

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **4th day of November, 2024**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met in a **Rescheduled 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:

Jessica Gonzalez	President
Daniella Lopez Valdez	Vice-President
Denise Garza	Secretary
Carlos Elizondo	Board Member
Eddie Garcia	Member
Marisa F. Leal	Member
Frank Ortiz	Member

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

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

ALSO ABSENT:

None

WHEREUPON, a quorum being present and it appearing before the Board, it is hereby so found that notice of this **Rescheduled 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. Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting called to order by Jessica Gonzalez, Board President at 5:32 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent of Schools.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Jessica Gonzalez, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member** announced that all Trustees were present and Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez would be arriving shortly.
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of Monday, November 4, 2024, with any corrections/deletions.**

Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated the following corrections/deletions.

- VII. A. Conference Presentations
Item 1 Deleted from agenda and backup

- X. A. General Function Items
Item 7 Deleted from agenda and backup

- C. Budget Amendments
Item 1 Deleted from agenda and backup

- D. Contracts/Agreements
Item 3 Deleted from agenda and backup

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of Monday, November 4, 2024 with the deletions as stated by admiration. (6-0-0)

VI. Recommend approving the minutes with any corrections:

- A. Regular Board Meeting of May 7, 2024
- B. Canvass of Election Returns for Special Election held May 4, 2024
- C. Special Called Board Meeting of May 23, 2024
- D. Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of June 11, 2024
- E. Special Called Board Meeting of June 20, 2024
- F. Special Called Board Meeting of July 30, 2024
- G. Regular Board Meeting of August 6, 2024
- H. Special Called Board Meeting of August 21, 2024
- I. Regular Board Meeting of September 3, 2024
- J. Special Called Board Meeting of September 9, 2024
- K. Regular Board Meeting of October 1, 2024
- L. Special Called Board Meeting of October 9, 2024

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, sir, real quick, may I ask, why are they all being brought up today? How come they weren't done normally like we do them in the past? **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, as far as the minutes?** Mr. Elizondo stated, yes. Mr. Elizondo stated, we've been working hard to catch up. Mr. Elizondo stated, this is just because we've fallen behind? **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, very hard to catch up.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but this is the reason because we fell behind?

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez arrived at 5:34 p.m.

Dr. Chavez stated, well, we were a little behind so yes, we brought them forward all tonight and we were able to do that. Mr. Elizondo stated, I know, but is it because they're being brought today because we fell behind on them in the past or what? **Dr. Chavez stated, well, we found the time to get them all done, if you will. A lot of times we have a lot of other things going on so we were able to find the time and get them done so appreciate Ms. Pat Perez for catching us up. Ms. Perez stated, we've been behind her for about one year now.** Mr. Elizondo stated okay, thank you. For the record, Ms. Lopez-Valdez is here with us.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Canvas of election returns for the Special Election held May 4, 2024, Special Called Board Meeting of May 23, 2024, Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of June 11, 2024, Special Called Board Meeting of June 20, 2024, Special Called Board Meeting of July 30, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of August 6, 2024, Special Called Board Meeting of August 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of September 3, 2024, Special Call Board Meeting of September 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of October 1, 2024, and Special Call Board Meeting of October 9, 2024. (7-0-0)

VII. Superintendent's Report:

A. Conference Presentations:

1. Recognition of outstanding achievement by Coach Guerra from Rivera ECHS on an incredible milestone-700 wins (Volleyball Program). **(Deleted from agenda and backup)**
2. Presentation by Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP of the Collection Report for the period covering July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

My name is Enrique Pena, and I represent the firm of Purdue Brennan Fielder Collins-Mott. It's my pleasure this evening to bring the fiscal year report of July 2023 through June 2024. I'll jump right into it so we don't waste any more time for you. Our collection efforts begin with trying to inform the taxpayers of their delinquencies. This past fiscal year, we made contact with over 21,000 delinquent taxpayers. We mailed over 35,000 letters to delinquent taxpayers also, and we updated addresses close to over 3,000 address updates, finding the taxpayers informing them of their delinquencies. In addition, we conducted 123 field inspections. We've entered into 224 payment agreements, seeking to elect \$571,460 for the school district. In addition, we filed or intervened on 344 lawsuits seeking to collect \$1.2 million. We've issued four tax warrants seeking to elect \$4,480. And we're currently in 67 bankruptcies seeking to elect \$141,973. I'll skip these, I'll come back to those. Right here I'm going to give you an account breakdown. Over 71% of the delinquent tax base is what we call collectible. As you can tell, we have 2% in bankruptcy, 2% in trust. In trust means properties that were never sold to tax sale and now are in trust with the school district or the county that eventually will resell. 18% are in deferrals. Those monies will eventually be collected by the school district, but not until those persons that are in deferral pass, and when they pass, the deferral is lifted. We have 4% in partial payment agreements. We're currently trying to clean up over 7% in bad addresses for collection. And we're in litigation, over \$2 million in litigation. And active accounts of 36% for \$3 million. This is a breakdown of the dollar range of each of the accounts. The majority of the accounts are in the range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. That's over 44% are in that range of delinquencies. Here is a breakdown of each year. We do this breakdown to explain to the Board where most of the delinquencies are. The delinquencies are in the years 2023 through 2020, and that equals 67 of your delinquencies and are in those four years. And I show this, and I'll go back to this graph right here, the importance of how we attack, collect per year. So the most important year for us is the 2022 tax. This past year was the 2022 delinquent tax year. We collected already 68% of it. This year, now we're up to 72%. So just a description of the time frame. The most current tax year is the

most important and we really, really focus on that. This is the overall levy. This graph will be updated. Your levy was actually \$80 million. This is the original tax levy. 93% of it was collected by the tax office and the balance of \$5,260,000 was transferred over into the delinquencies. Actually, this past year, the current tax collected was down a little over a percent. Actually, the current collections are down by over a million dollars, but we'll be making them up on the delinquency side. This is the personal property or early turnover. These are the personal property business accounts that get turned over to us in the month of April. This year, this past fiscal year, we collected 48.93 % of that tax base which was equally \$547,799. The prior year, the amount collected was 31% for \$278,363. We're very proud of that. Proud that we got there, got the monies in quickly for the school district because time is of the essence. Here's a comparison of the last three fiscal years. Total collections for this past fiscal year for the school district, including penalties and interest, equal \$4.9 million. Prior year is \$4.7 million and the year before also \$4.7 million. This year we had large refunds, close to \$1.7 million in refunds. And our delinquent tax balance is right around \$9.1 million. To give you an overall collections, including this early turnover, delinquent collections, plus the delinquent tax for the real, we were in charge of collecting \$10.2 million and we collected a total of 43.19% for \$4,419,592. Prior year total collections were 41.76 from the total collections of 9.4, I mean, excuse me, total collections of 3.9 million out of the DTR balance of 9.4. So, we're very proud that we increased collections over one and a half points. The audit for the 2020 audit appeals has been accepted by the state. We do not have a hard number on how much money the school district will receive, but there will be a refund from the state to the school. Once we get those numbers we'll mainly notify school district and on that how much money they're going to get but it has been accepted and approved. That is it. If you have any questions I can answer them right now. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated thank you Mr. Peña.

