

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **18th day of August, 2025**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met in a **Special Called Board Meeting** at the Administration Building, 1900 Price Road, Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that came before the Board and with the following to wit:

PRESENT:

Daniella Lopez Valdez	President
Frank Ortiz	Vice-President
Minerva Pena	Secretary
Carlos Elizondo	Board Member (via zoom)
Denise Garza	Member
Jessica Gonzalez	Member
Neida Ruth Grantland	Member

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez	Superintendent of Schools
Ben Castillo	Attorney for the Board

ALSO ABSENT:

None

WHEREUPON, a quorum being present and it appearing before the Board, it is hereby so found that notice of this **Special Called Board Meeting** has been duly given in the manner and for the length of time as prescribed by law. The meeting was called to order and declared ready for the transaction of business with the following to wit:

- I. Meeting called to order by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member** announced that all Trustees are present Mr. Carlos Elizondo will join the meeting via zoom.
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Special Called Board Meeting of Monday, August 18, 2025, with any corrections/deletions.**

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent stated the following amendments:

Amendment: VII. A. General Function Items 1, Page 3 will be replaced with Page 3a Page 5 will be replaced with Page 5a, Page 6 will be replaced with Page 6a, Page 11 will be replaced with Page 11a, Page 12 will be replaced with Page 12a, Under Item VII. B. Contract(s), Item 1, Page 1 agenda (Background) should read November 4, 2025

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Special Called Board Meeting of Monday, August 18, 2025, with the corrections/deletions as stated by administration. (7-0-0)

Handout 1 added to Official Minutes

Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, question. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated. Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, Dr. Chavez, why do we have all these changes at the last minute? What happened? What caused this? Because I know a lot of changes have a lot to do with totals, so what happened in pages and information? So what caused this? **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, yes, ma 'am. I'll have Ms. Mary Garza go over the changes that were made, and here a number of them really relate to information and discussions that you're going to have and make some decisions about tonight with regards to the amounts. But anyway, Ms. Garza, if you'll go ahead and indicate the changes and why they were made. Ms. Mary D. Garza, Interim Chief Financial Officer replied, yes, good evening, Board Members, Madam Chair and Ms. Pena, the majority of the changes were all because the order that was posted on Friday, early or late in the afternoon before we had the meeting, we had identified the Performing Arts Center as \$50 million. So, because of the discussions during the workshop number three, where those dollar amounts are going to change depending on the seating capacity, that's the reason why we had to change it and we left it blank because we still don't know whether you all are going to decide on the, you know, 60-some million dollars or 70-some million. So that's what was changed in the documents that are being amended. The other one was the outstanding debt. When we prepared the Order, we did it as of August 15, which happens to be Friday, we had a principal and interest due. So, when we posted, we posted the entire amount for the payment. And because as of today, that payment has already gone through, we had to remove it and reduce the dollar amount. And the tax rate that was reflected will not get approved until September. So, the current tax rate is the 24 pennies. So those are the changes that are reflected in the document. Ms. Pena stated, a question, Pat. When was this agenda posted? Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated, on Friday, ma 'am. Ms. Pena stated, and we had the meeting on what day? Ms. Perez replied, on Friday. Ms. Pena stated, no, our meeting, our Board Meeting. It all comes from the Friday meeting? All of these come from the Friday meeting after we finished? Ms. Perez replied, we had a workshop on Friday. Ms. Pena stated, right, so we finished and okay. Ms. Perez, stated, and I had already posted. Ms. Pena interjected, at 5:30, but you had already? Ms. Perez, stated, yes, I had already posted. Ms. Pena stated, and what is the deadline that we're supposed to post, is it 5:30? Ms. Perez replied, well, Saturday, 72 hours, but that's going to change in September. Ms. Pena stated, okay, so they didn't have enough time to do it before you posted. Ms. Perez replied, we would have to come in on Saturday. Ms. Pena stated, yeah, no, we don't want you to. Ms. Perez stated we had already posted. Ms. Pena stated, unless you get paid overtime, I'm okay you come in. Ms. Perez stated, that's fine. Ms. Pena stated, you're worth your weight in goal. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you.**

