojosa could you just give us a brief or a summary of what has been happening. **Mr. Manuel Hinojosa,**

Construction Director stated, okay, you have a, good evening members of the Board, Mr. Cespedes, President. You have, in this, you have four PayApps. Actually, two of them are for the, one of the items before that was to return the money. The rest is final completion. So full payment to the Beynon for the three tracks that were done. The other one is the Food Nutrition, the payment to them, the FNS project, and then we have one ESSER HVAC project, which is really completed but are going through the test and balance and the commissioning at this time. So those are the four payments that were requested. Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, sir and I see that you have one for Garcia, four-lane track. Is that the school that had the lane track closed for a long time? Is it open now? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, they're all open.** Mr. Elizondo stated, They're all open? They just opened up? Because I know for about two years it was closed, right? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, the tracks?** Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, the track in the back. **Mr. Hinojosa replied, they were under construction, yes.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but even after the construction, the grass was about maybe this high? I think I made some mentions to the Super, well, he's not here to answer that. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, no, all that was correct.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so they're all open now? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, yes, sir, they're all perfect. They're all been cleared, punch-list and approved.** Mr. Elizondo stated, and our kids are on it? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, yes, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, yes, Mr. Hinojosa, question. I remember, I don't know if it was the last meeting or the meeting before, we had spoken about on the payment number to put maybe payment 4 of 20 payment. I don't see it here. Is it somewhere else on the backup? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, where it says final? You asked for the final. It's this final and the number on it?** Ms. Gonzalez stated, yeah, but for example, let's go back to the Garcia one. It says payment number nine, but payment number nine of how many payments? I thought, unless I misunderstood my colleague at the last meeting, but I thought that's what we had talked about. **Mr. Hinojosa replied, no, well, I had understood and I made the correction here that instead of putting the number that we put final and we have. There're two items here that have finals on them.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, I see that. If it's not too much, Mr. Cespedes, or on our weekly letter, if it could just say how many payments? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, yes, ma'am, we can get that information for you.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you, I appreciate it.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend the approval of payments for construction services and/or engineering services throughout the District in the total amount of \$646,565.38. (7-0-0)

C. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments:

1. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #015 in the amount of \$1,300,000.00 for Local Funds. (Fund Balance) **(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BISD CTE Department and Texas Southmost College (TSC), for the 2025 spring semester to offer a Pre-Apprenticeship Banking Program opportunity for BISD high school seniors. The services to be rendered are subject to the District's needs and funding. *

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, second. **Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated, Ms. Pena.** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated yes, I have a question and I noticed that it says on here the fiscal implications is \$1,000, is that for the whole thing, per student or? Mr. Cespedes, can you explain? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, yes, I'd like to call on Mr. Adrian Dorsett.** **Mr. Adrian Dorsett, Interim Director for Career & Technology Education stated, good evening everyone, that's correct Ms. Pena for the whole thing.** Ms. Pena stated, no matter how many students, how long, 1,000 that's it? **Mr. Dorsett replied, per semester, yes ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, that's excellent, let's keep buying more of these kind of contracts and finding them please. Great job sir, thank you. **Ms. Perez stated, please vote.** Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, I had a question. **Ms. Perez stated I'm sorry sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, Mr. Dorsett, once again, congratulations. I think this is fantastic for our seniors going and getting their pre-apprenticeship banking through this program. Let me ask you, when they're done with this program, do they finish up with a recognized credential? **Mr. Dorsett replied, the credential is coming from their business classes themselves, sir, yes. And so we're looking at our seniors that are in our business pathway and they could come out with an accounting credential, a Microsoft Office credential, any of the business credentials that we offer, any of the 58 credentials that we offer.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so it would be certification versus certificate of completion? **Mr. Dorsett replied, correct.** Mr. Ortiz stated, which one would it be? **Mr. Dorsett replied, it's going to be a certification through their business class and then the experience that they have through this as well. This is the first time that we do this, so we're looking at it for this semester and then considering if we continue after.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, very good. Thank you.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BISD CTE Department and Texas Southmost College (TSC), for the 2025 spring semester to offer a Pre-Apprenticeship Banking Program opportunity for BISD high school seniors. The services to be rendered are subject to the District's needs and funding. * (7-0-0)

2. Recommend to enter a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Marine Corps acting through Commanding General, Training and Education Command, and Brownsville Independent School District for the establishment of a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Unit at Veterans Memorial High School at no cost to the District. * (Consent Agenda)

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

1. Recommend approval to extend CSP #20-126 Financial Advisor Services to Estrada, Hinojosa and Company, Inc. from Dallas, TX for six (6) months to expire August 31, 2025.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated second. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, Ms. Pena?** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, question, Mr. Cespedes, I noticed it is only six months. Is that what we normally because I know they have been

around for quite a long time? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, yes, so we have already exhausted all the possible one-year extensions. So this is just for six months until we start the next procurement process. So pretty soon, before the summer starts, we will go out for RFQs for financial advisors.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, so this is a way to do it so before we can go out for RFQ's. **Mr. Cespedes replied, that's correct, yeah, this is just to extend the last term for six months.** Ms. Pena stated, and we're allowed to do that? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, I thought after it's finished either we went out. I didn't realize that, so give me that information and where the law says that we are allowed to do that. **Mr. Cespedes replied, yeah, what I can do is also provide this through a Board Weekly letter if you like?** Ms. Pena replied, that would really be good. Don't get me wrong, they're really good. I really approve of them. I'm just wondering about the six-month extension, why we're doing this and we're waiting until everything expires and not staying on top of it to make sure we do what we need to do and to help these people and do what's right by the people who try to get the services for BISD. Mr. Castro stated Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, Mr. Cespedes, just for clarification purposes, I know that on 1 of 39 on the backup, it's asking for a six-month extension, which is what we're talking about right now. But on 2 of 39, it's indicating for two additional one-year terms and this would be year 4 of the 5 year contract. Could you explain that to me? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, what we did, we attached the backup. If you look at the Board agenda dates, it was back from, if I'm not mistaken, the one that you're talking about, it has April of 2023.** Ms. Pena stated, the dates at the top on the right-hand corner, I saw that also. **Mr. Cespedes stated, yes, so we just wanted to attach the backup to see how we brought it every year for the one-year extension. And so now we're bringing it for the six-month. We'll be going out for RFQ, like I said.** Mr. Ortiz stated, all right, thank you for the explanation. Ms. Pena stated, and maybe if you could maybe highlight that whenever you send us the information. **Mr. Cespedes replied yes, ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, and put something yellow so we can bring to our attention. **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes.** Ms. Pena continued, because I have the same question also, but then I really studied it and then I figured out what it was. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, Mr. Castro, may I. Mr. Castro stated Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, yes, sir, just real quick, is this common practice that we do this on all the other contracts, or is this particular just to this one? **Mr. Cespedes replied, it is not common practice with the other ones, like the ones for regular RFQs or RFPs, but it is with professional services.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so, all the other professional services, we've done the same thing? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I would have to look at them, but it is common with other professional services, whether it's legal counsel or other ones.** Mr. Elizondo stated, right, but what I'm talking about is particularly, has this happened before in the last, let's just say four years. If you can give me that information if it has or it has not. **Mr. Cespedes stated, for the Board Weekly Letter it'll be two things, one, the allowability, and then what's the exact request you're having on the weekly letter?** Mr. Elizondo stated, if this type of process is common practice. **Mr. Cespedes stated, how many times have we done this in the last four years?** Mr. Elizondo stated, four or eight if you want. **Mr. Cespedes replied yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, and the cost to the district is what? Do we have that? Because it's not on here. *Mr. Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, it should be from the original contract. You're just going to be extending the six terms to the original term.* Mr. Elizondo stated, do we know what that is just so we can be you know transparent? **Mr. Cespedes stated, I can look for it here but yeah, the contract is on there as well the original contract.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so those are the

price of what it's going to cost the district is here? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I believe so yes, I can double check that.** Mr. Elizondo stated, please can you so that we can attach it, maybe make it public. **Ms. Perez stated, please vote.** Mr. Elizondo stated, are we going to wait for the amount or. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I can provide that on the Board Weekly Letter sir and I can check right now.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, I just want to make it public since we are voting on it, thank you.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, to recommend approval to extend CSP #20-126 Financial Advisor Services to Estrada, Hinojosa and Company, Inc. from Dallas, TX for six (6) months to expire August 31, 2025.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

2. Recommend approval of RFQ #25-073 Indoor Air Quality Collection, Analysis, and Reporting for Asbestos and Microbial Abatement District-wide to Millennium Engineers Group (MEG) of Edinburg, Texas, Terracon Consultants, Inc., of Pharr, Texas, and Professional Service Industries Inc. (PSI) of Arlington Heights, Illinois, and to authorize the Administration to negotiate the service fee and execute the contract on a rotational, project by project basis. The contract term is effective February 04, 2025, through February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year period if all parties agree. Year one (1) of three (3) year contract.

Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated Ms. Pena? Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated second. Ms. Pena continued, okay, Mr. Cespedes, question on fiscal implications. Not to exceed approved budgeted local funds. That's a lot of funds, so what are we talking about? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, I'd like to call on Mr. Corpus Zorola and he can explain the fee structure.** Mr. Corpus Zorola, Supervisor, Environmental/Health Safety/Custodian training., stated, Mr. Cespedes, President Castro and Board Members. So, I usually budget around \$25,000 a year for this type of services. And if something happens, let's say we had an incident at Campus A where we had no idea that the system actually failed or the HVAC, then we could actually use the services and I would go ahead and solicit from our Chief Financial Officer or use other funds that I have, maybe for some other project to fulfill that. But I think last year we expended 30 grand and this year we're more or less the same amount. As long as we're keeping our HVAC units healthy, we're keeping usually the air quality healthy. Ms. Pena stated, so then we don't have an estimate more or less? **Mr. Zorola replied, right, so this year I budgeted 25 and I'm already going 30.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, because you know that everything's going up, right? **Mr. Zorola stated, yes, yes ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, like a lot. **Mr. Zorola stated, and I do take a look and I do talk to the firms to make sure we do get the best value.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, and so if it

goes a little higher than what we think? **Mr. Zorola stated, right, so I would go ahead and talk to my leadership and try to get that funding and define why we want to go and do that air quality test and or check to see if there's any type of microbial growth.** Ms. Pena stated, so they decide to raise the funds the way a lot of vendors are doing left and right and getting rich on our poor people's money, you will turn around and make the decision of paying them, and that's not something where we can negotiate and see if somebody can do it cheaper because we have the contract with them and there's no specific amount. **Mr. Zorola stated, and so here's the process. So, we have a qualified individual by the state of Texas, correct? So, they're going to submit a cost. Let's say we have a wing that got infected, right? So, they give me a cost. I know that in the past couple of years, it runs about maybe \$1,000 to \$900 for a test. The firm goes ahead and gives me one for \$2,500, red flag. Okay? I'll talk to them, say, hey, you know, this is not within the market. Can we bring it down? If they don't bring it down to what that cost usually is, I will go to an additional firm. And that's within the qualifications.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, so that's in black and white? **Mr. Zorola replied, yes, that's within the...** Ms. Pena interjected, where you have the opportunity to go... **Mr. Zorola interjected, yes and as a matter of fact, we're selecting three firms.** Ms. Pena stated, okay. **Mr. Zorola continued, and so I'm going to have those three firms to be able to make sure I have that leverage.** Ms. Pena stated, yes, please do because it's very important. Because for some reason they think that the public funds is for them and you know. **Mr. Zorola interjected, oh, no, no. It's our kids.** Ms. Pena stated, yes, these are for our children and our community and our teachers and especially our students. Mr. Ortiz stated, I have a follow-up. Mr. Castro stated, Mr. Ortiz, please. Mr. Ortiz continued, Mr. Corpus, I was looking at the backup here and it indicates that 866 vendors were notified and out of 866 only 7 submitted RFQs in your opinion. Why only 7? **Mr. Zorola stated, it's the actual license that are required by the state so that it's a specialized area when you're looking at testing your air and actually writing reports to be remediated. So, there is a limit, especially down here in the valley.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of RFQ #25-073 Indoor Air Quality Collection, Analysis, and Reporting for Asbestos and Microbial Abatement District-wide to Millennium Engineers Group (MEG) of Edinburg, Texas, Terracon Consultants, Inc., of Pharr, Texas, and Professional Service Industries Inc. (PSI) of Arlington Heights, Illinois, and to authorize the Administration to negotiate the service fee and execute the contract on a rotational, project by project basis. The contract term is effective February 04, 2025, through February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year period if all parties agree. Year one (1) of three (3) year contract. (7-0-0)

3. Recommend awarding RFP #25-014 Paper Multipurpose and Color Printing Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors. (Annual RFP) **(Consent Agenda)**
4. Recommend awarding RFP #25-015 Career and Technical Education Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors. (Annual RFP) **(Consent Agenda)**

5. Recommend awarding RFP #25-047 Printing Services/Related Items District-wide to several vendors. (Annual RFP) **(Consent Agenda)**
6. Recommend awarding RFP #25-048 Employee Uniforms District-wide to several vendors. (Annual RFP) **(Consent Agenda)**
7. Recommend awarding Bid #25-076 A/C Control System Services, Repairs and Installation of Equipment District-wide to several vendors. The term of this contract is effective, from February 04, 2025, thru February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated second. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, Ms. Pena.** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, I have pretty much the same question for this and I know that it says the estimated usage and has the amounts. Is it Mr. Corpus also? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, no, what I can do is I can call Ms. Rosie Peña for the procurement, I don't know if she has the totals on it, and if not I can call Mr. Alonso Guerrero as well.** Ms. Pena stated, pick your choice. **Mr. Cespedes stated I can call Ms. Peña first and then Mr. Guerrero, ma'am.** **Ms. Rosario Pena, Purchasing Director stated, good evening President Castro, distinguished Board Members, Mr. Céspedes, Ms. Peña, if you would see your agenda, in the last 12 months we expended \$77,483. That is for last year. The estimated usage comes from the originating department. In other words, the Maintenance Department has provided that figure as an estimate of what they are going to use for this contract.** Ms. M. Pena stated, because I noticed the amount expended for the previous 12 months was \$77,000. **Ms. R. Pena stated correct.** Ms. M. Pena stated, and now you have the estimated usage of \$250,000. **Ms. R. Pena replied, correct, again, that comes from the originating department, ma'am.** Ms. M. Pena stated, why the huge difference for this coming year? **Mr. Cespedes interjected, if I may answer that, ma'am, that's the budget that's usually given to the department. It does vary by year. Similar to Mr. Corpus, it all depends if there is a unique situation at a campus or a department where there are major issues where they will need to have these types of services, the cost could go up substantially. Or if not, then we can see maybe the next year might be relatively the same to this year and it could be next year, this coming year will be the same around the \$77,000.** Ms. M. Pena stated, and I agree with that, I have no problem with that. I just have an issue with them knowing that you have an estimate usage of \$250,000 for the year. You know people, like this is 2025, sir. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I understand, and again, I think, similar to all the other ones, I think that is why it is important for us to have several vendors on hand for all of these.** Ms. M. Pena stated, can you give us the average for the last 10 years, for a year? That way I can try and figure out why you have it at \$250,000 when we've had it at \$77,000 last year. So can you give me the average for the last 10 years? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, ma'am.** Ms. M. Pena stated, can you do that for us? Please? Because I know when people see a lot of money, it's

funny how things grow. And this money belongs to the community and we need to take care of it. **Ms. R. Pena stated, yes, ma'am. Mr. Cespedes stated thank you Ms. Pena.**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend awarding Bid #25-076 A/C Control System Services, Repairs and Installation of Equipment District-wide to several vendors. The term of this contract is effective, from February 04, 2025, thru February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. (7-0-0)

Ms. M. Pena stated, I want to vote yes, because we need it, but I have a question and I am very, \$250,000 to me is too much to give them that opportunity.

8. Recommend awarding of Bid #25-084 Parts/Repairs Services for Ground and Heavy Maintenance Equipment District-wide to several vendors. The term of this contract is effective February 04, 2025, thru February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, Ms. Pena and do we have a motion. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated second. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, I guess I brought this up because whoever did this, Mr. Cespedes, if you notice, you said amount expended the previous 12 months was \$77,000. Okay, and whoever put this, put the fiscal implications for this particular one that we're going to approve today, estimated usage 82,000, which is pretty close to the 77,000. So how come here we have this and it's closer and the other one you went like wow, over 100 something thousand. So who's the one that decides these totals? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, it varies, like I said, at the end of the day it goes from our departments, whether it's our facilities or our maintenance department that use these.** Ms. Pena stated, so it's the opinion of the person doing it, is what you're saying? **Mr. Cespedes stated, I don't think it's an opinion. I think it's a pretty good calculation that they do based on past experience. And we also have to look at future market conditions.** Ms. Pena stated, but if you notice here, they looked at future marketing and they stayed pretty much within the 77,000, so what happened with the previous one? **Mr. Cespedes replied, maybe the other one's getting the tariffs.** Ms. Pena stated, no, you said it's what they think and we need to be careful because this is public funds and Mr. Cespedes. **Mr. Cespedes interjected, no, no but what we can do, ma'am, just so that you can do an analysis, do the same thing as number seven, look at the last ten years. And you could probably see some years fluctuate and it could be a combination of, again, market ten years ago was different and then there's unique situations in certain years at the cost of balloons, things like that. So, we can give you the last thing on this one too.** Ms. Pena stated, and I know, but this right here lets you know that it depends on the person. This is the power of the pen. Be careful with that pen, because that pen belongs to the public, not to the individual. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I'm hoping we can go digital on it.** Ms. Pena stated, but that's my concern, because the more money you give people to spend, con más ganas they're going

to spend it. **Mr. Cespedes stated, we'll definitely take a look at it.** Ms. Pena stated, yeah, because people don't spend their own money the way they spend somebody else's money, and I was raised to spend my money, my way and take very good care of everybody else's money

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval Recommend awarding of Bid #25-084 Parts/Repairs Services for Ground and Heavy Maintenance Equipment District-wide to several vendors. The term of this contract is effective February 04, 2025, thru February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. (7-0-0)

9. Recommend awarding Bid #25-085 HVAC, Chiller, Ice Maker and Related Supplies/Materials District-wide to several vendors. The term of this contract is effective, from February 04, 2025, thru February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. **(Consent Agenda)**
10. Recommend awarding Bid #25-086 HVAC, Chiller, Ice Maker and Other Related Maintenance Services, Repairs and Installation of Equipment District-wide to several vendors and cast lots for items #4, #6, and #8 of said bid. The term of this contract is effective, from February 04, 2025, thru February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated Item 4 Gulf Mechanical Solutions. Gulf, like Gulf of America Mechanical Solutions. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, thank you for the clarity. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I just want to make sure we're on the same page.** Ms. Pena stated, and today, that's a very important concern. **Mr. Cespedes stated, okay, that's it for them.** Ms. Pena stated I like your sense of humor, thank you for that. **Mr. Cespedes stated, item number six, Fox Mechanical. And for item number 8. The power of the envelope. Gulf Mechanical Solution.** Ms. Pena stated, it's the power of the pen. **Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez stated, second.**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried, to recommend awarding Bid #25-086 HVAC, Chiller, Ice Maker and Other Related Maintenance Services, Repairs and Installation of Equipment District-wide to several vendors and cast lots for items #4 Gulf Mechanical Solutions, #6 – Fox Mechanical, and #8 – Gulf Mechanical Solutions of said bid. The term of this contract is effective, from February 04, 2025, thru February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. (7-0-0)