3. Presentation of the Bilingual/ESL/Title III Department Annual Evaluation.
Carlos Olvera, Bilingual Director Good evening, Board President Ms. Gonzalez, Superintendent Dr. Chavez, and Board Members and audience present. I'm here to present our annual evaluation for our program, the Bilingual ESL Title III Program. Now the purpose of this evaluation is to ensure compliance with TEA requirements, to provide information necessary for decision makers, and to comply with the requirements as part of the Bilingual Exception/ ESL waiver application that was submitted October 30th. For starters, we have our demographics. Of the 37,065 students in BISD last year, the emergent bilinguals constituted 15,217. Out of those in elementary, we had 7,306. In secondary, for the ESL program, we had 6,559 and we did have 107 parental denials. Now I'd like to remind the Board or make the Board aware that we do have 13 languages in this district and those include Arabic, Bengali, Vietnamese, Italian, Mandarin, Russian and Portuguese to name a few. As part of our Emerging Bilingual Program for bilingual students, we do work with academic performance and linguistic performance, linguistic progress. For the STAAR data, in the group of mathematics, third through eighth, and algebra put together, we had 7,600 students tested, 5,023 demonstrated passing proficiency standard, and that constitutes 66% of our EB students. For reading language arts, third through eighth

and English one and two, we had about 9,300 students testing, of which 55,595 met standard, which is 60%. For science, fifth grade, eighth grade, and biology put together, we had 3,400 students, of which 2,116 met standard, meaning 62%. And for social studies, eighth grade and US history EOC, we had 2,054 students testing and 1,355 meeting standard, which is approximately 66%. That is our academic performance perspective for emerging bilinguals, and that constituted summer 2023 data, fall 2023 data, and spring 2024 data. For our TELPAS perspective, which is our linguistic perspective in working with our English proficiency for our students, making sure they're progressing in their language acquisition of English, in elementary we had 4,910 students that we could test it for growth, of which 58% of them demonstrated progress. Now just as a point of reference, the state goal for elementary is 49%. So we are well above the state goal for our English language proficiency in elementary. For the middle school, we had 3,007 students test for growth, of which 46% demonstrated progress in EL proficiency. The state goal is 44%, we're above it also. And for high school, we tested 3,373 students for EL proficiency, of which 40% demonstrated progress. The requirement or the goal for high school is 34%. So once again, we are above the state in that area also. Now as part of the program for Emergent Bilinguals, the ultimate goal is to exit the students, what's called reclassification, because when the students exit the bilingual program or the ESL program, they have demonstrated they don't need supports anymore from the bilingual program or from the district in the area of language acquisition. Last year, we're glad to say, very proud to say that we had a total of 1,412 students exit the bilingual ESL program. That was approximately close to 10% of our entire EB population. At the elementary levels, we had 422 exit. At the middle school levels, we had 412 exit. And at the high school levels, 578 for a total of 1,412. The next section is for the Bilingual Exemption ESL waiver. Since 2018, we've been working with teachers and supporting them and ensuring that they become either bilingual certified in elementary or ESL certified in secondary. As per Chapter 89, when Emergent Bilinguals are in the classroom, they should be with a bilingual or ESL certified teacher. If the teachers are lacking the bilingual certification in elementary or the ESL certification in secondary, we are supposed to be working with them, making sure that we prepare them, that we provide the supports for them to become bilingual or ESL certified. In elementary, non-bilingual certified teachers from last year were at 59, which impacted 584 students. And secondary were at 36 teachers that did not have their ESL certification, which impacted 688 students. The reason I say we keep providing support is because we do offer the Bilingual ESL instructional strategies PD's that are provided by our department and by Region 1, which is an approved consultant to deliver this very specific training. We do reimburse our teachers for their bilingual or ESL certification test fees. We do pay stipends for attending these test preparation courses. We provide practice and study manuals. We also provide substitutes for teachers that are taking the test if they happen to take the test during the week. And as of two years ago, we started having an additional incentive of the one-time \$500 stipend that was brought to the Board one year ago. Now, as of August of 2024, we had seven elementary teachers obtain their bilingual certification and 10 secondary teachers in ELAR obtained their ESL certification. We

do continue to work with our teachers to make sure that we provide those supports to ensure that our students are being serviced by appropriately certified teachers. The next section goes over the budget. We do have in the bilingual program, we have state funding and we have federal funding. So we have our bilingual allotment which we work with the different object codes. So we went ahead and broke it down by the two funds as per the descriptions of the object codes being 6100, 6200, 6300 and 6400. So just to give you a breakdown, when it comes to state funding, 6100 is that \$3,926,560 amount that is your payroll account, meaning salaries of the LPAC instructional aides, salaries for summer school program, extra duty stipends for tutorials, stipends for the bilingual stipends that we provide to the teachers that are bilingual certified and servicing EBs. We also provide the 6200 accounts which is your professional development and software contracts. We do have PD in the area of getting teachers certified, bilingual or ESL. We also provide TELPAS Academy, sheltered instruction, best practices, and we provide the Summit K-12 software which is the preparatory software for the TELPAS, specifically for Emergent Bilinguals, and of course Elevation, which is both a compliance platform and an instructional platform. These are our fundamental platforms that we use for the bilingual program. For 6300, we have our testing materials, equipment, and general supplies. This involves Iowa NRT testing. It also involves our oral language proficiency testing, equipment as was the case of the second grade Chromebooks for our EBs and second grade for TELPAS practice, and general supplies as, meaning campus, general supplies when the campus has received their bilingual funds per child. For 6400 in the state funds, we have employee travel and transportation. This is Region 1 trainings, mileage and reimbursement for the personnel that is working with the teachers at the campuses. That is the state funding. For federal funding, for 6100 we have payroll, those are your LUCHA teachers, salaries for professionals, meaning the LUCHA program that is in high school specifically. We have the summer VR programs, we have the summer LUCHA Program. For 6200 we have the federal funding, \$136,000. That is professional development also. And we do use that for Lexia software and Lexia English, and we have it for the LUCHA UT modules. For 6300 federal funds, \$327,573. That is for testing materials, as is the case for AP testing, our parent symposium, the early childhood conference that took place in August, and we have the campus supply money. And finally, for federal funding, \$9,955, that is 6,400 travel. That constitutes busing for Emergent Bilingual tutorials only and early childhood conference contribution for the busing. For a total in state funding, we had \$5,652,415. And for federal funding, we had \$1,173,758. So there is both state and federal funding, but there is a variety of resources that are provided by the bilingual program, not just supplies but trainings, PD in collaboration with the C&I Department, are of course the support we get from Region 1 Consulting in working with certification of teachers, trying to make sure they become bilingual or ESL certified, and ongoing trainings throughout the year. Our department, as you can see, we have three lead teachers, Ms. Lucrecia Alanis, Ana Garza, and Shayna Garcia. We have Mr. Mario Rojas as our Bilingual Specialist. Our department is always visiting campuses, making sure we provide supports, whether it is training or guidance, both compliance and instructional. Any questions? Ms. Jessica Gonzalez,

Board President stated, thank you, Mr. Olvera. We do have a question for Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, I'm looking at page 6 of 11. This is the reclassification, the exits of our EBs, our emergent bilingual students. I have two questions in one, okay? So just so that our parents know and our community knows, what criteria is being utilized to exit these students and reclassify them, and at what grade level do these reclassifications occur? **Mr. Olvera replied, I'll start with the second question because the first opportunity for a child to exit the bilingual program is in first grade. That's the first opportunity. After that, they can exit in any grade after that. Now for the first question, what's the criteria? The criteria last year only, and I need to be clear about this. The criteria last year was the average of the composite rating. So there are four domains for the TELPAS, the listening, speaking, reading and writing. The child would have to have gotten a composite average of advanced high, meaning two advanced domains and two advanced high domains to average out to an advanced high and that would have met the TELPAS criteria. Besides that, the child would be expected to pass the STAAR reading or STAAR English EOC without designated supports to meet the criteria. And we did have 1,400 students that did that. Mr. Ortiz stated, just a follow-up, who decides whether the students meet that criteria or not? It's the teacher, is that correct? Mr. Olvera replied, every campus has an LPAC committee, a group of teachers guided by the LPAC administrator at every campus that reviews the testing results for that student and determines that they have met the eligibility, but it comes down to the student meeting that eligibility. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, so that's the LPAC committee that decides that. Mr. Olvera stated, and documents it. Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you.**