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rusty Brechot, community member, CFC. Good evening and thank you for having us here. My name is Rusty Brechot and along with my co-partner over here, Mr. LeVrier, we're going to visit a little bit about the CFC and talk a little bit about it for maybe some people that probably don't know everything that went on, but I think the main reason, and I'm going to be the nice guy, I get to talk about the nice things, and then Henry talks about really nice things, which is how it all comes together and what it really looks like, but first and foremost, we want to thank you all for having us. We'd like to thank the Superintendent as well for inviting us to come in and be able to speak. We want to mostly thank the members of the committee. And there were over 100 citizens of this city that volunteered their time and their energy. And I don't think anybody really knows to what level that really was. And I guess I need to tell you how it works. I also want to thank a lot of the members of the BISD staff. All the work they put into this, a lot of the teachers that got involved in this because they know what it means for their schools and their futures. The administration has been fabulous, so I just first and foremost want to thank everybody that was involved with it, but I do want to talk about our community. And we did this, well actually we were given a task. And that is to really go out there and look, touch, feel, smell, taste, everything. I mean this is not a, let me show you a few pictures and tell me what you think. We actually had committees, we broke up into several different committees because there's a lot of schools and a lot of facilities to look at. And each one of these groups were given the task of going in there to physically walk through, watch, touch, feel, what does this school really need? What do we really need to do to take care of the kids? I mean, it's about them. This whole reason we're here is because of them. We want to provide them a place that's safe, a place that promotes education, that makes good things happen. So, they were given the task to go out there and evaluate, look at each building, each facility, and what does it need? How much does it need? And to really look through it. I mean, is it HVAC? Is it roofing? Is it walls? Is it equipment? To take a look at everything and put it all down. And then with the help of some professionals, we are also given the task of trying to estimate and work, of course, with the district, what the costs of all these things are going to be. We needed to create an order, an idea, because we would love to do everything that they saw, but that would be impossible. And because when we put the numbers together, I mean, I don't think anybody in here would want to hear the same, yeah, let's go spend a billion dollars to go fix everything. Well, we don't need to do that. But we need to focus on the things that we do need to do, and in the order that they need to be done. And that's what this committee worked on. We also worked with a finance committee that was built into the organization. And they were there to help us figure out ways to get this money to work, to put it in a type of bond that would be as affordable as it could possibly be for the community that's out there to help pay for it. Our timeline has moved a little bit. Unfortunately, it didn't go through the first time. It creates differences just like the ladies were talking about in tax rates and everything else. And now we've made it a little bit more difficult, but we still got to move on. These are things that need to be done. So with that being said, I am here to once again to all the folks that were out there spending hundreds of hours out there working on this thing, a big thank you for what they've done for our community, what they're trying to do for our kids. I know we're going to put this in your hands to help us get that out there, not only to get it out there, but to help support it. And we truly hope that we can count on all seven of you to go out there and truly promote this. Because it's really for the kids, and I can't see how we can't. So with that being said, I would like to pass it on to the next speaker, and I think that you have listed there, would be Mr. Henry LeVrier. Thank you all.

Henry LeVrier, community member, CFC. Thank you, good evening. First of all, I'd like to start by extending a special thank you to all of the subcommittees, the co-chairs, and all of the

members of the Citizen Facility Committees. Like Rusty said, what they did was unbelievable. The work of the committee was very instrumental in the creation of a facilities assessment report. I also want to thank the Board for listening, for entertaining the idea, for listening to the needs of this district which would benefit all of our students. I also want to thank the Superintendent and the staff for all the reports prepared to prepare all pertinent information regarding the district facility needs. The Bond program will address needs associated with the age of the buildings in the district. For example, in the high school category, the oldest high school is 58 years old and the newest high school is 14 years old, give or take. In the middle school, the oldest one is about 69 years old, and the newest one is about 14 years old. And in the elementary, the oldest one is about 110 years old, and believe me, there's a lot in the hundreds, in the 90s, in the 80s. And the newest one is about 14 years old. So what does this tell you? This tells you that we have buildings that have been around for a while and they're aging as we sit here and speak. Due to the age of our schools, I feel it is critical to protect our buildings by addressing the roofing needs, HVAC needs, and other needs to safeguard our assets and extend the life of the buildings. This Bond program would also be good for the school district because it addresses various needs throughout the district. For example, about 17 campuses will be addressing their HVAC needs. About 21 campuses will be addressing their roofing needs. About 11 campuses, their lighting needs. About 12 campuses, their parking lot needs. About 22 campuses, miscellaneous renovation needs, and about 20 locations, other small needs. In addition to that, of course, this program has a Career and Technology building in it and also a recommended Performing Arts Center building in it. The district is very fortunate to be in a good financial position to have the capacity to borrow money because a lot of the old debt has been paid off. And that is exceptional because that gives you the opportunity to consider borrowing money through a bond issue so that you can address your facility needs. As many of you know, our district faces significant facility improvement needs. Our students deserve a high-quality school environment and it is vital that we ensure equity across the entire district. Personally, I'm involved in the support process of this bond program because I believe in the importance of providing all students with the facilities they need to succeed. Thank you for allowing us to participate in the Brownsville Independent School District Citizen Facilities Committee. Thank you and have a good evening.

Mr. Patrick Hammes, community member VII. A1. Good evening, Board President Lopez Valdez, Dr. Chavez, members of the Board, and our Brownsville community. Ditto and ditto, from what the first two presenters said. Our students need better facilities. Our children need better facilities. Their parents need their children to have better facilities. And our employees need to have better facilities or improved facilities. And so, again, I was very happy to see what appeared to be strong support Friday night. We hope to see that again. It's not often we get second chances in life. We're getting a second chance to get this done tonight. Please take advantage of it. Please trust in the same community to vote on this that entrusted you to the positions you're in now. And so, speaking for self and also speaking on behalf of BEST AFT, we support this. We hope you do too. Have the best of evenings.

Mr. Jose Castro, community member, CFC. Good evening, Superintendent Chavez, Madam President, Board Members, and our community, as well as parents. I am Jose Castro and it was a privilege and honor to serve as the co-chair for the elementary committee. Our task was very simple, to form a committee of volunteers that were willing to assess and evaluate the current state of our facilities. This is not a simple task as it was mentioned before, but a task that is necessary. For each day that passes, the costs continue to go up. Every day that our child is in those classrooms, there's a child that is in the classroom with a distraction, whether it be the HVAC not working, the roof sagging because water or condensation from the air condition was

falling on it. This makes it very difficult for our students to learn. We met over many months. We agreed at times, at times we disagreed, and then at times, we agreed to disagree. But at the end, we found compromise. The one thing that was impressive as we walked through all the classrooms and the campuses, and I personally saw it, and I know my colleagues and partners and other citizens that were involved in this process saw, was the passion and the love that our educators demonstrated to our students. We heard stories, one after the other, of all the things that educators and administrators do each and every day to ensure the safety of our students. This is to be commended, but they cannot do it alone. They need our help. As a Board, you should be united to serve your students. As a district, you should be united to ensure your teachers have the resources they need to teach our children in an environment that's conducive to their learning. As a community, we should be united to invest in our children's future. I kindly ask you to consider the proposal and to allow our community to vote on the future of our students.

