

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **6th day of October, 2026**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met in a **Regular Board Meeting** at the Administration Building, 1900 Price Road, Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that came before the Board and with the following to wit:

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Timothy E. Cuff	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 **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. Regular Board Meeting called to order by Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Timothy E. Cuff, Superintendent.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President announced that all Trustees were present.**
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, October 6, 2026 with any corrections/deletions.**

Dr. Timothy E. Cuff, Superintendent announced the following amendments:

Handout 1 added to official minutes

VII. A. Conference Presentation

Item 5 Page 4a will be added to agenda backup

X. A. General Function Item(s):

**Item 9 Page 1 will be replaced with Page 1a
 Page 3 will be replaced with Page 3a**

X. D. Contract(s):

**Item 7 Page 1 will be replaced with Page 1a
 Page 1b will be added to agenda backup**

XI. A. Board Member Request(s):

Item 1 will be deleted from agenda and backup

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, October 6, 2026 with corrections/deletions as stated by administration.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated I vote no not to remove it because I want this thing to go forward.

VI. Recommend approving the minutes with any corrections:

- A. Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, August 4, 2026.
- B. Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, August 4, 2026 and Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, September 1, 2026 with corrections/deletions as stated by administration. (7-0-0)

VII. Superintendent's Report: * SB1566

A. Conference Presentations:

- 1. Recognition of Lizhandra Chavira, Assistant Principal Martin Elementary Heroic and Bravery Action.

On September 4, 2026, Lizhandra Chavira, Assistant Principal, demonstrated exemplary courage, leadership, and quick thinking in response to a life-threatening emergency. A seven-year-old female student in second grade began choking on a piece of carrot, creating an urgent and critical situation. Ms. Chavira immediately responded and performed the Heimlich maneuver, successfully dislodging the obstruction from the student's airway. Her swift and decisive actions restored the student's ability to breathe and prevented a potentially tragic outcome. Ms. Chavira's professionalism, preparedness, and unwavering

commitment to student safety reflect the highest standards of our district and serve as an outstanding example of leadership in action. Her ability to remain calm and respond effectively during a critical emergency demonstrates her dedication to the safety and well-being of every student. We proudly recognize Ms. Lizhandra Chavira for her heroic actions and commend her for making a life-saving difference when it mattered most.

2. **Recognition of the Texas Music Educators Association Honor Band.**
The Department of Fine Arts proudly recognizes the exceptional accomplishments of three of our band programs at the state level. Vela Middle School, Garcia Middle School, and Veterans Memorial Early College High School advanced to the State level of the Texas Music Educators Association Honor Band Competition this past July. Each of these programs successfully advanced from the Region and Area Rounds, to earn a berth at the State Round _for this prestigious contest. These achievements reflect the commitment of our students, the expertise of our music educators, and the support of our school community. We commend these exceptional band programs and their talented individuals for their hard work and for representing the Brownsville Independent School District with excellence on a statewide stage. We would like to thank the School Board and administration for their continual support of the district's fine arts programs, which foster creativity, discipline, and academic growth.

Veterans Memorial ECHS

Elizabeth Stone, Head Director, Ryan Clark, Asst. Director, Matias Rivera, Asst. Director, Julio Salinas, Asst. Director, Eduardo Ontiveros, Asst. Director, Erica Casanova, Asst. Director

Garcia Middle School Band

Kevin Garcia, Head Director, Jose Manzano, Asst. Director, Denisha Munoz, Asst. Director, Monica Vasquez, Asst. Director

Vela Middle School Band

Mario Sarmiento, Head director, Miguel Garza, Asst. Director, Jimmy Cantu, Asst. Director, Erica Casanova, Asst. Director

3. **Recognition of the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award.**