4. Open Public Hearing - School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas).
5. Public Hearing – School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). **Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer stated, good evening, Dr. Chavez, Board President Gonzalez, Board members present, and community stakeholders present. As you all know, we have to have a hold of public meeting within the first two months that our FIRST Rating becomes final. We did receive our preliminary FIRST ratings at the beginning of August. And so, you know, as required, we have to come and present a financial management report on the FIRST rating on the indicators. So I will go ahead and get started on those. We do have a total of 20 indicators that get rated by TEA. To make it clear, this is the 23-24 FIRST rating, but it is based on our financial data for the audited fiscal year 2022-23. It does lag a year. As you all know, in a couple of weeks we will be coming to the Board to approve our 2023-2024 audit. So, next year's first rating will be based on that data. Just keep in mind, the data that gets used to rate these indicators is the 2022-23. There are two indicators that are not evaluated by TEA. They have said that they will start getting evaluated either next year or the following. Those are Indicators #10 and #15. I will go ahead and get started. I will go through most of them fairly quickly. There are maybe like about seven or eight of them that I want to just talk a little bit more in emphasis and then if there are any other indicators that you want to talk about, we can do that. So again, as you all know, for the 14th or the 15th year in a row, the Brownsville ISD has received an A rating. This one that we got was another perfect 100 score. So again, that's the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas. Just like**

you have your accountability rating on the curriculum side, you do have an accountability rating on your financial side. So, these are the determinations of the ratings. In order to get an A, a Superior Achievement, you have to get a score between a 90 and a 100 and then going down. Again, there are certain indicators. Some of these indicators are based on a score of 0 to 10 and then some of these indicators are just based on a pass or fail system. If you notice that there are four particular indicators, the first four, they are called critical indicators. Now these indicators, the moment that the district does not pass, if they fail, then the district automatically gets an F Rating for that. And I'll go over those first four. Again, they're considered critical indicators and we'll talk about the reason why for those. And then we have another six indicators. These are called ceiling indicators, meaning that if we don't meet whatever the criteria is on these indicators, then there's only a maximum score that a district can receive. I'll use one of those, for example, Indicator #4. As you notice, remember Indicator #4 was also a critical indicator. That one, based on if there's a warrant hold, the maximum a district can receive is a 95. I'll go ahead and get started on some of the indicators. The one that I wanted to point out again, Indicator #1, and that's a basic question is, did the district complete our annual financial report, our AFR, and did we submit the data to TEA within the 30 days of the November 27th deadline? Now, for districts with our fiscal year end, June 30th, that is our deadline, November 27th. For the districts that their fiscal year end is August 31st, their deadline is January 28th, and which is why we'll be coming back in a couple of weeks on the 14th to have the Board approve the audit for the 23-24 fiscal year. And so, for prior year, fiscal year 21-22 and for fiscal year 22-23, the district did submit that in a timely manner. And so therefore, the district passed. Indicator #2, was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR and the financial statements as a whole? So, this is when the auditors come and present, right? And that's auditing or auditor language, right? Unmodified opinion means that all the financial statements were fairly represented and that there's no immaterial misrepresentation on our financials. So again, it's whether it's a pass or fail system. And for the two fiscal years, for the last two fiscal years that are being used for the First Rating, the district has passed that. We have received an unmodified opinion from our external auditors. Indicator #3 and Indicator #4 are really talking about us, the district, submitting our payments in a timely manner. That is submitting all of our debt payments for number 3. That is That's our bonds. As you know, we have two, our payments are due twice. They're due in August, our interest is due in August, and then in February, interest and principal are due as well. So, we've been submitting those in a timely manner. And then for Indicator #4, it talks about us submitting our payments. Remember, we have to submit payments to TRS for all of our employees, to the Texas Workforce Commission and the IRS for taxes. Now remember, we do Medicare, but then we have TRS, so we still have to submit to the IRS. And there's other government agencies that we submit to as well. So, we have to make sure that all that gets submitted on a timely manner. If it does not, then we would have to get, whether it's a warrant hold or some other type of issued out to us that would not make us pass these indicators. So, these four that I talked about, if we would have not passed them, they would have put the district automatically in an F rating. The other one that I wanted to talk about was Indicator #6 and #7. Those come up quite a bit when we talk about budget or finances for the district. I want to clarify what each one of them means in particular. Indicator #6 talks about there's two ways for you to pass this indicator. It says, was

the average change in your assigned and unassigned fund balance over the last three years less than a 25% decrease? What we do is we combine. We're always talking about unassigned fund balance, but then we also have assigned fund balance and restricted fund balance. Here we're just looking at assigned and unassigned. We take the totals and then we compare it to the prior year. And we make sure that over the last three years, it has not decreased by more than 25%. And that's something for us to keep in mind because, as you know, we've been adopting budget deficits for the last two or three years. Now if it does change by more than 25%, TEA then gives you a second option and says, and then they say, or did the current year's assigned and unassigned fund balance exceed 75 days of operational expenditures? And for us it did. And for that, I do have it here. And again, this is based on the 22-23 data. So for the district, we did have a total of, let me see, we had about \$93.6 million is what we needed to have in order to have 75 days of operation expenditures in our assigned and unassigned fund balance. So, remember we've been talking about well how much is it per day? If you do the math there, that's about 1.25, almost the 1.3 that we've been saying, that's how much it costs to run the district on a daily basis. Now this is not a TEA requirement, this is just for TEA if you want to go either the route of decreasing your fund balance or having the 75 days of operational expenditures. Indicator # 7 talks about cash on hand, so that's different. You have your fund balance and then you have actual cash on hand as of June 30th, depending on the fiscal year that you're looking at, right? And so there it talks about, was the number of days of cash on hand and current investments in the general fund for the district sufficient to cover operating expenditures? And so here what we do is we take the total expenditures for the year that's being looked at, you reduce all your capital outlay expenditures and then divide by 365, and then you multiply it by 75. I'm sorry, divided by 365. And so here we have about 181 days of cash on hand. This is not total fund balance, how many days of fund balance we have. This is total of cash on hand. So this, the majority of it that we have, and I'll talk about it actually in one of the next items, is most of it is in our investments. And as we need to make our monthly payments, we draw down from there. When TEA submits their monthly payments to us, those go into our investments. The next indicator that I wanted to talk about is Indicator #13 talks about, you know, was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio? And so here what it means is it's trying to make sure that proportionately what we're spending in function 41 and 21, which is your general administration and your instructional leadership, making sure that that remains at a certain threshold compared to how much we spend in instructional. Remember, we're always talking about when we bring the budget amendments by function, we're always talking about function 11, which is instructional, function 12, which is library, function 13, staff development, and so forth. So, what we do is we look at our general fund and we say, okay, how much we spend under function 41 and function 21, in comparison to how much we spent in function 11, 12, 13, 31, which is counselors, and 33 for health services. And so, for us to keep a threshold like that, it has to be at least a 3%. And for the district, in order for us to get the full 10 points, and for us, we actually ended up getting about 0.06 of 1%. So that just shows again when you compare the total of expenditures we've had on the instructional side compared to your general administration, which is really good. And so for that, for a district our size, we were able to get the full 10 points. The next indicator that I wanted to go over was Indicator #16. And Indicator #16 talks about did the comparison of PEIMS, the

