

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **24th day of June, 2026**, 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:

Daniella Lopez Valdez	President
Frank Ortiz	Vice-President
Minerva Peña	Secretary
Carlos Elizondo	Board Member (Via Zoom)
Denise Garza	Member
Jessica Gonzalez	Member
Neida Ruth Grantland	Member

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Alda T. Benavides	Interim Superintendent of Schools
Eden Ramirez	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 Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member announced that all Trustees were present and Mr. Carlos Elizondo would participate via zoom.**
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, June 24, 2026, with any corrections/deletions.**

Amendment: Handout 1 added to official minutes

Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated, Under VIII. A. Conference Presentation, Item 1 will be deleted from agenda and backup; Under Item XV. A. Personnel Items 8 Page 3 will be replaced with Page 3a.

Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated for the record Ms. Pat, I will be abstaining from agenda item XIII. D. 4.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, June 24, 2026 with the amendments as stated by administration, inclusive of Mr. Frank Ortiz abstaining from agenda item XIII. D. 4. (7-0-0)

VI. Recommend approving the minutes with any corrections:

- A. Special Called Board Meeting of Tuesday, May 26, 2026.
- B. Special Called Board Meeting of Wednesday, June 3, 2026.
- C. Special Called Board Meeting of Thursday, June 4, 2026.
- D. Special Called Board Meeting of Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

Motion made by Minerva Peña, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the minutes of the Special Called Board Meeting of Tuesday, May 26, 2026, Special Called Board Meeting of Wednesday, June 3, 2026, Special Called Board Meeting of Thursday, June 4, 2026 and the Special Called Board Meeting of June 9, 2026, with no corrections as state by administration. (7-0-0)

VII. Superintendent's Report: * SB1566

A. Conference Presentations:

- 1. Recognition of Benavides Elementary Librarian on the Region One Innovative Librarian Award. **Item 1 Will be deleted from agenda and backup**
- 2. Recognition of Imagination Spirit of DI for Alicia Garcia, Team Manager and Evandra Stoltz, Student.
Brownsville ISD sent 28 Destination Imagination teams to the Lone Star Finals in Arlington, Texas from April 9 to April 12, 2026. One evening at the hotel, Ms. Alicia Garcia, Team Manager for the Veterans ECHS Destination Imagination (DI) Improv team, noticed a child floundering in the hotel pool. She immediately started asking for anyone with emergency training while running to have the hotel call emergency services. At the same time, Ms. Evandra Stoltz, DI team member, dropped everything and ran to see if she could assist in the rescue, prepared to use her CPR training if it was needed. Fortunately, the Emergency Services did arrive quickly and others had been able to care for the child. We are bringing the recognition of these two individuals to the board because they both so strongly exemplified the positive personal attributes that are instilled in participants, both adults and students, through the Destination Imagination program. The Spirit of Discovery and Imagination Award is an award presented at DI Tournaments to Team Managers, Team Members, Tournament Officials, or other members of the DI community. The award is presented to those who selflessly assist others (without interfering in their challenge solutions) through sportsmanship, volunteerism, and exhibiting the positive DI Spirit. We thank Ms. Alicia Garcia and Evandra Stoltz for their quick thinking and taking immediate action to make a difference for this child and their family.

3. Recognition of Claudia Cortez – Porter ECHS Teacher 2026 H-E-B Excellence in Education Leadership Secondary Award Winner.
Claudia Cortez, CTE Engineering Teacher at Porter Early College High School, was named the 2026 H-E-B Excellence in Education Leadership Secondary Award Winner. She was awarded a \$10,000 check and a \$10,000 grant for Porter ECHS. With 16 years of experience in CTE and engineering education, Ms. Cortez inspires students through real-world STEM experiences and a strong commitment to building the next generation of innovators.
4. Recognition of National History Day Winners.
For more than 50 years, National History Day has transformed the teaching and learning of history across the world. Each year, students participate by creating historical research projects that allow them to explore the past while developing valuable skills in communication, project management, research, and historical thinking. Students compete at the local, regional, state, and national levels, earning the opportunity to showcase their work on a global stage. Students come from all 50 states and internationally including China, Korea, South Asia, Guam, etc. This year, we are incredibly proud to recognize Rivera High School for representing our community at the National History Day competition. Please join us in celebrating our National History Day 1st Place Champions: The Space Race: Revolution through Rivalry: Damian Ledezma, Isabella Castaneda Garcia, Karol Arriaga and Sergio Cisneros
5. Presentation of 10th Annual Jason Garcia Memorial Scholarship Recipients. (Board Member Request Minerva Peña/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)
Ms. Rose Longoria, Assistant Superintendent stated, The Jason Garcia Athletic Scholarship Foundation has proudly supported and recognized deserving student athletes throughout our district for the past 10 years. Tonight, as a proud member of the foundation, it is my honor to introduce our chairperson, who, along with the foundation committee, will recognize and present this year's scholarship recipients. Please join me in welcoming the chair of the Jason Garcia Athletic Scholarship Foundation, Mr. Roger Reyna. Mr. Roger Reyna stated, good evening, Interim Superintendent Dr. Benavides, members of the Board, and distinguished guests. On behalf of the Jason Garcia Memorial Scholarship Committee, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who continue to support our mission and help us honor Jason's legacy. A special thank you goes to the Brownsville Independent School District Board and especially Minerva Peña and Denise Garza for your continued support, encouragement, and commitment to our students and community. Your generosity and dedication have played an important role in the success of this scholarship program over the years. A sincere thank you goes to Board Secretary Pat Perez for always ensuring we have a place on the agenda and for taking time to answer our questions and provide guidance throughout the years. Your support has always been instrumental in helping us continue our mission and celebrate the achievements of our student athletes. We're also incredibly thankful to Assistant Superintendent Rose Longoria and her Administrative Assistant Margie Garza for their unwavering support and willingness to help whenever needed. Your dedication, leadership, and commitment to our students and community have made a lasting impact, and we are grateful for all that you do. We would also like to recognize J.J. DeLeon and

the Faulk family for their generosity, support, and belief in our mission. Your contributions have helped us continue making a difference in the lives of student athletes and future leaders. I would also like to acknowledge Alma. Salazar, Judy Moreno, Geraldo Morales-Whittemore, Erica Hite for being the leading ticket seller, and everyone here today assisting with the distribution of scholarships and help making this event possible. Your hard work behind the scenes does not go unnoticed. Most importantly, none of this would be possible without Mary Garcia. For the past 10 years, she has carried forward her son Jason's legacy with tremendous strength, dedication, and love. Through her vision and perseverance This scholarship has grown into an opportunity that continues to impact the lives of student athletes throughout our community. Her commitment ensures that Jason's memory remains not only alive but meaningful to each new generation of recipients. Jason Garcia believed that success was measured not only by achievements but by character, determination, and the impact we have on others. His legacy lives through the Scholarship and through the remarkable young people we recognize today. Each recipient has demonstrated the dedication, leadership, and perseverance that Jason valued so deeply. Before we begin announcing the Jason Garcia Scholarship recipients, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Cindy Rios and her husband, Oscar Migoya, for creating a beautiful slideshow we are about to share. This presentation celebrates the past. 10 years, and we invite you to reflect on the legacy that Jason left behind and the many individuals who have helped carry it forward. Thank you for joining us in honoring Jason's life, his values, and the meaningful impact he continues to make through each scholarship awarded today. When you try your best, but you don't succeed. When you get what you want, but not what you need. When you feel so tired, but you can't sleep. Stuck in reverse, and the tears come streaming down your face. When you lose something, you can't replace, when you love someone, but it goes to waste. Try to fix you High up above or down below. Were you too love to let it go? But if you never try, you'll never know. Just watch your words. Lights will guide you home and ignite your bones. I will try to fix you. See us free. See a stream of your face when you lose something you cannot replace. See a stream of your face and eyes. I promise you I'll never forget your mistakes. Lights will guide you home. And now it is our privilege to honor these outstanding student athletes as the. 2025-2026 Jason Memorial Scholarship Recipients. Hanna Early College High School, Ariam Hernandez, Mylee Guerra, who has reported to active duty serving in the Army, Roy Champion. Veterans Memorial ECHS, Annalise Cuevas. Sophie Guerrier. Rosella Russo Fadai. Porter Early College. College High School. Porter Early College High School. America Landeros, who is currently attending orientation in San Antonio. Miley Cortez. Samuel Garza. Pace Early College High School, Victoria Medina. Lopez Early College High School, Anika Bouchot. Rivera Early College High School, Elaine Garces. Oyuki Trevino, and Yvonne Barrientos. Congratulations to all of our Recipients and their families. We are honored to celebrate your achievements and wish you continued success in all your future endeavors.

6. Brownsville Independent School District Financial Report for the period ended May 31, 2026.

Ms. Rosario Peña, Chief Financial Officer stated, thank you. Good evening, Madam

President, Ms. Daniela Lopez Valdez, Interim Superintendent Dr. Benavides, members of the board, and audience. I'll walk the Board through the district's financial position as of May 31, 2026. In the general fund, the district has recognized approximately \$411.1 million in state, local, and federal revenues, with expenditures totaling approximately \$466.1 million, resulting in a current deficit of approximately \$55 million. It is important to note that this balance includes expenditures associated with the Food and Nutrition Services Fund, which operates on a reimbursement basis. Additionally, state funding distributions are now based on actual average daily attendance reported every six weeks. As a result, revenue collections do not always align with expenditures throughout the fiscal year. The district's final state funding settlement for fiscal year 25-26 will not occur until after the submission of the final summer PEIMS data. Historically, the Texas Education Agency completes its final settle up and distributes any remaining funding in September or October of the following year of the following and close to the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, the current general fund deficits should be viewed in the context of these timing differences in state funding. I would also like to clarify that the \$17.9 million in proceeds from the sale of Cummings and Longoria remain separate from normal operating funds and are designated specifically for the building of the CTE. Moving on to the self-insurance fund. Total revenues currently stand at approximately \$50.6 million, while expenditures total approximately \$55.5 million, resulting in a deficit balance of approximately \$5 million. District administration continues to monitor claims activity and fund performance to ensure the long-term sustainability of this fund. Revenue continues to improve due to increased district contributions, employee contributions, and pharmacy rebates. However, claims expenses continue to rise and remain an area we are closely monitoring. On our debt service fund, the fund reflects a revenue of approximately \$7.9 million and expenditures of approximately \$12.9 million, resulting in a deficit balance of approximately \$5 million. This deficit is anticipated and primarily reflects the timing of tax collections. Lastly, our special revenue funds have recorded total revenues of \$32.9 million and expenditures of approximately \$46.5 million, resulting in a deficit balance of approximately \$13.6 million. As a reminder, the majority of special revenue programs operate on a reimbursement basis. Expenditures are incurred first, and reimbursement requests are subsequently submitted to the granting agencies. Therefore, the district expects to receive the outstanding revenues associated with these expenditures by Fiscal year in or shortly thereafter, in accordance with grant reimbursement schedules. Overall, the financial Activity reflected in these funds is consistent with the timing of state funding, distribution, grant reimbursement processes, and year in accounting activity. Administration will continue to closely monitor revenues and expenditures and will provide the Board with updated information as we finalize our fiscal year 25-26. This concludes the financial report presentation. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, thank you, Ms. Peña, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, Ms. Peña just to follow up I know that on the FNS reimbursement, I had asked about a week and a half, maybe two weeks ago, if we had a plan on that, and at that time, we had no idea that y'all were looking into it. An update, where are we on the reimbursement plan at this time? Ms. R. Peña replied, yes, sir, thank you for that question. We will be bringing that back to the Board, or for Board approval on the, hopefully we will have a Board meeting in July. We do have guidance from TDA and so we've already set up the loan agreement with the help of our legal department and so we will be bringing

that to the Board for approval. Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you ma'am.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Larry Jokyl - Thank you, Madam President, Superintendent, Board Members. My name is Larry Jokyl. I'm here this evening to discuss the possible selection of a new Superintendent. I've been in the real estate business for over 50 years. I've watched our city go from being a tremendous asset to the town to being in the dumps. Tonight, we have the opportunity to select a superintendent who has the ability to lead this district. The first thing people ask when they come in to look at our city is, what about your schools? And I hear this all the time. We need somebody who not only can lead this district, but has the ability to work with Austin and Washington. It is critical. I'm not going to stand here and tell you who or what but I'm going to highly recommend that you reconsider Dr. Zendejas for the new superintendent. She has the ability to move this district forward as she has done in the past. She has, she's liked very much in Austin and in Washington and can move us forward. We need to look at how we are going to bring students back into this district, into this system. We've lost tremendous numbers. We have all kinds of new people moving into this area. They are looking at our school district carefully. We may lose another thousand students next year. That's not good. She has the ability to go out and talk to these people and prove a point that this is probably the best district in South Texas. So, I am asking you, as Trustees, to look beyond what you may have thought about people and choose someone who can lead this district into the future. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Susan Ruvalcaba -XIV. A. 1 - Good afternoon, Board President. Trustee, and Interim Superintendent. My name is Susan Rubalcaba. I am here tonight because BISD taxpayers are tired of the excuses, the lack of transparency, and the continued disregard for how our tax dollars are being handled. The ESSER non-compliance issue did not happen overnight. TEA questioned over a half a million dollars in ESSER payroll expenditures over two years ago. And instead of correcting the problem, aggressively appealing it, or being fully transparent with the public, BISD allowed this issue to drag on until the district had its back up against the wall. So, my question is who got it wrong? Who decided not to appeal correct the records when there was still time, who allowed this to remain unresolved until repayment became the only option, and who is being held accountable? BISD does not just have a money problem; BISD has a transparency and an accountability problem. Meeting after meeting, we have watched as certain Board Members pushed for a full Forensic Audit while others pushed back, made excuses, and dismissed the request as not necessary. I even remember one BISD Board Member with a straight face asking what would trigger an audit. Well, I don't know, but maybe having to refund over a half a million dollars to TEA would trigger one. The public deserves to know exactly what happened, who failed to act, who knew about it, and when they knew about it, and why this Board was not publicly sounding the alarm sooner. I am calling for a full independent audit and investigation into the ESSER noncompliance matter, the lack of appeal or correction, the delay in addressing it, and why we were kept in the dark. And you better believe that the voters will remember in November every board member who made excuses for why this district did not need a forensic audit while turning around and trying to push a half a billion-dollar bond onto taxpayers. If that doesn't scream a forensic audit, then what exactly are you waiting for? Thank you.

Zoraya Salinas, A5, 8 through 10, and E1. Good evening, Board President Lopez Valdez, Dr. Benavides, esteemed Board Members, and members of the Brownsville ISD community. My name is Zoraya Salinas. I'm the proud representative for non-certified staff at BEST AFT Local, number 3877, a unit of professionals, and I serve as a behavior intervention aide in the upper BI unit at Ortiz Elementary. I'm speaking on agenda items A5, A8, through A10, A16, and E1. Before sharing my concerns, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees and administration for approving the 2026-2027 compensation plan. As a classified employee and union representative, I know many employees appreciate the salary increases approved for teachers, professional staff, and classified employees. These investments recognize the dedication of BISD employees and demonstrate a commitment to recruiting, retaining, and supporting the people who serve our students every day. While we appreciate the progress made with the compensation, BEST remains concerned about the district's financial outlook. The recommended 2026-2027 budget reflects a reduction from approximately 608 million to 480 million. And the general fund reserve balance has decreased from approximately 131 million to 90 million. During previous budget discussions maintaining reserves above 100 million was identified as an important goal. As employees and taxpayers, we are concerned about what continued reductions in reserves could mean for the future financial stability of our district. Agenda item A5 reflects a projected deficit of approximately 29 million, including nearly 5 million related to health insurance. These figures highlight the importance of carefully evaluating expenditures and identifying opportunities to strengthen the district's financial position. Regarding agenda items A5 and A9, the district pays approximately \$30,000 in Region One membership fees while also contracting for additional training services. BEST encourages continued discussion regarding whether those resources can be maximized and whether internal expertise may be utilized whenever appropriate. Agenda items 8. And A10 include approximately 1.8 million in consulting expenses. While consultants can provide valuable expertise, BEST believes these expenditures should continue to be reviewed to determine where costs may be reduced while maintaining quality services and support. Agenda items A16 and E1 involve significant investment related to SAMS Stadium. While BEST appreciates the efforts to secure rebates and improve district facilities, The combined cost of this project approaches 5 million. Given the district's financial challenges, we believe that these expenditures warrant thoughtful discussion regarding project costs, long term priorities, and overall return on investment. BEST strongly supports initiatives that benefit students, including the proposed 22 to 1 middle school ratio. However, with an estimated cost of approximately 6.6 million, it may be worthwhile to consider whether a phase implementation could help balance student needs with current financial realities while still achieving the district's long-term goals. We also encourage continued review of compensation structures across all employee groups. Many classified employees continue to face financial challenges while providing essential services to our students and campuses each day. As a classified employee, a single parent, and the mother of a child with significant special needs and ongoing medical challenges, I understand firsthand how important stable employment and strong public schools are for families like mine. Like many BISD employees, I want to see our district remain financially strong so that we can continue serving students or protecting jobs and essential services. The community and employees deserve transparency regarding these financial challenges and a clear plan moving forward. I respectfully ask the Board and Administration to continue making thoughtful decisions that protect students, employees, and the long-term financial health of our district. Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to the students, employees, and families of Brownsville ISD. Have the best evening.