11. Recommend awarding Bid #25-088 Plumbing and Supplies District-wide to several vendors. The term of this contract is effective, from February 04, 2025, thru February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. **(Consent Agenda)**
12. Recommend awarding Bid #25-106 Trenching and Boring Services District-wide to STX Underground, LLC, Brownsville, Texas. The term of this contract is effective from February 04, 2025 through February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year terms if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated second. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated I am sorry, but I thought I really asked you the question on this. Yes, the same thing. This one has the, if you notice, the fiscal implications are closer to the last year's expenses. And I'm still that that's 250,000 is really like a red flag to me. **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, we could take a look at that.** Ms. Pena stated, please. **Mr. Cespedes stated in the \$250,000 one.** Ms. Pena stated yes, please. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, may I? What are we boring? **Mr. Cespedes stated, so this is mostly for our computer services. They use these whenever they need to do any type of trenching, to do any type of conduit wiring. And I had actually asked why just one company? And usually if there's any issues, we want to make sure that you don't have one company doing the trenching, the boring, and then have a different one coming. We want to make sure we keep it consistent.** Mr. Elizondo stated, we don't have the technology enough to go Wi-Fi or? **Mr. Cespedes replied, even for that, you still have to run proper fiber.** Mr. Elizondo stated, are they running fibers? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, so there's a lot of trenching, fiber and other wires, yes, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. Thank you.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend awarding Bid #25-106 Trenching and Boring Services District-wide to STX Underground, LLC, Brownsville, Texas. The term of this contract is effective from February 04, 2025 through February 04, 2026, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year terms if all parties are in agreement. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. (7-0-0)

XI. Board Member Request(s)

A. Action Item(s)

1. Discussion and consideration and possible action concerning individual(s) directly hired by the BISD Board of Trustees. (Board Agenda Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Frank Ortiz) **(Agenda item pulled by Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member)**

Mr. Carlos Elizondo Board Member stated, I had talked to Mr. Castro earlier and I was going to pull items 1 and 2, I think he forgot to tell you, correct. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant, pull items 1 and 2, for the record.** Mr. Elizondo replied yes ma'am.

2. Discussion, consideration, and possible action to reorganize the Board. (Board Member Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Frank Ortiz) (**Agenda item pulled by Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member**)
3. Discussion, consideration and possible action on naming the Hanna Early College High School Tennis Courts after Coach Terry Hoover (see attached). (Board Agenda Request Daniella Lopez Valdez/Board Support Erasmo Castro)

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Second. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, so if I can just stop and real quick. You do have a Board Policy governing this CW local and you do have a specific line item on here that's facilities other than schools and it still requires that facilities other than schools follow the outline that you all created for naming the facility. So we still have to create the site-based committee for that. So if you're going to approve that, I would recommend that we amend the motion to approve.* Mr. Elizondo stated, so let me just, can I amend my motion to bring it back later after the committee has gone through it? *Mr. Ramirez stated, well, what I was going to say is that you have to, based on your policy, you can delegate to your Superintendent right now the authority to create the site-based committee for the nomination.* Mr. Elizondo stated, our interim? *Mr. Ramirez stated, whoever is acting or interim, yeah, the superintendent's office.* Mr. Elizondo stated, you're acting? Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, right now you're in charge, Mr. Cespedes. Mr. Elizondo stated, so then you want me to amend my motion? *Mr. Ramirez stated, so I would recommend that if you're considering moving forward with this item, that you adopt a motion to authorize the Superintendent to move forward with the site-based committee to consider the nomination.* Mr. Elizondo stated, can I do a control copy? *Mr. Ramirez stated, can we just go ahead and have the, withdraw the second from Mrs. Daniella?* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I withdraw my second. *Mr. Ramirez, and then you want to amend your amendment based on legal.* Mr. Elizondo stated, I'll just control copy what you said. *Mr. Ramirez stated, I'll go give it to Ms. Pat.* Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, that's language, I guess (inaudible). *Mr. Ramirez stated, and then Ms. Lopez can..* Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, so can you very politely read how the actual agenda item reads? Will read. *Mr. Ramirez stated, the agenda item or the motion?* Ms. Pena stated, the motion, I'm sorry. *Mr. Ramirez stated, so the motion is to authorize the superintendent to create a site-based committee for the naming of the Hanna tennis courts and consider the nomination as presented.* Ms. Pena stated, thank you. *Mr. Ramirez stated, yes.* Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez stated second. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote.** Ms. Pena stated, thank you sir. **Ms. Perez stated, Ms. Garza?** Yes? Mr. Elizondo stated, may I just ask something real quick? How long does a process need to take? Is there a time frame that needs to happen or what? *Mr. Ramirez stated, there is a time frame so I'll go ahead and send over a memo to the superintendent's office.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, you let us know too please so we can be aware, maybe the community as well, especially the attendees. *Mr. Ramirez stated, I'll ask them to include you all in any updates.* Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Pena stated, is it a long-time frame, sir? *Mr. Ramirez replied, no.* **Ms. Perez stated, can you vote, please sir.** Mr. Castro stated, Ms. Perez. **Ms. Perez stated, sir is that a yes, Mr. Castro, do you want to vote yes.** Mr. Castro stated, Ms. Lopez Valdez, I apologize. **Ms. Perez continued, let me end the vote.** Ms. Pena stated, Mr. Castro you voted yes, no you voted no, get on the intercom.

Mr. Ramirez stated abstained. Ms. Perez stated, motion passes six yes and one abstention.

Amended Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to authorize the Superintendent to move forward with the site-based committee to consider the nomination of naming the Hanna Early College High School Tennis Courts after Coach Terry Hoover. (7-0-0).

Note: Amend the official record of the vote taken to reflect that Mr. Erasmo Castro has changed his from abstention to a “yes” vote.

Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Coach Terry Hoover has been a pillar of the High School tennis program since its inception, dedicating over four decades to shaping student athletes both on and off the court. His coaching career began as a student at Texas A&I University from 1972 to 1975 before joining Hanna High School in the fall of 1975 as a head tennis coach. Throughout his tenure, Coach Hoover built one of the most consistent and successful tennis programs in South Texas. When team tennis was introduced in 1992, Hanna qualified for the regional tournament every year except for one, an impressive 32 out of 33 seasons. Additionally, individual players under his leadership have qualified for regional competition every year except for two, showcasing the strength and depth of the program. Coach Hoover retired in 2018, leaving behind a program rich in tradition, discipline, and achievement. His impact on Hanna High School tennis and the countless athletes he mentored remains a lasting testament to his dedication and passion to the sport. Thank you. Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated Ms. Perez, I would like to make my motion a yes, please. **Ms. Perez stated, yes sir, I will change it, motion passes 7-0 unanimous.** Mr. Elizondo stated, just real quick, I'd like to attest personally because I went to Hanna High School. I actually attended the school and he's a great individual and he's taught and mentored a lot of kids that have gone to that school and thousands and thousands of kids actually looked up to that gentleman. I want to say that this is just not only good for us, but it's good for the Homer Hanna High School. Thank you guys.

4. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on adopting a resolution in support of the Texas AFT Educators' Bill of Rights (see attached). (Board Agenda Request Daniella Lopez Valdez/Board Support Erasmo Castro)

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member station Motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, stated, Second. Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you sir. Mr. Ortiz continued, in looking at the resolution, I do have some concerns over some of the language here. I'm concerned about BISD and I'm concerned about our district and the Board of Trustees here. Some of the language, it indicates that we as a Board of Trustees are committing for advocating for and implementing policies. I'm concerned about that. Expanded child care options for employees, that concerns me. Environmental standards for schools, I don't know exactly what that means. And then the one that really concerns me is the collective bargain and rights. We're going to commit to that. Legal collective bargain and rights for educators. That's illegal, isn't it? *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, correct, so we can't have a formal union. There're unions that we have, but they're not in the sense of like states, for example, in Michigan or Detroit,*

it's different. What you're committing to in there, in spirit, would essentially be to adhere to still within the confines of the law of what you can do. And so just because your resolution says that you are going to be open to working with these entities, you're not legally going to be bound to the collective bargaining framework as you would, as other states would be. Mr. Ortiz stated, I'm very cautious about that, so I just wanted to make that public. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, question? Question? Mr. Castro stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, yes, I have a concern with this. I really, really, really do. Because there are associations coming in and telling us to have the resolution and send it in to the governor and send it to everybody. And it says, therefore, this is actually what's inside here. "Therefore, be it resolved that the BISD Board of Trustees recognize the following rights as outlined in the Texas AFT Educator Bill of Rights. The right to reasonable working conditions including a defined working day, adequate time to teach, school safety, and reasonable class size. The right to fair wages that reflect the worth of the educator's work. The right to secure retirement. The right to access affordable quality child care. The right to a healthy, safe, and secure working environment. The right to academic freedom. The right to meaningful training and professional development, the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining, the right to democratic representation in matters affecting their profession and retirement, and the right to teach in public schools free from religion indoctrination". I really don't think we need a resolution for this because this is stuff that we do. Some of these like the child care, the right to access affordable quality child care. Define that for me somebody. Give me the exact wording and the exact definition of what that means. Attorney, can you help me? Mr. Ramirez stated, *are you asking me?* Ms. Pena stated, yeah. Mr. Ramirez stated, *I don't know what, I mean.* Ms. Pena interjected, they're very vague, this is not something that we need to get involved with, please forgive me. And I respect everyone that is in the association. For them to come in and tell us this is what we're going to do, this is what you're going to do. At this point in time, I think we need to step back and look at it and not sign this resolution as a Board because there's a lot of questions in these things that make it very dangerous as Board Members. And it's not fair as Board Members that we don't know the legality of the law and what position we put ourselves in when we sign this. And this is unfair to the school district or to our employees or to our community. At this point in time, sir, I would recommend that we hold off on this. What is your opinion of this as an attorney for us as Board Members? Mr. Ramirez replied, *with respect to the legality of the resolution, the Board is free to adopt the resolution and state its position on any of these matters. I'm not concerned with anything in the resolution in terms of it being illegal or the Board doing something illegal. The way the resolution is written, it's the Board is stating a position of what it believes is a bill of rights of an educator, but that's more of a policy question for the Board, not a legal question. And the legal question is there's nothing illegal about adopting this resolution.* Ms. Pena stated, yes, but the wording of the resolution, for example, tell me exactly what they mean the right to affordable quality child care. What is this the school district have to do with taking care of your two-year-old or your one-year-old? Mr. Ramirez stated, *again I don't I'm not a policy decision maker here I'm just the attorney so I just sort of call the balls and strikes in terms of what it means that's for your Board to debate and discuss about.* Ms. Pena stated, okay because Mr. Castro I think this is too vague and too dangerous to put down in writing because we are here to serve our teachers 100% and I will fight for teachers all my life and so do you Mr. Castro. Mr. Castro stated, I appreciate that. Ms. Pena continued, but to put this down in writing we don't need to do this at this point and time because there's things that need to be looked at and how it's