Public Education Information Management System, data to like information in the districts, AFR result in a total variance of less than 3%. So, what this means is, like I've been saying, in a couple of weeks we'll bring to you our audit. And so, once the Board approves that audit, we submit all that data to TEA. Well then when we do, I believe, I don't know if it's our fall submission, is it our fall or our spring submission, we have to submit all that data again through our PEIMS submission. And what TEA says, okay, well let me compare what you submitted when you submitted your audit data, and now that you submitted it again in PEIMS, make sure that there is less than a 3% variance. That ensures that transparency and accuracy is being done by the district in terms of when we report our financial data. For the district, again, this is looking at the 2022-2023 data, our variance was actually less than 1%. We were only off by \$623 of over \$469 million. A lot of times that's just the rounding in the account numbers. The last indicator that I wanted to look at is indicator number, there's two more, Indicator #17 and then the last one, Indicator # 20. Indicator #17, and I kind of talked about it a little bit earlier, is similar I believe to Indicator #2 on the unmodified opinion. Did the external independent auditor report that the AFR, the annual financial report, was free of any instances of material weaknesses in internal controls or financial reporting and compliance for local, state, or federal funds and free from substantial doubt about the school district's ability to continue as a going concern. And the district had no material weaknesses noted as of the 21-22 external audit and the 22-23 external audit. And then the last indicator that I want to talk about is Indicator #20. And that's, did the school district's administration and school Board members discuss any changes and or impact to local, state, and federal funding at a board meeting within 120 days before we adopted our budget? And as you all know, when we started our budget process, and even from the prior year, we've had different budget committee meetings and at different Board meetings we've discussed the changes in not just our local, we know we've had those differences in the property values within the CAD and the comptroller, but also, we've talked about changes in our state funding and the lack thereof. And then some changes in our federal funding as well. More specifically, some in our title money and then of course in our SHARS. Any questions on any of the indicators discussed or any of the other indicators? Ms. Gonzalez replied, no Mr. Cespedes, thank you. Let me just take advantage and thank everybody in the finance payroll, everybody that has anything to do with numbers. Thank you, guys, for all that you do for the district. Thank you. Does anybody in the audience, since this is an Open Public Hearing, does anybody have anything to say about Mr. Cespedes' presentation? Going once, going twice. I will now close the public hearing for school first.

6. Close Public Hearing - School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas).
7. Brownsville Independent School District Financial Report for the period ended October 31, 2024.

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer stated Again, I'll be going over our financial report, our monthly financial report as of August 31st. Again, so I'll start off with our general fund, this covers everything in our fund codes that start with the 1, everything from Food Service 101 all the way through General Fund 199. As you all know, please note that again, these are expenditures that we've been paying since

the beginning of the fiscal year, since July 1st. So these are operations on the expense side that we've been accumulating since July 1st. So that's already July, August, September, and October. That's already a whole quarter, four months. In comparison to, for example, the payments that we've been getting from TEA, we've only gotten two payments, September and October. And then in collections, remember collections were very low because it was already towards the end of the tax year collections. October was the first month, so it will start picking up in terms of local property tax collections. So, actual to date, as of October 31st, we have collected a little bit over \$96 million in revenue. Again, that is local, state and federal revenues. In our expenses paid, we have paid out a little bit over \$146 million. So that does currently show a deficit of \$49.6 million. But again, as I noted, please keep in mind that these are four months' worth of operations, of expenses, compared to only about two months of payments from TEA and only one month, really, of tax collections. In our special revenue, that's all of our fund codes that start with 2 all the way through 499. That's most of our, all of our federal and state grants. These are all on a reimbursement basis, so at the end of the fiscal year, for example, when we bring the audit in a couple of weeks, when you look at all your federal or all your special revenue funds, you'll see that the expenses will always tie to the revenues. So here we see that on the revenues, we have about 6.6, 6.7 million dollars in revenue compared to about 18.7 million dollars of expenditures. What that means is that we've paid out, we're still doing reimbursements. We're still submitting through our TEA or whoever the grantor is, we're still submitting reimbursements for these grants. In our debt service, again, we've collected about \$1.8 million. Again, going back to collections, they've just started in October on the I&S side for the tax year, but again, we've already made our August payment for interest. So, we've collected about \$1.8 million in revenue. We've paid out about \$4.6 million in payments. This is on our bond, on our I&S side. So, it currently shows a deficit of about \$2.7 million, but of course that'll get caught up as we start ramping up collections on our local property tax collections. Now, of course, it doesn't show the big payments that we'll have coming up in February. That's when we have the big principal bond payments. And then of course in our self-insurance fund, as of October 31st, again this is four months' worth, we've collected about \$16.3 million. These are the collections that we have through the monthly employee contributions that the district makes on behalf of the employee, as well as some of the employees do have contributions that they make, whether it's a buyout plan or additional deductions that they have for the self-insurance, for our insurance, we have paid out about \$20.3 million, almost \$20.4 million, so we do have a current deficit of \$4 million there. If there are any questions on any of these? Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, I have a couple of questions here, Mr. Cespedes. And certainly, they deal with finances, so this is why I wanted to ask him at this time. The Fit America Foundation, I know that they are spending about \$270,000 on the project that they're doing over at Garden Park, and I believe that's a fantastic project, and I do thank the Fit America Foundation for doing that, because it's not only going to benefit Garden Park, but it's going to benefit that area in there, the citizens, and really all of the city. It's really, really a good project. This is the concern that I have and maybe you can provide an answer to me. I did read some of it on, I did read it on the weekly letter, but I know that they have an engineer that is not licensed in the state of Texas. So somebody had to foot the bill for a local engineer and that happened to be us for \$10,800. And we're taking this money from the Maintenance Department, which needs every single penny they can get to keep up with

maintenance. My question is and my concern is, why do we have to foot the bill of \$10,800 for the local engineer? **Mr. Cespedes replied, so the PHIT CENTER, sir, when it was brought to us, it was a project for Garden Park that they had chosen to award it to them. The initial cost that they had told us was going to be anywhere between \$220,000 to \$270,000, the value of it. Now, when we first had talks with them, they were going to cover everything. As you said, when the project commenced and it got going, this is the first time for them as well. So, I don't think they realized that, hey, they had to have a licensed engineer to be able to seal the documents here. The PHIT CENTER is a nonprofit organization so they had to get private investors to help with this. So, they also had a budget as well. Their budget was already maxed out, so we had two options, right? We had, would we be able to help out with \$10,800 in the scope of \$270,000 or stop the project and not move forward with it? So, I think as an administration we saw that as a no-brainer. Again, as you mentioned, in the grand view of the project, it's not only a great return on investment on the project, but more than anything, it's a great investment on our, like you said, on our students, our staff, and our community because the main goal of the FIT Center is to focus on not just physical activity, but the mental well-being of, again, not just our kids, but for our community, because it will be open to our community. So, I think that's where we're coming from, you know, the \$10,000 in comparison to the \$270,000. You know, we saw it as a much greater return on investment for our kids, our staff, and our community.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you for your explanation. I just have a problem with the \$10,000, you know, and especially coming out of the Maintenance Department. My second question that I have, sir, deals with consultants. I believe at the last Board meeting, I asked you to give me a report on how much we have expended on consultants. You did provide me with a fiscal year 2024-2025 as of October 25, 2020. Down at the bottom on the summary, you indicate total consultant expenditures is at \$31,900 as of October 25th. But there is a total of \$550,214, a little over half a million dollars. And you've got it down as issued purchase orders, less outstanding POs, and of course, dis-encumbrances. The bottom line is, the total number that's been approved so far is 550,214? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, it's actually more than that. When we brought the whole list of the consultants, it was a little bit over a million dollars. But these are POs that have been issued out. Now the question is how much had been paid out. Some of these are open POs that we've issued a PO, but either the consultant work hasn't been done or they haven't been invoiced for the work. So, we just wanted to give you a breakdown of what has actually been paid, what is still being encumbered and what is still in an open PO.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so what is the \$550,214 for? **Mr. Cespedes replied, right now that should be probably of POs that have actually been issued, but they are open in terms of there has not been any invoices given to us to pay for that.** Mr. Ortiz stated, but that amount of money has been approved, is that correct? **Mr. Cespedes replied yes, yes sir. Yes. Any of these POs, if they have been issued, they have been Board approved.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, and that's my question. **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you. The last one that I have here, dealing with Cummings, are we tenants or are we still the owners of Cummings? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I don't have the exact date, but we are now tenants.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so we actually still own the property because it has... Have we paid the city, in other words? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, when I say we're tenants, the city is the owner. I think that's correct, right? Okay, maybe I'm the one that has it wrong. No, yeah, so we're tenants, they're the owners now. They've paid us already, so they're the landlords of the property.** Mr. Ortiz stated,