The Department of Fine Arts is proud to recognize Porter Early College High School band member Kevin Guerra as a recipient of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award. Kevin has been awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to offset the cost of his advanced musical development. The award is designed to support exceptionally talented, pre-collegiate classical musicians who demonstrate a high level of artistic drive. The committee reviews hundreds of applications from across the United States. Final recipients are selected based on their high level of technical capability and musical expression, strong academic records, and financial circumstances that may inhibit their access to advanced musical education. Kevin's selection highlights him as one of the top young classical instrumentalists in the country. Band Directors: Oscar Onofre, Benjamin Roveló, Pablo Baltazar, Michael Segura

4. Recognition of 2026 Cosmetology Graduates.

Career & Technical Education (CTE) recognized the 2026 Cosmetology Program graduates for successfully completing the requirements of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Cosmetology Program. In accordance with Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) requirements, students pursuing a Texas Cosmetology Operator license must complete a state-approved 1,000-hour curriculum and successfully pass the TDLR written and practical licensing examinations. These students were presented in recognition of their dedication, accomplishments, and commitment to preparing for a career in the cosmetology industry.

5. Brownsville Independent School District Financial Report for the period ended September 30, 2026.

Amendment: Item 5 Page 4a will be added to agenda backup

Ms. Rosario Pena, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Finance stated, thank you. Good evening, Board President, Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Superintendent, Dr. Cuff, members of the Board, and community. I'll walk the Board through the district's financial position, cumulative as of September 30, 2026. As we review the results report this evening, the information being displayed on the screen is intended to mirror the financial schedules provided to the Board so that the community can follow along with the same information. I will briefly review the general fund, special revenue fund, self-insurance fund, and debt service fund and highlight the major revenue expenditure and current reported balances. We start this evening with the general fund. As of September 30th, the General Fund reflects approximately \$58.5 million in revenue, \$100.8 million in expenditures, resulting in a current reported difference of approximately \$42.3 million. I want to be very clear for the Board and our community this does not mean the district has a \$42.3 million budget deficit, nor does it mean we are projecting a \$42.3 million deficit at the end of the fiscal year. This is simply the financial position as of September 30th, and reflects the timing difference between when expenditures are incurred and when revenues are received. The majority of revenues received to date, approximately \$54.3 million, are state revenues attributable to this current fiscal year. Our local property tax collections will begin coming in during the month of October, and as those collections are received, we expect to see a significant increase in revenues beginning with our next financial reporting period. I also want to emphasize that the approximately \$17.9 million in proceeds from the sales of Cummings Middle School and Longoria Elementary remain separate from our normal operating funds. These are one-time proceeds from the sale of district property and should not be viewed as reoccurring revenue available to support normal operations. As we move through the fiscal year, administration will continue to closely monitor revenues, expenditures, cash flows and fund balances, and will keep the Board and community informed of the district's financial position. Moving to our self-insurance fund, we are currently reporting approximately \$7.5 million in revenue and \$14 million in expenditures, resulting in a current reported deficit of approximately \$6.5 million. It is important to clarify that this represents the fund's financial position as of September 30th and not necessarily its year in position. Activity in this fund fluctuates throughout the year based on the timing of contributions, medical claims, and pharmaceutical rebates. As we have discussed previously, the self-insurance fund continues to require close monitoring.