worded and it'll give the impression to the community or to the state government of something that we are not, that's not what we mean, but you make it so vague that it will be looked at very dangerously as a whole and I have a concern with that because I'm not comfortable with the Board committing to this because like you said, all is just an opinion. Sir, it's saying that we're backing this up and we believe in this 100% if we vote for it. *Mr. Ramirez stated, that's what it says.* Ms. Pena continued, it says that 100% and it's not fair because it's too vague and for us to say yes on this when it is too vague, and for an association to come in and tell us do this, do this, do that. At this point in time, I would like to thread very carefully and maybe put this on the back burner, see what we can do to make it in a manner that doesn't specify and make it so vague and so dangerous wording that it will come back and it will reflect really bad on our district. *Mr. Ramirez stated, sure, so again that's a local policy-based decision and you're free to talk to your Board about that.* Yes ma'am. Ms. Pena stated, in other words, we're free to fall on our face. And I don't like that. *Mr. Ramirez stated, that's not illegal is what I have been saying.* Ms. Pena stated, that is not what I said. *Mr. Ramirez stated, sure, I'm just saying.* Ms. Pena stated, I don't believe in us doing that. *Mr. Ramirez stated, sure.* Ms. Pena continued, because we work too hard to help the community as a whole. *Mr. Ramirez, stated sure, and that (inaudible).* Ms. Pena stated, that is not fair to the community as a whole. *Mr. Ramirez stated, yes ma'am.* Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, may I? Mr. Castro stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Real quick, you represent other school districts, right? *Mr. Ramirez replied yes.* Mr. Elizondo continued, is this something that you would recommend to your other school districts to do? *Mr. Ramirez replied, so again, I don't recommend the policy position of a Board. I only recommend on the legalities.* Mr. Elizondo stated, is this something that you would... *Mr. Ramirez stated, this is something that is not illegal, and I would tell my Board that they are free to adopt it if they believe it's in their policy interest as a Board to adopt. Another district has adopted this already.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, and let me ask you another question. Mr. Castro, do you know what collective bargaining is? Mr. Castro stated, I'm sorry? Mr. Elizondo continued, do you know what collective bargaining is? Mr. Castro stated, do I know what collective bargaining is? Mr. Elizondo stated, that's correct. Do you know? Because this is something that you support, I want to make sure that you understand what that means. Mr. Castro stated, okay. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, I call the question. Ms. Pena stated, and Mr. Castro no, no, no. Mr. Elizondo stated, I am not done with my five minutes ma'am. Ms. Pena continued, no, no this is very important, please. *Mr. Ramirez stated, alright so we do have a call for the question, so you would have to take a vote on the call for the question.* Ms. Pena stated, no sir we do not, because last time they did not. They let Jessica, Daniel, and Denise talk for 15 minutes after this call. Mr. Castro interjected Ms. Pena. *Mr. Ramirez stated, so I'm just taking time here based on...* Ms. Pena stated, please be fair. Mr. Castro stated, no, I'm being fair. Ms. Pena stated, well, when they call the question, it's because they want to hide something. *Mr. Ramirez stated, so we have, yeah, so we have, I'm taking time here, you have 58 seconds left on the clock.* Mr. Elizondo has four minutes, eighteen seconds. *And if there's a call to the question, you can take a vote on the call to the question. You need a super majority of the Board.* Mr. Elizondo interjected that is correct. *Mr. Ramirez continued, in order to end debate and move forward.* Mr. Elizondo stated, so you end my time, right? *Mr. Ramirez stated, I'm sorry?* Mr. Elizondo stated, you end my time while this goes through? *Mr. Ramirez stated, I'm not running your time. I only run the time when people are talking.* Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. *Mr. Ramirez stated, yes sir.* Mr. Elizondo stated, so supermajority, you understand what that means Mr. Castro? Mr. Castro

stated, yes sir. Do you want to vote for it? Mr. Castro stated, do you want me to explain it to you? Mr. Elizondo stated, no I'm asking do you want to vote? She's asking for a vote Ms. Lopez Valdez. *Mr. Ramirez stated, you will need a second.* Mr. Elizondo stated, well I'm not going to second that. Ms. Gonzalez stated, no, I'm asking who, Daniela, you did the call to question, right? Okay, I'll second Daniela, I'll support Daniela. *Mr. Ramirez stated, all right, so you can take a vote on the call to the question. I need everybody to vote.* **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote. Ms. Garza, yes. Motion passes for yes.** Mr. Elizondo stated, no, no, it fails. *Mr. Ramirez stated, you need five out of two. I'm sorry. You need five out of seven.*

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, to recommend approval to call the question.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Failed: 4-3-0

Note: A two-thirds vote is required for passage

Mr. Elizondo stated, may I continue? *Mr. Ramirez stated, Ms. Lopez? So, the call to the question failed and the chairman recognized somebody else or whoever, yes.* Mr. Elizondo stated, I was still talking. *Mr. Ramirez stated, yes, sir.* Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Just real quick, what I'm trying to say is that collective bargaining, I don't know if you understand what that means, it puts the school district in a pretty peculiar place. Mr. Castro stated, thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, and I'm telling you the reasons why. I used to be a union president and I know exactly where it puts us, okay? Not only that, this agenda item that you seconded or authored, it only specifies one organization. So, you're alienating two of the other organizations. Even though it's got good language like it was said in the public, you're alienating two other organizations. The people that came over and talked about this specifically mentioned only their members. Now if you're in agreement with that, then that's your right to vote that way. And so that's why I'm asking, do you know exactly what collective bargaining is? And if you do, go ahead and vote your conscience. I for one, I cannot stand here and listen to where one organization is only vying for one member, knowing that there's about six other thousand employees here. I frown on that Mr. Hammes and I think you and I have had this conversation before. **Mr. Patrick Hammes (inaudible).** Mr. Elizondo continued, no, it's my turn to talk you had your chance. This is this is what I'm talking about. It's the alienation of other employees of the school district that deserve the same representation that this group does. This is the reason I have to vote no. Mr. Castro stated, are we voted? **Ms. Perez stated please vote, Ms. Garza? Ms. Garza?** *Mr. Ramirez stated, she's frozen, so we can't count her vote until she's on the camera.* Mr. Elizondo stated, so we tally the vote. **Ms. Perez stated, Ms. Garza, please vote.** Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, I vote yes. Can you hear me? **Ms. Perez stated, yes ma'am, thank you.** *Mr. Ramirez stated, we can't record the vote until the camera is on.* **Ms. Perez stated, motion passes four yes, three no.**

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, to recommend approval adopting a resolution in support of the Texas AFT Educators' Bill of Rights (see attached). (Board Agenda Request Daniella Lopez Valdez/Board Support Erasmo Castro)

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 4-3-0

Ms. Pena stated, and please note Pat that the reason I vote no because it's very dangerous language that is put in here very very dangerous. Mr. Castro stated, thank you Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, and I want people to know especially people who go to church every Sunday and turn around and ask God to bless them and then they say (inaudible). Mr. Castro stated, thank you Ms. Pena, Ms. Lopez Valdez. I just wanted to thank all of the educators because this is not just for one association, they took the initiative and it is for every single educator. And our educators are the backbone of our public education system. And their working conditions directly impact the learning conditions of our students. And we stand by you, and we will continue to advocate for you at the state and federal level. Thank you. **Ms. Perez stated, Item 5.** Ms. Pena stated, excuse me Pat, please note, I vote no, it's not against the educators because they're outstanding and I will fight for you always. The language is a little dangerous. There's no need to be ugly, ladies and gentlemen, understand. Please, you're educators. Mr. Castro interjected, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, want them to know it's the language that scares me. Mr. Castro stated, Ms. Pena. *Ms. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney interjected, so we don't have time for.* Ms. Pena interjected, there's no need for rude educators, out in the public, listen to them.