okay, so we're actually at this point in time just renting Cummings from the city, is that correct? **Mr. Cespedes replied that's correct.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, so... **Mr. Cespedes interjected, I need to double check because I think we need to cut him a check for a dollar. I think that was what was on the agreement.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, but my question is this. There's a possibility of mold in the gym, and I read in the weekly newsletter that we're in the process of getting some POs ready for the testing. Why should we be paying for it if we no longer own that property? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I think for right now, we're trying to act as fast as we can to determine if it is mold or not. So right now, the only PO that we've, and it's already an open PO, I believe it's going to cost about \$2,000 to do a mold assessment test on it. Once we determine what it is, then we will be in talks with the city to determine as far as any reimbursement or not. But those are talks that we would have to have with Dr. Chavez, the board, and the city.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, you said the key word there, reimbursement. Are we going to get reimbursed? **Mr. Cespedes replied, I think those are the talks that we'll have to have again with you all, with Dr. Chavez and with the city.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, because I remember the City Manager saying that once they took over, they were going to take care of everything. I didn't think that we were going to be dishing out some money. Now if we do and we're going to get reimbursed, then I'm okay with it, but I don't think we should be dishing out money. **Mr. Cespedes replied, I think we need to go back and just look at the agreement just to be sure the way it was written because I don't know if the land or the property was sold as is. So, we just want to make sure we have that back and forth conversation with them before we determine if we will ask for that reimbursement.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you, so you'll keep us up to date on this? **Mr. Cespedes replied yes, sir.** Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, hold on, ma'am. May I real quick? Just real quick, Mr. Cespedes, I think everybody was present here at that meeting. The city manager actually did say in public that they will cover the cost of everything from that building. So, I don't think you should ask for reimbursement, you should just send them the bill and have them pay for it. Because I know they publicly mentioned that that's what they were going to do. **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, I just, where I'm coming from is I don't want the city then to come back and say, you sold us a property that you knew had mold in it.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but we didn't, right? **Mr. Cespedes replied, we don't know that, yeah, we don't know. It wasn't until it was reported.** Mr. Elizondo stated, because we had people, I went to a meeting there. You guys knew you had mold and you shouldn't have had a meeting there. Because I went to a meeting there before, just recently. **Mr. Cespedes stated, and we took action as soon as we were notified that, hey, can you guys come and test this out or take a look at this. Other than that, we didn't know of any prior possible mold.** Mr. Elizondo stated, we didn't know that there was mold there. There is mold now, but they should flip the bill is what I'm saying. **Mr. Cespedes stated, but I'm just explain the reason why, what I said.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you.

8. Brownsville Independent School District Quarterly Investment Report for the period ended September 30, 2024.

Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer stated yes, again. Again, just showing the first quarter investment report of the year. As I said earlier, we just finished our first four months, July, August, September, October. So, this is a lot of this money that we have in our investment instruments that I talked about earlier in

the First Rating, Indicator #7. A lot of this is in our investment pools. And so we just want to provide a summary of the yield that we have gotten, what we are projecting, as you all know, the Reserve back in mid-September lowered their benchmark interest rate by 50 basis points, which is half of 1%, 0.5 of 1%. What that means essentially is that they're starting to see that there's a slowdown in the labor market and a deceleration in inflation. In layman's terms, we expect for interest rates to continue to go down. As a matter of fact, the Federal Reserve has said that by the end of 2024, we expect it to be around, I believe it was 4.4, and then around 3.2 or 3.3 by the end of 2025. And that matters a lot because, for example, for the first current year, in our investments we had about \$178 million in our investments, and that yielded us about \$4.7 million in the first four months. So, what I mean is if we continue to hold more or less steady that cash on hand, that cash in our investments, don't expect to have 4.7 in the next quarter or in the following quarter. If we keep that amount of investment, interest yields will start going, gradually decreasing. And so, again, for the first quarter of this fiscal year, again, July, August, September, October, we yielded about \$4.7 million in interest revenue. The biggest one of those being in our Texas Term Fixed investment. That's where we hold the majority of our cash. That one yielded about \$3.3 million. The reports that you all got, if you go back to page number three, you'll see there that, again, Texas Term on the most part, because it had the most money in there, but they've all been yielding around 5.2 to 5.3 interest rate for the quarter. Again, expect that to just gradually start decreasing as the Feds start possibly reducing this. I don't know if there are any questions on the investment report. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated thank you Mr. Cespedes.

9. Presentation of Board of Trustees training (Credit Hours) is required by the State Board of Education.

Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant, stated for the record Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Eddie Garcia, Denise Garza, Jessica Gonzalez, Marisa Leal, Daniela Lopez Valdez, and Frank Ortiz have either exceeded or completed the 2024 TASB continuing credit hours.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Celia Saiz Brushard. Good evening Board President Gonzalez, Dr. Chavez and members of the Board. My name is Celia Saiz Brushard speaking as the president of Best AFT Union Local 3877. Best AFT would like to congratulate Coach Elizabeth Avelar-Guerra on her tremendous accomplishment of 700 wins as a varsity volleyball coach. It is difficult to build an excellent program and even more so to maintain one. BEST wants to congratulate the best of BISD whether it be the district, teachers, coaches, classified employees and the other professionals. We all strive to be the best. I'm going to speak on agenda items number X. A, number 1 and 2, the Citizens Facilities Committee. We at BEST AFT support the formation of the committee along with the duties and responsibilities of the committee and we hope that all current Board Members and potential future Board Members will also support the findings and recommendations of this committee. We would like the district to also do a survey of all the BISD employees on why some have chosen to enter their children into Charter or Private schools. This survey would help eliminate whether it's aging and decrepit facilities, schools lack of faith in our educators, current campus administrators, or are there other reasons. We believe that improving or creating new

facilities will bring some students back to BISD, but are there other underlying reasons that also need to be addressed? We encourage the administration to do its best to identify all the antecedents to our loss of students. We wish you all the best and if you haven't already, please vote tomorrow. Have a best evening.

Patrick Hammes - Good evening, Board President Gonzalez, Dr. Chavez, members of the Board. Patrick Hammes is speaking on behalf of the members of BEST AFT, Union Local 3877. I'm speaking on item D, recommending an approval of the following contracts and agreements. A contract is defined as an agreement between two or more parties for the doing or not doing of something specified. Like the three items listed under D, you have contracts or agreements with Valley Baptist or a partner of theirs, UTRGV, and with HASSAIM, hopefully I said that correctly, MIASSI, for services to be rendered. You entered into these contracts and agreements willingly and your partners expect you to live up to them. My question is why don't we get the same consideration? We have reached compromise agreements on data cards, data walls, data sheets, SEL bill schedules, yet we have continuously had to go back to discuss the district's violations of these agreements. Do you do this with your other contracts? Does the district enter agreements without planning on living up to them? We would expect you to live up to your signed agreements, re-honor our agreements, when can we expect the same from you? Your employees expect better from you. We expect the best from you. Please, please live up to the agreements you have willingly entered into. Thank you for your time and have the best of evenings.