Administration is carefully reviewing revenues, claims, expenditures, cash flows, and the overall sustainability of the fund, and will continue to keep the Board informed of any significant changes. Moving on to our special revenue fund. We are currently showing approximately \$222,000 in realized revenues and approximately \$14.4 million in expenditures, resulting in a current reported deficit of approximately \$14.2 million. I do want to emphasize for both Board and the community that the special revenue funds operate primarily on a reimbursement basis. This means the district must first incur the eligible expenditures, and those expenditures are then submitted to the appropriate federal, state, or granting agencies for reimbursements. Therefore, the \$14.2 million current reported deficit should not be interpreted as a funding shortfall. Rather, it is primarily a timing difference between when the district incurs. And records eligible grant expenditures and when the corresponding reimbursements are received and recorded. As reimbursements requests are processed and received, the revenues reported in these funds will increase and the current difference between revenues and expenditures will be reduced. Administration will continue to submit reimbursement requests timely, monitor outstanding reimbursements, and ensure eligible expenditures are properly reimbursed. And finally, our Debt Service Fund. We currently are reflecting approximately \$299,000 in revenue and approximately \$4.24 million in expenditures, resulting in a current reported deficit of approximately \$3.94 million. I want to emphasize for the Board and our community that \$4.2 million expenditure represents the district's final Debt Service payment, which was made in July. The final payment was made using the existing debt service fund balance. With this final payment completed, the district has satisfied this debt obligation and no longer needs to levy a tax rate specifically for the debt service fund. Following the final payment, we estimate that approximately \$4.2 million will remain in the fund balance for debt service. Administration is currently working with our financial advisors to determine the appropriate and legally permissible use of the remaining funds. And to ensure the district remains in compliance with all applicable requirements governing debt service fund balances. The immediate guidance we have received is to maintain these funds in a non-interest-bearing account while the determination is being made. This is intended to prevent the district from continuing to accumulate additional interest earnings within the debt service until we receive final guidance regarding the permissible use of the remaining funds. Administration will continue working with our financial advisors and will keep the Board informed as additional guidance becomes available regarding the remaining fund balance. In closing, these financial reports represent the district's position as of September 30th and as discussed, several of the balances reflected tonight are impacted by the timing of revenue collections, grant reimbursements, and other financial activity throughout the year. Administration will continue to close monitor revenue, expenditures, cash flows, fund balances, and outstanding reimbursements to ensure the district remains financially responsible and it is in compliance with all applicable requirements. We remain committed to providing the Board and our community with clear, accurate, and transparent financial information as we move through the fiscal year. This concludes our financial report. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President stated colleagues, any questions?

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lazaro Cardenas. Good evening, Board President Elizondo, Board members, Superintendent Dr. Cuff, staff, and members of the community. My name is Lázaro, and I'm here tonight as the President of the Association of Brownsville Educators, the largest and longest serving district in our union representing employees who work every day to serve the students and families of Brownsville ISD. I appreciate the opportunity to address the board regarding several items on tonight's agenda, particularly the district improvement plan, campus improvement plans, the district financial positions, and the proposed budget amendments. When we talk about improving student achievement, we must also recognize employee stability, morale retention, and working conditions are directly connected to students' success. Our teachers, paraprofessionals, clerks, custodians, transportation employees, cafeteria workers, nurses and other staff members are the people who make the district function every day. As the district considers its improvement plans and campus improvement plans, I ask the employees voice be part of the process. Experienced employees are an important asset to the district, retaining these employees should be a priority. I also want to emphasize the importance of fairness and consistency when employees are transferred, reassigned, or moved within the district. Management has legitimate operational needs, but employees should also have confidence that decisions are made through established policies, consistently applied procedures, and principles of fairness. Experience and seniority should not simply be disregarded. When staff decisions are made particularly when an employee is being replaced or displaced by someone with less experience. I am not asking the Board to intervene on an individual personal matter tonight. I am asking for a commitment to a fair and transparent process for all BISD employees. Employees should know what standards are being used, what their rights are, and where they can go when they believe a decision has not been handled appropriately. Tonight's financial agenda also reminds us that every dollar represents a choice. As the district considers budget amendments and available local funds, I ask the Board to continue looking at investments that improve employee recruitment, retention, morale, professional support and working conditions. Finally, regarding the CT agenda item, I encourage BISD to continue involving the educators who actually deliver these programs in decisions involving curriculum, certification programs, instructional material, and industrial credentials. Teachers bring valuable first-hand knowledge about what students and classrooms need to be successful. AOB E wants to work with the Board and administration. We may not always agree, but our goal should be the same a strong Brownsville ISD where students succeed and employees are respected, supported, and treated fairly. Thank you for your time and for allowing me to speak on behalf of Brownsville ISD employees.