Esmeralda Garcia Barajas, XIVA2. Good evening, Board President, Board Members, Dr. Benavides, and BISD community. I'm Esmeralda Garcia Barajas, union leader of BEST AFT Local 3877 and a resource teacher at Cromack-Castañeda. I'm speaking on agenda item XIVA2, the results of the climate survey. We want to thank Mr. Ortiz and Ms. Peña for requesting this presentation on the district climate survey. The results show what many employees have been feeling for some time morale in this district is alarmingly low. As a special education teacher and as a parent, I am not surprised by those findings. Children need structure, consistency, and support in order to be successful. The same is true for adults. Campus staff need to know their principal supports them. Principals need to know their AAs support them. AAs need to know their district leadership supports them. When that chain of support breaks down, morale suffers. Too often, when a parent is unhappy with a decision or consequences resulting from their child's actions, they continue moving up the chain of command until they find someone willing to overturn the decision rather than support the employee who follow district guidelines, rules, and procedures. We see this happen in classrooms, during UIL events, and in extracurricular activities including chess, cheerleading, dance, and athletics. There was a time when concerns were addressed directly. Individuals were called in, conversations were held, and when necessary, corrective action was taken. Today, social media and cell phones have amplified every conflict and every complaint. Part of growing up and part of learning is experiencing disappointment. Not making a team, falling short of honor roll, or making a mistake are opportunities to learn and improve. The district must provide structure. And apply it consistently, regardless of who is involved. A year ago, we were able to resolve many level one grievances through human resources. We sat down, discussed concerns, reached agreements when possible, and moved forward. This year, however, we have seen other departments and members of the cabinet become involved in matters that should have remained at the appropriate level. As a result, more grievances are moving forward because administration is unwilling to acknowledge when leaders have violated education law or district policy, both legal and local. We're also seeing employees receive reprimands based on suspicion rather than documented facts. These issues should be resolved at or before level one, but they continue to escalate because accountability is not being applied consistently at all levels of administration. As a union, we represent workers, workers who deserve respect and dignity, workers who want fairness and consistency, workers who want a safe workplace and the ability to return home safely to their families each day. The Board has the ability to influence the culture of this district. You can do so by ensuring that the next superintendent expects administrators to support their staff, follow district policy, comply with the law, and treat employees with professionalism and respect. Leaders who cannot meet those expectations should be replaced by those who can. Make BISD the best district to work for, create a positive working environment across every campus, and you will be amazed at what employees are willing to do for their students, their campuses, and this district. I know this because I work with one of those leaders. When BISD consolidated Cromack and Castañeda, Ms. Nora Camargo managed to bring two campuses together almost seamlessly. It has not been perfect, but most of us generally enjoy working for her. When I first came to BISD, I could not understand why teachers would bend over backwards for her. I then became a union leader and figured it out. I've read the grievances, so I have the receipts. Many had worked for administrators who were disrespectful, dismissive, arrogant, or unprofessional. Ms. Camargo is different. She treats her staff with respect. She shows appreciation through her actions and through the way she speaks to people. Even when correction is necessary, she does it professionally and respectfully. There's a way to hold employees accountable while still treating them with dignity. And for the record, she has no idea I'm using her as a positive example tonight. Every summer, we all shudder at the possibility of

her getting moved, and it shouldn't be that way. If you want to improve morale in BISD, hire more administrators like Ms. Nora Camargo because leaders like her should be the norm and not the exception. Thank you for listening to the best talk.

Patrick Hames, X. 14 A. 2 - I am amazed and find it very difficult to follow my two predecessors at the dais here. So Patrick Hammes, Union Leader, BESTAFT, Local 3877, Union of professionals. And one of the things that Ezra just talked about was demonstrated last night by Superintendent Benavides when you had an administrator here at the dais who was taking questions about the librarians and librarian aides, and a Board Member asked another administrator about the funding issue and that administrator said, well, he had no idea and basically threw the person at the dais underneath the bus. Then the question came back to that statement administrator at the dais on who directed her and she threw HR under the bus. Okay. Dr. Benavidez stepped in and took responsibility. It was her decision, okay, she made the assignment, okay, and she admitted to making an error in not looking at the funding source. That is leadership. That is supporting your staff and that is what we're looking for at all levels, not just the highest level, although it's been a long time since we've seen this, also. So, thank you, Dr. Benavides. As Marie talked about the relationship with HR, and I am under hearing that there is a question on why so many grievances are not being resolved at level one and level two. It's because administration that we have, instead of HR, are working on issues, and frankly, they don't seem to be very willing to settle. So, getting to my prepared statements, items. Item X has to do with the superintendent search. We have posted our thoughts, emailed our members, and emailed all the board members on what our concerns are considering one candidate. If you think the results of the district climate survey showed low morale now, then hire the person and watch it drop even lower. BEST AFT leaders attended all three superintendent search community meetings. The community wants a leader who is not a recycled superintendent, they want one from outside the valley, from outside the district, they wanted to do one that was much more affordable and one that could communicate with civic, community leaders, parents, and staff. One who will treat others with respect and dignity, justice and equality, and can ensure that staff and students are working in safe environments. Workers want a leader who is going to demand that all employees will be treated with respect and dignity, one who will support the end of all the isms, cronyism, ageism, sexism, racism, along with demanding that management follow all education laws and policies when it comes to workers' rights, which are very few in this state. You, as a Board, have the opportunity to put an end to retaliation and harassment in this district by ensuring that our next leader does not tolerate these morale killing behaviors by selecting one that will model that behavior. If you are not in a consensus, then don't rush to hire one just to hire one, but check to see if Dr. Benavides is willing to stay until the November elections have been concluded. As Board Members, you're two primary responsibilities are the budget and the Superintendent. The community and employees are looking to see if you'll make the best choice. I want to close by reminding you of a saying, a child saying, Fool me once, shame on you, Fool me twice, shame on me. There is nothing for a third occurrence. Thank you for listening. Have the best of evenings.

Adina Alegria, ESSER Climate Survey. Good evening, Board. President Lopez Valdez, Board of Trustees, Superintendent Benavides, families, and community members here with us in person, and those tuning in tonight. My name is Adina Alegria, Executive Director of Texas Valley Educators Association, affiliated with Brownsville Union Coalition. I come before you this evening to speak on something that matters deeply, not just to me, but to every taxpayer, every parent, and every employee in this district. Most of us heard about concerns about the ESSER Fund

through social media. Let that sink in. Social media. Not a press release, not a statement from your public information officer, not a community meeting. Social media, where misinformation spreads faster than facts ever could. ESSER was federal COVID 19 relief funding. Nationwide schools received over 190 billion across three rounds of funding. Here in Texas, TEA received and distributed billions of those dollars with strict guidelines on allowable expenses, including staff salaries and specific operational cost. BISD received those funds and, like hundreds of districts across the state, navigated a complicated, fast moving compliance environment. Yes, this district received an audit letter from TEA regarding possible misappropriation. Certain purchases and reclassifications that did not meet allowable guidelines. I want to be fair and accurate here. The district responded, submitted what was believed to be necessary documentation, and received a letter back stating that no further action was needed. That is nothing that matters. Was it handled perfectly? No. Was there an oversight in how the community was informed? Absolutely. What is a problem and why I'm standing here tonight is the vacuum of information this Board has allowed to exist. When you go silent, you don't create peace. You create a space for every disgruntled individual with a grudge and a Facebook account to spread half-truths, misinterpreted timelines, and outright inaccuracies to the public. You are letting other people narrate your story. And some of those people have agendas that have nothing to do with the children in this district. Board members, you speak of transparency at near meeting. I'm asking you to mean it. Transparency is not a reactive, it's not scrambling to respond after the damage is done. Transparency is proactive. It is a press conference. It is a clear, honest statement from your public information officer explaining what happened, what was corrected and where things stand. That is how you build trust. That is how you take back control of the narrative. Because right now each of you handed it over. A climate survey out one simple question what is actually like to be here? Do people feel safe, respected, like they belong? That's what should drive what we change. Brene Brown said it best (We desperately need leaders who are committed to courageous, wholehearted leadership. Leaders who are self-aware enough to lead from their hearts, rather than unevolved leaders who lead from hurt and fear). So, let's trade seats for one minute. Sit here where we sit and listen to what we hear when some of you speak. I've watched people at this podium get flustered, cry, get humiliated, demeaned. Then we ask, why are we losing kids? Why are we losing employees? Let's call it what it is. It's emotional abuse. Don't call it passion. Kindness starts with us. Look at what happened when Dr. Chavez brought in the customer service initiative and what Dr. Gallegos did with it. The change in her department, in our schools, and all the departments have been real. So let's keep that going. Let's do better. Let's be better. Because that's how we become the best choice people are proud to make. Thank you.

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

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

Note: The Board of Trustees may go into Closed/Executive Session to deliberate any item on this agenda s authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

IX. Recommend approving the Consent Agenda. The Board has agreed to discuss the following items. All the items below that are not called out will be approved by consent.

A.	General Function Items	1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
B.	Payments	1
C.	Budget Amendments	1, 2, 3, 4
D.	Contracts/Agreements	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
E.	Bids/Proposals/Purchases	1, 2

Note: Frank Ortiz abstained from agenda item IX. D. 4

Note: Technical difficulties affected the audio during the meeting. There was no audio available at the dais. Mr. Elizondo participated via zoom, and while the ITV system transmitted audio that was audible to the audience, Mr. Elizondo's audio could not be heard at the dais.

Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated, do I have a motion. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, ma'am I have a couple more that I wanted to circle. **Ms. Perez stated, please vote.** Mr. Elizondo stated, did you hear me ma'am. **Ms. Perez stated, Mr. Elizondo.** Mr. Elizondo stated, yes ma'am I had a couple more that needed to be circled. **Ms. Perez stated, motion passes 6-0-0 unanimous.**

Motion was made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried for approval of the General Function Items as reflected on the Consent Agenda. (6-0-0)

Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, excuse me. Mr. Elizondo stated, excuse me can you hear me, Daniella. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña stated, yes ma'am I meant to circle E.1 instead of 5, instead of A5, E1. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated do we amend our motion. Mr. Elizondo stated ma'am I had a couple more that I needed circled. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, so because the item was already voted on, technically we can bring it back or go back to it, we could have it presented if you want but the vote would stand as the vote is, as the vote was recorded.* Ms. Peña stated, you can't amend the vote. *Mr. Ramirez stated, not the vote after it has been done no.* Ms. Peña stated, but we can possibility discuss it. *Mr. Ramirez stated, we can bring it like to present it to you, but we wouldn't be able to take any other action on it.* Ms. Peña stated, so we are not going to vote for it. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña we could also give you this item, we can ask it after and get it back to you on the Friday Letter. Ms. Peña stated, no, not Friday. The public is asking information, that's why I want to ask now. Mr. Elizondo stated, hello. *Mr. Ramirez stated, right so we can have it presented if you all want, but we won't be able to take any action on it anymore. The action that just took place right now is the final vote for it.* Mr. Elizondo stated, hello. *Mr. Ramirez stated, to recall the item for reconsideration, they could do it for the next meeting, someone who voted on the side of the item, but for purposes of tonight, we can't take any other action on it.* Ms. Peña stated, okay, because if we don't, then it gets approved through consent. *Mr. Ramirez stated, so you already took action on consent and it was included since it wasn't excluded.* Ms. Peña stated, yeah, because I want to know why we're going to spend \$1.7 million on Sam's Stadium. I just want the information. *Mr. Ramirez stated, sure so yeah.* Ms. Peña stated, so that's a lot of money right now when we're saying we are broke. *Mr. Ramirez stated, sure, so the item is approved, we can't change that, but if you all want to present it, the administration can give you information on the item.* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, and just for the record, we've received this agenda how long-ago Ms. Perez? Ms. Peña stated, I understand, Daniela. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, no, Ms. Peña, I'm just, please let me finish up. Ms. Peña stated, you are constantly getting after people are making that sentence? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, oh, I'm just trying to make sure that we do our homework just like we ask our kids to do our homework. Ms. Peña stated, yes, we did, thank you ma'am, stop. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Perez

can you please tell me the time that we got our agenda?

Note: Mr. Jose Luis, Computer Technician approaches Ms. Pat Perez to inform her that there was technical difficulty and that he was informed that Mr. Elizondo was trying to add agenda items.

Ms. Perez interjected; I believe that Mr. Elizondo is trying to add something. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Elizondo, you have a question? Mr. Elizondo stated, can you hear me? Hello? Can you hear me? Hello. **Ms. Perez stated, we can't hear him.** Ms. Peña stated, are you on mute? **Ms. Perez stated let's say they're getting him.** Mr. Elizondo stated, hello, hello can you hear me? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, well what we could do is move on to this next item, or are we doing technical difficulties? **Ms. Perez stated, he wanted to circle some items.** Mr. Elizondo (inaudible). Ms. Peña stated, welcome to the AI world, everything fails. Mr. Elizondo stated, hello. **Ms. Perez stated, I need to circle some items (Ms. Perez read a text message sent from Mr. Elizondo at 6:36 p.m.).** Sir, can you hear us? Mr. Elizondo stated, no, I can hear you. **Ms. Perez stated, okay, we can hear you now, sir, we can hear you.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay. Ms. Peña stated, can you see speak louder, we can barely hear you. Mr. Elizondo, I wanted to circle some items but you guys already voted on it. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, yes. Ms. M. Peña stated, yes. Mr. Elizondo stated, no, I know, yes. I know that you did. I mean, I'm aware of it, but I mean, I needed somebody to circle. *Mr. Ramirez stated, yeah. So, because the items were voted on, Mr. Elizondo, we're in the same situation as Ms. Peña. We aren't able to undo the vote at this meeting.* Mr. Elizondo stated, I know I heard you. I mean, the thing is to why rush into something, especially if some people have some questions on it. But that's fine. Ms. Peña stated, because the attorney is saying so. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you for your Comments? We'll go ahead and move on to closed session.

(All presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

X. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH:

XI. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. 6:38 p.m.

A. Attorney Consultation - Discussion with Legal Counsel on matters related to Superintendent Search.

1. Discussion on matters related to Lone Finalist for Superintendent of Schools.

XII. BOARD RECONVENES - Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session. 7:27 p.m.

A. Discussion and possible action to name Lone Finalist for Position of Superintendent.

Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated, Mr. Elizondo can you hear us. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, Carlos are you there. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I can hear you now, can you hear me. **Ms. Perez stated, yes sir, thank you.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you. **Ms. Perez stated, yes sir. Ms. Peña stated, I would like to make a motion.** Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, Madam President. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña did get to make the motion first. Ms. Peña stated, yes ma'am may I; I would like to make a motion that Dr. Cuff be selected as our next school Superintendent for the Brownsville Independent School District. **Ms. Perez stated, do I have a second?** Ms. Peña stated, is there a

second? Mr. Elizondo stated, I seconded it. Did you hear me? **Ms. Perez stated yes, sir, please vote; Mr. Elizondo?** Mr. Elizondo stated, I vote yes. **Ms. Perez stated, yes, okay.** Mr. Elizondo stated, yes. **Ms. Perez stated, Motion passes. Four yes, three no.**

Motion made by Minerva Peña, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, to recommend approval the name Dr. Timothy E. Cuff as the Lone Finalist for position of Superintendent of Schools.

The following vote was recorded:

Yea:	Ms. Garza, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Peña, Mr. Elizondo
Nay	Ms. Lopez, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Grantland
Abstain:	