Nancy Beltran. Good evening, Dr. Chavez, BISD President Ms. Gonzalez, members of the Board, the audience here present, and those watching through YouTube. I am Ms. Nancy Beltran, Vice President of Texas Valley Education Association. Mold, water leaks, missing bricks, holes in ceilings, overhanging wires, rusted ceilings and poles in the walkways, cracked sidewalks, roach and ant infestations, bad internet connections in our schools, aging and not working iPads, AC units going out for the past four years. These are some working conditions that I have personally endured working at least at five BISD schools. It is unacceptable and should not be happening in BISD. This is not to criticize anyone or to put blame. Instead to paint a picture of how crucial it is for us to create our Citizens' Facilities Committee and how critical it will be to pass a bond that will not increase taxes and that will generate roughly \$456 million in hopes to address issues that many of our BISD schools face daily. It is not only in BISD, it is everywhere. From California to Maryland, and even in between, schools are being deemed in poor conditions. In Colorado, back in 2022, schools received D-plus ratings for poor conditions. Poor conditions do not only have an impact on our students' performances in terms of learning but also on their health. If a student is sick, employees usually follow, therefore putting strains on the district having to hire substitutes to cover for teachers and also affecting our attendances. Studies done by researcher Eric Wayne Haynes found that students' achievement was 11% lower in subsidized buildings and compared to above standard buildings. Our association is fighting for healthy work environments for our students and employees of this great district get to study and work in above-standard facilities. I beg of you to please look beyond politics and work together to continue to make our district the best in Texas. Our students deserve it. Our teachers deserve it. Our staff deserve it. We are BISD and we work together to move mountains. TVEA wants to thank you, the Board, Administrators, Superintendent, for creating the Citizens

Facility Committee. This committee is pivotal to implement and overseeing all the renovations and additions for our buildings and that we need here at BISD. I thank you for allowing me to speak. Have a successful rest of your evening and may God bless you.

Cynthia Perez. Good evening, President González, members of the Board, Dr. Jesus Chavez and esteemed guests here with us today and those watching on YouTube. I am Ms. Perez, Secretary with the Texas Valley Educators Association. In 2019-2020, teachers starting pay was \$40,025 and for the 24-25 school year, pay is \$55,000. That has been \$10,000 difference. And two years ago, again, it was members of this Board who were instrumental in making sure no hourly employees make less than \$15. It was because members of this Board, along with the administration, implemented the help of the Texas Association of Board Systems, or TASB, to help be the guiding light in market enlightenment by ensuring salaries remain competitive and employees of BISD are being paid in line with their colleagues in other districts. TASB also ensures equity and fairness and identifies and corrections, corrects other disparities. TVEA, we thank the Board for the possibility of approving the recommendation to TASB for pay system studies and we encourage BISD to continue this practice for years to come. Thank you and have a good evening.

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

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

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.

(All presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, under Roman numeral X. A, item 3, item 6, and under E, item 3. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated motion to approve. Mr. Eddie Garcia,, Board Member stated second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated hold on real quick, ma'am, I was going to circle item 5, I thought 5 was circled. Ms. Gonzalez stated, 5 and X. Mr. Elizondo replied yes. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Pat can you add 5 please. Mr. Elizondo stated thank you. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, also Ms. Pat, just for the record on D. 2 I will be abstaining on that item.

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried for approval of the General Function Items as reflected on the Consent Agenda. (7-0-0)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| X. A. General Function | 1, 2, 4, 8, |
| B. Payments | 1 |
| C. Budget Amendment(s) | |
| D. Contracts(s)/Agreement(s) | 1, 2 |
| E. Bid(s)/Proposal(s) | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 |

Frank Ortiz Abstained from Agenda Item X. D. 2

* SB 1566 Agenda items related to instruction

** Categorical funds are financial support from state and federal governments that is targeted towards particular categories of students, special programs, or special purposes.

X. Consent Agenda:

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

1. Discussion, consideration and possible action of charging the Citizens Facilities Committee to conduct a district-wide facilities assessment as presented. **(Consent Agenda)**
2. Discussion, consideration and possible action of Citizens Facilities Committee Structure, Co-chairs and Sub-committee Co-chairs as presented. **(Consent Agenda)**
3. Recommend approval to accept Resolution #023/2024-2025 for the \$152,640.00 from the Texas Office of the Governor to purchase Bullet Shields for BISD Police Officers at no cost to the District.

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated Second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, stated, yes is the chief here today? **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, I don't see him in the audience but if you'll ask the question we'll see if one of us can answer it.** Mr. Elizondo stated, just real quick I want to see an explanation on, it says just the police officers, are we not equipping all the division, the police officers and security division with the same equipment? **Dr. Chavez stated, Commander, can you address that? Commander Patrick Gabbert stated, good afternoon, President Gonzales, Dr. Chavez. To answer the question, it was a grant that was made specifically for police officers. It does not include security.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so are we not equipping our security officers with some of the same equipment? **Commander Gabbert replied, not ballistic vests, no sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, why? **Commander Gabbert replied, this is through a grant. We did not have any budget to purchase this item. If it had not been for the grants the General's offered for the Governor's office, we would probably not be buying these shields.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so if it wasn't for the grant, our officers would be walking around with no ballistic vests? **Commander Gabbert replied, we would find a way to purchase them, but this is a grant.** Mr. Elizondo stated, no, I understand that, but the question was if you didn't have the money, you wouldn't have the officers? **Commander Gabbert replied, I wouldn't know about the budget. That would be a question for Chief Garcia.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I know, and that's the reason I was asking, but he's not here, unfortunately. So the question still stands. Are we not going to, are the security officers don't go hand in hand in any situation that could come across, would they not be there as well? Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member interjected, can I clarify something? This is talking bullet shields, not body armor. Is that correct? **Commander Gabbert replied, that's correct.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so just bullet shields? **Commander Gabbert replied, just bullet shields. This is to make a dynamic entry into a classroom or a situation where there's a barricaded subject, active shooter event. So we would not include security in that type of situation.** Mr. Elizondo stated, security guards wouldn't be using these? **Commander Gabbert replied, no.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so there's a potential risk that the security guard wouldn't... Do you see what I'm saying? What would happen? **Commander Gabbert replied, they're not going to be involved in that situation. It would be the police officers going into the**

classroom to make the entry, use the shields, or... Mr. Elizondo stated so we have a police officer at every school right now, is that what you're saying? Commander Gabbert replied, that is correct. Mr. Elizondo stated, every school that we have now has a police officer? **Commander Gabbert replied yes, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Pat, we have a first and a second.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to accept Resolution #023/2024-2025 for the \$152,640.00 from the Texas Office of the Governor to purchase Bullet Shields for BISD Police Officers at no cost to the District. (7-0-0)

4. Recommend approval of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) pay system maintenance of Brownsville I.S.D. (Cost to the District \$14,000.00) (**Consent Agenda**)
5. Recommend approval by funding source to revise page 13 of the 2024-2025 Employee Compensation Plan, Administrator Business Management Pay Plan positions, removing Coordinator, Special Programs and replacing it with Coordinator, Support Programs.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Denise Garza, Board Member stated Second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo stated yes, who can answer the questions? Maybe give us a little rundown on what employees are going to be compensated? **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, yes, this would be Dr. Gallegos. I think the question was when are employees going to be compensated? Dr. Linda Gallegos, Chief Human Resource Officer stated, I'm sorry, as far as this agenda item?** Mr. Elizondo stated, yes, ma'am, we're on agenda item number five, correct? **Dr. Gallegos stated yes, that's just a change of title.** Mr. Elizondo stated, are they going to be compensated anymore or just the title change? **Dr. Gallegos stated no, sir, just the title change, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, are they going to have any added duties assigned to these individuals? **Dr. Gallegos stated, I'll refer that over to Mr. Cespedes. Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer stated, yes, sir, the short answer is yes. Right now, if it's under special programs, the funding only allows them to work with the federal programs. When we've been doing some of the consolidations, when we put it under coordinator support programs, support programs encompass everything from local, state, and federal funding. So it's not necessarily that they'll get more added duties, but it will make it easier for us to be able to give them a little bit of everything on the tasks. And this is two coordinators that we currently have. And then also, I believe it was two or three weeks ago, in the Board Weekly Letter we talked about the possibility or hopefully adding a third coordinator. And this would be to help out with the, hopefully we can start properly evaluating all of our instructional software. But this would be again so that these coordinators are not just restricted to one specific funding source.** Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, okay, so you indicated that... Mr. Elizondo interjected, just real quick, so we're just changing the title and the job description? **Mr. Cespedes replied, we're just changing the title. Their job descriptions are going to remain similar, what is changing is that now they can do the same activities, but not just for one funding source. They can do it for multiple funding sources, within that department.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so we are going to add more work to these individuals. And how many individuals are affected? **Mr. Cespedes replied right now we have two, and like I said, in the Board Weekly Letter that we provided about two weeks ago, hopefully we can**