5. Discussion, consideration, and possible action to conduct a forensic audit by an external auditor limited to TRE Bond funds and projects. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Frank Ortiz)

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, second. Ms. Pena stated, Mr. Castro, may I speak? Over here on this side. May I speak? Mr. Elizondo stated, Mr. Castro, are you okay? Ms. Pena stated, may I speak? Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo replied, no, no, no, Mr. Erasmo are you okay? Mr. Castro replied, yeah. Mr. Elizondo stated, you sure? Mr. Castro stated, yeah. Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. Ms. Pena continued, okay, I have a question on this, Mr. Cespedes. I'd like for us to please get, I remember when we moved the I&S into the M&O back in the old, because of the TRE, and how we pushed out there that we're going to have money left over to be able to build the Performing Arts Center, and that was a big push, and that's why the public ran out there and voted yes for this, to move it. And I remember I questioned Mr. Cespedes back then, I questioned. And it was Ms. Zendejas, who was our Dr. Zendejas who was our Superintendent, and it was Mr. Sanchez, who was our CFO, and I asked him, are you sure we can move the money out of there and not leave any there? And they reassured me that we had to come back because

once we move the money out of I&S into M&O, Mr. Cespedes, you're a CFO, so you know this, then we have to pay all our bonds and everything 100% and don't get any help from the state because we have no money in the I&S, which is the Interest & Sinking Funds, am I correct, Mr. Cespedes? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, yes, but not fully stated. The part that we are missing is that a lot of districts did that back in the day, moved their I&S pennies to M&O because you would get more state aid from the state as a result of that and that would actually generate more money than if you kept it in the I&S and generate local property tax collections. So that was a strategy that everybody used. I did present on this on October 9th. We had a Facilities Committee Meeting and I talked about the TRE and the TRI. And the Facilities, the Performing Arts Center was actually under the TRI, not under the TRE. And then the reason for that, it wasn't that the projects didn't continue because as you all recall, House Bill 3 in 2019 started doing some significant compression on the M&O side, so we weren't able to generate those funding anymore. And so that's what put a halt to a lot of those projects.** Ms. Pena stated, so we took the money out of the I&S and put it in the M&O, and then we had to come back and put it back into the I&S, am I correct, Mr. Cespedes? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, and that's correct, and that was done through the TRE, but when it was presented to the public, the Performing Arts Center was under the TRI, not under the TRE.** Ms. Pena stated, when it was presented to the public, Mr. Cespedes, I was there when they were talking, they presented it under the TRE, sir. I will look for the videos. **Mr. Cespedes stated, I have both flyers, actually.** Ms. Pena stated, no, I have the videos when the people were talking, sir, and that's how it was done. See, one thing I have is a memory because of the fact that I had a question on it and I wanted them to reassure us. When you say one thing and you do another, it really scares our public. **Mr. Cespedes stated no, no, but like I said, I encourage the people to look at our, we had a Facilities Committee meeting on October 9th, I think Mr. Elizondo had brought it up at that point.** Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, right. **Mr. Cespedes continued, and again, the Performing Arts Center was under the TRI, under the TRE was a list of other projects.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but let me tell you, if anybody was here, it was Mr. Castro. He was sitting up there in the first chair, and he was the biggest cheerleader, making sure because he didn't believe us up here. He was the first one that said that that money was to build the Performing Arts Center. He's questioned many, many times, years and years, probably eight years now, Mr. Castro. Am I correct? He's the one that supported the TRE. He's the one that went out there and he advocated for everybody on his Facebook and YouTube channels. If anybody, he's the biggest proponent of making sure that TRE monies went into the Performing Arts Center. So, it being him here now, he was there, he was a witness to all this, where the actual public was told that those monies were going to build a Performing Arts Center. This is what happened to there to now, I don't know. This is the reason that we're asking, and Mr. Castro was a proponent on making sure that we do an audit on that TRE funds and money. Am I mistaken, Mr. Castro? Am I lying that you were one of the biggest proponents making sure that the audit was pushed over for that TRE? I mean, I'm sure you have a bunch of videos and Facebooks and stuff. Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board Member stated, I do have that meeting, yes. Mr. Elizondo continued, right, so that's what we're talking about. We just want to make sure we know where that TRE money is. So, Mr. Castro was one of the biggest leaders and this is why I supported him because he was going to push this audit so that the public knows where that money went and why is it that this school district does not have a Performing Arts Center. This is the reason that this item is coming to us and this is the reason I support

it. And I am sure Mr. Castro will too because he has been doing it for years. Over eight years he has been pushing this agenda item. Ms. Pena stated, sir, question, follow-up. Mr. Castro stated, yes Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, you said it was not the TRE, it was the TRI. When was the TRI? **Mr. Cespedes replied, both were around the same time. The TRI actually started before in 2014, and then the TRE, if I'm not mistaken, was in 2015.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, so then you're saying that the TRI in 20, what was the date you gave? **Mr. Cespedes replied, 2014.** Ms. Pena stated, that was the Performing Arts Center. That was for the Performing Arts Center. Is that what you just said? **Mr. Cespedes replied, that's not what I said at all.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, then tell me why when they said they were going to use that money from the TRE. Mr. Castro interjected, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, and he said no, it wasn't from the TRE. Mr. Castro interjected, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, it was the TRI, I didn't understand what he meant by that, I want him to clarify it because if I didn't understand it, somebody out in the public didn't understand it. Please clarify what you meant. **Mr. Cespedes stated, all I'm clarifying is that, and Ms. Garza can attest to it, all I'm clarifying is that when it was presented to the public, there were two different flyers, if I am not mistaken. There was one for the TRI projects and one for the TRE projects, Ms. Garza?** Ms. Pena stated, at the same time, the same year, you are saying they presented both? **Ms. Mary Garza, Director for Finance/Budgets stated, good evening, Board President, Mr. Castro, Board Members and Mr. Cespedes. Ms. Pena, the Board made a decision in 2015 under the Superintendent, Dr. Zendejas to go out for the tax ratification election. That election took place in October of 2015. The flyer that was presented to the community for the TRE to move the 11.25 pennies that were adopted in the budget on June 2015 was to build two Performing Arts, two Fine Arts buildings, one at Porter and one at Pace, was to build the track at three middle schools and to build, to change the turfs at all of the soccer fields for the high schools. We initially anticipated doing one school, but after the TRE passed and the district, the Board Members were, conducted their first Facilities meeting, the decision was made to do all of the high schools and not just one high school. Those were all the items on the TRE in 2015. Two years down the road as the Board Members changed and the new Board Members wanted an explanation as to why the district did the TRE of shifting the pennies from the Interest and Sinking to the Maintenance and Operation, the decision was made to take full benefit from the State and be able to maximize the State Aid on both sides on the M&O and the I&S and put the monies back into the I&S in order to maximize. Because the District had been very conservative on the tax rates and we had not maximized the \$1.17 for different reasons, through different administrations. So, when the district decided in 2017, when the budget was approved, Mr. Sanchez did a presentation and identified different projects that the district needed to work on. That announcement, when the budget was approved, had a list of items. In that list, there were mostly generic items because of the fact that the needs of the districts change over the years and items become priority over another. So, at that meeting, during the budget process, during the discussions, the items that were put out was a different flyer. That flyer had the Performing Arts Center. It had the Hanna Gym. It had the upgrades to the Sam Stadium. It had other building improvements. That has been presented twice to the Board. Now, the District and Administration was not aware of what the Legislature was going to do. In 2019 when the legislature passed House Bill 3, they went ahead and that's the first year that they did compression again. And our \$1.17 became a dollar. So, the pennies that were there on the M&O side, those 11.5 became an**

equivalent of four pennies. At that point, the \$25 million that those 11 pennies were going to generate was no longer there. We only had four pennies. Those four pennies were generating \$10 million. Those \$10 million were being used to pay the note that the district borrowed in 2017 in order to jumpstart all the projects. That's what happened. The flyers are there. We can give you the flyers again in the next Friday letter. Ms. Pena stated, tell me about the TRI. Explain the TRI so the public can understand the way you explain the TRE. **Ms. M. Garza stated, the TRI was, and we called it TRI, which was the Tax Rate Increase. The reason why we called it that, it was just internally because we reinstated the pennies on the Interest and Sinking side. And in order to benefit and get 100 percent of all the State Aid, that was the purpose. Now, in 2019, with compression, what the state also did, because all of the districts in the state of Texas were shifting those pennies over, they went ahead and notified the districts that from now on, we could no longer be shifting the pennies over. And everybody that had transferred those pennies from the Interest and Sinking over to the M&O side had to start putting it back because they could no longer use M&O monies to make their bond payments. The district, because of what we did, we ended up being in a better situation because we had already put the pennies back.** Ms. Pena stated, question, when we have the money in the I&S, Interest and Sinking Funds, and we pay what we owe, then the state also assists us in paying what we owe, am I correct? **Ms. M. Garza replied, yes, the state.** Ms. Pena interjected, if we have zero pennies in the I&S, then we are responsible 100% for what we owe and we will not get the state's assistance on that payment, am I correct? **Ms. M. Garza stated, that's correct. When the districts have pennies on the Interest and Sinking side, the state will give you the IFA money and EDA money. EDA is Existing Debt Allotment and the IFA is the Instructional Facilities Allotment, so that's the reason why the district with the consensus of the Board that came on in 2017, we went ahead and put the pennies back in, in order to be able to free up a 100% of the 11 pennies that were shifted to the M&O the two previous years to be able to set aside \$25 million for the upkeep of the buildings for HVAC and everything else that the district had identified.** Ms. Pena stated, and the TRI was the same year as the TRE 20? **Ms. M. Garza stated, no, ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, what year was TRI? **Ms. Garza replied, it was two years later, it was in 2017.** Ms. Pena stated okay, and because I remember when that happened and I asked if we would ever have to put the money back. You are saying that a lot of districts did this, am I correct? We were allowed to move the I&S into the Interest and Sinking into the M&O, Maintenance and Operation? **Ms. M. Garza replied, yes, prior to 2015, the state allowed the districts the opportunity to shift the pennies from Interest and Sinking to M&O in order to maximize State Aid. And we did receive more money in order to cover the debt payment.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, and I am glad you are saying it like this because it makes a lot of sense. It is just very confusing to the public because, and I remember Ms. Garza 100% where the Performing Arts Center on Morrison Road was promised with a TRE. I was there when the administrators were making that public at several events that we went and the public 100% voted for that TRE. **Ms. M. Garza stated, I'm sorry, the public did not get to vote on the TRE ma'am. The TRE was in 2015. They did vote for that, but the Fine Arts was not one of the projects in 2015 for the TRE.** Ms. Pena stated, I understand that, Mary, but that is not what was said publicly by administrators and I was present at those events is what I'm telling you. When they turned around and I even asked Administrator Mary and she specifically told me, yes, ma'am we're going to build that with that and that's why the public ran out there and pushed it a hundred percent. Mary I was