Motion Carried: 4-3-0

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, I just would like to make a comment. I would first of all like to thank all of the candidates who applied and who were very patient with us in this process. I would also like to apologize to the public and to those candidates who did apply and thought that they were in a process that served as an integrity and had discretion. And as a Board. I'm sorry if we failed you because we did not keep that integrity and discretion in the process. I want to thank the public for their participation in the town halls, and I want to thank our legal counsel for their appreciation in conducting this thorough search. Would anybody else like to say anything? Ms. Grantland stated, Madam President. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Grantland continued, I would like to just make it very clear that when I entered into this search, I entered with criterion that I felt was important. Part of that was being connected to the legislative information at the state level and national level. Part of that was being connected with programs that are on the cutting edge at this point in time in school districts, and as I witnessed at the conference, I just came from are thriving under leadership that is innovative, under leadership that is dynamic. I also wanted to find someone that could be responsive to people and someone who is proven. And so, I'm very disappointed that we are not, I think meeting that requirement. And I too want to go on record as saying that I think we've set the bar not high enough. Ms. Peña stated, may I? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña stated, I want to apologize to the public for some of the comments made by our colleagues because they are very discerning. It's just something that is disheartening because we are here to push everyone forward. We all have our people who believe in us and people who don't, but we never step up and do something like put someone that was elected down. That is not proper, that is not the way that we are here in the United States of America. And I do believe we made a good choice. And I'm looking forward for the district to go forward and to climb, because it's got to be someone and I totally believe that this person from the inside can make a difference and make us grow and make us glow. I totally believe in that. And I will not stand here and ever degrade or put anybody else down to make comments. I just wanted to tell everyone I do believe wholeheartedly this can be done and our team can work together and make this district shine beyond belief. It's going to happen. I totally believe that in Jesus' name, it's going to happen. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I have no words, I will start with that. Mr. Elizondo interjected, good. Ms. Gonzalez continued, but having said that, I'm sorry? I thought I had heard Mr. Elizondo say something. Yeah, I heard what he said. I just wanted him to repeat it. Mr. Elizondo stated, I said good, ma'am. I don't hide from anybody. Ms. Gonzalez stated, perfect thank you. He said good. I will tell the community the staff this. This decision doesn't define the district. We, I've always preached that

we have to work together. We don't, like Ms. Peña famously says we don't have to like each other, but we have to work together. So here I am, look at me, quoting Ms. Peña. May lightning not strike us down. Ms. Peña (inaudible). Ms. Gonzalez continued, but I cannot emphasize enough that we have to continue to work together to bring this district forward because, at the end of the day, that is something that we can all agree with. Is that we have that one passion, and that passion is we want to bring this district forward. We might have different ideas on how to get there, but at the end of the day, we all want the last result. So, keep your heads up high. Let's promise to work together to achieve that goal which is bringing the district forward for our children, for our students, for the families that are relying on us to make those hard decisions. So please, please, please, just always remember that. We have to work together to move this district forward. Thank you. Ms. Peña stated, I agree with Jessica. You're right. You're right. Mr. Thank you, ma'am. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, just for the record, I am disappointed at some of the comments that were made just a little while ago. Bottom line is that a decision was made and it's time to move forward. You know, let's not dwell on this. You know, it is what it is. It's time to come together, whether we're in agreement or not, and let's move this great district forward. That's what it's all about. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, thank You Ms. Lopez Valdez to all the candidates out there that applied for this position there was 14 applicants we narrowed it down to nine who were interviewed from the nine we took our top four and I am a bit disappointed and some of the comments. We can agree to disagree. We're all here for one mission and one goal, and that is to move our district forward and to put our students first. And so, this was a very tough decision. I'm not going to lie; there was many calls for certain candidates out there that were being made, but in the end, we had to look out for what was best for the district. And we need to work together and just move forward because BISD is the best district. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I'd like to clarify a couple of points. One of them is the fact that the selection that I felt that I needed to make, I am speaking for myself, was the one that would be quantitative and qualitative. I'm talking about data. I'm talking about proven information. I'm not talking about emotion. I'm not talking about opinion. I'm talking about proven things. I'm talking about what our district is in financially. I'm talking about all the issues that the audience has brought forward, all the issues that we have discussed, those weigh heavily on each of us. And I am in no way saying that I'm not going to work in unity with this Board. I came on here as a volunteer to help, and I'm not going to be here to hinder. But I'm also not going to be dishonest and tell you that I'm happy with the choices we made because I had a certain criterion that I needed to hold to. I promised to do the right thing. And this is me doing the right thing no matter what happens. Whether I run in November. And get reelected, whether I don't, or elected because I was appointed, or whether I don't run, that doesn't figure in for me. What figures in for me is we are a Board of people who are, we're flawed, all of us are, and we are people who do our very best. And I am one person who gives her all to everything that I do. And so I don't want in any way for anyone to think that I'm going to be a block to who was selected. I would never do that because by doing that I'd be hurting the students and I vowed never to hurt students. I spent my entire career not hurting students. So, for anyone to characterize my comments in any other way is not right. My comments were made because I'm a person who is data driven, I'm a person who is very analytical, and I'm a person who's very transparent. And so, I do appreciate my colleagues, I appreciate the discourse we had, I appreciate even the not so good discourse we had. I mean, we don't always agree, but we agree to the fact that we're here for a mission, and our mission is one, One Team One Dream. Now, I think that our message next time is going to be I am BISD and I am BISD, I'm a product of BISD. I came back to give to BISD, and I'll continue to give to BISD. So please don't mischaracterize my comments. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you.

Mr. Elizondo, do you have any comments? Mr. Elizondo stated, no, not after what I've heard. I want to reframe my comments, maybe when it comes back to the new leadership that we're going to have for the school district and make it a positive thing instead of a negative thing that's been made out to be today. But I applaud everybody that applied, and the decisions were not easily taken. I think everybody has told you that. But I'll refrain from commenting in this forum today, and I'll wait for the next time. Thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you. And again, it is important as a Board that we all make our comments known. If we have something to say, it's why you elected us to say and to be here, right? And the point of a democracy is Franklin Roosevelt said the ultimate rulers of our democracy are not the presidents and the senators or the congressmen or the government officials, but the voters in the country. It is our job to make sure that our children have what they deserve, that they get leaders who are qualified. And as a Board, it is one of our most important duties, if not, is to hire and fire the Superintendent. So I want to thank all of those again for participating. I want to make sure that people continue to participate in democracy because democracy is strongest when every voice is heard, every vote is counted, and every generation chooses to protect the freedoms it inherited. Thank you, and I wish Dr. Cuff the best luck. Thank you.

XIII. Consent Agenda:

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

1. Recommend approval to appoint the Superintendent as agent to perform the duties provided by Texas Election Law, Sec. 31.123 for the School Trustee General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, effective immediately. **(Consent Agenda)**
2. Recommend approval for an Official Notice and Order of the Brownsville Independent School District School Trustee Election scheduled on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. **(Consent Agenda)**
3. Recommend approval to cancel the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, July 7, 2026, due to the summer work schedule. **(Consent Agenda)**
4. Recommend approval of the ratification of the refund in the amount of \$573,571.74, remitted on May 19, 2026, in compliance with the Texas Education Agency's refund notice dated May 14, 2026, resulting from the ESSER I Grant Audit. The refund represents a required reimbursement of federal funds previously advanced to the District and is not a discretionary expenditure or payment for goods or services.

Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, question? Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, Second. Ms. Lopez Valdez, stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña stated, do you want to go first, Mr. Ortiz? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Ortiz. Ms. Peña continued, yeah, do you want to go first, Ms. Ortiz? Look at me, and tell me how I want to go first. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yeah, I'll go first, okay? The question that I have, and it's just for clarification purposes because I know that we have an agenda item coming up a little bit later and we're going to be discussing this, but just a question that I have here before we move forward to that agenda item later on. According to the information that we were given, apparently this goes all the way back to 2020-2021 and it pertains to payroll costs. This is the ESSER 1 grant. My question is we, well the district, I didn't hear about it, okay, but the district was notified on April 22nd, 2024

and the district had until May 22, 2024, roughly a month, to file an appeal. My question is, and I don't know who can answer it, was there an appeal filed? Ms. Peña. **Ms. Rosario Peña, Chief Financial Officer replied, yes, sir, Mr. Ortiz. Through the research that we did with the documents that were available and contacting the agency, the answer is no. The appeal was not filed, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, that is correct. That's what I saw in the information here as well. Mr. Ortiz stated, Ms. Peña, why did we not appeal this if we had one month back in 2024 to appeal this noncompliance issue? We just let it ride. We let it go, and like nobody's going to find out, it's going to go away. I mean, why did as a district we did not appeal? That's my biggest question. **Ms. R. Peña stated, Mr. Ortiz, unfortunately, those who are previous administration staff members, we are unable to ask the whys because they're no longer with the district. We were not able to find any traces in the documents that said that something had happened something was missed, something. There was no communication at all relating to the fact of why we missed that deadline.** Mr. Ortiz stated, well, that was my question, and I'll leave my other questions until we get to the agenda item that's on the agenda a little later on. **Ms. Peña stated, yes, sir.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and second. Mr. Elizondo stated, I have a question. Ms. Peña stated, remember I was... Mr. Elizondo stated, I have a question. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. Peña stated, yea, then he and then her. Do I go next. Mr. Elizondo stated, and I have a question ma'am for Ms. Peña. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña and then Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Peña stated, thank you and my question is the same thing, this was done and now we did it now. Could we not have appealed still before we send that money in, talk to them to appeal? There was a way to do that. I know the school district did it because I've been investigating and researching this. And instead of just saying, well, let's just pay the half a million dollars not coming out of my pocket or your pocket, but it's coming out of the community's pocket. So my concern is did you research, pick up the phone, contact them, and say, is there a way a process to do some kind of appeal? Or are we forced at this point in time, explain to them that apparently when that letter came to Brownsville, it didn't go to the correct hands because nothing was done. Did you call and explain that to them before you wrote the check out to them? **Ms. R. Peña replied, Ma'am, we did receive on the 14th of May, we received the letter and it clearly stated that they gave us five calendar days to repay. We did reach out to TEA both in a phone call and on email and did not receive a response.** Ms. M. Peña stated, how many times, how many times did you call them? **Ms. R. Peña replied, we called quite a bit of times, ma'am, and left messages with Ms. Cal Lopez who is the Lead Internal Auditor for TEA. We also sent multiple emails. So, asking the same question because we are new in our positions and we made and I don't do this on my own, I consult with the Superintendent, we weighed our risks and the risk was to lose all federal funds if we did not proceed with the payment, given the five calendar days. Given the fact that this had been outstanding for four years already. So after we did the payment, we were able to hold a meeting with TEA, a zoom meeting on June 5th. And in that meeting TEA clarified that the best thing the district could have done was repay, number one. Because this funding had been closed a while back and the letter that we received on April the 24th was a noncompliance already. In other words, we're not complying with the federal mandate and so there was nothing else to do. She stated.** Ms. M. Peña interjected; did you ask her clearly? **Ms. R. Peña stated, yes, ma'am.** Ms. M. Peña continued, is there any way or form or shape that we can send the money. But we want to appeal because of the things that happened where apparently that letter fell on deaf ears with the people that were here back then and

nothing got done? **Ms. R. Peña stated, no, ma'am. We asked very clearly, and in that meeting, I had Dr. Cantu, I had Marco Porras, our Internal Auditor. I had Mr. Garcia from State Special Programs. I had Ms. Alaffa and myself. We were all in the meeting. And unfortunately, TEA stated no, there was no further action to take because the grant number one had ended, number two the appeal period had passed.** Ms. M. Peña stated, so there's no other recourse but to give them the money. **Ms. R. Peña stated, yes ma'am.** Ms. M. Peña stated, and so can we find out, Dr. Benavides, can we please investigate where this, who dropped the ball and who did this and when was this because apparently, we were advised more than once about this. So, I know you're saying yes, Ms. Peña. So can we find out who got that even back in 2024 and just decided to, doesn't matter. Can we please do an investigation and find out who dropped the ball? **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Superintendent stated, I think we have a very detailed presentation on when this started and it started in '22 when the district got the first letter. So, I think that a lot of your questions are going to be answered because it's outlined as to who the Superintendent was, who the CFO was at the time of each letter, and we can also pinpoint where the error was in the response.** Ms. Peña stated, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, Ma'am, I'll reframe my questions, until the presentation, I think Dr. B just mentioned that they're going to let us know who those individuals were part of this issue, correct? **Dr. Benavides replied, yes, sir.** Ms. Peña stated, can I finish mine with this statement? Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, ma'am. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña I still have Ms. Garza. Ms. Peña (inaudible), you are a nice lady. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña, closing comments. Ms. Peña continued, yes, I apologize. Ms. M. Peña, you're telling me that those people that did that are no longer working for BISD at this point in time. **Ms. R. Peña replied, the people that were directly involved with the communications.** Ms. M. Peña interjected, responsible. **Ms. R. Peña continued, yes, are no longer with the district.** Ms. M. Peña stated, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, thank you, Ms. Lopez Valdez. First of all, Dr. Benavides, I want to say thank you for bringing this to our attention. When you brought it up to our attention at the event we were at, I think you saw all our faces, how we were blindsided by this. So thank you so much. The moment you got that information, you brought it to us. So, I applaud you for that because we were unaware of this situation. And Ms. Rosario Peña, I want to tell you thank you because you did inherit this and thank you for standing by because it's not easy and I just want to say thank you because I know you have a very hard job right now. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, any other comments? Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland stated, so is this item part of the forensic audit that we commissioned. Is it going to come up in that they're going to be looking at that? Good. I thought so. I just wanted to be sure. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, yes, and I already had a meeting with the auditors on that.* Ms. Grantland stated, okay. Thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote.** Ms. M. Peña stated, so we're voting to approve the payment, correct? *Mr. E. Ramirez replied, technically, the ratification of the payment, since it was already made.* Ms. M. Peña stated, we really don't have any other option, am I right? *Mr. Ramirez replied, that is correct.* You don't have an option. Mr. Elizondo stated, you do have an option to vote no of course you do. Ms. M. Peña stated, I mean, we got to pay what we owe responsibly. Mr. Elizondo stated, I know. But you do have an option. Ms. M. Peña stated, no. Mr. Elizondo stated, so my vote is going to be yes under duress, ma'am. **Ms. Perez stated, thank you sir.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated noted. *Mr. Ramirez stated, duress by legal.* Mr. Elizondo stated, exactly.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the ratification of the refund in the amount of \$573,571.74, remitted on May 19, 2026, in compliance with the Texas Education Agency's refund notice dated May 14, 2026, resulting from the ESSER I Grant Audit. The refund represents a required reimbursement of federal funds previously advanced to the district and is not a discretionary expenditure or payment for goods or services. (7-0-0)

5. Recommend approval to renew annual 2026-2027 District Membership Fees: Equity Center, \$9,500.00, South Texas Association of Schools (STAS) \$13,000.00, Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) \$11,000.00, TASB Legal Assistant Fund \$500.00, Region One Education Center \$30,000.00, and the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce \$5,500.00 for an approximate amount of \$69,500.00.
 Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I'll make a motion. Well. Let me reframe that. Do you have any recommendations, Dr., of any of these as a need or requirement for the school district to move forward? Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, I don't have a motion yet. I need a second. Mr. Elizondo stated, I'd like to make a motion not to approve this. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, second. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Okay, discussion, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, just real quick since my motion was made I just want to make sure are any of these fees required for the school district to move forward? And if not, that's the reason why I'm voting no. **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, required, I would say no. However, to participate in the Region 1 Education Service Center services, we do have to pay our fee. To have a voice with other school districts, with the South Texas Association, you have representatives representing other districts here in the Valley and in Region 2. And so there are benefits that I'm very familiar with the Equity Center, the South Texas Association, and also the Region 1 Service Center. There was one that I left off and that was participating in the urban schools because, I felt that it would be important for the new Superintendent to review that participation because it was a little expensive and it's for big districts. And at one point, Brownsville was a big district but it no longer is. So, I didn't include that. But hopefully that answers your question.** Mr. Elizondo stated, question I know that some of these are not required right now, and then since we're really, really in a pinch to make sure that we save as much money as we can, maybe we can redress these maybe later after the November election and see where we're at, especially when we're starting a school year, you know .3 million in a hole. I'm just trying to see where we can save as much money as we can. If they're not needed to move the school district forward, then we shouldn't even be dwelling with this. **Dr. Benavides stated, okay and that's a good recommendation. There's no problem. You can revisit it at a later time, and based on the situation that the district is in. Then you can take a vote at that time.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, ma'am. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I have a couple of questions. On these associations, is there any overlap in services? I know that TASB has been something this school district has engaged with forever and a day. The South Texas Association of Schools, is there an overlap in services that perhaps we could look at maybe just going with one or the other? Because if there's an overlap, I don't see why we're doing that unless there's an advantage in terms of legislatively or something that would give us a whole lot of leverage. The other question, that I have is this fee for Region 1 Education Center are we going to be crippling our professional development for the district by delaying this

payment? Because then what we're in essence doing is hurting the classrooms. And I don't want to engage in that. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, is this for the classrooms? **Dr. Benavides stated, I would recommend that you pay the \$30,000 for Region 1 and wait off on all the others.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay I'll amend my motion, Dr. B, with that suggestion and recommendation. Ms. Peña stated, I agree. Mr. Elizondo stated, so I can make my motion to reflect that we can pay the Region 1 and then all the other ones exclude. Ms. Peña stated, Second. Ms. Grantland stated, I second. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, okay, well let me walk it back parliamentary. We had a second on the floor already. Who did a second?* Ms. Peña stated, I did. *Mr. Ramirez stated, can we withdraw your second first?* Ms. Peña stated, I withdraw my second. *Mr. Ramirez continued, and now you can amend your motion, Mr. Elizondo, and that was to pay Region 1 and not the rest?* Mr. Elizondo stated, that's correct. Mr. Ramirez stated, at this time. Mr. Elizondo stated, at this time yes. *Mr. Ramirez stated, okay, so not that there is an amended motion, we can get a second.* Ms. Grantland stated, I second. *Mr. Ramirez stated, okay.* Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Mr. Elizondo stated, do I need my camera to vote. I vote yes. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, okay, we need to vote this down or up, and then we go to another one, we have a first and a second. Ms. Peña stated, well, we say we can bring it back in the future. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, can we bring it back in August, or if we have a July meeting, please bring it back in July? Ms. Peña stated, yeah, we can bring them back. We got to a make sure that we don't cut the teachers and the students for us to be able to travel to these conferences at the expense of the community, I don't want to do that. Ms. Garza stated, no, no, it's not about the conferences, but TASB does provide a lot of other services to districts. So, I personally would like to see TASB back, at least Region 1 and TASB and the other ones. Ms. Peña stated, no Region 1, yes, and the rest, TASB, we can hold off on that. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, hold on we're having discussion on this, but we do have the first and the second, and yes, okay so let's vote this specifically what Mr. Elizondo has up or down, and then we can bring it back, correct? *Mr. Ramirez stated, correct. Well, yeah, so you're going to bring back the other items at a future time, but right now you're only approving Region 1.* **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote.** Mr. Elizondo stated, my vote was yes, ma'am. Ms. Perez stated, thank you, sir. **Motion passes six yes, one abstention.**

Amended motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, to amend the administrations recommendation by approving only the 2026-2027 annual District Membership Fee for Region One Education Service Center in the amount of \$30,000.00 and deferring consideration of the remaining membership renewals, including the Equity Center (\$9,500.00), South Texas Association of Schools (STAS) (\$13,000.00), Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) (\$11,000.00), TASB Legal Assistance Fund (\$500.00), and Brownsville Chamber of Commerce (\$5,500.00), for consideration at a future Board meeting.

The following vote was recorded

Yea: Ms. Lopez, Ms. Garza, Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Peña, Ms. Grantland, Mr. Elizondo
Nay:
Abstain: Ms. Gonzalez

Motion Carried: 6-0-1

Ms. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated and for the record. I think we definitely need to bring the Texas Association of School Boards back. There's a lot of great things that come for that.