Patrick Hammes. Good evening, Board President Elizondo and Dr. Cuff, members of the Board. Patrick Hammes is speaking as a community member and a member of the Texas Classroom Teacher Association, TCTA, where you get more for less. Speaking on, I guess, on A7, I just have a question. Good job of getting credit back to the district on the project, but I was at Hanna today, the counselors were in the library having the students do their college applications, and there was no AC. So, just out of curiosity, when that project would be finished. On item E1, it is the second largest cost of the district. It is the insurance, employee insurance. It is up for adoption again, as I have stated previously and over time, is to please follow the employee's recommendation. I would also ask I know this was done two years ago, it may have been done this year, and I'm not aware of it. But please share with the employees a comparison between what we pay for our deductible, what we pay for a maximum out-of-pocket, and what we pay on our different family plans compared to other districts in the Valley and around the state. I know

that I still get calls and concerns about the possibility of the delivery or quality of the insurance, but they've got the best bang for the buck, and we thank you for that. With that, have a wonderful evening. And we will see you next month.

Esmeralda Garcia Barajas Good evening, Board President, Board Trustees, Dr. Cuff, and BISD community. My name is Esmeralda Garcia Barajas, proud elementary representative for BEST AFT Local 3877, speaking on item XA16. Tonight, the Board is being asked to approve the campus improvement plan for the 26-27 school year. BEST AFT supports efforts to improve student achievement. Our teachers and staff want our students and our campuses to succeed, but we want to make one thing very clear, campus improvement plans should not become employee workload plans. Too often when a campus needs improvement, the response is to add more to the plates of the employees who are already doing the work. More meetings, more documentation, more data tracking, more intervention paperwork, more mandatory trainings, more requirements during conference periods, and sometimes more expectations before or after the regular workday. Adding another form, another meeting or another requirement does not automatically improve student achievement. If the district identifies a problem through a campus improvement plan, then the solution should include the resources, staffing, time, training and administrative support necessary to address the problem teachers should not lose the planning and preparation time they need to provide quality instruction because every new and Instruction because every new initiative is placed into their conference period. And employees should not routinely be expected to extend their workday because there was not enough time provided during the workday to complete district required tasks. We are especially asking the district to pay attention to campuses operating under these local improvement plans. Those campuses need support, not simply additional mandates. When evaluating these plans, we ask the board to look beyond what employees are being required to do and ask. What is this district providing to help them do it? If we're asking teachers to provide additional interventions, where is the additional time? If we're requiring additional data collection, what existing requirement is being removed? If we're requiring additional meetings and training, when will those occur? And if a campus needs additional support, are we providing additional personnel or simply adding additional responsibilities to the employees already that the employees already have? BEST AFT supports accountability, but accountability must come with resources and support. Our employees cannot be the district solution to every problem simply by asking them to do more. Campus improvement should improve the conditions for teaching and learning, not increase an already unsustainable workload. Thank you for listening to the Best Talk.

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

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

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

(All presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

X. Consent Agenda:

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

1. Recommend approval for College 1st Program of Mission, Texas, to provide consulting services for students in the Migrant Education Program for the 2026-2027 school year. Categorical Funds: 212 Title I-C \$12,000.00 for 2 Campus Camps. *