add a third one. Mr. Elizondo stated, so more work, less same pay? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, the tasks are divided evenly. I don't know about more work.** Mr. Elizondo stated, more scope of work. **Mr. Cespedes replied, right, well, to put it in perspective, my Finance Coordinators are in the same pay grade and they handle all funds, not just federal or state comp.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but that's the way they came in, right? **Mr. Cespedes replied, it's the same pay grade.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but did we change theirs? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, sir, no, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but we did for these two. **Mr. Cespedes replied, but what I'm saying is just to put it in perspective, my Finance Coordinators handle \$450 million.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I agree. I mean, you can paint it any which way you want, but... **Mr. Cespedes replied, right, likewise.** Mr. Elizondo stated, right. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, Mr. Cespedes, in order for them to work with all the different departments and different programs, did you need to also change the funding source? **Mr. Cespedes replied, yes, sir, in order to remain compliant, for example, if they're being paid out of federal or Title I only, they can only do Title I duties. If we want them to do, whether it's general fund or state comp duties, we do have to split fund them.** Mr. Ortiz stated, I understand that, so they're split funded or did you change 100% their funding source? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, they will be split funded.** Mr. Ortiz stated they are split funded? **Mr. Cespedes replied, no, they will be split funded, yes sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, which basically so that people understand what split funded means. I know what it means but can you explain what that is? **Mr. Cespedes explained, so split funded means for example if we are paying them 50% out of Title I, 50% out of state comp, they could do up to half of their duties could be Title I or federal related and then the other 50% could be state comp or general fund related.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you for explaining it to the community and to our employees. Thank you.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, to recommend approval by funding source to revise page 13 of the 2024-2025 Employee Compensation Plan, Administrator Business Management Pay Plan positions, removing Coordinator, Special Programs and replacing it with Coordinator, Support Programs.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Ms. Lopez, Ms. Garza, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Leal
Nay: Mr. Elizondo
Abstain:

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

6. Recommend approval of the designed fund donation from the Homer Hanna Class of 1979 in the amount of \$70,000.

Mr. Eddie Garcia, Board Member stated, motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Second. We do have somebody in the audience. Dr. Nick, you too? Okay, Dr. Nick, the podium is yours. **Dr. Nic Ibarra Cantu, Executive Director/Secondary stated, good evening, Madam President, Dr. Chavez, members of the Board, and**

esteemed guests. I stand today before you on behalf of Principal Ms. Blanca Lambarri, she was unable to be here. She sends her regrets, but today the students are being very successful. Tonight, we have a playoff game. The Lady Eagles will be out there competing on their first playoff game, and other schools as well. So we're very excited for what's going on in BISD. So, congratulations to our Lady Eagles out there. We would like to express our most heartfelt gratitude to the Class of 1979 for their generosity. I would like to bring forward a representative of the group of the Homer Hanna High School Class of 1979. They and their fellow classmates will be celebrating their 45th High School Reunion next week, and they are here to offer a gift of support to Homer Hanna High School. So at this time I would like to welcome Mr. Medrano. I would like to introduce their founding donor and committee member, Joe Medrano, and he will introduce the fellow classmates and committee members of the Homer Hanna High School Class of 1979. Mr. Joe Medrano stated, thank you and thank you Dr. Ibarra and good evening to the Board and the Board Members. Thank you for the opportunity to share a brief timeline summary of the events that have led us here. First, I would like to acknowledge our committee members Laura Lucio, Mario Fasci, Norman Esquivel and someone who goes without an introduction because we all know her, our class principal for four years, Ms. Sylvia Perez. I'd like to thank them and the Hanna Leadership Team for their participation and patience as we have moved this effort forward. Just for some context, the Rio Grande Valley Philanthropic Foundation, which holds our designated fund, they're the ones that hold our designated fund. So, joining us this evening is Dr. Diane Garza, Executive Director of the RGV Philanthropic Foundation who is instrumental in guiding us through the fund creation process. It is the intent of the founder, the committee members and subsequent donors that this gift is to provide support for expanded and creative educational opportunities for Hanna students as determined by Hanna leadership to help move forward one Hanna student or a group of Hanna students toward success. It is also the intent of this committee and our donors to seek additional support between 2024 and 2029 in honor of both our 45th and 50th graduation anniversaries of the Hanna High School class of 1979. Very briefly, this all started in 2020 during a time when one of our classmates and I had begun to facilitate funding for several local nonprofit organizations in Brownsville, including Big Give Brownsville and the successful Youth in Philanthropy initiative led by Dr. Garza, and in which BISD is also greatly involved. After a few years of facilitating supplementing funding for these initiatives, one of our classmates, Jorge, asked me if we could somehow figure out a way to help at Hanna. Coincidentally, this was around the time that Hanna had won their second consecutive NCUST Award, National Center for Urban School Transformation. And after that announcement, Jorge and I were even more determined to create an opportunity that would support the good work being done by Hanna leadership at our very own alma mater. I will spare you many of the details of the next 16 months but suffice to say it involved many meetings, required establishing a designated fund, establishing our esteemed leadership committee, and even had our classmate, the facilitator of our first donation, Jorge Ruiz de Velasco, actually fly from his home base at Stanford University in San Francisco, California, to San Diego, as he was that impressed that this school and the award represented his alma mater, our alma mater, and a high school from Brownsville, Texas. That classmate, Jorge Ruiz Velasco, currently serves as the Deputy Director and Senior

Research Associate of the Gardner Center at Stanford University, which works on the study and promotion of change in public schools, and who was instrumental in facilitating our first donation towards this gift to Hanna. This esteemed committee, from the Hanna Class of 1979 and I, are confident that Mrs. Lambarri and the Hanna leadership have determined and will continue to determine the best use of these funds, and we are grateful that we can help in this capacity. In closing, perhaps we are not the first or only group of Hanna graduates, or graduates from any BISD high school for that matter, to give back to their alma mater. But if I can provide anyone with information on the very unique way we did this, through the guidance of Dr. Diane Garza and the RGV Philanthropic Foundation, I am happy to do so and I trust that Dr. Garza is willing to help provide additional information as well. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening and continued success to all of BISD and especially Mrs. Lambarri and the awesome teachers, staff, and students at Hanna High School. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Mr. Medrano, if you could please come up here so that we can thank you personally and if we could take a picture with you would be a great honor with all of you yes. Thank you guys once again, I think that does open up the challenge to all of our other classes. Thank you.