6. Recommend approval of annual license fee for SameGoal Pro Edition, Special Education for the 2026-2027 school year, at a cost of \$158,600.00. (September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027) * **(Consent Agenda)**
7. Recommend approval of the 2026-2027 Elementary & Secondary Grading Procedures and amendment to the MS Course Listing Guide at no cost to the District. *

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, second; Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, I have a couple of questions here. I do have, I know I asked this question last year, but I want to go ahead and ask it again because I just want to have some clarity on this. First of all, I guess it would be Ms. Hernandez. How do we get feedback from the campuses? Because I know that last year, I was told that all campuses are participating in providing feedback. How do we get that feedback from all the campuses? **Ms. Beatriz Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer replied, sure, thank you. At this moment. I'm going to pass it over to Dr. Ibarra so she can run us through the process. Dr. Nick Ibarra Cantu, Executive Director stated, thank you. Can you hear me? Yes, okay. So, what we do, we send the current course listing guide or grading procedures, those are sent to the campuses and the campus administration and they meet with the teachers through strand meetings for every department. They also provide them to the counselors, all the staff, and they provide feedback. That feedback then is sent to us curriculum department and then we bring the feedback put it together and then we meet once again to review the feedback to, for example, if it meets TEA requirements. So we kind of vet that piece and then the principals meet once again and then we make the corrections or revisions. Department directors as well will bring the feedback and they'll provide any information, all information that has been up updated per the state, special ed, bilingual, CTE. So departments and campuses are the ones that provide the feedback.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay so if all the campuses are participating and they're all providing recommendations, y'all must get a whole bunch of recommendations as far as deleting or additions. Once y'all get all that feedback, and I think you kind of partially answered my question, my next question is what committee then, you know, and who makes up these committees to finally decide, okay, this is a good recommendation, we're going to go ahead and keep it. This is not another recommendation, you know, okay, we're not going to include it. Now, you mentioned directors and central office people, you mentioned some principals. Are there any teachers involved? Because obviously they're the ones that are in the classroom and looking at the grading procedures, it's the teachers that deal with this, you know. And they have to abide by these procedures. So, are there any teachers involved in the vetting of these recommendations before the final decision is made? **Dr. Ibarra Cantu stated, yes, sir. So when, for example, for the grading procedures recommendation, it was brought, it was provided from the campuses, then we brought back the principals and deans and then they went back and they had meetings with the teachers, with SBDM. Whoever it is that they need, their leadership teams, department chairs, and then they came back and gave their vote as to how they had ended that's how the vote came back, and that's how it got placed in the, as an update, as a revision.** Mr. Cuff stated, yeah, because I've seen these grading procedures,

and I've graded them here, I mean, they're lengthy on a lot of things that are taking place, and when our stakeholders, and I mean our frontline people, are giving recommendations, I'm sure they give a lot of recommendations, so I was just wondering how that was taken care of. **Dr. Ibarra Cantu stated yes, so we do read the recommendations, we don't receive too many, and it just depends on maybe something that they've encountered at the current year. But everything that we get, we do look at and vet it and provide it back to the campuses for final decision.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, I have a question for elementary on the grading procedures and one for secondary. I guess this would be Dr. Rubio or Ms. Emerson. Okay, Ms. Emerson, can you tell me, as far as you're reading, program the difference between the scientific based research reading program, which is the SBRR, which is what we were currently using, but I understand that that's been deleted and what's taken over now for this coming year is the STR, which is the science of teaching reading. What is the difference between those two programs and why the change and the cost, if any, to go from one to the other? **Ms. Dolores Emerson, Executive Director stated, well we've had a great cost going from one to the others these past few years teachers have been trained on the science of teaching reading. All the teachers from kinder to third grade, special education teachers, dyslexia teachers anybody that works with a child for reading they have gone through academies for the science of teaching reading. Coming up in the future you're going to also see the science of teaching math. So those academies are also start coming up. Based on what we had before we wanted to make sure that the terminology matched with what the state is guiding us with the science of teaching reading. Its very similar research based. I don't know, when we were principals at that time, remember it was balanced reading. When we did the balance before that. It was more phonetic and we did sight reading remember before that whole language. And so now they're talking more of a structured literacy, a science of teaching reading and phonemic awareness, and really making sure that the students have that base in oral language development, phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency. And that they get that base as they're going on so that there aren't any gaps in the learning.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, I did say the difference on page 55 and 57 of the procedures. And you don't have to go through them. It just basically indicates the difference. **Ms. Emerson stated, and the wording is just to update to put us more aligned to where we're going. And as far as the state is going, as far as the science of teaching reading. We'll then know how it's going to be going with the science of teaching math because, as you know, even from pre pandemic. The nation hasn't caught up with the math since COVID times. So that has been a lot of topic in TEA. So that now we're starting to dwindle down on the reading academies. So, we still have some teachers as they're coming in and they're moving from grade levels. We still have some teachers going through the academies. But it's way less than what we had before.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so it's not like we're starting from scratch, that we scratched one program and went on to another one. **Ms. Emerson stated, no, no.** Mr. Ortiz stated, it's because there's a lot of, not differences, but there's a lot of similarities. Is that correct? **Ms. Emerson stated, yes, yes there is a lot of similarities. The state has come in and also said that there's a lot of things that we can't do anymore. The three-queuing method, things like that that we cannot enforce as far as in our reading practices. Finding that they're not scientifically based and that they're not appropriate. So, as you're starting to see, I can see the light in how the change has occurred and making sure that it's very systematic from the lower grades, from preK3 all the way on up, and making sure that foundation is there.** Mr. Ortiz stated,

okay, so how about the cost. Ms. Emerson stated, the cost, it's cost us, the Reading Academy started out, I believe, at 400 a teacher when we started maybe, what, five, six years ago? Maybe seven years ago when Dr. Gutierrez was still here. And now the teachers, it's evolved to more of a face to face, so every teacher being trained is \$3,000 a teacher. It has to be done through, it's being done through Region 1, the Region 1, but it is very face to face oriented. It is more. The original one was more module based. And I believe that the state has really learned and evolved from learning of what was done correctly and what could be the grows and the glows between the reading and the math. So we're going to see that the change in the reading academies now is more face to face. It's more. They could provide the coaching for the teachers. They work with them and provide guidance on the modules and the artifacts. And so now the math academies that are coming up, they're going to have a lot more of that also those will have a cost also sir. Mr. Ortiz stated yeah and that's what I was asking you know going from another, it's like a big cost. Like you said. A lot of it is done through Region 1. I know the \$30,000 that we pay to be members, but I see consultants from Region 1 always coming here, and we're paying them on top of the \$30,000 I think the \$30,000 is just fees. Go ahead. Ms. Emerson stated, so that price that's done for the reading academies is a set price set by the state to the regional service centers to provide the service to the districts at the Time. We're very much ahead in BISD compared to other districts. I know that there's a charter school that is so far behind. But I always get in with my person to make sure our teachers are first because what happens is that if a teacher doesn't go through the modules and doesn't pass them, or a principal, a principal also has to go through this. If they do not, they cannot either be the principal the following year for an elementary campus or that serves K to 3. Or the teacher cannot service any student in those grade levels. So it's very important that we're proactive here in our district in order to not unsettle a teacher from one grade level to the next because of that. So we've been working very hard these last few years. And now we probably this last group, I think we have that for the new group, I think it was, it started in May, we probably had a handful of teachers, not more than 15 for the district. Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you Ma'am. My secondary question I'm looking at page on the grading procedures on page 89 of 185, I'm looking at D item and it's been crossed out and this is what it says, any student missing work due to participation in extracurricular activities must make prior arrangements with the teacher for the week of the items that were missed prior to being absent. So we're no longer requiring that. So if a student is participating in extracurricular activities, they don't have to worry about making up work or maybe staying behind or anything. Because I see it here, like I said, on page 89 of 185, and it's been crossed out. Dr. Ibarra Cantu replied, it was a repentance statement and we crossed it out from one area because it was already on another page. But the students that are out on extracurricular will still can make still arrangements, they will still be given the opportunity to make up the work. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, good. Just when I saw it crossed out, its kind of yes, you know, I like kind of... Ms. Ibarra Cantu interjected, yes so as we go through the document, we'll sometimes have a repetitive comment and then we'll just cross it out. Mr. Ortiz stated, but it is in there within the document. Dr Ibarra Cantu states yes. Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, thank you, that's all I have. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, we have a first and a second. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, yes and on this is the this is the reading for the students to make sure they're up to par with the reading level. Am I correct? Ms. Emerson stated, for the reading academies? That are done, it's systemic and teaching teachers the scientific

methodology in order to effectively teach reading to students. So that way they then learn how to read and the methodology in order for that to occur. And so, yes it is in order to train the teachers in order to make sure that we're very consistent in doing that to get the students to read so that they are fluently reading by the third grade. Ms. Peña stated, and I guess my question is because we're a bilingual district, how does this apply as far as their reading? Is it like reading in the language they're comfortable in or reading in English? Because... **Ms. Emerson interjected, so there are two pathways for the reading academies one is the English pathway and the other one is the biliteracy pathway. So our bilingual teachers take the biliteracy pathway because they service bilingual students, and so in there it talks about the effective way of teaching a student that doesn't speak English in order to ensure that they learn how to speak, not to speak, to read.** Ms. Peña stated, so they work on transitioning that non-English-speaking student to be able to read the English language. **Ms. Emerson stated, certainly, they use the research in order for that to be used in order for the student to transition to learn to read, yes.** Ms. Peña stated, that's what I'm saying. We are transitioning them to be able to read in the English language. **Ms. Emerson stated, yes, ma'am, of course.** Ms. Peña stated, okay, thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, I vote yes.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the 2026-2027 Elementary & Secondary Grading Procedures and amendment to the MS Course Listing Guide at no cost to the District. * (7-0-0)

8. Recommend approval to contract consultants for the 2026-2027 school year to support District initiatives and practices for elementary and secondary educational staff based on District needs and funding, at an estimated cost of \$1,745,913.00. *
- Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, Second. Ms. Lopez stated, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, thank you Madam Chair, or Madam President. I have a couple of questions on this. I previously stated that whenever we come up with consultants for curriculum that we tie it back to the campus decision-making plans. I think you all, you're nodding because you remember that. And so my question is do we have some pre-identified consultants already or is this just a chunk of money that's going to be there in case something well, for when something comes up based from campus requests? **Ms. Beatriz Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer stated, so we do have some in some of the departments that submitted for the 26-27 professional development plan, in your backup. They're divided up by the different departments and in some cases, there's already preset consultants.** Ms. Grantland stated, right, but my question then is still did these selections get made based on recommendations from the campus administration and faculty? Is it part of their site-based decision-making plan or whatever you're calling it these days? **Ms. Hernandez stated, the district plan that we submitted is tied to the district improvement plan as well as required modules and training that are state required.** Ms. Grantland stated, okay, but that's not answering my question. I'm talking campus improvement plan, you're talking district improvement plan. I want to make sure that there's a link between the two because I have noted since I got here that there's a disconnect there, and I think it's obvious to all of us. So I want to make certain that that gap is closed. Because it's really, really important moving forward, especially moving forward, that our campus plans figure into what's going on with the district selection. So, I

hope I'm making myself clear to you all in terms of what I'm asking. This is not meant to be a negative comment. It's just meant to be one that protects the campus plans. **Ms. Hernandez stated, yes, ma'am. So, the curriculum team went back, we not only worked with our school improvement Director, Dr. Renfro, but every department met all of us together along with her looking at the District Improvement Plan and how it aligned to the campus improvement plan and our priorities, and looking at the proposed consultants that we're bringing to you all.** Ms. Grantland stated, so I can move forward confident in the fact that if I ask a school campus, did you have input in this, they're going to say yes. **Ms. Hernandez stated, to even make it better I will have the Directors are here and Ms. Emerson, I know we're overseeing elementary and Dr. Ibarra, the secondary, would you like to start while the rest of the directors come up to share?** Ms. Grantland stated, I don't mean to make this a long drawn out It's a very big agenda. So just a yes or we're still working on it, it would be acceptable. **Dr. Roni Renfro, Director stated, so, good evening our Board President again, Daniela Lopez, Interim Superintendent Dr. Benavides, Board Members, and members of our district leadership and committee. Yes, I am Ronnie Louise Renfro, your soon to be retired District Director of school improvement who oversees our ARE departments and our advanced academics. But my role for the past 10 years or so has been to be the key facilitator for our district education improvement council. The way that works is every campus and two elected department representatives along with community members, parents. And business members are members of that committee and they are responsible for going through and they bring trainings that we believe are going to be effective for our district to the DEIC that are going to be districtwide. Every campus then has the opportunity of course in their SBDM and is required to have their SBDM approve the campus-based trainings. So many times we of course we work very closely through our assistant superintendents and our executive directors to make sure that we have good communication about what training is needed. It is always based on the research surveys, whatever is key to the needs of the district and needs of the campuses. If you were to ask a campus, they might not want to have a reading academy. However, that is something that we know is needed in the district based on our reading data, and also it's a TEA requirement. So many times what you're going to see from what we bring to you today are things that are based on the data that shows, or there are compliance solution piece, or there is something that has been brought to the district. And the DEIC has agreed as a whole that these are valuable trainings for our district to participate in.** Ms. Grantland stated, thank you for the answer and I would presume that if you get a campus that doesn't want it then you could have a discourse with them to help them understand why it's a necessary thing. I just want to make sure that that connect is there. Thank you so much. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, I noticed some of these have or are going to be funded by some federal grants, am I correct? **Dr. Renfro replied, yes ma'am.** Ms. Peña continued, is there any way we can look at more and see how many more we can get? Because some of these are like \$109,000, \$188,000, is there any more? I mean, is there anyone here with the federal grants that could help us? JJ? **Dr. Renfro stated and there's different kinds of federal grants that fund this. So it's multiple answers there I'm sure.** Mr. J.J. DeLeon, Director stated, what was the question. **Dr. Renfro stated about federal grants and paying for more of the training.** Mr. DeLeon stated, yes I'm committed to doing that and I've been speaking to Ms. Hernandez about it, ma'am. I have funds that can help and assist curriculum as they need. I don't have an abundance of money but I'm willing

to always help. Ms. Peña stated, okay, but you'll find us the money, right? **Mr. DeLeon stated, well tight now I do and I've been speaking to curriculum.** Ms. Peña stated, yeah, and when you have it, just use it, otherwise you'll lose it. Yes. Am I correct? And that's how we need to work. So, if we, Dr. Benavides, can make sure that they coordinate with each other because the federal grants are there and if you don't use them timely, then, you know, they're gone. So you have to send it back. So, can we coordinate so we can use as much of the federal grants and not dig in to our, that's over a million dollars, I don't want that to come out of our pockets and if it doesn't have to. **Dr. Benavides stated, and that's a good point, Mrs. Peña. We had already discussed that as soon as we approve the budget, we're going to go back and look at staffing and what staffing can be covered with our special programs money. And then we're going to go look at trainings and what trainings. There are certain trainings that are required and we're going to see if we can pay those out of our federal and funding and make sure that we utilize our federal funding to the penny.** Ms. Peña stated, yes, thank you. Thank you, Mr. JJ and thank you Dr. Renfro and thank you Dr. Benavides. Mr. Elizondo stated I vote yes ma'am.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to contract consultants for the 2026-2027 school year to support District initiatives and practices for elementary and secondary educational staff based on District needs and funding, at an estimated cost of \$1,745,913.00. * (7-0-0)

9. Recommend approval of hiring presenters from Region One and Curiosity Cubed to provide annual update and foundational training as well as trainer of training sessions to meet the needs of the District for Gifted and Talented Education based on the Texas State Plan for Gifted and Talented, in the amount of \$12,000.00. ***(Consent Agenda)**
10. Recommend approval to use Andrew Sharos, Village Project Consulting LLC, for professional learning experience for Advanced Placement teachers and administration for maximum of \$15,000.00 for the 2026-2027 school year based on District needs and funding. *** (Consent Agenda)**
11. Recommend approval for payment of annual renewal and software maintenance fees not exceed \$1,418,682.15 for eSchool K-12 Education, Bethlehem, PA and Business PLUS, Chico, CA, Public Sector through parent company PowerSchool Group LLC Folsom, CA for the 2026-2027 school year. ***(Consent Agenda)**
12. Recommend approval to adopt the Student Code of Conduct for the 2026-2027 school year. **(Consent Agenda)**
13. Recommend approval of the revised application to participate in the Optional Flexible School Program (OFSDP) for the 2026-2027 school year based on the District's needs. ***(Consent Agenda)**
14. Recommend approval of the deductive Change Order #001, (Credit back to District) in the amount of \$46,000.00 for the ESSER Lincoln Park High School HVAC improvements project, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$950,000.00 with no change to the contract time. **(Consent Agenda)**

15. Recommend approval of the deductive Change Order #001, (Credit back to District) in the amount of \$95,000.00 for the ESSER Russell Elementary HVAC improvements project, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$1,760,000.00 with no change to the contract time. **(Consent Agenda)**
16. Recommend approval of the deductive Change Order #001, (Credit Back to District) in the amount of \$153,687.00 for the Sams Stadium Artificial Turf and Soccer Field Project, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$2,996,313.00 with no change to the contract time. **(Consent Agenda)**
17. Recommend approval for the ratification of the purchase of the emergency HVAC chiller replacement and associated engineering, labor, and material services for Brownsville Early College High School (BECHS). Equipment was purchased from Perry Mechanical, Edinburg, TX, (Bid 25-085) in the amount of \$146,945.00. Installation services from Fox Mechanical, Brownsville, TX, (Bid 26-086) in the amount of \$46,865.00, and engineering services from Halff Associates, Brownsville, TX, (Bid 25-119) in the amount of \$45,000.00. The total cost associated with the Emergency Chiller Replacement at Brownsville Early College High School is \$238,810.00 utilizing Local Funds 197. **(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend approval of payments for construction services and/or engineering services throughout the District in the total amount of \$694,855.19. **(Consent Agenda)**

C. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments:

1. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #022 in the amount of \$101,117.00 for Local Funds. (Reallocation of \$34,983.00 and Additional Funding of \$66,134.00). **(Consent Agenda)**
2. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #023 in the amount of \$1,640,000.00 of Local Funds to prevent negative balances by function in payroll budget allocations. (Reallocation) **(Consent Agenda)**
3. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #024 in the amount of \$260,000.00 for Fund 199 – Local Funds. (Unassigned Fund Balance) **(Consent Agenda)**
4. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #025 in the amount of \$573,571.74 for Fund 199 – Local Maintenance Fund – Prior Period Adjustment. (Refunded) (Unassigned Fund Balance) **(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend approval of the MOU between BISD and Good Samaritan Community Youth Development Services to provide support services, including after-school programs, recreation and leadership services to BISD students for the 2026-2027 school year at no cost to the District. * **(Consent Agenda)**

2. Recommend approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NINOS Head Start to enter into a revocable facility use lease agreement for the use of Facility Space to service infants and toddlers at Gallegos Elementary School to commence the 2026-2027 school year. ***(Consent Agenda)**
3. Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NINOS Head Start to include co-enrolled model at Burns, Benavides, and Perez and five full day Contractual Model Classrooms at Vermillion and Gallegos Elementary. The collaboration will continue at all five elementary sites for the 2026-2027 school year. *** (Consent Agenda)**
4. Recommend approval to contract with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) for services regarding the Texas Prefreshmen Engineering Program (TexPREP) to be implemented during the 2026-2027 school year at a cost of \$425.00 per student. ***(Consent Agenda) Frank Ortiz abstained**
5. Recommend approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Aldrin Family Foundation of Texas (AFFTX) and Brownsville Independent school District allowing the district to participate in the Student Satellites in Space (S-Cubed) program at no cost to the District. **(Consent Agenda)**
6. Recommend approval to enter into Agreement with Cameron County Community Service Centers and School Districts to provide Adult Basic Education/Adult Secondary Education, High School Equivalency, English as Second Language and, certification for in demand occupations classes for the 2026-2027 school year at no cost to the District. **(Consent Agenda)**
7. Recommend approval to enter into contractual agreement with Texas State Technical College (TSTC), to begin providing High School Equivalency instructional services along with Career Pathways and certifications to adults in the Cameron County area in the amount not to exceed \$19,600.00 for the 2026-2027 school year. **(Consent Agenda)**
8. Recommend approval to enter into contractual agreement with come dream. come build/Youth Build Brownsville, to begin providing High School Equivalency instructional services along with Career Pathways and certification to adults in the Cameron County area in the amount not to exceed \$84,224.00 for the 2026-2027 school year. **(Consent Agenda)**
9. Recommend approval to enter into Memorandum of Understanding between PSJA ISD and the Brownsville Independent School District to provide Professional products and services to BISD in the area of informational systems. A total estimated fiscal implication not to exceed \$100,800.00 from Local Funds for August 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027 school year is anticipated. *****

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated Second. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, yes Dr. Benavides this memorandum of understanding is something that we can use not to exceed \$100,000 or is something that is definitely going to be used? Or explain to me what exactly the district

needs to use this for. **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Superintendent** stated, I can answer a little on that and then I'm going to have **Dr. Cantu** add to it. The work that PSJA has done through Region 1 has really been like a sample for the whole county, both Cameron and Hidalgo. and as a result of participating or getting their services, that is how we have been able to take advantage of the optional extended day monies and all those monies that we're hoping to get once we do our PEIMS resubmission. But they have their act together. and they have provided, they have been an additional resource to many districts, not just Brownsville ISD to help recoup all the money that can be recouped by students who miss school and are able to make up their school days. So that's in a summary. I know it sounds like a lot but what we get in return is a whole lot more. Ms. Peña stated, okay. Mr. Frank Ortiz. Board Member stated, Dr. Cantu, this OFSDP that we're talking about, like I said, this \$100,800 may sound like a lot, but can you just let us know how much we get in return for paying the \$100,000 that we have here? **Dr. Nellie Cantu, Chief Academic Officer** stated, yes, **Mr. Ortiz**, thank you for asking that question. The return that we get on this is in the millions. And we're anticipating to exceed the amount that we received last year. So, it's not only double or triple it's much more than that. So, we are expecting a good chunk of money coming in in the millions. Preliminarily, I was sharing with Ms. Peña and with Dr. B that right now it's preliminary because we still don't have the final submission. But we're looking anywhere between \$20 and \$30 million. Mr. Ortiz stated, so, this \$100,000 is a great investment because it pays itself over and over. It is a great program, okay? And I'm glad that we joined because it's bringing money back to the district. **Dr. Cantu stated, thank you, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you, ma'am. Ms. Peña stated, and I appreciate you because when people just see this item and don't know the details, they're like that are you spending? But when you tell them, you're spending \$100,000 and you're getting \$30 million back, oh, yeah, that's a good deal. So, like I said, everything's in the detail. So, thank you, and that's why I wanted to explain this because it's very important. Ms. Grantland stated, good return on investment. Mr. Elizondo stated, I vote yes.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to enter into Memorandum of Understanding between PSJA ISD and the Brownsville Independent School District to provide Professional products and services to BISD in the area of informational systems. A total estimated fiscal implication not to exceed \$100,800.00 from Local Funds for August 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027 school year is anticipated. * 7-0-0

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

1. Recommend approval CSP#26-105 Sams Stadium Structural Repairs to Epoxy Design Systems, Inc. from Houston TX. in the amount of \$1,761,315.00 in accordance with Texas Education Code 44.039. Funding for this project will be provided through Local Funds 197. The proposed award is substantially below the estimated project cost of approximately \$3,500,000.00 representing substantial cost savings while addressing critical facility needs. **(Consent Agenda)**

Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, this item was already voted on and already approved, but Ms. Peña had some questions, so we're bringing it in for discussion, anyways. Ms. Minerva Peña stated, and the discussion is that I want the public to know that this is to repair, if you go to the stadium and you go underneath and you see all those

re-bars and all the stuff that looks like it's going to fall apart, the last one is for the seats to come down and collapse on the bottom. So, I just wanted to explain to the public, I'm sorry, I'm being realistic. So, it's going to repair everything that needs to be repaired, not only because you need to repair but for the safety of continuing to use the facility for our community. Am I correct, Dr. Benavides? **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, yes, that's correct.** Ms. Peña continued, I know, and I am happy that it went down from \$3 million. \$3.5 million to \$1.7 million. So that is a good saving. I really appreciate that company. And I want to make sure that our people are out there with a magnifying glass to make sure they cover every little spot. Because I've seen the damages and I've seen what needs to be worked on. Because I go to all the football games. Because when I was young, I couldn't I would be dancing on the field, I couldn't see the football game. So now I go see the football game. So, yes, thank you very much. And it was a great deal that they brought it down to this. I really appreciate that. And, ladies and gentlemen, it needs to get done because that stadium is, you know, historic here in our city. Thank you. Okay.

2. Recommend awarding of CSP #26-130 for Professional Educators and School Board Legal Liability Insurance to AIG/National Union Fire Insurance Company/Montalvo Insurance Agency of Weslaco, Texas, for the 2026-2027 plan year, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. **(Consent Agenda)**

XIV. Board Member Request(s)

A. Conference Presentation(s):

1. Comprehensive Disclosure regarding ESSER Non-Compliance Matter.(Board Member Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Minerva Peña)

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Conference presentation, Ms. Peña. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, Carlos, are you there? He's the one that requested. I wanted him to go first. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, yes, I'm here, but they're going to do a presentation. Am I correct? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, yes and when I said Ms. Peña, I should have said Ms. Rosie Peña because she's getting ready to present. Ms. M. Peña stated, I apologize, my mistake. **Ms. Rosario Peña, Chief Financial Officer stated good evening, President Daniela Lopez Valdez, Interim Superintendent Dr. Benavides, Board Members and community. Tonight, administration is providing A comprehensive overview of the ESSER 1 grant monitoring review conducted by the Texas Education Agency. We will walk through the timeline of events beginning in 2021, summarize the findings identified by TEA. Explain the actions taken by prior administrations, discuss the financial and compliance implications to the district, and provide an update regarding the mandatory repayment submitted in May of 2026 in our subsequent meeting. With TEA on June 5, 2026. The purpose of this presentation is transparency. We want the board and community to understand what occurred, when it occurred, who was involved at each stage. What actions were taken, and why the district was ultimately required to submit a repayment to the Texas Education Agency. We also want to clarify what options remain available to the district following our discussions with TEA. ESSER 1 was one of the federal grants created in response to the COVID 19**

pandemic. These funds were intended to support instructional continuity, emergency operations and educational recovery efforts. The grant included a pre award period beginning March 13, 2020, with an official grant period extending through September 30, 2022. As with all federal grants, expenditures were subject to strict federal compliance requirements. On May 27, 2021, TEA initiated a monitoring review of the District ESSER 1 grant expenditures. TEA requested an extensive documentation, including payroll records, expenditure reports, and supporting financial documentation to verify expenditure charts to the grant met federal requirements. District contacts at that time were Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer, Mary Tolman, Special Programs Director, Ms. Mary Garza, Finance Director. Between May and December of 2021, district staff gathered the requested information and uploaded the documentation to TEA's secure portal. At this point the review process was proceeding through the normal monitoring procedures used by TEA for federal grant compliance reviews. District contacts Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Mary Garza, Finance Director, and Mr. Martin Luna, ESSER Grants Coordinator. On September 22, 2022, TEA identified a discrepancy between the approved ESSER 1 budget and the actual expenditures charged to the grant. The approved budget totaled approximately 13 million while actual charges exceeded that amount. By \$473,432.50. TEA identified this amount as question costs requiring additional review. On September 22, 2022, following the identification of question costs, TEA requested corrective action plans, payroll reclassification documentation, supporting journal entries, and any additional records that could justify the expenditures charged to the grant. Contacts were Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent. Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer. On September 29, 2022, the district attempted to resolve the issue by submitting an amendment request seeking additional payroll authority under the grant. The intent was to align the expenditures with the grant budget and potentially eliminate the question cost. Primary contacts Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Mary Garza, Finance Director, Juan Jose de Leon, Support Programs Director, Mr. Jose G. Garcia, Support. Program Coordinator. On October the 3, 2022 TEA denied the amendment request because the deadline for submitting the amendments had expired several months earlier. It expired on July 5, 2022. As a result, the district could no longer modify the ESSER 1 grant budget. Primary contacts Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Mary Garza, Finance Director, Juan Jose DeLeon, Support Programs Director and, Mr. Jose G. Garcia, Support Programs Coordinator. Following the denial, administration implemented an alternative corrective action. Payroll costs that were questioned by TEA were removed from the ESSER 1 grant, transferred back to Local Maintenance Fund 199, and replaced with other payroll expenditures believed to be allowable under the grant. Supporting journal entries were submitted to TEA for review. Primary context Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Mary Garza, Finance Director. On October 11, 2022. TEA issued its preliminary findings. The first finding related to the budget controls and involved expenditures that exceeded the approved grant budget. The second finding related to the period of performance,

meaning certain costs were charged outside the allowable grant period. Together, these findings totaled \$573,571.74. TEA also issued a third finding relating to procurement standards totaling \$38,471.00.

Neida Ruth Grantland stepped out at 8:32 p.m.

Although this finding was initially included in the question cost, it was later resolved and cleared by TEA, resulting in no repayment obligation associated with this finding. Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, but that was only the \$38,000. Ms. R. Peña continued, yes, ma'am. This is an important point for the Board and community. The findings primarily involved payroll and payroll related expenditures. Employees performed their work and they were paid appropriately. The issue was not whether the employees should have been paid. The issue was whether the expenditures met federal grant requirements for reimbursement through ESSER I funds. When TEA determined that certain expenditures were not allowable under the grant those costs had to be moved back to the local maintenance fund 199. Between October 18 and October 21 of 2022 and following the receipt of the preliminary findings, the district prepared and submitted documentation in an effort to clear the findings. Administration believed the submitted information would support the reclassification entries and satisfy TEA's concern. Primary contact, Dr. René Gutierrez, Superintendent Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Mary Garza, Finance Director, Juan Jose de Leon, Support Programs Director, and Mr. Jose Garcia, Support Programs Coordinator. On October 28, 2022, after reviewing the district's response, TEA requested additional documentation via an email regarding the replacement of expenditures and the basis for charging those costs to the ESER 1 grant. TEA sought evidence that their replacement expenditures met all grant requirements. Primary contact Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent, Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer, and Mary Garza, Finance Director. On November 1, 2022, internal communications show that TEA's request for additional information may not have been fully addressed. The Finance Director advised that the documentation had already been submitted. However, the response Finance Director provided was referencing the original submission and did not specifically address the new information requested by TEA. Primary contacts, Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Mary Garza, Finance Director, and Mr. Jose G. Garcia, ESSER I Coordinator. Between November and December of 2022, TEA continued requesting supporting documentation for their replacement expenditures. TEA established a clear deadline of November 16, 2022. For the district to provide the information. According to the records reviewed Their requested documentation was not provided to TEA and the issues remained unresolved. Primary contact Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent, Dr Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. David Robledo, Chief Financial Officer. It is good to point here that Mr. Robledo exited the district on December 13, 2022. Ms. Mary Garza, Finance Director, Ms. Jose Garcia, Support Programs Coordinator. On February 14th, 2023. TEA issued its final monitoring report. TEA concluded that weaknesses remained in budgetary controls, payroll expenditures had occurred outside the allowable period, and supporting documentation was insufficient to clear the findings. The procurement finding was removed, but findings number one and number two remained unresolved. Dr. Benavides stated, I want to add this is the famous letter sent by TEA on February 14,

2023 that said no action required. When you read all of the communication on page two, it identified the areas that have not been sufficiently submitted. So I've told the group the moral of the story, when you get a memo from TEA you need to read it all. Because that was clearly stated on page two. We were clear of the \$38,000 but we were not clear of the \$473,000 that was payroll. Ms. Peña interjected, Ma'am, excuse me, correction, \$573,000. Dr. Benavides stated, originally it was the 473, and then when they added it, it ended up to 573. But this is that famous letter that says but we were cleared, we were not cleared. Brownsville was not cleared. We still needed to submit. They were trying to tell us that we had put too many, we had covered too much of the payroll with ESSER 1, and we needed to fix that. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, excuse me, meaning, when you say we were covering the payroll, in other words ESSER wasn't allowing you to pay your employees using the fund balance to pay, instead, use the ESSER funds money? Dr. Benavides stated, TEA, Commissioner Morath talked to all the superintendents and said you can use ESSER 1 monies to pay for personnel, but they put a certain amount. Brownsville ISD exceeded that amount. Ms. M. Peña stated, so we exceeded it by half a million dollars? Dr. Benavides stated, by \$573,000.

Neida Ruth Grantland returned at 8:38 p.m.

Ms. Peña stated, so quick question when they use the ESSER money to pay the employees, then that money in the fund balance was free to use for something else. Am I correct? Dr. Benavides stated, correct. And many, many districts took advantage of that because Commissioner Morath allowed that for districts to be able to, because of COVID and everything that was going on, for us for districts to use the money for payroll. Ms. Peña stated but did they say how much we could use. Dr. Benavides stated, there was a certain amount. Ms. M. Peña stated, do we know what the amount was. Dr. Benavides stated, well the exact amount Ms. Ms. R. Peña interjected, I mentioned it in the first slide, ma'am. It was \$13 million. What was allowed, we spent \$13.5. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, which is the math of 573. I know that, thank you, Ms. Peña, I know you still have part of your presentation. I just wanted to make sure because I know a lot of the Board remembers the fiscal cliff that everyone kept talking about. So go ahead. Ms. R. Peña stated, yes, ma'am. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President stated, just real quick, may I just add something, Dr. B? Just want to know when you said the district received this notice, specifically who received the notice, is it somewhere in the presentation? Dr. Benavides replied, at this point, on the February 14th letter, the letter is addressed to Dr. Gutierrez. Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you. Ms. R. Peña continued, on February 14, 2023, the district was notified that although TEA acknowledged the district's attempt to correct the issue, TEA determined that the supporting documentation was insufficient and referred the matter for further enforcement. At that point the monitoring review was considered closed by TEA. In April of 2024 TEA escalated the matter into a formal federal non-compliance action. The district was instructed to either refund the question cost or provide the sufficient documentation validating the payroll reclassifications and the corrective actions, submit the corrective action documentation, and provide evidence of revised procedures and staff training. Primary contact Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent Alejandro Céspedes, Chief Financial Officer, and Maria L. Esparza Federal Programs Director. The Chief Financial Officer at that time contacted TEA seeking clarification regarding whether the district could submit payroll documentation instead of repayment and whether repayment would remain mandatory and forwards

this correspondence to Finance Director. Primary contacts, Dr. Jesus. Chavez, Superintendent, Alejandro Cespedes, Chief Financial Officer, Mary Garza, Finance Director. TEA established a deadline of May 22, 2024. For the district to either repay the question costs, submit corrective action documentation, or file an appeal. Based on the records reviewed, the district did not file an appeal and the matter remained unresolved, beyond the deadline. Primary contacts, Dr. Jesus. Chavez, Superintendent. It is good to note that Dr. Chavez exited the district on April 8, 2026. Mr. Alejandro Cespedes, Chief financial officer, exits the district on April 30, 2025, Ms. Mary Garza, Finance Director, exits the district on January 30, 2026. On May 14th, 2026, TEA notified the district that the matter remained unresolved. The district was given five calendar days to comply. TEA advised that failure to comply could result in withholding of federal funds, suspension of awards, debarment proceedings, or other enforcement actions. Primary contacts Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent, Rosario Peña, Chief Financial Officer. Upon receiving TEA's notice, administration immediately informed the Board through the office of the Superintendent regarding the unresolved compliance issue and the urgency of the repayment deadline. Primary contacts, Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent, Rosario Peña, Chief Financial Officer. On May 19, 2026, the district complied with TEA's directive and submitted the repayment of \$573,571.74 through an ACH payment to the state comptroller's office. This was a mandatory compliance payment. It was not discretionary and was not a procurement transaction. This transaction would be similar to an IRS obligation, a TRS on behalf payment, or garnishments, or other legally required remittances. The district was required to comply with the directive issued by TEA to refund funds that had previously been released in whole to the district. Primary contacts Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent, Rosario Peña, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Lyzeth Alaffa, Finance Director/Business Manager. Following the repayment, Administration requested a meeting with TEA to better understand whether any additional remedies or options remained available. On June 5, 2026, district staff met with TEA compliance officials to discuss the matter and review the district's current status. We met via Zoom with Ms. Cal Lopez, Federal Compliance Officer, Texas Education Agency, and Ms. Susan Hicks, Grant Compliance Lead Analyst, Texas Education Agency. Present in the meeting were Dr. Cantu, Chief Operations Officer, Rosario Peña, Chief Financial Officer, Marco Porras, Director of Internal Audits, Lyzeth Alaffa, Finance Director, Business Manager, and Mr. Jose Garcia, Support Programs Coordinator. During the meeting, TEA advised that the district, advised the district that all Appeal rights had expired in May of 2024 and that the deadlines for submitting additional documentation had also expired. TEA stated that no further administrative remedies were available and that the noncompliance determination remained final. TEA also clarified that the repayment was a mandatory return of federal funds previously advanced to the district and not a procurement transaction. In closing, Administration's objective tonight is to ensure the Board has a clear understanding of the history of this matter, the actions taken over several years, the reasons for the required repayment, and the guidance provided directly by TEA. While the repayment has been made and the matter has been resolved from a compliance standpoint. Administration remains committed to strengthening and internal controls and grant compliance procedures to prevent similar situations in the future. Thank you. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, thank Ms. Peña. Mr.