Veronica Borrego, Union Org VII. A. 1. Good evening board president, Ms. Lopez Valdez, esteemed Board Members, Superintendent, Chavez and all community members watching this evening here in the boardroom and those at home. My name is Veronica Borrego and I am a BISD parent and I have been with the district for 20 years. I currently serve the district as an Educational Diagnostician. I am also the proud president of AOB, the Association of Brownsville Educators. Our district urgently requires funding for essential improvements such as updated technology, leak -free roofs, functional air conditioning, and termite treatments. However, our members are divided. Some support the bond passage, especially those who are in the buildings with issues like leaky roofs or no air conditioning. There are concerns, however, about funding being used for campuses that may not remain open for much longer. Members are cautious due to concerns about transparency and want assurance that the bond funds will be used as promised in previous workshops. That being said, let's let the community decide. Thank you for your time and attention this evening and have a good night.

Adina Alegria – Bond Good afternoon, President Lopez Valdez, members of the board, Dr. Chavez, those in the room, and those joining the Brownsville ISD YouTube channel. My name is Adina Alegria, Executive Director of Texas Valley Educators Association, affiliated with Brownsville Unions Coalition. Tonight, I stand before you not just as a representative, but as a voice for every student, educator, and family who believes in the promise of our schools. A few months ago, we saw a bond proposal fail to pass. And with that, we lost a critical opportunity to invest in the very infrastructure that supports learning, safety, and growth. Let's be clear. The consequences of inaction are not neutral. They are costly. Every month we delay, prices rise. Construction costs climb. Equipment becomes more expensive. And our students, who deserve modern classrooms, safe facilities, and equitable access, are the ones who bear the burden. This bond isn't just about HVAC systems, roofs, LED lighting, or parking lots. It's about dignity. It's about ensuring that every child walks into a school that reflects the value we, you, place on their future. Flooring, plumbing, windows, elevators, fire alarms, wheelchair lifts. These aren't luxuries. These are necessities. And beyond the basics, we have a chance to even dream bigger. A Career and Technical education center that prepares students for real world success. a Performing Arts Center that celebrates creativity and expression. These are investments in the whole child, academically, artistically, and professionally. Now, I've heard the argument before, there's always money when it comes to the students. But tonight, I challenge that sentiment. If we genuinely believe that, then let's prove it. Let's stop gatekeeping progress. The role of this Board It's not to decide for the community. It's to empower the community to decide for itself. That's what democracy looks like. One Trustee recently said that this was a stakeholder decision, not the districts. I couldn't agree more. And if that's the case, then there should be no reason we don't have a 7-0 vote tonight. Every trustee should be fully engaged at

this pivotal moment, not distracted by past grievances or fictional narratives, but focused on facts, transparency, and the will of the voters who placed their trust in you. Passing this bond isn't about politics. It's about purpose. And when we pass this bond, everybody wins. Our employees gain safer, more functional workplaces. Our students thrive in better learning environments. Our athletes, artists, and future professionals all benefit from facilities that match their talent and ambition. Please do what you were elected to do and lead with courage, clarity, and commitment. Let's give our community the chance to say yes to progress, because at the end of the day, we are one team, one dream. 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.

VII. Action Item(s)

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

1. Consideration and approval of an Order calling for a Bond Election to be held by the Brownsville Independent School District, making provision for the Joint Election, and Resolving Other Matters incident and related to such election. The Bond Election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

**Amendment: Item 1 Page 3 will be replaced with Page 3a
Page 5 will be replaced with Page 5a
Page 6 will be replaced with Page 6a
Page 11 will be replaced with Page 11a
Page 12 will be replaced with Page 12a**

Attachment 1 - Notice and Order added to official minutes

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated second. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, question. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, Dr. Chavez, I noticed that on the layout that we have, you're going to put it like in five years layout that. Okay, main question. Here it says \$385 million. So that money will come exactly from where? **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, the amount of money being provided. here would come from the sale of bonds. Of course, what we're asking our citizens to do, if this were to pass tonight, then it's a situation where they would go vote, and in voting then, they're approving the district that we go out and sell bonds.** Ms. Pena stated, who will we sell the bonds to? I'm having these questions asked from people who are like... Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, should we go over the presentation first and then go over the questions? Ms. Pena stated, well, just at this moment, who do we sell the bonds to? The question is being asked, we're going to get the whole 385,000. We're going to sell it for the whole 385,000 all at once. Am I correct? Is that what the voters are being asked to decide? They have the authority to sell the bonds for 385,000? **Dr. Chavez replied, yes, ma'am, the actual vote remember that this would be in two propositions, right the \$385 million will be one proposition and then there is a second proposition and of course we tonight we put blanks on there, right because there is....** Ms. Pena interjected, is am sorry \$385 million, my mistake, I so apologize, the \$385 million we're going to ask the voters to give it to us all that for us to sell it all at once. Am I correct? **Dr. Chavez replied no, ma 'am, that is not correct. Remember that what**