Motion made by Eddie Garcia, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the designed fund donation from the Homer Hanna Class of 1979 in the amount of \$70,000. (7-0-0)

7. Recommend approval to accept scholarship donations for forty students in the Homeless Youth Program. No cost to the District. * **Amendment: Deleted from Agenda and Backup**
8. Recommend approval to accept the Texas Reading Initiative-Literacy Coaching and Professional Development Extension to pay administrative support stipend, staff professional development and extra duty pay in compliance with the grant guidelines. **(Consent Agenda)**

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 \$879,975.36. **(Consent Agenda)**

C. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments:

1. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #012 in the amount of \$5,902,191.00 for Local Funds. (Reallocation of \$2,352,965.00, Carryover Budget of \$3,265,726.00, Additional Funding of \$35,000.00 and Fund Balance of \$248,500.00). **Deleted from agenda and backup as per Administration**

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

1. Recommend approval to enter into an Agreement between Bridges Experience, Inc. and Brownsville ISD. CTE Categorical Funding \$126.00 per student is to be utilized for Bridges Experience, Inc., a third-party vendor partnered with Valley Baptist Medical Center to provide an online onboarding platform. ***(Consent Agenda)**

2. Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between The American Institutes for Research (AIR) in partnership with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) and the Brownsville Independent School District. The projects primary goal is to evaluate the effects of an enhanced version of Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) designated to facilitate instructional differentiation on students' reading comprehension, motivation, and engagement at no cost to the District. ***(Consent Agenda)**

Frank Ortiz Abstained from Agenda Item X. D. 2

3. Recommend the approval to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Haissam Mayasi, Consulting Services, for Technical Services such as comprehensive solutions including database management, advance querying, reporting, programming, and more, as required to complete state PEIMS submission and ensure effective Optional Flexible School Day Program programming and implementation at an estimated cost of \$12,500.00.
Deleted from agenda and backup as per Administration

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

1. Recommend awarding RFP #25-007 Music Supplies and Accessories District-wide to several vendors. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
2. Recommend awarding RFP #25-011 Helmet Reconditioning and Shoulder Pads Repair District-wide to several vendors. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
3. Recommend awarding RFP #25-012 Weight Training Room Equipment District-wide to several vendors and cast lots for item #5 of said bid. (Annual Proposal)

Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, where are they from by any chance? **Ms. Rosie Pena, Purchasing Administrator stated good evening, Board Members, Dr. Chavez, they are from Venice, California, sir. At least that is where they submitted their bid from.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you, ma'am. Once again, are we reaching out to our local vendors or local businesses? **Ms. Pena replied, yes, sir.**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend awarding RFP #25-012 Weight Training Room Equipment District-wide to several vendors and cast lots for item #5 (Fitness Superstore Incorporated) of said bid. (Annual Proposal) (7-0-0)

4. Recommend awarding RFP #25-013 Athletic Supplies for Boys/Girls Wrestling District-wide (Catalog Bid) to several vendors. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
5. Recommend awarding RFP #25-026 Theater Equipment Services and Supplies District-wide to several vendors. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
6. Recommend awarding RFP #25-040 Charter Bus Services District-wide to several vendors. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
7. Recommend awarding RFP #25-042 Medical Supplies and Equipment District-wide to several vendors. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**

8. Recommend awarding RFP #25-156 Fine Arts Uniforms and Supplies for Performance Groups District-wide to several vendors. (Annual Proposal) (**Consent Agenda**)

XI. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. 6:58 p.m.

XII. BOARD RECONVENES - Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session. 9:05 p.m.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated for the record Ms. Lopez Valdez stepped out.

Daniella Lopez Valdez left meeting at 8:33 p.m.

A. LEVEL III GRIEVANCE(S):

1. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Level III Grievance No. 002/24-25 on S.M.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, Legal, can you give us guidance? *Mr. Nick Maddox, Board Attorney stated, yes, Madam President, members of the Bboard, Superintendent Chavez. As a preliminary matter, it's my understanding from consultation with the board and administration that the TIA evaluation process is being taken very seriously and that additional training has already been ordered and commenced. So, to that end, it's my recommendation to direct the administration to carefully review the evidence to ensure a fair and equitable evaluation, to ensure that evaluations are executed with fidelity, and to take steps to rectify any issues if so found.*

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to direct the administration to carefully review the evidence to ensure a fair and equitable evaluation, to ensure that evaluations are executed with fidelity, and to take steps to rectify any issues if so found regarding Level III Grievance No. 002/24-25 on S.M. (6-0-0)

B. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval grouping Personnel agenda items B. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9. (6-0-0)

1. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Retirements. (7) (G6-0-0)
2. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Resignations. (7) (G6-0-0)
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Jesus H. Chavez) (G6-0-0)
4. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year – Dance/Theater Arts Advisor. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, to recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year – Dance/Theater Arts Advisor. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Mr. Elizondo, Ms. Gonzalez
Nay: Ms. Garza, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Leal
Abstain:

Motion Failed: 2-4-0

5. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year – ROTC Instructor. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. **(G6-0-0)**
6. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year – JROTC Sr. Instructor-Army. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. **(G6-0-0)**
7. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year – Specialist, Curriculum. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, I motion. Mr. Frank Ortiz, stated second. Mr. Ortiz stated, I retract my motion.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

8. Recommend approval of personnel for the 2024-2025 school year – Manager, Facilities/Project. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.

Motion failed for lack of a motion

9. Recommend approval of Campus Professional Employee (M.G.) for change in days, change in salary for the 2024-2025 Fiscal School Year. **(G6-0-0)**

C. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney:
 - a. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Cause No. 2023-DCL-00242-A; Omar Gonzalez vs. Brownsville Independent School District.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approval regarding Cause No. 2023-DCL-00242-A; Omar Gonzalez vs. Brownsville Independent School District, as discussed in Executive Session. (6-0-0)

- b. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Cause No. 2019-DCL-06158-E; Jasmin Leal vs. Brownsville Independent School District.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Cause No. 2019-DCL-06158-E; Jasmin Leal vs. Brownsville Independent School District, as discussed in Executive Session. (6-0-0)

2. Board Attorney:
 - a. Legal Update with Board Counsel. **(No action taken)**

D. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

E. INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT:

1. Discussion of District-Wide Intruder Detection Audit Report findings.

F. BOARD SELF-EVALUATION.

XIII. Announcement(s):

Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, November 5th, tomorrow, we have a General Election Holiday, and certainly encourage everybody to go out and vote if you haven't yet. November 7th, Chatting with the Superintendent, 9 a.m. Boardroom. We have a Tree Planting Ceremony at 9 a.m. at Benavides Elementary. We also have on November 7th, the Citizens Facilities Committee Meeting at 5.30 p.m. over at CAB. November 9th, Elementary Science Fair, 8 a.m. Besteiro Middle School. November 11th, Veterans Day Ceremony, 9 a.m. in the Boardroom. Special Ed 504 Committee Meeting at 5:30 in the Boardroom, that's on the 11th as well. November 12, we have Area 1 Special Olympics Texas Bowling Meet for Middle Schools at 9:30 a.m., at the Galaxy Bowling Center. November 14th, we have Area 1 Special Olympics Texas Bowling, this if for the high schools. And on November 14, we also have a Special Called Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board President stated, I just have a quick announcement or statement. As you know, my colleague Mr. Garcia did not seek re-election, so this is officially his last meeting, but you are demanded to go to the canvassing for whoever takes your seat. But on behalf of my colleagues, I just wanted to thank you for your service. A lot of people forget that Mr. Garcia was originally appointed to the Board and then ran and won. But he's going to greener pastures. Greener, I mean by a paid position. But thank you, Mr. Garcia, for your service to BISD and please don't be a stranger. And remember, it's on record that you're a demanded to come to the canvassing. Definitely, I will be present and I look forward for whatever happens. Again, we need to keep on moving forward and that's definitely again ONE TEAM ONE DREAM let's keep it going.

XIV. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Eddie Garcia, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to adjourn the Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting at 9:13 P.M. (6-0-0)

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

(HANDOUTS ADDED TO OFFICIAL MINUTES)

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

Approved by:

Jessica Gonzalez, President of the Board

Date

Attested by:

Denise Garza, 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 Tuesday, December 10, 2024)