Elizondo, do you have questions? Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, yes, I do just real quick. So, we're noting that the previous superintendents were the leaders, and they're the ones that, I guess, I don't want to say it in a bad way, did not proceed with what the requirements were, right? Ms. Lopez Valdez replied, correct. Mr. Elizondo continued, and then the other one is there's two people that I continue to see the names coming out. You know, I know one of them is Mary Garza and Cantu. Were they aware of this? And if they were, why didn't they say anything? **Ms. R. Peña stated, Mr. Elizondo, Dr. Cantu was notified because she was copied on the emails and on the letters from TEA because at one time, she oversaw the Finance division. However, the people that were directly involved with the processing of the journal entries, processing of all the documentation TEA was requiring, were the CFOs and, of course, Ms. Garza, Finance Director.** Mr. Elizondo stated, but, and so, okay, so then why didn't Ms. Garza say anything knowing that there was a deficit or a fault or something where it really put the district in a position which we already know we have to pay back more than half a million dollars. There was never a response from her because I know that every time that she came up to the podium, it was butterflies and rainbows, everything was perfect. And now we find out that under pressure from some Board members and TEA that there wasn't butterflies and rainbows, that there's issues. And why weren't they made aware? Why were we made aware of it? It took almost four years. I know it's not your fault, but you're there to clean up the mess. But that's what I want to know. Why did it take so long for these individuals? Because you said that some of these people are not employed, but two of those names that you mentioned are still here. **Ms. R. Peña stated, I'm sorry, Mr. Elizondo, but I am not unable to answer the question why she did not proceed with the response.** Mr. Elizondo stated, is there something that you can ask Dr. B, I'm sorry, is there something that you can address? You know, because these circumstances are not only detrimental to the school district, but to our taxpayers as well. We need to hold people accountable. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, yeah, so I would rather have that discussion about the personal matters, Mr. Elizondo, in executive session, not an open session. But I think that, you know, I think Dr. Benavides understands the point that you're trying to make. Yes, sir.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza? Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, thank you, Ms. Lopez Valdez. Dr. Benavides, being that the Board was unaware of these issues, these letters that were being sent to our district, what corrective action have we taken moving forward that this doesn't happen in the future? Because there was no communication, Board members, I was not aware of this issue. So, I know all the rest of the Board was not aware. So, what plans do we have in place to move forward that anytime TEA sends any emails like this in the future, the Board is aware. Especially when it talks about funding. **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, well, the first thing is, and I have, when I shared with you that memo that I got is, you know, my method of operation is never blindside the Board. The Board always has to be aware of every communication that is going on. So that's step one. I think it's a lesson for everyone. The other lesson is you have to read the whole document, because we recently got a letter also from TEA and it was on the CCMR, I shared this with Ms. Valdez. The front page said that all corrections were due June 26, 2026. C&I, correct me if I'm wrong with the dates. However, on page two of that memo. It said if you want your corrections to be counted for your 2026 accountability, they have to be submitted by June the 12th. So, read that first page, the bottom page in bold was June 26, 2026. Page two said and of course we want every single point for CCMR and we want every single high school to get the credit and the kids to get the**

CCMR points that they deserve, then, if you don't read that second page, you're going to say, I have until June 26 to submit the corrections. And that wasn't the case. So that's another thing a message to everyone we need to read all the documents very, very carefully and be aware of deadlines. The other thing that I shared, sometimes there's so much communication from TEA, there's just a lot. So sometimes keeping a log of all the TEA communications and the date it came in, the subject and the date if something is due. I know it's an old-fashioned way, but it works. And you always keep track of that log to make sure that you meet deadlines. TEA was, I mean, they were very nice. This is a four-year problem. By the time TEA came to June the 5th, they're like that's it. You ran out of time. You had time. You didn't fix it. So, I know that sometimes we are quick to comment about TEA, but I mean, they're the ones in charge and we have to abide. So I think, just to answer your question, Ms. Garza, I think we need to be more focused on what we're doing. I think we need to have better communication with all departments. And people need to know this is coming up, this is due, we need to get it done. We all have to roll up our sleeves and work it. Ms. M. Peña stated, but ma'am. Ms. Garza stated, hold on Ms. Peña, I'm not done. But thank you Dr. Benavides and I know Mr. Elizondo mentioned some names kept on coming up and I get that, but at the end it fell on the Superintendent, because he is or was the captain of the ship. So, but thank you so much. And again, thank you, Ms. Rosario Peña. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. M. Peña stated, yes, Dr. B. I noticed you said you shared it with Ms. Valdez and what Denise mentioned that we as Board Members need to know. So I've been here for a while. I've never seen where only the president gets information. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, Ms. Peña. Ms. M. Peña stated, let me finish, please, don't interrupt me. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, but I'm going to come back to your comment because it's not correct. Ms. M. Peña stated, no what she just said right now that she shared it, and I don't know, I didn't get a copy of it. Did anybody else get it? Did anybody else see it? That's what I'm saying. Can you please make sure you share it? Because I know it's hard for her to give it to us, but you said when you got the letter you showed Ms. Valdez. But did you send a copy to us. **Dr. Benavides stated, no, I did not send a copy.** Ms. M. Peña stated, or did you bring it yesterday so we could look at it? **Dr. Benavides stated, no, I did not send a copy and I did not share it with anyone else. I was trying to illustrate because there has been communication. Oh, but we got cleared, we got cleared, there's a letter, February 14th, dated, you know 2022. We were cleared, we were cleared. All I was trying to illustrate is that here is another example of another communication. We dealt with it, we saw, we got the group together, we addressed it, we got the high school principals together with Region 1 and we, you know, complied with the request. So no, I did not share it. I do not share every single TEA communication. That's an inhouse communication of something that's required from the district and that's our responsibility to meet that deadline.** Ms. M. Peña stated, but that particular letter, was it in reference to the same thing? **Dr. Benavides stated, no, no no.** Ms. M. Peña stated, something similar. **Dr. Benavides stated, I used it as an example to illustrate that exactly how that letter of February 14th, this same letter could have caused the district a very big problem if we hadn't read it all.** Ms. M. Peña stated, and I appreciate that and what I'm saying share that with all of us and we'll all be on the same page and understand what you're saying. **Dr. Benavides stated, yeah.** Ms. M. Peña stated, and I know it's hard and I and please excuse me, Daniela, I don't mean to sound bad but I'm just saying, share that information because it is very good because no other Superintendent has shared that information, Dr. Gutierrez didn't share it with us, Dr.

Chavez didn't share it with us, you're the only one that did that. And I appreciate it because you shared it with all of us and we were all in shock because none of us knew anything about that. And right now to say in point fingers of the people that are here, and it really, I guess what I'm saying is the people that are in charge at the top, there's a lot of people at the top, and they get a letter, but the top got the letter, and the other top, I do recommend that people at the, everybody who got the letter, go and see, did this get done? Because somebody might have read the whole letter, where the other person only read the first page. So, what I'm saying is if you get it, but you also want Is handling it, please help us, help us by helping your supervisor or helping your assistant understand that we need to read all of this. Because sometimes little things like that get biased. We're human. So. I would appreciate that, because I know they said Dr. Cantu knows about it, but I guess she felt that the people that were responsible took care of it. But it didn't, not her fault. But just an FYI. This is a very severe learning experience. A half a million dollars learning experience. So maybe we can get that out there. Please stay on, when you get a letter and you give it information, stay on it to make sure it happens. That's all I wanted to say. **Dr. Benavides stated, thank you. Point well made. Thank you, Ms. Peña.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, Dr. B., just to reiterate, I do want to thank you, as was already said before, that you kept us informed. Okay? This isn't two years ago. We had no idea. And when you told us, I personally was floored. When you told us about the 5 million from FNS, I was really floored. Okay so thank you so much for keeping us in the loop and letting us know instead of us finding out through, you know, chat groups or podcast or anything else. So I do want to commend you for that. I would like to ask, I know Dr. Cantu, if you have any clarification on this issue just to kind of share with us. I know your name did come up quite a bit and I know Ms. Peña kind of clarify the fact that you really just you know we're not the main main person but could you just provide us with some clarification if I may thank you. **Dr. Nellie Cantu, Chief Operations Officer stated, thank you Mr. Ortiz for the opportunity to clarify. I do remember, and I know that those of you that were here when the presentations were being done about ESSER and all the initiatives. So, the ESSER funding was divided into two categories. We had the implementation piece, and then we had a financial piece. The implementation piece is what I oversaw. Those were all the initiatives that I was bringing up. That was audited. That was not in question. The initiatives were not in question. What was in question was payroll, and that was inputted through a system, a financial system through TEA. At no point did I have any access to this financial reporting. And again, this is just for clarification because I want people to understand that there were two components the implementation piece and those initiatives there wasn't a question on the initiatives. And making sure that we did everything we were told we were going to do. However, the payroll piece that was inputted in a TEA system, the only individuals that had access were the CFO, Finance Director and the Superintendent. I think that is a very important clarity when it comes to the two pieces that were involved.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you, ma'am, I really appreciate that. **Dr. Cantu stated, thank you for the opportunity.** Ms. M. Peña stated, thank you, Dr. Cantu. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, and just for the record, legal, it is as Board President, I review the agendas with the Superintendent. So, for clarity purposes, when I was reviewing the agenda with Dr. Benavides, she wanted to show me, as we were reviewing all these agenda items that have to do with this, she said, guess what, we received another letter from TEA, and at the beginning it says no action, having absolutely nothing to do with ESSER funds. And, Ms. Peña I believe you were there too, so that is my role as the Board President to

review the agenda. So, nothing out of this is taken out of context. Nothing is about hiding anything. I want to make sure that's on the record because a lot of times here we like to point fingers and we talk a lot about retaliation, and I'm here to protect the staff, and to make sure we say the truth. So, Ms. Peña, as I'm saying this, please, I noticed this presentation isn't on Board Book. But for the record, could we please update that? **Ms. R. Peña stated, yes, ma'am, of course.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, and again, also, TEA, ESSER money, thank you, Dr. Benavides for pointing this out to us because every district that dealt with this was new. This is federal funds that came out of nowhere. Absolutely, we should have handled this. If you look at the dates, it's from 2022 that we should have been handling this. But everyone was doing something for the first time. Also, for the record, we as a Board also need to understand our responsibility and making sure that our staff is focused on the actual work, like this work, instead of our millions of Board Member Requests that are coming in that have nothing to do with actual student outcomes. So, I just want to make sure that we as a Board also monitor ourselves and our actions. Because that helps you all be focused and do your work. Thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, hello? I got something to say. Ms. M. Peña stated, if I may Dr, yeah well. Mr. Elizondo stated, Minerva may I real quick. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, go ahead, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, just real quick the reason that some of this stuff came out was because of all my millions of Board Member Requests to put this ESSER funds on the actual talking points. It was voted down multiple times by you. So just want to make sure that the Record states that the reasons that this stuff is coming out is because I've been a thorn on your side, making sure that this information gets brought up to the taxpayers and the people who actually pay the district funds. This is the reason why. Let's not make this a lot less than what you're expecting. This is a big thing, Daniela. And this is the reason that I continue to be a thorn in the side, especially when we're dealing with taxpayer monies and we have to pay not \$500,000 like Ms. Peña said, over \$500,000 almost \$600,000 this is the reason. And I'll continue to ask for more Board Member Requests, and this is the case. This needed to be brought up four years ago. And under your leadership, it was not. It was because we came in here and we were thrown on your side. This is the reason why. Let's tell the people the way it is. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I will respectfully agree to disagree, Ms. Peña, you have something? Ms. Peña stated, yes and I'm going to say.... Mr. Elizondo stated, of course you would, of course you would.. Ms. M. Peña stated, are you done, Mr. Elizondo? Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, if she continues to, continue to you know, questions, then I will continue to answer, but I am done. Ms. M. Peña stated, okay and the reason is said that it wasn't, Daniela, it wasn't to make it look like only you, that's not the interpretation that I meant, so I apologize for that. What I meant is that would be a good example, Dr. Benavides, to show us how it said that. I'd like to see it whenever you have time, or next time we have a meeting, to see how it says one thing in the front, and then you have to continue to see that there's something else in the back. I go, somebody needs to notify TEA what's up with you, buddy? I'm sure that we're not, trust me, it can be done. Because sometimes people don't know what they don't know because no one brings it up to their attention. But politely let them know because if it's not all on the first page, you're right, when somebody reads everything's fine, ah, look, everything's fine in the first letter, they don't continue reading it. So that was a good reason. It was not to insult or criticize anyone, it was just say, it would be good to see that letter so I can see how they're doing it. And TEA, you know, you're free to pick up the phone and ask them, can you ask me, can you please advise me why this is being done that way? And like I said, Dr. Benavides, sometimes it happens here in school where somebody says that principle is doing this way,

and this other principle is doing that. You're like, wait, that's too different. But if they don't tell you, Dr. Benavides, you wouldn't know. So that's all I was saying, so thank you. **Dr. Benavides stated, I can send that letter to you tomorrow with our Friday communication, I can send it to you.** Ms. M. Peña stated, yeah, I just a want to see, I really want to address that with TEA myself. **Dr. Benavides stated, perfect, thank you.** Ms. Peña stated, but politely, just to let them know, we've got to change the way you speak, the way they write. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña, do you have anything? **Ms. R. Peña replied no, thank you for the opportunity, and if I may, Chairperson, going back to the question on how we're going to prevent this or set procedures, I have already spoken to Mr. Porras, our Internal Audit Lead, and anytime that the Superintendent will hand down, because it comes to me as a CFO, I will involve Mr. Porras because, if anything, he said he could help us with just documenting and giving us timelines and reminders, if you will. So that process has already been put in place.** Ms. Lopez Valdez, stated, thank you, Ms. Peña.

Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, real quick, before we go on, Ms. Daniela, may I make a statement that I meant at the end? The bottom line is everybody that was supposed to do something about this right no longer works for BISD. So, at this point, it's null and void, and we can't do anything about that, am I right, Mr. Attorney? *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, I mean, they're not employed, but we can't do anything to them.* Ms. Peña stated microphone. *Mr. Ramirez stated, yes, if they're not employed, we have nothing we can do over them.* Ms. M. Peña stated, thank you very much.