there at several events and that was said. I know what you're saying right here right now and I wish to God that we had the recordings of what when that was said but I'm glad you explained to the public how that was never a commitment in writing but it was a commitment when they were pushing for it to get a yes for the public to vote. And that's where the public gets scared, because you tell them one thing, they vote, and you come back, and we find different ways of maneuvering, and then tell them, you know what, we can't do this. So I hear what you're saying, Mary, but it was pushed 100 percent, Mary. I remember clearly. But like you said, it wasn't put in writing. And as long as it's not put in writing, there's no commitment. **Ms. M. Garza stated, the Fine Arts Facility was one of the projects discussed during the budget meetings for 2017, for the fiscal year 2017-2018.** Mr. Elizondo interjected, ma'am, I don't want to interrupt, but I was present at those meetings, too, and Mr. Castro was sitting up here, and that's exactly what was told to us and to the public. This is the reason this room was full of band kids. Si o no, Erasmo? Band kids, anybody that was in the Performing Arts Curriculum was present. And this is exactly what was told to the parents. Mr. Erasmo is a witness, he was sitting here. I mean, you can go back to his YouTube channels and he'll scream about it. And that is exactly what was sold. So, I understand your position, but if there is no issues, I mean we could just be confident that all the monies went accordingly. You know there's nothing for us to hide, to push in a audit on TRE funds. It's about being, and you're real good at that, at being transparent. Why would that we be so scared of finding out that the money went to the right place? Ms. Pena stated, and Mr. Cespedes, my concern is very, very simple. When we say we're going to do something, we need to commit to it and not sugarcoat it and just say half the thing and not say the other half. And that's something very important to me. And I know what you're saying, well, we had flyers. Well, yes, but let me tell you something. Those flyers didn't get out to a lot of people. You can have thousands of flyers and give out a hundred and then they'll say, look, it's passing them out. Where are they? We have no information. So I know what you're saying and I'm glad that you verify it, but it was 100% Ms. Mary. **Ms. M. Garza stated, yes.** Ms. Pena continued, so for the Performing Arts Center. **Ms. Garza stated, the Performing Arts Center was in the 2017 and in 2019 because of compression the monies were no longer there.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. **Ms. Garza continued, and the priorities changed at the time. Mr. Cespedes state, thank you Ms. Garza. The only, if I can add just one comment to that. I know that and every board here will have you know the right to vote on this but you know I just want to make it clear that because this is the third time we bring it to, I've been looking into the cost of it, right, because I think for every other little thing, you know, we get questioned fiscal implication. I think my job as a CFO, I want to make sure to make it clear to you all in the community, you know, forensic audit, depending on the scope of nature.** Mr. Elizondo interjected, so I don't mean to interrupt, I know that you, what you said, what you should be saying is that if the monies didn't go to the right place, then we need to go after the individuals that took the money from our kids. That's what we should be pushing. **Mr. Cespedes stated, and so again, and I think as I trust employees like Ms. Garza who's been dedicated to BID for many years, very transparent, we're looking at you know over half a million dollars to seven hundred thousand dollars depending on the scope of something like this.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but this is direct, it's not going to be global, what you're talking about is a global audit. This is not a global audit. **Mr. Cespedes stated, no, I am not talking about a global.** Mr. Elizondo continued, this is a TRE, it's very specific like this board had mentioned in the last few meetings that this is what they would vote for. This is the opportunity to do to do to say what they to do what

they were going to say the last time, this is very specific. **Mr. Cespedes interjected, absolutely.** Mr. Elizondo continued, Mr. Erasmo Castro has been screaming about it for eight years, I've been I've been here also, you know pushing the issue Ms. Pena also agrees that there's some concerns. Why is it that you continue to push back on the issues? **Mr. Cespedes interjected, no, I'm not at all sir.** Mr. Elizondo interjected, yes, it sounds like it. **Mr. Cespedes interjected, I don't think any of those words came out, I think I just want to make sure that...** Mr. Elizondo stated, they didn't come out like that, but you know... **Mr. Cespedes interjected, like every other agenda, I just want to make sure...** Mr. Elizondo stated, I agree, I understand. **Mr. Cespedes continued, the fiscal implication.** Mr. Elizondo stated, the fiscal implication is that if money were taken, just like at Sams Stadium, we need to find out where they went. That's what we're asking for, accountability and transparency. Ms. Pena stated, Mr. Castro. Mr. Castro stated Ms. Lopez Valdez. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, yes, I just wanted to, Mr. Céspedes, to finish what he was saying because I know that we bring this up and it is taxpayer money, every single time that we bring it up, and every single time we have to explain it again. I have seen this in a chart, I have seen this in a graph, I saw it on the board in the Superintendent's office, and I know that the community has heard it several times, so Mr. Cespedes if you could just clarify. **Mr. Cespedes replied, no that was it just a fiscal implication.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we continue to be ranked A in financial accountability. Ms. Pena stated, and Mr. Castro, may I address the question to our attorneys real quick, please? *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, yes, ma'am.* Ms. Pena stated, going back on the item before, so they voted yes for the resolution that does not commit the district and employees to do what the resolution says. Am I correct in saying that? About the conditions or the bargaining that does not commit the district and the employees to do what that resolution says. I'm asking you that question. *Mr. Ramirez replied, there's nothing in the resolution that changes any policies of the district currently.* Ms. Pena stated, no, but answer my question, it doesn't commit our employees, our Superintendent. *Mr. Ramirez stated, no.* Ms. Pena stated, can you say that louder? I didn't hear you. *Mr. Ramirez repeated, no.* Ms. Pena stated, okay, I want that to go on record that it does not commit the district to anything that was on that resolution. Okay? I want to make sure we know that, sir, to protect the district and the employees. Mr. Castro stated, Pat? **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated yes, sir, we have a motion to conduct a forensic audit by an external auditor limited to TRE.** Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member interjected, I have a question. Ms. Pat, I have a question. **Ms. Perez stated yes, Ms. Garza.** Mr. Castro stated, Ms. Garza, please. Ms. Garza stated, okay, Ms. Pena, I have a question. *Mr. Ramirez stated, you need the video on, Ms. Garza, you need the video on.* Ms. Pena stated, are you driving, Ms. Garza? Ms. Garza, stated yes, I am. Ms. Pena stated, ma'am, you cannot...can you pull over? I don't want you to get in that accident, please. Ms. Garza replied, no, I'm fine. Ms. Pena stated, ma'am, I.I. Ms. Garza stated, Ms. Pena, Ms. Pena I am fine. Ms. Pena stated, do not speak... Ms. Garza stated, Ms. Pena I am fine, okay, my question for Ms. Pena is, your audit is to audit the TRE from 2015? Ms. Pena replied, yes, dear. Ms. Garza continued, is that what your motion is for? Ms. Pena replied, yes, ma'am. Ms. Garza stated, okay, because I don't have the agenda item in front of me. That's why I just needed to make sure before I make a vote on this. Ms. Pena stated, yes, dear, yes, but be very careful, please, because please be very careful. Ms. Garza stated, Ms. Pena, I am fine, and next time, it's Ms. Garza, not dear. Ms. Pena stated, I still worry about you, be careful. Mr. Castro stated, thank you. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, can the record just say. *Mr. Ramirez interjected, I was going to say for the record what you have on here is*

not approving a contract, it's not approving an auditor or anything. So, this item will come back with the actual contract for the auditor and the costs associated with that? Ms. Pena stated, yes, with details. *Mr. Ramirez stated, yes, that's correct.* Mr. Elizondo stated, Mr. Castro, do you have any comments? Maybe some. Mr. Castro stated, no. Mr. Elizondo continued, light or anything? Mr. Castro stated, no. Mr. Elizondo continued, maybe, I know that you've been. Mr. Castro interjected, not necessary, I don't. Mr. Elizondo continued, a staunch opponent of this. Is there anything you want to lead us into? Advice? **Mr. Perez stated, please vote. Ms. Garza, you're voting yes ma'am? Yes.** Ms. Garza stated, I would like to make a, say why I am voting yes, only because. Ms. Pena stated, she probably hit a dead area. **Ms. Perez stated, motion passes four yes and three.** Ms. Pena interjected, do you want to wait so she can come on and finish? Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Pat, Mr. Erasmo wants to (inaudible). Mr. Castro stated, Ms. Pat is this (inaudible) actually (inaudible). **Ms. Perez replied, yes sir.** Ms. Garza inaudible audit. Mr. Castro stated, on the audit, mine I voted no. **Ms. Perez stated, yes sir, you voted no that's correct. It's correct sir, you voted no, Ms. Garza voted yes, so motion passes four yes, three no.**

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Minerva Pena, to recommend approval to conduct a forensic audit by an external auditor limited to TRE Bond funds and projects. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Frank Ortiz)

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 4-3-0

Note: Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney clarified that the current motion does not approve a contract or designate an auditor, but only authorizes proceeding with the audit. The final contract and associated costs would be presented to the Board at a later time.

Ms. Pena stated, yes. Mr. Elizondo stated, Mr. Erasmo you, you voted no on the audit, is that what you're saying? **Ms. Perez stated, yes, you voted no sir.** Mr. Castro stated, sorry sir. Mr. Elizondo stated, you voted no on the audit, that's what you're saying? Mr. Castro stated, no, I did not say that. I said no on the item that is listed, that is on the agenda right now. Mr. Elizondo stated, well then I know, the agenda is as it reads, possible action to conduct a forensic audit, it is an audit. That's what I'm saying. I'm just kind of a little confused. Mr. Castro stated, no, my reason for voting no at this time is the same reason that I had some concerns the last time. I haven't had access to, in regards to a lot of things that have already been mentioned, that you mentioned today also as well. Mr. Elizondo stated, but what are the concerns is what I'm trying to find out. I mean, you've had three months to figure it out. Mr. Castro replied, no, no sir, I'm not talking about my competency in regards to answering the question. Is it a lot of terms, a lot of dialogue, or a lot of other information besides the one in board book is right now I am voting no. Mr. Elizondo stated,

okay, I just want to make sure that you are. Mr. Castro interjected yea. Mr. Elizondo continued, okay thank you.