we've given you is we've given you a sale, a proposed sale for year one, year two, year three. Now, we have done that so that as you think of the sale, then yes, that also impacts the tax, right? And so we don't want to go directly to a \$0.24 tax rate. We want to start that slowly so that we give relief to our parents, to our community about how we get to \$0.24 year five. So we begin with a lot smaller amount, and then every time we sell, then we increase it a little bit. Ms. Pena stated, and so where do you have it written how you're going to sell it? Where is that paperwork that gives us the specifics? Information that the public can look at because they'll be approving that. Where is the specific of how you're going to sell it because they've been asking me where they can download that information. So where can they go to download it to make an educated decision? Once they look at the verbiage that is in that wording. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, how about we do this? Let's go ahead and start from the top and let's go back to the actual presentation that we have prepared and how we got to this point the amount of meetings that we had, the bond workshops and what we covered, and then we can go ahead and answer the questions so that we can get back to the topic of agenda. **Dr. Chavez stated, yes, ma'am. And let me go ahead and begin with that then. I certainly want to thank the Board for their dedication and support for holding the bond study that we have held. Of course, we're talking about improving our buildings, which will make a big difference for our children. As you think of the study, the study actually began at the beginning of the year in 2024. Now, I mentioned that because we began that with an administrative review, right? And so, yes, you know, as part of that, we came to the Board and we asked the Board, Board, let us involve our community. And so, you know, can we come up with a group of individuals in our community who would be willing to step forward and assist and help? And as has been mentioned tonight, we had a very large group of individuals who volunteered. These volunteers began their work in November of 2024. We called it the 2024 -2025 Citizens Facilities Committee. They were named and approved by the Board. They did their work. And really, when you think of the work, again, November, December, January, they actually came to the Board on January 28th of 2025 to present their report. I want to thank the 2025 Citizens Facilities Committee. You've heard their Chairman tonight, Mr. Rusty Berchot and Mr. Henry LeVrier for the study. But in addition to that, we had over 100 individuals who became involved and they visited schools across our district, facilities across our district. So, I'm certainly very appreciative and I know our Board is very appreciative of the work and dedication they took to undertake this study. I also want to thank our principals, administrators, central office people and other personnel who were right there working with this committee. They hosted them. They showed them the various aspects of their particular school, their particular facilities. And so we are certainly very thankful to them as well. As most of you know, I was unable to be with you January through March. And I say that because upon returning during spring break, and actually it was the week before we took spring break, I was back. Again, the thought of us providing additional great facilities to our students was on my mind. And so I began working not only interning with our staff, but also with our Board of Trustees. I'll tell you that our board has been very dedicated to the work and the consideration from the aspect of, I know that I spent time with each of you in July, going over information. In addition to that here, we have had three board workshops. Tonight, is our fourth meeting in August, and that's beyond all the other meetings that we have had. So that's what has brought us to this point, and again, my hopes tonight are that we continue to move forward. Our**

children certainly will need improvement to their facilities. I believe that this community is for the education of our children, and they will be very supportive, as it relates to considering this, right? And so that is my hope. At this time, let me go ahead and turn the microphone over to Ms. Mary Garza, and she's going to be presenting tonight, and then we'll go forward with our discussion from there. Ms. Garza? Ms. Mary Garza, Interim Chief Financial Officer stated, yes good evening, Madam Chair, Ms. Lopez, Dr. Chavez, members of the Board. At Bond Workshop #3, which was conducted or held last Friday at 5:30, we went over the bond proposition, the review of the PAC, and the order. So, after workshop #1 and #2, we had gone over the different facilities and the different items, projects that were going to be handled at each facility. We also gave you a copy of that worksheet that particular day, and also including the CTE Center. The bonds are sold in whole dollar amounts. So, the items for Proposition 1 affecting 45 district facilities and the CTE Center, we're calling it Phase 2 because Phase 1 is going to be constructed with the \$17 million that we have for the two properties that were sold for a total of \$385,000. That is proposition number one. Proposition number two would be the PAC because it's required by law and statute that the PAC be a separate proposition in the ballot within the order for the election, okay. This is also in the Board Book. It was added again today. All of the meetings from the 7th, the 12th, and the 15th. So that's where the dollar amount of the \$385 comes from, Ms. Pena. And we also indicated that how we were going to work the projects within five years based on priority. We also identified that the financing of a future bond will be to receive authorization for the total amount of the projects, which is a 385 plus the amount that you all will decide for the Performing Arts Center. And the bonds would be sold over the next four to five years in order to minimize the tax burden on the taxpayer. When we discuss the impact of the bond on the taxpayer, we indicated how the bonds would be sold. So we gave you the scenario of \$435 million with anticipation of doing \$50 million for a PAC, which was a sitting capacity of 1,200 seats. So that was the example that we went through. In the discussion of the PAC, of the different components, we went ahead and identified the capacity for a 1,200 as to how much it was going to cost, \$49.2 million with no lift. If you want an orchestra pit, it's going to cost an additional \$1.5 to \$1.7. We also mentioned the 1,500 seating capacity for a cost of \$60.4 million. With an orchestra pit, with a single lift, the cost is a range of \$1.8 to \$2.4 million. We also presented the cost for an 1,800 seating capacity for a total cost of \$71.9 million. With the orchestra pit, it would be an additional cost, and it would have multi-lifts from 2.6 to 3 million. So, can you switch it to the presentation for today, please? That's where we were discussing. Now, for today, the item to finalize is the review of the PAC. A 1,500 seats Performing Arts Center, the lobby would have 12,000 square feet. The house stage area would be approximately 22,800 square feet. The back of the house, 19,500. The multipurpose room, 3,000. The total square footage would be \$57,300. The total cost of the project with no orchestra pit would be \$60.4 million. The pit is going to, the orchestra pit with a single lift for the sitting capacity of 1,500 ranges from 1.8 to \$2.4 million. In the example, I just used the high end of 2.4, which would move the cost from 60.4 million to \$62.8 million. The rough estimate for the tax rate maximum in the five years of adding \$60 million would be \$27.83 versus \$27.17 for the entrance and sinking. If we add the cost of the orchestra pit, then it would change the tax rate to approximately \$27.98. If we go with an 1,800, if you all decide you want an 1,800 seat capacity, that one, the lobby was 14,000. The house

