

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **17th day of December, 2022**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met to **Canvass Election Returns (Recount)** 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:

Jessica Gonzalez	President
Carlos Elizondo	Vice-President
Frank Ortiz	Assistant Secretary
Eddie Garcia	Member
Denise Garza	Member
Daniella Lopez Valdez	Member

ABSENT:

Minerva Pena	Board Secretary
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ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Rene Gutierrez	Superintendent of Schools
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ALSO ABSENT:

None

WHEREUPON, a quorum being present and it appearing before the Board, it is hereby so found that notice of this **Canvass of Election Returns (Recount)** 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 for the Canvassing for BISD Trustee Place 2 of Elections Returns for the Recount of BISD Trustee Election held on November 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member.**
- IV. Roll Call: Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated all members present for the exception of Minerva Pena.**

V. Brownsville Independent School District Trustee Election - Canvass Place 2. (Recount of BISD Trustee Election held November 8, 2022).

Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant read the following.

Polling Site	Denise Garza	Victor M. Caballero	Total Votes Cast
Early Voting	10,388	8,064	19,989
Mail-Ins	594	413	1,089
Provisions	8	3	17
Election Day Subtotal	5,522	3,634	9,756
Total	16,512	12,114	30,851

Exhibit 1 - Added to official minutes

VI. Certificate of Election issued to newly elected Board of Trustee.

Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools issued the Certificate of Election to Ms. Denise Garza, newly elected Board of Trustee Place 2 – 4 Year Term.

VII. Statement of Elected Officer issued to newly elected Board of Trustee.

Gabriela Garcia, Presiding Judge for the 138th Judicial District stated, good morning this is an important moment for Ms. Denise Garza. It has taken quite a while to get here, but we are here, thank you to the democratic process right. But before we continue, I would like to thank first of all the Board Members, Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Mr. Frank Ortiz, Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez and Mr. Eddie Garcia. We are here because of you, you are very important but more so your family, for allowing you, for supporting you to run for this important office. Because you are what makes the district happen. You are the ones that are responsible for the staff, but more importantly the students. You are here because of them and for them, and don't ever forget that. And I would like to tell you, and also you Ms. Denise Garza, that a united Board is a strong Board. You may not always agree, but let's agree to disagree. And when you have your disagreements be polite, be mindful, because at the end its about the students, its not about you, and you, and you, or me, its about the students. Always remember that, always. What else can I say Denise, when you decided to run, and I can tell you when she decided to run, she told us well I am going to run for office. Okay, what are you going to do. I am going to run for School Board. Really. And like Javier always says, well do they pay you, he told his uncle Eddie? No. Well do you get any benefits? No. Well do you get any insurance? No. Tio, you mean I held a sign for you and you don't even get paid? No. But I am doing it for the children. And Javier's response, you don't even like kids. But you see it takes special people to do this and my hat is off to you. Years ago, was asked if I would run for School Board, and I was like no, I don't know what they do, I didn't even know there was a School Board, that is how naïve I was, right. And now what I see what you all do, really my hats off to you, for choosing to run. And it is not a position that people come up to you and thank you all of the time, right? No, not all of the time right, they call you and they complain, but you do what you have to do. So, you know what, a round of applause to them. With that being said, Denise congratulations. It was a very tough race for everybody, but here we are now, and before I continue I would like to congratulate Dr. Gutierrez, thank you, as I am driving in and I look at your sign, you are an "A" rated school district. Wow, when was the last time you were A rated? **Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of**

Schools, replied last year. Judge Garcia asked, and then before that? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, last year.** Judge Garcia asked, and then before that? **Dr. Gutierrez replied, (inaudible).** Judge Garcia stated, look at that, thank you Dr. Gutierrez. I want to thank everybody for being here. I know I speak to much, but that is what attorneys do. Oh, we have our representative, good morning and always remember our school district and I know she does, Erin Gamez is here in the house, thank you. There is something I had read and I want to read it to you Denise and always remember this and Board Members, remember this. When you serve keep this in mind. “Nunca abuses del poder humillando a tus semejantes porque el poder termina y el recuerdo perdura”. “Never abuse power by humiliating your peers because power ends and the memory endures.” Always remember that. Let’s do what is best for the children, not necessarily for yourself.

Judge Gabriela Garcia issued the Statement of Elected officer to Ms. Denise Garza, newly elected Board of Trustee Place 2 – 4-year term.

VIII. Oath of Office issued to newly elected Board of Trustee Place 2 – 4-year term to Ms. Denise Garza.

Judge Garcia issued the Oath of Office to Ms. Denise Garza, newly elected Board of Trustee Place 2 – 4-year term.

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, I would like to thank you all for coming and joining us this morning. As we all know that yes, I was voted in November 8th and my opponent had requested a recount so here we are, one month later after my fellow colleagues were sworn in one month ago and here we are one month later. And I want to thank you all for being here, it means the world to me that my daughters were able to join, my daughter just finished her semester at the university, so once she was done with finals, we were able to get the schedule so that she could be part of this special moment. So, thank you all and I hope you have the rest of the beautiful Saturday, it is a little chilly outside, but we want this weather right now. So, go and enjoy it with your family, thank you all.

IX. Public Comment

Patrick Hammes – Good morning Board President Gonzalez, Dr. Gutierrez, Members of the Board, the Honorable Representative Gamez and the Honorable Judge Garcia, Patrick Hammes speaking on behalf of BEST Brownsville Educators Stand Together/AFT a union of professionals. We just want to congratulate Ms. Garza on her election, her second term, her first full term to the school board. Ms. Garza has worked very well, very hard in working with ourselves and other organizations in the betterment of both students and staff and we thank her for that. Some of the highlights are pushing the \$4,000 raise for staff, the 15% raise to all classified and additional \$1,000 in the spring stipend from \$500 to \$1,500, and then working on different personnel issues and special ed issues with us. We thank her for that, we look forward to working with her, the next four years just like we congratulated Mr. Elizondo, Mr. Ortiz when they were sworn in. We look forward to working with the entire Board on the betterment of our students and our staff and continue to move this district forward and continuing to be the best choice for anybody. BISD is the best choice. Have a wonderful day, thank you for your time and we look forward to working with all of you.

Adjournment at 10:18 a.m.

- **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:

Jessica Gonzalez, 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 March 7, 2023)