6. Discussion, Consideration and Possible action to authorize Superintendent or designee to approve professional development not to exceed \$50,000 as per BISD policy CH local. (Board Agenda Request Jessica Gonzalez/Board Support Minerva Pena)

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I would like to make a motion to move this to another meeting after more communication has been brought up to the Boards. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, so it's a motion to table?* Mr. Elizondo stated, correct, motion to table. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, second, and the reason that I agree with that because we've already, this is the second time we've done this, where it went back to 25,000, then it went up to 50,000, then we brought it back down to 25,000 because things that were happening were not proper or right, like the contract that we saw, \$250,000 that they can go up to, where the other one only had \$80,000. So that's happened back and forth, and I'd like to, and the reason I feel that we need to table it to more discussion, because the money belongs to the public, to the district, and it needs to come to the Board, because at the end of the day, the Board gets blamed for everything that happens. And if we don't know what's happening, that's not fair to us. Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I just wanted to clarify why it is that I brought this item back. Yes, I did support my colleague last time, but I hadn't realized. I just want staff, directors, administration to know that I hadn't realized how much holdback it was going to cost the district, the decision that we made. I had been holding back in bringing this item, but to be very honest, the last time, this last meeting when you know we were questioning \$1,500 of their money and every single time I go to a campus that is one of the first things staff tells me is Ms. Gonzalez, we're being held back from professional development. And I did want to quote a little bit earlier, we did with the TAPR report, and I was so glad it was a sign. TAPR report page six supports professional development, and it says, after trainings, quote, then the campus leadership will be successful in supporting teachers and providing strong Tier I instruction that ensures academic student progress, end quote. So again, that is why I brought it back. I don't know what the word is to say flip, but turn back my vote from last time is to go back to the way it is on policy and \$50,000 to the Superintendent or the Designee. I do recommend that we also ask for specific reports, maybe at our financial, what is it, the financial report that we get monthly, maybe a highlighted item for it to say specifically the words, and some people are very word specific, to say the words professional development and how much was spent. Then we as a Board, we trust but we verify. Then we go back and we say, okay, well, bass curriculum is spending, I'm just going to throw out a number, and it's not even going to be that much, but \$50,000. Okay, I want to see improvement in math scores, is what I'm trying to say. So, again, I don't want to micromanage you guys, so that is why I have brought this item back. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, and may I. Mr. Castro stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yea just a couple comments on this, I know that we've gone back and forth as far as consultants, and I know Mr. Castro has been very vocal about consultants. You know, I'm just very concerned and you know, as far as, you know, planning, we plan ahead just the way we tell our teachers or administrators to plan ahead. I'm telling the administration also plan ahead so you can get these consultants in a timely manner. You know, it's just not at the campus level but at all levels. My concern is \$50,000 is \$50,000, okay? We can have consultants

coming in at 45, another at 45, another one at 49. You know, just because it's not over 50,000 is not going to come to us. You know, I know my colleagues said here, well, let's get a report, you know, on how many consultants we've had, what the topic is, the audience, the presenters, the cost, but that's after the fact. Because I want to know beforehand how much we're spending. I'm looking at the minutes here of the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, October the 3rd, 2023, and this is when I recommended and this is what my colleague was referring to. I recommended, you know, that we like to have consultants come to the Board before they get hired. This way we know what they're doing. At that time, Mr. Maddox stated, so I motion administration to bring all consultant contracts to the Board prior to hiring District White. I stated that is correct. So, the 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. And it went 7-0. But now I'm saying now that at that time if she knew what she knew now she would have changed her vote, but nevertheless Legal it is a vote and that is what's in place right now, is that not so. *Mr. Ramirez replied, that's correct, yes sir that is correct, whatever the last whatever the last Board action was it's what is what is currently in place? And so this item here would allow the board to change that but the motion currently is to table the item and there is a motion and a second on tabling.* Mr. Ortiz stated, and this is in place. *Mr. Ramirez replied, that would currently be in place still until otherwise acted by the Board.* Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, I have question Mr. Erasmo, what are your recommendations or maybe do you have any suggestions of public or to this Board on your thoughts of why? Why is that we need to now bring it up to 50,000 if previously we were at 25 making sure that there is accountability and transparency to making sure that the monies are going to the right place and not to all vendors like you've been mentioning for decades now. Mr. Ortiz stated, exactly. Mr. Castro stated, well, let me say this in regards to it, sir. Once you get information that we can see, individuals of the Board can see, that have not been brought back, that's actually one of my biggest concerns. In all this time, nothing has been done in regards to those issues as you mentioned and my more concern is when the individuals that have been here and have lived beginning and the end of such a motion, you find out that there are things that really, really need to be addressed, that they look over again and again. So one of the things that I hope individuals from the audience leave with and the public in general is that when we state and mention that we want these to come back or we want to do, oh let's check out how we're doing here or there, well then if we do each one by itself and that's what I've learned, just to be patient and wait till each one of these groups are formed and going back into a budget, going back to anything else, let's go back there in a quick and precise time, but also know that when you take from Paul, you are stealing from Sam. Ms. Pena interjected, we won't know that. Mr. Castro stated, I am sorry. Ms. Pena continued, we won't know that we are taking from Paul and stealing from Sam if we give him \$50,000. Mr. Castro, that is not what I said, Ms. Lopez Valdez. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez stated, I just wanted to, you know, in the budget process, Mr. Cespedes, please make sure that I'm saying this correctly, but we do audit every single penny that we use gets audited. And Mr. Porras comes in every meeting at the end and tells us what he's monitoring. So we have a very close eye on this and I think it is so important to not distract and deflect from what the truth is and I appreciate the hard work of our staff and all that you do. Mr. Elizondo stated, real quick, I'm not sure, I don't know if I'm confused or I don't understand what you were saying, but my biggest thing is are you privy to information now that makes you think different from before? Because what you're saying is that now you have this information. What

information? Because I don't have that at Erasmo. I don't think Mr. Ortiz, because of just what I heard him say, or Ms. Pena, says that what information did you receive that now is changing your mind to say, you know what, the 7-0 before now has to change, and now we have to give the Superintendent the authority to go out and spend more money. That's what I was trying to ask, and you mentioned right now. Mr. Castro stated, again can I just try and give you the reason for that? Mr. Elizondo stated, tell me, please, I want to know. Mr. Castro continued, that's why we're going to go out there and audit, everything and anything there's concern to the Board which represents the community. Mr. Elizondo stated, so you voted no on the audit right now. What are you talking about? Mr. Castro stated, I didn't say that Mr. Elizondo. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I would like to call the question. Mr. Elizondo stated, it's a thought, we're not on a (inaudible). *Mr. Ramirez stated, alright, so we have a call to the questions or a second for that?* Mr. Elizondo stated, please, let me know Mr. Erasmo. Mr. Castro stated, I said sir, I've already looked into, received and have discussed with administration or a certain department, a certain group, that should be our priorities in regards to what is specifically, we are actually, I say again, I don't want to go to the consultant or the contractor before you really get everything in regards to it. So I just want more time. Mr. Elizondo stated, and I understand, what I'm trying to say is that information that you got, can you share that with us so I can sit here and say, you know what, Erasmo was right. Because I don't have that information that you have. I wasn't privy to that is what I'm trying to say. Making sure that it's it's brought to all of us. Mr. Castro stated, yeah. Mr. Elizondo continued, is what I'm asking, is that is that a fair question to ask? Mr. Castro stated, oh, what I'm saying, you know, (inaudible) shared with anyone out there? Mr. Elizondo stated, not me sir. Mr. Castro stated, excuse me. Mr. Elizondo stated, you haven't shared these concerns with me. Mr. Castro stated, oh yes sir, we've had conversations on it, but that's fine. Every time we go into here and we find out that this group or this department is going far and beyond, you get a little bit more understanding as to why a lot of individuals vote the way they vote. Again, we could bring up, there's a lot of different departments out there that need to be audited. I agree 100%. Is it cost effective? Is it really going to benefit and help not only the students which we are here for, but more importantly for every other department that's out there? Mr. Elizondo stated, so we agree that an audit would be favorable. Mr. Castro stated, I'm sorry, sir? Mr. Elizondo stated, we agree that an audit would be favorable. Mr. Castro stated, I'm sorry, sir. Mr. Elizondo stated, we agree that or not it would be favorable. Mr. Castro oh, yeah. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. (inaudible) Mr. Castro stated, it's how we bring half my speeches, (inaudible), that departments, money's coming in, money's going out, everything should be audited, everything. After this, the respective time and time, it does not hurt the district, we hope, instead of helping the district. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Pena stated, and Mr. Castro the point is, I just, if I may tell you, I just don't want services to be duplicated, because we've seen that. When they duplicate services, and they come in and they spend the very same thing by two different companies getting paid \$50,000, \$45,000, when one company can do it and we have two different companies coming back and repeating it. And we need to be very conscientious because you would not do that with your money. You would not turn around and misuse it. That is why I do not want to misuse the public's money. Mr. Castro stated, I appreciate that. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, I have a motion.** Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, I have a question really quick that Ms. Pena just stated. Okay, so as you mentioned, a duplication of services. If, you know, Mr. Porras does audits, and if any of these services are duplicated, that is how we hold our upper administration accountable, and it comes back to holding every. *Mr.*