stage area, 26,400. The back of the house, 25,000. The multipurpose room, 3,000 for total square footage of 68,400. The total project cost is \$71.9 million. The orchestra pit for an 1,800 seating capacity with multiple lifts is anywhere from \$2.6 million to \$3 million. We went ahead and used \$3 million for this scenario, so it would move the \$71.9 to \$74.9. The maximum tax rate without the orchestra pit would be \$28.49. If we include the orchestra pit, it would be approximately \$28.7. Now, once the Board decides and approves the order of the election tonight, then as we prepare the flyers to disseminate the information to all of the constituents of the district, the flyers will indicate that the proposition is for a total dollar amount, but the sale is going to be in increments in order to minimize the tax burden to the taxpayer. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Ms. Garza, any other questions for my Board? Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, when I first started looking at this, I think I had been on the Board one week. And so, I came to this, I approached this journey with some skepticism. Not really knowing all the details, but with an open mind. And so, my biggest concern was what do the students need and what can the community help with, especially our citizens that are 65 and over. Those were my three big concerns. And of course, when I came in, I promised that I was going to make decisions based on what was best for the students. I will always make that decision, in favor of the students. As I heard the presentations, Mary Garza and your team are excellent. I think that you have done above and beyond to give us all the details that we needed to calmly show us where we needed to understand a little more. And I really do appreciate that because this is a very daunting decision to make. And so, I appreciate all the members of the district, Dr. Chavez, and my fellow Board Members who have supported me with all of this. But I do believe that the time comes when you have to take a leap of faith. You have to do what is right. And a friend of mine who swore me in that night said, just do what's right. And I believe in that very, very completely. I think our students deserve to be in buildings that are I mean, ideally beautiful buildings, but some of them are 100 years old, and so, you know, they're beautiful in their own way, but they do present a problem. Our students deserve that. I think our students deserve this Performing Arts Center, and if we're going to do it, we better do it right, because according to Mr. Garcia, the vision is that we will attract state-level conferences in this facility, that we will have a seating capacity that, if I'm not mistaken, is bigger than all the rest of them in the Valley, that we will have meeting rooms that people can use, that our district can use. And so, he also presented some ideas of the cost savings that we would be able to enjoy because of this. And so my skepticism has turned into great support. And I know some people may not like what I'm going to do, my vote, but that's all right because I'm doing what's right for the students. And so I do, I thank, Madam President, Dr. Chavez, everyone for some pretty high quality work. And I think if we're going to do this, we better do it right. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I think I've pretty much already said my piece in past meetings, but I'm ready to invest in our students and I hope you guys are too. Ms. Pena stated, question. Yes, and when I see on the Proposition A and Proposition B, but right underneath it, can you put them up on the screen, please somebody the ones that we have here today in our hand in our position, can somebody put that up on the screen? I mean I can give him the copy he can just go put it on the overhead over there, if you didn't prepare to put it up for the public to see. **Dr. Chavez stated, they are working on setting that up and it'll be in public.** Ms. Pena stated, thank you, I'll go ahead and wait for ask the question. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, while that gets presented, I believe, Mr. Elizondo, do you have a question? Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated yes, I do have a couple of questions, just real quick. First

and foremost, real quick, Superintendent, what's the amount that we're asking for? Ms. Lopez Valdez, stated, so right now, Dr. Chavez, do you want to explain? We have the Proposition A and the Proposition B, and these were the amounts that were discussed in the four following workshops. And I have Proposition A, which is going to be put up on the screen right now for you to see, is \$385 million, which is all of the district-wide renovations, including additions, safety and security improvements. Mr. Elizondo interjected, can I just get a total? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, that's Proposition A, and then we got Proposition B. Mr. Elizondo stated total. **Ms. M. Garza stated, \$385 million.** Ms. Pena stated, that doesn't include the Performing Arts total, I think somebody's trying to ask you, am I correct, Dr. Chavez, that this does not? **Dr. Chavez stated that's correct, this is all other buildings except the Performing Arts Center. The Performing Arts Center has a separate document.** Ms. Pena stated, and the money will not come out of the \$385 million for the Performing Arts. Is that a correct statement? **Dr. Chavez replied, yes, ma'am, that's correct.** Ms. Pena interjected, the answer is yes. Mr. Elizondo stated, my question is, what's the total amount? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, so right now we are discussing Proposition A, which is 385, and then Proposition B, which we have heard here based off our last meeting, is that we would go for the Performing Arts Center of 1800, which is \$75 million. So we have \$75,000,000 plus \$385,000,000. Ms. Pena stated, \$460,000,000. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated \$460,000,000; Proposition A will be separate from Proposition B on the ballot. Mr. Elizondo stated, so it's \$460,000,000, right? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, that's correct. Mr. Elizondo stated, that's what we're going to burn our taxpayers with? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, the taxpayers will have the ability to decide when they go to the ballot? Mr. Elizondo stated, that's my question. My question is, if it passes, that's \$460 million that we'll burn our taxpayers with. That's the question. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, so based off of last meeting, Ms. Garza, I don't know if you want to explain over the five years what we've done. Mr. Elizondo interjected, it's just a yes or no, I don't need a five years, I understand what that means. I just want to say \$460 million is the total for both bonds. And if they're all approved, 460 million goes to the back of the taxpayers, that's my question, yes or no? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, yes, for the benefit of the students, it will be. Mr. Elizondo interjected, I am not talking about it, its just a yes or no. Mr. Lopez Valdez continued, a wonderful... Mr. Elizondo interjected, my third question is. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected addition. Mr. Elizondo continued, out of those 460 million, what percentage goes out just right off the bat for engineers and architects? Mr. Lopez Valdez stated, there were some documents that were given in budget number two, I'm sorry, Bond Workshop number two, and on there they have items of specifically of what was listed in.... Mr. Elizondo interjected, so what's the answer from 460 million... Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza. Mr. Elizondo stated, what's the amount that will go to engineers and architects. **Ms. M. Garza replied, okay once the voters make a decision on in November and...** Mr. Elizondo interjected, ma'am i just need the total that's all I am asking for just real simple. **Ms. M. Garza continued, it's going to vary once we go over for bids as to what percentage.** Mr. Elizondo interjected, percentage wise. **Ms. M. Garza continued, it can range anywhere from 6% to 8% for engineers, architects, depending on the project.** Mr. Elizondo stated, lets go 6% of \$460 million is how much? **Ms. M. Garza stated, does anyone have a calculator.** Ms. Pena stated, \$27,600,000, \$27,600,000 is what I got. **Ms. M. Garza stated, 6% on \$460,000,000 is \$27,600; \$27,600,000.** Mr. Elizondo stated, \$1,000? \$1,000 **Ms. Garza replied, yes.** Ms. Pena interjected million. **Ms. Garza stated million.** Mr. Elizondo stated okay if it is a \$1,000 I will take on it, I will go ahead and vote on it right now. **Ms. Garza interjected, \$27,600,000.** Mr.