2. Presentation, discussion and next steps on the results of the Climate Survey. (Board Member Request Frank Ortiz/Board Support Minerva Peña)

Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, legal, before you get started, let me know so I can make a couple of statements. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, yes, sir (Inaudible).* Mr. Ortiz continued, okay, on this agenda item that I placed on the agenda. I know that Ms. Garza had brought up the climate survey quite some time ago. And I know that we as a Board spend a lot of time and effort putting this climate survey, and we fielded some questions. We put some questions together, and we sent that out to all of our employees. Our employees took their time, you know, and this wasn't a simple survey that was done overnight. I mean, it took a while to put it together. We sent that out to our employees, and of course, they responded. And I know that legal gave us a copy of the results, but that's as far as it went. I never did hear anything about that anymore. My point is. We want to be transparent. We wanted to know how our employees, different departments, felt about certain issues within the district. And I know that Legal is going to present that in just a little while, but my concern now is, or my question is, has this gone out to our stakeholders so that they can see the results themselves? And the other question that I have what has administration doing with these results? What are we taking out of them and what is it that we're addressing to address some of these concerns and even look at the positives as well because there were a lot of positives, there were some negatives, you have to look at both sides. I just don't want our employees to think, well, here comes another survey, you know, we do it, goes in one ear, goes out the other, nothing ever gets done. We don't see anything being done with the survey, so why take the survey when another one comes out? So, just to be transparent, you know, thank you for the presentation, but then again, my question to administration after that is what is it that we're doing with

these results and how are we addressing some of these concerns? How are we addressing some of these positive items? *Mr. Ramirez continued, thank you, Mr. Ortiz I appreciate that comment. And let me first and foremost start off by saying that, you know kudos to BISD for willing to do a climate survey study to their district. I can tell you that most school districts in Texas will shy away from a climate survey study because they're afraid of what it might say. And so, when BISD takes up and says, hey, we want a climate survey study done, all of our staff members, every department, both English and Spanish, get as much as you can and then be willing to say, hey, not present it to the community. You know, kudos to the Board, to Admin., and to everybody for creating this space. It's not something that you see typically in Texas school districts. And so, before I answer some of your questions, Mr. Ortiz, I'm going to go through the presentation about what the climate survey said, what it showed us, and what it did for BISD. And then we can talk about how we can use some of this and how we have already used some of it as of now, all right. So, we'll go ahead and get started. This is the 2026. Climate survey study, and at the first glance you'll see some data here. We had 1,874 responses out of about 6,000 employees. Let me just say that is big, all right? That is almost one third of your workforce who submitted a survey. That is more than it comes across in any climate survey I've ever done in any district across the state of Texas. Our response rates are usually about 15 percent, 10 to 15 percent, and you almost scored a 30 percent in terms of response rate, double what we normally see in other school districts. So that was very shocking to me when I started seeing the surveys come in. Importantly, the surveys are tied to specific identifiers that are blind to us. So, it means that all of these are unique responses. There's no employee who could have taken it double unless they were taking it on another employee's identifier through a blind email set. So, all of these are unique responses. The survey did have 55 temperature feelers, that's how we kind of identify them. And you'll see why I say temperature because you're going to see green is good, red is bad as we go through here. And we had over 4,100 open ended comments that employees gave feedback on as part of what they were doing here. So overall, this was a really good response rate. A very good survey that I think went out that really captured a lot of the feeling of the school district, right? The survey did have 11 different sections. The sections all varied across different areas. They talked about overall workplace climate and morale, they talked about job satisfaction, they talked about support and resources, immediate supervision and campus leadership, central office and district administration, micromanagement and autonomy, district wide leadership, Board of Trustee perception, respect, professionalism, workplace culture, communication and transparency, impact of students, or just some of the categories that this was feeling out for, right? And it did take place from March 31st through April 23rd. So, this is a good solid almost three weeks that this was being put out to your district. And we did multiple emails in terms of reminders for employees. And we also set up and worked with the administration closely to allow employees who do not have a regular daily access to computers to have access to computers if they were maybe in the transportation department or in a department where there's traditionally not a computer accessible to an employee. So we did work with the admin at the time to facilitate that. And we did have this in both English and Spanish. So, that was another thing that the district did for this, right? The survey was essentially in two types of questions. We had what are called Likert items, that means that those are statements that an employee could strongly agree with, agree with, be neutral about it, disagree, or strongly disagree. These, of course, measure the intensity and they include a neutral option for those who are indifferent about a statement that was put out there. There was also truth and false forced directional choices with no neutral*

option that forced an employee to make a decision. And we had open ended field in every single section that we went through, right? And so, what we see here through the color bands, that's kind of how they were. Over 75 percent of the responses that were submitted were probably good, right, and in the green field, but you're going to see there's a disparity in the different sections as how this applies to as we go through this. So, when we talk about who responded by role in here 74 percent of the employees who responded all were working directly with student contact roles. That means this was teachers, paraprofessionals, and campus administrators. The rest of that was broken down in other departments, such as Professional support, central office, and other non-campus departments or campus administrators who were maybe not in front of students. But the majority of the individuals who responded, at least 58 were direct teachers who were working with our employees. So that was a really good feedback from the people on the ground with our students in here. When we talk about how they look like, right, in their tenure with the district, 60 of the people who responded were individuals who, according to the Survey, have over 16 years of experience of working with BISD. That tells us that it was your workforce who's been here the longest who responded most to the survey, right? When we see that number come down, when we have employees who've been here one to five years, only about 10 percent of them were the ones who were responding on here. And so depending on what we learn from your HR department of what your turnover has been, that'll give you a better idea in terms of percentages of the people who were submitting based on the people who work here. This could just mean that you have a lot of people who have a lot of longevity here at BISD and that's why we see a higher number at the 16 or more or the 11 to 15 years coming in out of this, right? And 89 percent identified themselves as having direct student contact, not just with students. So that was also really good. 73 percent were salaried, and about a quarter of these were hourly employees who were submitting here. When we start looking at some of the sections, here are the sections at a glance. We see that the sections where climate scored the highest were sections such as impact on students and job satisfaction. But if we go down to the yellow and red we see how Board of Trustees ranked the lowest and district leadership ranked the second lowest in terms of climate and how people felt about the district. And so, when we talk about sort of the approval rating, you can read it as in saying that 83 percent of respondents think that the impact on students is, you know, they approve of the work that's being done there, and then you know, 47 percent of the Board in here. And so, we see an overall breakdown here. When we look at the individual responses as we're going through, the highest one was adult working conditions affecting student learning. It seems like your staff believes that what they're doing every day on the ground is something that they like that they're doing and that's, you know, good to know. Right good to know, right, that what's happening in the classrooms seems to be that they like what's going on in there, right? And so, these are some of the other areas that were in here. Morale affects my day-to-day performance. They identified that as 88 percent, right? Trusted to exercise professional judgment. Trust in my supervisor's decision making, 84 percent, so, at least with if you keep in mind that the majority of the respondents were teachers, it's at least telling you that teachers think that they can trust their supervisor's decision, making judgment, right? But then we look at some of the lowest rating ones right at the very end. So, the least rated one was feel supported by the Board of Trustees. That came in at 36.6 percent only out of the respondents. And so, these are ones we were looking at right now were the highest rated, and these were the lowest rated ones that we have here. And so, Board respects employees and professional roles, leadership decisions applied fairly and consistently. And so, you

can see the breakdown there for these categories. When we look at individual roles, right, we kind of see a heat map here of where things are in and kind of who's feeling what. So, I'll draw an example, if we look at, for example, impact on students you have a column that says impact a teacher, and then you have impact on students. So, teachers think 84 percent of teachers think that the impact on students is great, right? But I'll highlight this one. Right? So, if you go to the central office column all the way to the bottom, if you look at the Board of Trustees approval rating per area, you see that the Board of Trustees have the highest approval rating with paraprofessionals and in the lowest with central office. But if we look at other areas, for example, climate and morale, 76 percent of teachers are ranking in the higher shades. Central office being at 71. So, really good data here in terms of seeing a heat map of how things look when we compare by category and then by employee group here in the district. When we look at results by years of service, we also see that the individuals who have the least time here in Brownsville are scoring the highest morale. And the individuals with more longevity are the ones that are scoring lower in morale and in climate. So that's also a good indicator for good feedback that we have on here. Workplace climate and morale, that was one of the first sections, right? And so, the highest ones that we had here were the morale does affect the day-to-day work and climate supports performing my job efficiently. But the lowest categories for section one where workplace atmosphere is positive at 67 percent, still way over 50 percent. So, you know, that's an area for you to look at there. The overall section value at 76 percent, right? We look at job satisfaction, right? Intent to remain employed with the district, 94 percent of your respondents say they intend to remain employed with BISD, right? But 62 percent think their workload is manageable, meaning that there is, you know, about 38 percent of individuals who might feel their workload here is unmanageable for them, right? So, it's, you know, again, different areas for you to look at. Section three support, resources and guidance, we see again the highest ranking was district provides appropriate training, and so it seems like almost 80 percent of your staff members feel the district does a good job at providing the training that they need, but they do feel that your staffing levels aren't as adequate, right? Only 62 percent of individuals feel your staffing levels are adequate. We look at section four immediate supervision by campus leadership, 87 percent of the respondents think that their supervisor does support growth and problem solving, right. 84 percent trust their supervisor's decision making. At the very bottom, though we see that rules are applied consistently, In my workforce at 72 percent here for this section four. If we look at central office administration, right, we see that 78 percent think policies are implemented per their stated intent, but at the bottom we see district wide direction communicated clearly is at the lowest at 58 percent, in terms of the perception of central office. When we look at autonomy over and accountability, right, this one all scored above 75 percent and so, you know, excessive oversight harms morale and productivity. Most people agree with those statements, right? But again, 80 percent think that everyone has an appropriate level of autonomy here. So, it seems to at least indicate from the respondents that individuals believe they have the autonomy they need to perform their duties. When we look at the climate of district wide leadership, 67 percent think leadership is approachable and open to feedback. But if we go down to the bottom, leadership decisions applied fairly and consistently, only 4 out of 10 respondents think that that's accurate. Leadership is visible and communicates, that's down to just above 50 percent in here. So this is one of the areas that you can look at. When we look at Board of Trustees, another section, section number 8, the highest score eight. The highest scoring was Board actions aligned with improvement goals, but we see that 36.6 percent of people say they

feel supported by the Board of Trustees. That's being ranked the lowest one of the category. So, an area here for feedback. Section nine, respect professionalism, and workplace culture, right? 79 percent think they're treated with respect by district leadership, right? In here or at least in their direct leadership. One of the lowest areas being employees treated fairly and equitable district wide. So, it seems to me that maybe they think they're treated fairly in their direct supervision, but they don't feel maybe the same type of fairness across the district, so, also an area to look at. Communication, right, information they need is timely, 70 percent, but we look at the bottom right, Changes and transitions communicated clearly, only 58 percent think that that kind of changes and those kinds of transitions are communicated clearly to your workforce here in the district. Impact on students. Adult working conditions affect student learning, 97 percent of course, say with that, right? Staff barriers can limit support for students. Again, more morale, meaningful impact student outcomes. Climate supports student access, and of course, district decisions aligned with student needs, only about 59% think that that's accurate in terms of what we're looking at here. The open-ended comments, those were 4,108 comments, and so we did provide all those to the Board so the Board can see that. We saw a lot of comments on workplace and climate morale, job satisfaction, support, resources, and guidance, immediate supervision and campus leadership, Board of Trustees, respect, and workplace culture. You'll notice on the Board of Trustees, the highest volume relative to its size, critical perspectives. In this case, most of the comments were about Board of Trustees. Of what was submitted. Again, just for information purposes to look at. And in the open-ended feedback here, these are other areas of people who are commenting on workplace and climate, job satisfaction, support. This is by the individual categories in terms of where people were leaving comments as they were going through the questions. And, basically, here, right, you know, the strongest points are strongest near the classroom. A personal versus institutional gap appears to happen. And then, of course, distance grows with tenure. So, the longer you've been in the district, the more you feel, you know distant from what is happening. And so, this is kind of what the survey provided, right, in terms of what it said. And so, one of the ways that I'll talk about how we have used this immediately was part of your superintendent search. So. Your superintendent search publication included a summary of the climate survey so that your new superintendent or applicants would have an idea of what was happening on the ground. And one of the other things we're doing is that we'll be sharing this with your loan finalists now that they've been named in order for them to start looking at this data. And this information ahead of them coming into the district so that they have that information. The other way, of course, we gave this to the Board for the Board to analyze, but this has not yet been given to administration. This is the first-time administration is seeing the information presented to them in large part because this was a Board climate survey, so it came to the board. And so now that we're here to discuss it with you, you all would be giving us permission to share this with the administration so they can begin using this and creating a plan of action around some of the things that are coming up here. But as you can already perhaps, you know, tell there's some areas that admin might not be able to help in, right that they'll be limited in what they can do. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, thank you very much, sir it was a very, very good presentation, and we just want to be transparent. We wanted to know, okay, and this is why we put this together; Dr. Benavides, with the information that was presented, I mean, how can we, what would be your suggested next steps as we take this important information and kind of develop a plan, or what is it that you would recommend next? **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, I would recommend, for example,**

with the Cabinet, I would look at the highest top three and celebrate that 20 seconds, and move on. Then identify the bottom three, and then for the bottom three, develop a plan of action of how we're going to improve that area. And because there's many that need attention based on the low 50 percent, then take the first bottom three, work on that, develop some goals and ways to measure that we're working and improving, and then identify another and keep identifying every month, every three months, so that you're always on a continuous improvement mode and you're always addressing and looking at. It's important because we had a good response, it's important to really use this data so that next time you want to do another survey, you even have a better response because we're going to model that we took their feedback. And that their feedback was important. But that's something I would do. Mr. Ortiz stated, I like your plan, it looks to be a very, very good plan. And I would like to see it launched. Thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, thank you, Madam President. When I first got here, one of the things I noticed, because as an administrator, we're all goal oriented and we have the task of doing that, but I noticed that Board goals were almost non-existent. If they were there, they weren't as evident. And then I realized as we received some training, we did get a couple of training sessions that were not completed and I think you all remember that. It started looking like we were heading in the right direction although this is difficult to see as a Board you know because we see the results that came through, I think it's really a good thing because we're at the cusp right now of being able to move forward in a different direction for our students and for our community. And I think that with a new Superintendent coming in who will have to do his own goals, and then aligning our own Board goals with the new Superintendent's goals, I think that we will move forward and your plan is excellent. And so, I have hope that this is going to be a learning curve for everybody, and I have hope that our community is going to receive it in the spirit that we're going to do it. Because we're going to do this in the right spirit, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I just want to thank all those who participated, I really appreciate the participation rate. It is really wonderful. And thank you, Mr. Ramirez, for helping us put this together. *Mr. Ramirez stated, if I can just add a couple more things, just because I want to make sure that this also is on the record. So, all of this was facilitated through the third party. No one in the district had any hand in reviewing the data, getting the data, collecting the data, going through it. All that was handled by our third-party servicer and our firm. Also, none of the responses were tied to any employee, so we can't tell who submitted what or what they submitted. All that's blinded over there at the end through the third-party receiver for this. So, that was one thing I want to make sure that we do put on the record for everybody to know. And again, I'm not saying it just because I'm here. But I do mean it when I say that response rates are really low with these things. You all had a great response rate, and I applaud you all for being willing to present this to your community and talk about it. That was awesome. Thank you.*

B. Action Item(s):

1. Discussion, consideration and possible action to name the Rivera Early College High School Athletic Facility to honor Coach Tom Chavez. (Board Member Request Denise Garza/Board Support Minerva Peña)

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, may I say a few things? Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, yes. Ms. Garza continued, okay. Ms. Lopez Valdez state, we need a motion. Ms. Garza stated, okay Motion to approve. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated second. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I have a first and a second. Ms. Garza.

Ms. Garza continued, thank you. Earlier today, we did witness the presentation of Jason Garcia's Memorial Scholarship, which is very important because Jason was also a player for Coach Tom Chavez. And so, both represented values of dedication, perseverance, and of course, the Raider Pride in their own way. Tom Chavez, you know, he has left an impact on many students, not just students, some of those students' children have gone on to play for Coach Tom Chavez. And so, naming this facility after him while he's still alive and can, you know, appreciate that we appreciate those years of service for Coach Tom Chavez. And I'm a former Rivera graduate, former cheerleader, got to be on those sidelines during those wonderful years that Rivera made it to every playoff. We cannot forget that unforgettable game in Corpus Christi where we went to four O/Ts. We almost won, but it got intercepted and we lost it by that interception. So tonight, I am asking my fellow Board members to support naming this facility in honor of Coach Tom Chavez to appreciate all those years of service, his leadership, his commitment to our students, and the legacy he created for Rivera. Ms. Minerva Peña stated, I concur with Ms. Denise Chavez. Ms. Garza stated, (inaudible). Ms. Peña stated, I'm sorry, Ms. Denise; I apologize, Denise Garza, I so apologize. That was a big boo boo on my part. Ms. Garza stated, it's okay there's another Denise, it's okay. Ms. Peña stated, yes, that's her name, Chavez. Sorry. Anyway, so I concur with you. Mr. Chavez, Coach Chavez is an excellent individual, wonderful person, examples to our children. He is one of a kind. And I'm not just saying this because you put him on and want to put his name. He is an actually wonderful, good, blessed genuine individual. And we were so blessed to have him because he nurtured and he worked with our kids and he shaped our kids and he got them to believe in themselves and move forward. So, I totally agree to give him this honor while he's still here with all of us would be a blessing to him and his family to tell him thank you. Because what you did for our students and our students' children is amazing. So, I concur with you that he really deserves this. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Ms. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I vote yes ma'am.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Minerva Peña, and unanimously carried to recommend approval naming the Rivera Early College High School Athletic Facility to honor Coach Tom Chavez. (7-0-0)

Mr. Miguel Salinas, Board Member stated, Madam Chair. Mr. Elizondo stated, what can I give her? Give her, what's her pulse? Ms. Garza stated, Carlos, we can hear you. Mr. Elizondo stated, I am sorry. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Salinas. ***Mr. Salinas stated, I was just going to say if you would give the campus the authorization under policy to form a committee, vet the recommendation, and bring it to the Board for public input pursuant to policy. And that's true also for number two, I'm getting ahead of myself.*** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, noted, thank you Mr. Salinas.