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President stated, Ms. Pena, you got a question on that? Ms. Minerva Pena, Board member stated, yes. Were you going to say something, Dr. Cuff? **Dr. Timothy Cuff, Superintendent stated, I was just going to say Ms. Aldrete is here to inform the Board of this agenda item. Ms. Aldrete.** Mr. Elizondo stated, hold on a minute. Just real quick. Just let's ask the question then maybe she's got the answer for you. If she doesn't, go ahead. If you don't have the answer, I'm sure you can get it. Ms. Pena stated, yes on this, because it's a program that's providing consulting service, are they like a unique, there's nobody else anywhere and the price and stuff that is being charged is something that is very detrimental for our campuses? **Ms. Alejandra Aldrete, Administrator stated, well, this is for our migrant students that our students may experience a lot educational disruptions and limited access to enrichment activities due to their mobility. So, College First offers field trips where the need to provide our migrant students with meaningful supplemental experiences that increase the exposure to post-secondary and career pathways. So, they strengthen academic motivation and they help students understand the connection between current education and future college and career opportunities. So, what our Title IC, categorical funding, our goals are to go above and beyond what the school district offers. So, this program, we go to these field trips, if approved, we're planning to go to SpaceX and to Sea Turtle Inc. So, it's a full day field trip on a Saturday where we get lessons, food, entrance fees covered for our migrant students.** Ms. Pena stated, and it's only going to be two trips because the price is really-- I like that price. **Ms. Aldrete stated, yes, two trips.** Ms. Pena continued; I like that price. So, I think it's an exciting thing. And we can maybe get-- so all the campuses and their migrant students are allowed-- **Ms. Aldrete stated, our migrant students are invited, yes.** Ms. Pena continued, to participate. And there will be advised and information will go out to make sure the students get it. **Ms. Aldrete stated, yes. We actually make phone calls to our students, because we have to invite our priority for service students first as per compliance for my title IC and then after that we invite to the general migrant students so parents fill out permission slips and parents are also invited if they want to go but usually, we only get like one or two.** Ms. Pena stated, oh well I wish we could get more. **Ms. Aldrete interjected, we also invite our teachers and counselors that go as chaperones with us so they also get the experience and they take it back to their classrooms because we do get full blown lessons from college first.** Ms. Pena stated, and I thank you for that and who is the one responsible for getting this field trips organized? **Ms. Aldrete stated, I am.** Ms. Pena stated, okay and I'm saying because there's only two, I will give them more the whole year. But that's something that I really like. **Ms. Aldrete stated, monies.** Ms. Pena interjected, well, I think that \$6,000 per trip, that's pretty reasonable compared to people come and charge us \$100,000 just to talk to us. **Ms. Aldrete stated, and just also, we also go to good restaurants. Like last year we went to Dolphin Watch. And then we went to Blackbeards, they get a full experience.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Pena stated, well, thank you. I really appreciate it. It's a great program. Mr. Elizondo stated, Mr.

Ortiz. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, ma'am. Just for clarification, I know that you indicated right now that it's all six schools, but I'm looking at the recommendation here and it's just for clarification purposes it says 12,000 for two campuses. **Ms. Aldrete stated, for two, no, not campuses, Camps.** Mr. Ortiz stated, Oh, I'm sorry. Okay. **Ms. Aldrete stated, they call them camps., so its like two trips.** Mr. Ortiz stated, got it okay, thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, anybody else, thank you ma'am appreciate it. **Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote Motion passes 7-0 unanimous.**

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried recommend approval for College 1st Program of Mission, Texas, to provide consulting services for students in the Migrant Education Program for the 2026-2027 school year. Categorical Funds: 212 Title I-C \$12,000.00 for 2 Campus Camps. * (7-0-0)

Mr. Ortiz stated, just for clarification Ms. Aldrete I think it says campus here okay instead of camps. That's why I was asking that question? It says two campuses instead of two camps. That's why I was asking. Got it. Okay, that's why I was asking.

2. Recommend approval to upgrade the BISD Athletic subscriptions to Gold to increase cloud storage space for all athletic sports at the six high schools. Included is the Hudl Focus Camera to allow live-streaming for practice and games at each main gym. The BISD Athletic Department had budgeted for the purchase of \$91,500.00 (Sole Source).