Elizondo stated, so it is \$27,000,000, \$28,000,000 that will go to engineers and architects right off the bat without even having to build anything, correct? **Ms. Garza stated, no, they will be the ones designing and preparing all the documentations.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I understand that but before that before we even it's already 27 to 28 million that's spent without even having to construct anything. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, ultimately, we have to start somewhere and I appreciate your questions Mr. Elizondo, that's why... Mr. Elizondo stated, I am still asking my questions... Ms. Lopez Valdez continued, we had four Bond Workshop. Mr. Elizondo stated, yea but workshops are not open to the public like this forum, this this is the reason I am asking questions for this. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, they actually are open and you can actually.... Mr. Elizondo Interjected, ma'am, ma'am please. Ms. Lopez Valdez continued watch them all. Mr. Elizondo interjected, please don't interrupt me. Ms. Lopez Valdez continued, they're recorded. Ms. Lopez Valdez continued, no I'm just trying to make sure that we get back to the topic, please continue. Mr. Elizondo stated, that is great, I still have my questions to be answered. So the question is, again, \$460 million with the total cost will be on the burden of the taxpayers. Between \$27 and \$28 million will go straight to the engineers and architects, correct. **Dr. Chavez stated, yes sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, and wasn't something like this already approved as a lesser amount during the county and it was over 65% of the people that decided not to approve a bond election, I don't need an answer, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thankyou Mr. Elizondo; Ms. Grantland. Ms. M. Pena stated, no ma'am, ma'am, ma'am I was next, I was waiting for her. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, go ahead Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, thank you I'm so sorry. I just want to note something where it says Proposition A and Proposition B. Can you lower it so we can see both propositions? Right there. And my biggest concern where it says this is a property tax increase, okay. That is a real big concern to me. And the additional, it says what we're going to be doing, equipping school facilities, including district-wide renovations, additions, safety, security improvement, roof, HVAC, you know, the new CTE, so on and so on. Here is my fear. And I've been here for a little while and I've witnessed this happen. So, it really freaks me out because we say one thing now and then as the future comes and things change and prices go up, then we change the totals of what is going to be on the taxpayers' back. And right now, we're having a lot because, you know, the powers that be can turn around and make a \$50,000 home worth \$180,000. And what can you do about it? My concern is that there's no guarantee that things will not change in the way we're doing it. And this was my question, Dr. Chavez, and I guess you're going to refer me back to Mary. But I was hoping you would have the answer. The \$385 million bond that the public will approve. So where is this money actually coming from? Where are we going to physically get this cash? **Audience stated Oh my God.** Ms. Pena stated, can you please stop the audience and it's the same people, if they continue, please have them removed. *Mr. Ben Castillo, Board Attorney stated. just a reminder that no disruptions will be tolerated in accordance with board policy, BED local. So please refrain from making comments.* Ms. Pena continued, thank you, sir. And because I was asked this question and I'm not going to give the mic, I want to make sure that I was on the right track. That's why I'm asking you to please let us know that when it's 385 million are going to be approved, So we're going to get how much of that? *Mr. Castillo interjected, we're at three minutes, Madam Board President.* Ms. Pena stated, yes, how much of that? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Ms. Pena, your time is up, and Dr. Chavez, you can speak. Ms. Pena stated, wait a minute, excuse me, my time is up, my time just started. What are you talking about? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, this is the total time on this specific item. Ms. Pena stated, but by Board Member, not

by..... Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, this is Robert Rules of Order, Dr. Chavez. Ms. Pena stated, it's a choice you're making, ma'am, that you want to keep. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I'm just trying to keep decorum. All of this has been discussed. So I appreciate your question. Dr. Chavez will now answer it. Ms. Pena stated, thank you, I appreciate that.