Ramirez, stated, we can't hear you, ma'am. Mr. Elizondo stated, Mr. Cespedes is Mr. Porras a forensic auditor? **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, he's our Internal Auditor, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, no, that's not what I asked. Ms. Pena stated, no. Mr. Elizondo stated, is he a forensic auditor? **Mr. Cespedes replied, he's an auditor.** Mr. Elizondo stated, no, no, no, is he a forensic auditor? There's a special certification for that. Does he have it? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I don't know his certification, I would have to look at them.** Mr. Elizondo stated, can you please ask him and let us know? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Mr. Castro stated, M Lopez-Valdez. Ms. Pena interjected, and my only thing is that if we come back and find out later that it was duplicated, it's too late, we paid, we're not getting our money back. That's my concern. I see what Denise is saying, but if you turn around and authorize this and we find out it's being misused, there's nothing we can do. The money's gone. We don't get it back. Ms. Gonzalez interjected, kind of like the \$500,000 that they just approved. Ms. Pat, for clarification, the motion on the table. **Ms. Perez stated, motion to table.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I just wanted to point out the I wanted to point out that here we are discussing 50,000 however we're here about to approve half a million so I'm just wondering if you have someone in mind for the contract. Mr. Elizondo stated, so I don't know. *Mr. Ramirez interjected, yeah, let me just bring in so we are not talking about the audit for the contract for the audit, so CH, there's a motion and a second to table.* **Ms. Perez stated, to table the item.** Ms. Pena stated, and real quick, before we vote, Ms. Pat, I noticed that my name is on there that I second the item because I had a blanket second. **Ms. Perez stated, correct, ma'am.** Ms. Pena continued, okay, but I don't agree with this item. So, effective immediately, take out my second completely. *Mr. Ramirez interjected, you cant, you cant.* Ms. Pena stated for the future, for the future, I'm telling you how to do this for the future. No, no, right now that one, that one yeah, it says I approved it because I had a blanket for everyone. Mr. Castro interjected, Ms. Pena, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, But now I want to make sure she takes it off. **Ms. Perez stated, yes, ma'am.** Mr. Castro stated, Ms. Pena tone, please. **Ms. Perez stated, okay.** Ms. Pena stated, sorry, sir. **Ms. Perez stated, okay, yes, it's all right, sir, this is motion to table.** *Mr. Ramirez replied, yes.* **Ms. Perez stated, please vote. Denise is a no. Motion passes four yes, and three no.** *Mr. Ramirez stated, so the item is tabled to the next meeting.* Ms. Pena stated, thank you.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo seconded by Minerva Pena, to recommend approval to table Agenda Item XI. A. 6 "Discussion, Consideration and Possible action to authorize Superintendent or designee to approve professional development not to exceed \$50,000 as per BISD policy CH local. (Board Agenda Request Jessica Gonzalez/Board Support Minerva Pena)" and move item to another meeting after more communication has been brought up to the Board of Trustees.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 4-3-0

Mr. John Shergold, Attorney stated, I would like to note that my client has asked for an open hearing.

XII. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. 8:13 p.m.

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

Mr. Erasmo Castro, Board President stated, we will come back from break, executive and continue on.

A. LEVEL III GRIEVANCE(S):

1. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Level III Grievance No.003/24-25 on M.A.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez to recommend that the Board of Trustees upload the Level II decision made by administration regarding Level III Grievance No. 003/24-25 on M.A.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion carried: 4-3-0

B. INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT:

1. Discussion of the findings of the intruder detection audit report. **No action taken**

C. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval grouping agenda items. XII. C. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8. (7-0-0)

1. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Retirements. **(3) (G 7-0-0)**
Anthony Alvarez, Irene Avila, Beverly J. Jones
2. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Resignations. **(1) (G 7-0-0)**
Ricardo Moncada
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Jesus H. Chavez) **(G 7-0-0)**
4. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year – Assistant Choir Director MS. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.(1) **(G 7-0-0)**
Juan Virues – Lucio MS
5. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year –Dean of Instruction. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.(1) **(Deleted from agenda and backup)**

6. Recommend approval of qualified administrators as Texas Teacher Evaluation Support System (T-TESS) Appraisers (addendum) for the 2024-2025 Fiscal School Year. **(G 7-0-0)**
7. Recommend to approve compensation for professional employee (E.M.) on interim assignment to be commensurate with the Elementary Principal salary. **(G 7-0-0)**
8. Recommend approval for the proposed non-renewal of a term contract professional teacher (J.J.M.) at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year. **(G 7-0-0)**
9. Recommend approval for the proposed non-renewal of a term contract professional teacher (S.L.) at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Minerva Pena, and unanimously carried to recommend to table XII. C. 9 – Proposed Non-renewal of a term contract of professional teacher (S.L.) at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. (7-0-0)

D. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Board Attorney:

a. Legal Update with Board Counsel.

1. Overview of the recent executive orders. **No action taken**
2. Discussion, consideration and possible action for the purpose of an agreement with the law firms of O'Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo, PC and Eiland & Bonnin, PC as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to recover damages sustained by the District related to youth social media usage.

Motion made by Minerva Pena, Board Member, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, so just real quick if I can read into the record the specific motion. If the board wants to consider adopting this, we're requesting that the board adopt the items as required by the Texas government code to move forward in assisting the district with potential claims they may have in the multi-district litigation 3047 or JCCP 5255 seeking to recover potential claims regarding to damages sustained by the district related to youth, social media usage, and addiction. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, can you give detail? Mr. Ramirez stated, Absolutely. Yes. So, this item is related to a litigation that's ongoing across the country, originating in California, relating to holding social media companies accountable for their, what the lawsuit is claiming is their negligence in allowing minors to enter their platforms unchecked and unverified, causing part of the social emotional damages that we're seeing occur in today's youth. The lawsuit was originated by a district in California. It's being right now litigated across the country and open to other districts who are willing to join. The great thing about this specific case is that for the district there is no cost whatsoever as it is a contingency fee agreement. I'd also like to note that the contingency fee agreement is governed by the Attorney General of Texas, so it's not an agreement that is going to be one that you all just do. It's being governed by the AG here in the state that limits the attorney recovery to the lesser of the hours performed or the contingency fee on which they recover. In this specific case, the lawsuit would allow Brownsville ISD to join the coalition*

of districts in Texas who are going to be joining one of these two actions in order to allow for the district to recover. If the district, if this multi litigation lawsuit or JCCP are successful, the district would stand to gain a dividend of that portion of the awarding pursuant to the amount of student population that it has as we expect that the award to be divided by the number of students involved in the lawsuit. And so that's what this case would be about. Ms. Pena stated, so win or lose, this will cost the district nothing. Mr. Ramirez stated, that is correct. Win or lose, this costs the district zero dollars. If the district wins and there is a settlement that comes in or judgment, that the cost is reduced from that, not from your own funds. And if the district does not win or there is no settlement, the district loses nothing with this matter. Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, motion passes 7-0 unanimous.

Motion mad by Minerva Pena, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval for the purpose of an agreement with the law firms of O'Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo, PC and Eiland & Bonnin, PC as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to recover damages sustained by the District related to youth social media usage. (7-0-0)

E. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

F. BOARD SELF EVALUATION.

XIV. Announcement(s):

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Superintendent Designee stated, yes, so for announcements we have this week, February 3rd through the 7th, it is National School Counseling Week, so we just want to thank all our counselors out there for everything that they do every day. February the 6th, we do have the Emergent Bilingual Parent Symposium, 9 a.m. at the Brownsville Event Center. We also have Principal for a Day Luncheon, 11.30 a.m. That's going to take place at the Ambassador Event Center. That afternoon, we also have the Facilities Committee Meeting at 5.30 p.m. here in the Boardroom. On February the 7th, we have the 73rd Annual Scout Government Day. There's at the Canales Bulldog Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony also that's going to be at 9.30 a.m. at Canales Elementary. February the 10th, we have, and this is tentative, a Facilities Committee meeting at 5.30 here in the Boardroom. On February the 11th, we do have scheduled a Policy Committee Meeting, 5.30 p.m. here in the Boardroom. February the 13th, we do have a Special Called Board Meeting to call whether or not to call the Bond Election. That is at 5.30 p.m. here in the Boardroom. February 14th, it is Ribbon Cutting. It is on Friday, ribbon cutting for transportation tank at 9 a.m. there at the Transportation Department. That is the above ground fuel tanks. And then February the 20th, we do have scheduled Coffee with the Superintendent. 9 a.m. at the Brownsville Public Library, the main branch. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, when was the transportation? Mr. Cespedes replied, that one is on February the 14th, I believe that's a Friday if I'm not mistaken. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, and what is the ribbon cutting for? Mr. Cespedes replied, according to the ribbon cutting for the transportation tank, I think the above ground fuel tanks. Ms. Pena stated, so we're having a ribbon cutting because we got a new fuel tank? Mr. Cespedes replied, we'll be able to fill up the buses. Ms. Pena stated, that is so cool. I have never seen a ribbon cutting for that. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, may I take a moment, sir? I just want to congratulate all our counselors. It is Counselors Week and you forgot to mention that, Ms. Cespedes. Ms. Pena stated, no he did. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated he did. Mr. Cespedes stated that is the first

thing I said. Mr. Elizondo stated, I didn't hear it loud enough. You got to say it loud. **Mr. Cespedes stated, and I said thank you to all of them.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you. Mr. Cespedes says thank you to all our counselors. We really appreciate it. On behalf of this Board, you are really, really appreciated and recognized. Thank you so much for everything you guys do. Ms. Pena stated, I want to concur because of them, our students have somewhere to go to be able to lift the spirit. So, thank you, counselors, for what you do. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yeah, I want to say the same thing. Many times, you don't get enough pats on the back for everything that y'all do, Counselors. So, on my behalf also, thank you so, so much for everything that you do on a daily basis. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, we love you all.

XV. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 10:23 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:

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)