3. Discussion, consideration and possible action to name the CAB building to honor all Brownsville High School Alumni who attended Brownsville High School from its inception to the graduating Class of 1966. (Board Member Request Neida Ruth Grantland/Board Support Minerva Peña)

Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I so move. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez stated Second. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, I have a first and a second. Ms. Grantland stated, well, thank you so much for putting this on the agenda. I'm

going to date myself. I was in class of 66 and graduated as the last graduating class out of that old building. There's a lot of good memories there with football games and choir and theater arts and everything else. All of my classmates, every time I see them, they say, you know, we're like a man without a country because there's nothing that carries the Brownsville High School name on it at all. And at one point, I had suggested to Dr. Chavez that we might look at the Landreth building and create it as a little museum for our football heroes and call it our Brownsville High School Hall of Fame or, you know, something like that and make it like into a little shop where we could sell tchotchkes, you know, to sell memorabilia. It's an old building, it's a historical building, and it had to be remediated with asbestos and all, so it became cost prohibitive to even do that. So, my second best request was to add the Brownsville High part to the CAB building so that we still have something that, you know, our generations can look at. A lot of them are no longer with us, and some of us are still alive and kicking. And so, I really would appreciate the support. My classmates would love that. So, thank you for putting it on the agenda. Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, question. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Peña. Ms. M. Peña stated, so, we're asking, like, in the front of the building to put Brownsville High School. Ms. Grantland stated, whatever the school district thinks is appropriate, but something that would display the name Brownsville High School CAB Building. Ms. Peña stated, and I would like to see, like, in the front of the building where people pass by every day. Because if you put it in the back. Ms. Grantland stated, yeah, something notable. I mean, something that's visible. Ms. Peña stated, if you put it towards the back, it is only when you have an event there and stuff. Ms. Grantland stated, yeah, no, something on Palm Boulevard. Ms. Peña stated, in front of the building, because I also went to Brownsville High School, but we had already moved over to Hanna. Ms. Grantland stated, right. Ms. Peña stated, I agree with you, but I really would like for the district consider to put it where it's visible in the front where everybody passes. I appreciate that. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Salinas. ***Mr. Miguel Salinas, Staff Attorney stated, ma'am, I was just going to suggest, and again, pursuant to policy, this isn't a campus initiative per se, so maybe the Board could give the names of members of a committee. That is in policy. We can do all seven Board Members, or perhaps whatever you all want to do, and then maybe campus administration to assist the committee.*** Ms. Peña stated, what would the committee do, sir? What would the objective of the committee? ***Mr. Salinas stated, well, basically, they meet together, they get public input, they vet, make sure that, I mean, it's just policy.*** It just says policy says this is what we have to do when we're renaming facilities. Ms. Grantland stated, it's procedural. ***Mr. Salinas stated, yes. Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, and that's what we've done for other facilities, if you remember a while back. So, what we did is we get your vote to what we want to name it. We go back to the committee and say this is the name, check it out, and then they come back and we're good to go.*** Ms. Grantland stated, well, if you'll just let me know what the procedure is, I'd be happy to chair it if that was appropriate. ***Mr. Salinas stated, and you may remember the committee actually came back and gave a third option and name the Basketball gymnasium at Hanna for Coach Don Denson. The Board had suggested Terry Hoover and Manuel Guajardo, and they on their own came up with, I thought, a very good suggestion.*** Ms. Grantland stated, well, the tennis complex is the Terry Hoover proposal, right? ***Mr. Salinas stated, yes the tennis...*** Ms. Grantland stated, which I think is well deserved. Mr. Salina stated, yes, ma'am. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza. Ms. Garza stated, thank you Ms. Grantland for putting this on the agenda. As you mentioned, you know, many times at Brownsville High, it just kind of, you know, got faded away and I

know this honors the old high school. And many from the, that moved over to what is now Homer Hanna High School, a lot of them said, what happened, you know, Brownsville High just got, you know, dismissed. Ms. Grantland interjected, you were the last class and then it disappeared. Ms. Peña interjected no I am talking about (inaudible). Ms. Garza continued, no, but then, you know, yeah, those that moved from Brownsville High to the new facility, they were still Brownsville High, but then later on it became Homer Hanna High School. So, you know, I think this gives some appreciation to all Brownsville High School graduates, whether they graduated from that original building and then those that ended up still at Brownsville High, but to Hanna. So, but thank you for putting this on the agenda. Ms. Grantland stated, I appreciate the support. Ms. Peña stated, I have a question for the attorney. In refers to the committee, and like you said, let's say we put the committee and they decide no, they want something one other name different. Like, and if the committee doesn't agree to put that on there, where do we stand because we'd like to see Brownsville High School? *Mr. Salinas replied, the committee recommendation comes to the Board to vote it up or down, but I anticipate their charge, and especially if they're going to be your appointees, they know their charge and they're going to come up with a good solution not only about the naming, but how to honor that name, where to put it, and how we can display and speaking, Mr. Ortiz and I'm not going to speak for yourself, but you and I are the last graduating class of Brownsville High School, so this is a tremendous honor.* Mr. Frank Ortiz stated, (inaudible). *Mr. Salinas stated, well, we were both 12.* Mr. Ortiz stated, I got you sir, I got you sir. *Mr. Salinas stated, we were child prodigy, sir, so just make sure everyone knows that.* Ms. Peña stated, it's only over 50 years ago. Mr. Ortiz stated, I feel the same way. You know, where's our school? Exactly. Ms. Peña stated, yeah but be proud of your age, it's only 50 years ago that happened. But some people didn't make it, gentlemen. So be proud that you're still alive and walking on the earth, because some people that we love did make it. And here's my point. I really appreciate that because Brownsville are the only ones that took out the Brownsville High name. McAllen kept the McAllen one, and they added all these other schools. McAllen High School. Harlingen, they added all these other schools. Harlingen High School. We're the only ones that said, move over to Brownsville High School, we're adding another name. And that's always bothered me, because we're the only ones that diminished the name, and we should not have. Add all you want, but keep the original that has serve so many wonderful people. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Mr. Elizondo stated, I vote yes.

Motion made by Neida Ruth Grantland, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to name the CAB building to honor all Brownsville High School Alumni who attended Brownsville High School from its inception to the graduating Class of 1966. (7-0-0)

4. Discussion and possible action on matters regarding TEA ESSER Non-Compliance Correspondence issued to Dr. Jesus Chavez on April 22, 2024, and ESSER compliance matters for school years 2020-2022. (Board Member Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Minerva Peña)

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, do I have a motion? *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, but we don't know what the motion is, so we can start off by discussion if you want.* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, okay, discussion. This is Mr. Elizondo's

item; Mr. Elizondo your item on ESSER B3? Ms. Minerva Peña, Board Member stated, B3, Page 7. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board member stated, yes, ma'am, just to, yeah, no, just for a quick on I think most of this was already covered in the presentation that Ms. Peña did. But at the same token, Dr. B, is there anything else you want to add to it? Any other findings that you have on specifically this letter that came in from TEA? **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, no, I think we covered everything. I do want to share the presentation with you. I didn't realize that it wasn't uploaded, so I do want to share it with you tomorrow, but I don't think there's anything else to add at this time.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, and again, I think this number three was already covered in the presentation that Ms. Pena gave us, Ms. Rosie Pena. So thank you, Ms. Pena, for covering everything. I don't have any further questions. If you want, we can just continue. Unless anybody of other colleagues have other questions. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated thank you. So this will be no action. **No Action Taken**

5. Presentation, discussion and possible action, regarding policies and procedures for B.I.S.D. CFO Department regarding making payments, bills and obligations. (Board Member Request Minerva Peña/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)

6. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President do you want to make a motion Ms. Pena. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yeah, I guess, can we discuss it? We don't have to make a motion. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, you can discuss it if you want first, yeah.* Ms. Pena stated, and I guess my discussion is this the fact that a lot of bills get paid by so many departments, left and right. And I just want to see if you can turn around and show what the procedures and the line of those that have to approve this money going out. Can you hear me now? Now, okay. I just want to know what we can do to make a procedure where when the money is going out, we have more than one person making the decision and putting the money out. And I want to make sure that the superintendent is always, it might be a lot of work I'm so sorry, Superintendent, but the Superintendent needs to know of every penny that's being spent at BISD because this money, this half a billion dollars that we get every year, belongs to the community and we need to justify it. And the reason I want to do this is that everything has to go through and get the signature and approval of the Superintendent. Because at the end of the day, something goes wrong, guess who they blame? Superintendent. Guess who's responsible? Superintendent. Guess who's at the end of the line of that? Superintendent. But it's not fair if they don't tell you or they do something, Dr. B, and you didn't realize that because they took for granted well, I thought you knew. And so, I want to know is there something or you can show us what the guidelines are for any BISD money that is being paid from our school to a vendor to buy stuff to TASB to TEA to whatever? Can we have what that line is and how we can make sure it's controlled and everyone? Or you as a superintendent, and maybe your secretary can help you find out what we're doing with every penny that belongs to BISD? **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, and that's a good point. I know a little while back, our Board President had said that it was probably time to review policies, and this is where this would fall. I think that it would be important to review the policies that we have for making payments, see if we want to make any additions, any recommendations. Since this has been an area of contention and has caused a lot of turmoil in the District I think that it would be good to just revisit the policies and then make any additions or deletions in terms of what's already in policy.** *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, and there's usually a purchasing and procedure, a*

purchasing and policy procurement manual that will accompany your departments. And so I know that Region 1, you all talked about renewing your service with them, they do have an audit program for your Purchasing and procurement manuals, and so they are also able to provide services to review that and either strengthen it, update it, and go through all those things. So that's something also that the soup can look at. Ms. Pena stated, could I make a motion that the superintendent looked at the policies when it comes to making any payments or paying anything from BISD funds that she review it and let the Board know what the policies are and what the standards are and what is expected and what is done? *Mr. Ramirez stated, yeah, that can be the motion. And then what we can do after that motion basically come back with a presentation, right, about what it is, what the manual is, how it goes, what the workflow is that's appropriate.* Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland stated, Second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I vote yes.

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, and unanimously carried to recommend approval that the Superintendent review the Board's policies regarding payments and expenditures made from BISD funds. The Superintendent shall report back to the Board on the applicable policies, the governing standards, the expectations for compliance, and the procedures currently followed for approving and processing such payments. (7-0-0)

XV. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. **(Action taken after Executive Session) 9:45 p.m.**

A. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

1. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Retirements. (44)
2. Presentation, acceptance and approval of Resignations. (12)
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Alda T. Benavides)
4. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Assistant Choir Director. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
5. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Principals. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (3)

Backup added to official minutes (Personnel)

6. Non-Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Supervisor, FNS. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.
7. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) — Occupational Therapists. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (3)
8. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s)- Physical Therapist. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
9. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - MCJROTC. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)

10. Department Professional Staff for Non-Chapter 21 contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year.
11. Campus Professional Staff for Probationary contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year.
12. Proposed termination of a continuing contract and discharge a teacher (J.J.V.) for good cause for the 2025-2026 School Year.

B. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney

- a. Discussion regarding Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-00622; Benita Villarreal vs. Brownsville Independent School District.
- b. Discussion, consideration, and action regarding possible settlement of District employee E.S.
- c. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Cause No. 2021-DCL-06699; Jimmy Haynes vs. Brownsville Independent School District.

2. Board Attorney:

- a. Legal Update with Board Counsel.
 1. Interim Superintendent Contract (Dr. Alda T. Benavides)

C. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

1. Consultation of the past, ongoing, and completed Board-approved audits.
2. Proposed Audit Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

D. BOARD SELF-EVALUATION:

1. Board Self-Evaluation.

E. BOARD MEMBER REQUEST(S):

1. Discussion and consideration on all student and employee investigations taking place at this time. (Board Member Request Neida Ruth Grantland/Board Support Minerva Peña)

F. DISTRICT WIDE INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT:

1. Discussion of the findings of the Intruder Detection Audit Report.

G. REAL ESTATE:

1. Discussion and consideration regarding the sale of vacant District campuses. (Rosa E. Del Castillo Elementary School, Victoria Heights Elementary School and Webb Elementary School)

XVI. BOARD RECONVENES - Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session. 11:54 pm

Motion made by Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Minerva Pena, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Personnel items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, as discussed in Executive Session. (7-0-0)

A. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

1. Recommend approval Retirements. (44)
Karen Alvarez, Rosalinda Amaro, Luis Arias, Eliza Bellamy, Michael Benavides, Willie E. Brown, Luz Cardenas, Nora H. Cuevas, Laura Davila, Maricela De La Cruz, Aracely Del Angel Garcia, Maggie Espinoza, Maria Fischer, Elsa V. Garcia, Laura Garcia, Miguel Gonzalez, Victor R. Gonzalez, Melinda E. Hernandez Zarate, Isamara S. Hernandez, Juana V. Herrera, Luis Hinojosa, Noelia Lozano, Linda B. Lucio, Irma Maciel, Irma Magallanes, Felipa Maldonado, Guadalupe Martinez, Martha H. Martinez, Raul S. Martinez, Olga M. Mendez, Aminda Nava, Alicia M. O'Brien, Sonia A. Peña, Roni LC Rentfro, Ruth E. Robles, Manuel A. Rocha, Amelia M. Salinas, Cecilia Salinas, Oscar R. Salinas, Rossi I. Silva, Consuelo Uribe Solis, Kimberly W. Valle, Richard White. (G7-0-0)
2. Recommend approval of Resignations. (12)
Roberta A. Alvarez, Daniel J. Camacho, Analisa Garcia, Italy J. Garcia, Alonso guerrero, Jenna A. Gutierrez, Manuel Hinojosa, Adriana G. Natividad, Cindy Paz, Elizabeth A. Quiones, Vanessa A. Rivera-Cohee, Nelda Salazar (G7-0-0)
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Alda T. Benavides) (G7-0-0)
4. Recommend approval of Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Assistant Choir Director. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
Alexa Salas-Pace ECHS (G7-0-0)
5. Recommend approval of Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Principals. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (3) (G7-0-0)
Amendment: 16 Pages added to official minutes (Presented in Executive Session)
6. Recommend approval of Non-Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Supervisor, FNS. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. **Sophia Alvarado (G7-0-0)**
7. Recommend approval of Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) — Occupational Therapists. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (3) **Monica Garcia, Michelle John, Crystal Salazar (G7-0-0)**
8. Recommend approval of Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Physical Therapist. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.(1)
Gabriela Ruiz (G7-0-0)
Amendment: Page 3 will be replaced with Page 3a (Personnel)
9. Recommend approval of Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - MCJROTC. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Richard Rodriguez (G7-0-0)**
10. Recommend approval of Department Professional Staff for Non-Chapter 21 contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year. (G7-0-0)

11. Recommend approval of Campus Professional Staff for Probationary contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year. **(G7-0-0)**
12. Recommend approval of Proposed termination of a continuing contract and discharge a teacher (J.J.V.) for good cause for the 2025-2026 School Year. **(G7-0-0)**

B. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney

- a. Discussion regarding Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-00622; Benita Villarreal vs. Brownsville Independent School District. **No Action Taken**
- b. Discussion, consideration, and action regarding possible settlement of District employee E.S. **No Action Taken**
- c. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Cause No. 2021-DCL-06699; Jimmy Haynes vs. Brownsville Independent School District.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I vote yes.

Motion made by Neida Ruth Grantland, seconded by Minerva Pena, to recommend approval of the mediator's settlement recommendation regarding Cause No. 2021-DCL-06699; Jimmy Haynes vs. Brownsville Independent School District, as discussed in Executive Session.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

2. Board Attorney:

- a. Legal Update with Board Counsel.
 1. Interim Superintendent Contract (Dr. Alda T. Benavides)

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I vote yes.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Minerva Pena, and unanimously carried to recommend approval adopting the amendment of the Interim Superintendents contract for Dr. Alda T. Benavides. (7-0-0)

C. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

1. Consultation of the past, ongoing, and completed Board-approved audits.
(No action Taken)

2. Recommend approval of Proposed Audit Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I vote yes.

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the Proposed Audit Plan for the 2026-2027 school year. (7-0-0)

D. BOARD SELF-EVALUATION:

1. Board Self-Evaluation. **(No action Taken)**

E. BOARD MEMBER REQUEST(S):

1. Discussion and consideration on all student and employee investigations taking place at this time. (Board Member Request Neida Ruth Grantland/Board Support Minerva Peña) **(No action Taken)**

F. DISTRICT WIDE INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT:

1. Recommend approval of the findings of the Intruder Detection Audit Report. **(No action Taken)**

G. REAL ESTATE:

1. Discussion and consideration regarding the sale of vacant District campuses. (Rosa E. Del Castillo Elementary School, Victoria Heights Elementary School and Webb Elementary School)

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I vote yes.

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval, as discussed in Executive Session, the sale of vacant District campuses. (Rosa E. Del Castillo Elementary School, Victoria Heights Elementary School and Webb Elementary School) (7-0-0)

XVII. Announcement(s):

Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, just a couple of announcements. We will have our next board meeting toward the end of July, the date to be announced. And I do want to provide a clarification on what was adopted yesterday. The Board approved the 2026 2027 Budget and the Compensation plan as discussed in executive session. The Board asked for additional time to ensure that all the stipends previously discussed were included. As a result, the stipends will be brought back to the Board for our Board meeting in July for final approval. It is recommended that all stipends be approved as discussed at our four Budget Work sessions. Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, also, we can just make the announcement of the principals because that one we'd have to disclose the ones who were approved. Dr. Benavides stated, three middle school principals were selected for Stell, San Juanita Garza, for Perkins Middle School, Baleria Magaña, and for Oliveira Middle School, Dr. Sonia Saenz.

XVIII. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Minerva Pena, and unanimously carried to approve to adjourn the Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting at 11:59 P.M. (7-0-0)

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

(HANDOUTS ADDED TO OFFICIAL MINUTES)

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

Approved by:

Daniella Lopez Valdez, President of the Board

Date

Attested by:

Minerva Peña, 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 August 4, 2026)