Dr. Chavez stated, here, with regards to the bonds being approved by the public, we the district then would put them on sale, right? And remember, we're not putting all of it the first year. We're dividing it up into the four to five years that we've outlined for you. And so, yes, there are people out there, there are companies out there who actually go and purchase these. Now, they purchase them by the standpoint of their providing the dollars, and we are borrowing those dollars. So, then those dollars come in, they get deposited in our bank. Now, when you first get the money, you don't spend it right out that day, right? Because we've got design going on, we've got planning going on before the building actually starts. So, you are able to collect whatever interest the bank is giving you during that period of time. Those are additional dollars that get added to this amount. And the thing, you know, for the Board is, we, my recommendation is we use those dollars for anything else, at the end of the five years, if you have money left over because you've earned interest, then it's up to the Board to decide where that money goes. But that's the way this works. Bonds are sold, various people buy them, various companies buy them. We, the district, get the dollars. We put them in the bank. We earn interest while we have the dollars. Of course, as we have to start making payments, then yes, you know, we use those dollars at the bank to make payments. The thing here though that I want to emphasize is, and this Board, you know, was thinking about this along with us, the administration, and that is to say we want to save our taxpayers as much money as possible. And that's the reason we said we would construct over a five-year period so that not all 385 million dollars would be sold the first year. And that information actually came up a little while ago, right, with regards to how much money would be used the first year, would be put in the bank, second year, third year, all the way to the fifth year.

Ms. Pena stated, so the bank and the district will make money. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued am I correct? The bank will also make money holding our money and so will the district. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena, I appreciate but your time is up, thank you; Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland stated, I just wanted to make a point on the reference that was made to the bond issue that failed recently. They're two totally different things. You cannot compare the needs of students to other needs that the community was seeing. And I'm not saying that they weren't good needs or relevant needs, I am just saying that it was. *Mr. Castillo interjected, that is three minutes Madam Board President.* Ms. Grantland stated I'm sorry. *Mr. Castillo stated that was three minutes already.* Ms. Grantland stated, oh, mine was three minutes. Ms. Pena (inaudible). Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you Ms. Grantland, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, thank you. I just wanted to make one thing clear. I always say, yes, I'm a Board Member, but I'm a parent first. So as a mom, investing in my children, investing in your children, is not a burden. I just want to make that very clear. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes. I'm looking at a spreadsheet that was given to us at our first workshop, which actually translates into a five-year plan. And it's projects by campus and departments. I just want to make sure that our community understands, Dr. Chavez, that what we're promising them that they're going to get. Thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Mr. Ortiz. And just before I move, I want to say thank you to everybody involved in this.

I also want to make sure that the community knows that they can actually reference the actual facts that have been presented and making sure that they know that they can access all of this information. And I know we will have it on our website for them to access as well. So now I will move that the Board of Trustees.... Ms. Pena interjected, can I make a comment, just a comment please. Ms. Lopez Valdez continues, adopt an order calling a Bond Election on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, as discussed. (inaudible) Oh, we have a first and a second. Let's go ahead and do that one. Ms. Pena stated, please read what we're going to be voting on right now again. Can you read the item we're voting on, Ms. Pat again? I'd like for her to read it out loud. Not everybody has a paper. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza? **Ms. Mary D. Garza, Interim Chief Financial Officer stated, we need for the Board to identify the dollar amount for Proposition 2, because we're not doing the \$50 million. We amended it, and we left it blank.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, yes. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Counsel needs the dollar amount. Ms. Lopez Valdez continued, Proposition B is what I had mentioned earlier that the issuance of not to exceed \$75 million of Brownsville Independent School District school building bonds for the purpose of designing, constructing, renovating, improving, upgrading, updating, acquiring, and equipping a new Performing Arts Facility. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, are you okay with that motion?** Ms. D. Garza replied, yes, I'm still okay with my motion. *Mr. Castillo stated, okay, and you're okay with adding that language in there for Proposition B?* Ms. Garza stated, yes, yes. *Mr. Castillo stated, okay.* Ms. Garza stated, I don't know, Ms. Grantland, are you okay with? Ms. Grantland replied, I am okay with it. Ms. Pena stated, and question, are we, are these to the attorney? Are we voting? We have to vote for both of these together, not separate, right? We have to do both Proposition A and B. We can't vote for them individually. *Mr. Castillo replied, yes, ma 'am, so the item, the way it's worded on the agenda is for the Bond Election, calling the Order of calling a Bond Election which includes both propositions.* Ms. Pena stated, okay, and I just don't want to burden parents with higher taxes. It's not about burdening. The children I love but I want them to have a home to go to and not burden them to have to move into somebody else's home because they can't afford their taxes. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, we have a first and a second. **Ms. Perez stated, please vote.** Ms. Pena stated, did you read out what we're voting for? Just for the people that don't have them. **Ms. Perez stated Consideration and approval of an order calling for a bond election to be held by the Brownsville Independent School District making provisions for the joint election and resolving other matters incident and related to such election. The Bond election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025.** Ms. Pena stated, the reason I'm voting no because I think we could have taken the word joint election out and separated them, but the district refused to do that. So, for that reason, I cannot vote yes to this, because I wanted them separate. But they refused and put the word joint. And that could have been taken out, Mr. Attorney. **Ms. Perez stated, Mr. Elizondo?** Mr. Elizondo stated, no, ma 'am. **Ms. Perez stated, thank you, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Pena stated, I am for the Performing Arts Center, no problem? **Ms. Perez stated Motion passes, five yes, two no.**

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland to recommend approval to adopt an Order calling for a Bond Election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 by the Brownsville Independent School District, making provision for the Joint Election, and Resolving Other Matters incident and related to such election.

Proposition A “The issuance of not to exceed \$385,000,000 of Brownsville Independent School District school building bonds for the purposes of designing, constructing, renovating, improving, upgrading, updating, acquiring, and equipping school facilities, including District-wide renovations, additions, safety and security improvements, and roof and HVAC replacements, a new Career and Technical Education (CTE) building, and a new District transportation building, and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the cost of any credit agreements”.

Proposition B “The issuance of not to exceed \$75,000,000 of Brownsville Independent School District school building bonds for the purposes of designing, constructing, renovating, improving, upgrading, updating, acquiring, and equipping a new performing arts facility, and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the cost of any credit agreements”.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Ms. Lopez Valdez, s. Garza, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Grantland

Nay: Mr. Elizondo, Ms. Pena

Abstain:

Motion Carried: 5-2-0

2. Recommend approval to appoint Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent as agent to perform the duties provided by Texas Election Law, Sec. 31.123 for Brownsville Independent School District Bond Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, effective immediately.

Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I so move. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated second. **Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated Mr. Elizondo.** Mr. Elizondo, Board Member stated I vote no ma'am. **Ms. Perez stated thank you sir.**

Motion made by Neida Ruth Grantland, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, to recommend approval to appoint Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent as agent to perform the duties provided by Texas Election Law, Sec. 31.123 for Brownsville Independent School District Bond Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, effective immediately.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Ms. Lopez Valdez, Ms. Garza, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Grantland

Nay: Mr. Elizondo

Abstain: Ms. Pena

Motion Carried: 5-1-1

VII. Contract(s)

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

1. Recommend approval to contract with Cameron County Elections Office and to pay a 60% deposit for estimated costs of election services for a joint election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, and to authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract. Estimated at

\$209,194.70.

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated Motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I have a question. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo continued, yeah, what's the total that we have to pay the county? **Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant replied, \$209,194.00 sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, and that's coming out of what, the general fund? **Ms. Perez replied, yes, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, any thoughts on that? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, this was explained, I believe, in budget two or three. Mr. Elizondo stated, I'm not asking that, I am asking the Superintendents if there's any thoughts on that. **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, my recommendation is that we move forward with that.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but the spending of \$290,000, it's okay with you? **Dr. Chavez replied, whenever we as a District, whether it be here or anywhere else, you know, yes, the district is responsible for paying that fee.** Mr. Elizondo stated, that's not my question, sir, I said, are you okay with that? **Dr. Chavez replied, yes, sir, I'm fine with the District meeting its responsibility to pay fees that we owe and or fees that we get charged for services they provide the community and or our district.** Mr. Elizondo stated I know that, but we don't owe anything (inaudible) we vote on it. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Mr. Elizondo stated, is that correct? Ms. Pena stated, say that again. Mr. Elizondo stated, so we don't know anything right now, is that correct, Mr. Chavez? **Ms. Perez stated, we don't owe anything. Dr. Chavez stated, as far as the election coming up, is that what you mean or?** Mr. Elizondo stated, you said that we paid the stuff that we owe, but we don't know anything right now. And my question was, are you okay with spending \$209,000? **Dr. Chavez replied, for the election, sir, yes, sir, I am fine with that.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. **Dr. Chavez stated, it's appropriate for us to pay...** Mr. Elizondo interjected, okay, thank you, that's it. **Dr. Chavez continued our part.** Mr. Elizondo stated, that it, that's okay I don't need an explanation. **Dr. Chavez stated all right then.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Mr. Elizondo stated I vote no, ma'am. **Ms. Perez stated, thank you, sir. Motion passes, five yes, two no.**

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, to recommend approval to contract with Cameron County Elections Office and to pay a 60% deposit for estimated costs of election services for a joint election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, and to authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract. Estimated at \$209,194.70.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Ms. Lopez Valdez, Ms. Garza, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Grantland

Nay: Mr. Elizondo, Ms. Pena

Abstain:

Motion Carried: 5-2-0

Ms. Pena stated, yes, and I've gotten a lot of calls from people that are not very comfortable with this. And I'm going to say this, if you people feel that this is uncomfortable, Brownsville, you need to come out and vote you need to come out and vote your opinion. Because if you turn around and we have a real low vote turnout and doesn't turn out the

way the majority, let's say 2,000 people want it, but 100,000 don't. *Mr. Ben Castillo, Board Attorney interjected, so, so Ms. Pena, before....* Ms. Pena continued I want to make sure that they come out and vote. *Mr. Castillo interjected, okay.* Ms. Pena continued, just make sure you vote your convictions. I'm just asking you, make sure you come out and vote your convictions. That's all I'm asking. *Mr. Castillo stated, alright I was just going to make sure you didn't advocate, thank you.* Ms. Pena stated, thank you sir, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, and before we end, I want to thank absolutely everybody involved in this process, very long process since November. And Dr. Chavez, thank you for your leadership because you came up with the idea of having a citizens committee. And I feel that we've heard a lot of wonderful feedback. Thank you to our chairs, Mr. Rusty Brechot and Henry LeVrier, and to every single one person who participated. And thank you to my Board. Thank you to Ms. Garza for the very thorough presentation. Thank you to Estrada Hinojosa for being here at every meeting. And to all those present here today, we appreciate you all. Now let's go do this for our students. Thank you.

Amendment: Item 1 Page 1 agenda (background) should read November 4, 2025

VIII. Announcement(s):

IX. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to adjourn the Special Called Board Meeting at 6:39 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 Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting held on November 5, 2025