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President stated, go ahead, Ms. Pena, this is your, you had a question? Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, who can I ask about this program? Mr. Elizondo stated, Coach Leal. **Dr. Timothy E. Cuff, Superintendent stated, Coach Leal will approach the podium. Mr. Gilbert Leal, Athletics Administrator stated, yes, ma'am.** Ms. Pena stated, yes, this is a program where they can go in and look at the games and look at what was going on, am I correct? **Mr. Leal stated, that's correct, it's a platform that's used to capture film to record it to store it and to distribute it to all our UIL teams that are in the Valley area, region, and state.** Ms. Pena stated, and I know it's kind of like strange. It's ninety-one thousand dollars. We have all kinds of people recording our games, even other companies, other people, even personal, where we can record the whole game. And I think it's a great idea but ninety-one thousand to record the games and put them online, that's a little pricey to me. That and there's no other place that we can look to? Is there a comparison? Are they unique? Are they the only ones? Are they sole source? **Mr. Leal replied, yes, ma'am. They are sole source and it's a huddle is, it has a basically a monopoly on all the UIL schools in the state of Texas. It's an annual subscription that we come to the board on an annual basis. This is, it'll be the ninth time that we've come and asked because of the price, but it's something that is sole source and we are stuck with their subscription prices. So, it's budgeted on an annual basis. We have it covered. It's just a formality that we need to come. The levels are a little bit different, and so it's been researched through the last five or six years that the storage space is at the gold level, is what all our 16 schools in sports need in order to cover the bandwidth and the storage for us to be able to store it and then distribute it to our opponents.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, coach. Ms. Pena stated, I really appreciate it. It's just, let me

finish. I like it, I'm not going to say no, because for the kids, we'll do anything. It just kind of breaks my heart in today's modern world, sole source, that's very rare, but thank you so much. Mr. Elizondo stated, Thank you, Ms. Peña. Mr. Ortiz? Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, Coach, just two quick questions. I see there was an upgrade to gold, is that correct? **Mr. Leal stated, so, this is probably carried over from last year. It's the same standard gold subscription. So, there's not an upgrade. It's the same standard that we've used the last three years.** Mr. Ortiz stated, I'm just reading what's on back up here and that's why I wanted clarification. Is there a cost difference from last year to this year? **Mr. Leal stated, the actual company has gone up a couple of percent yes.** Mr. Ortiz stated, what is that couple of percent? **Mr. Leal stated, I have to go back and look at it. If I had to guess it's probably between three and five percent increase.** Mr. Ortiz stated, which equals to how much as far as money? **Mr. Leal stated, I would say three to four thousand dollars, three to five thousand. It's at ninety-one thousand, so I have to do the math.** Mr. Ortiz stated, Ms. Pena, would you have the information? **Ms. Rosario Pena, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Business stated, no, unfortunately I do not. We can get it to you sir. I will work with Coach Leal and Dr. Cantu on that.** Mr. Leal stated, we should have the POs we purchased and used with this company for the last nine years and we can probably see the increase and we have gone and asked them, if I'm not mistaken, we may be the exact same price. Because I did have some conversations with lots of vendors because of the rising cost of a lot of the services that we're using, and we know how tight money is. **So, if I'm not mistaken, it may even be the same as last year.** Mr. Ortiz stated, that's why I'm asking, but you did indicate that you felt that it went up. Now you're saying that it's probably the same. **Mr. Leal stated, well we have like 15 or 20 different subscriptions for different ones. But if I go back and look at it, I may have had the conversation with Huddle to make sure that we froze that from one year to the other.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so you'll get back to us and let us know. **Mr. Leal stated, yes, sir.** Ms. Pena stated, Question? Follow up? Mr. Elizondo stated, hold on real quick. Procurement is in the audience. Do you have the answer for us? **Ms. Delia Rodriguez, Director of Purchasing stated, yes, I can get an expenditure report sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, you don't have the answer right now? **Ms. Rodriguez stated, no, not right now.** Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, okay, thank you. Ms. Pena, go ahead. Ms. Pena stated, yes, you mentioned we have several subscriptions, so we're paying for each subscription. **Mr. Leal stated, well, we have several subscriptions with different programs we use throughout.** Ms. Pena interjected, right, right. So can we get, if we can please get a copy of all the subscriptions, how much we're paying, and what they actually do Dr. Cuff. So, we can see what we're paying, I want to make sure that some of the stuff isn't duplicated. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pat, go ahead.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to upgrade the BISD Athletic subscriptions to Gold to increase cloud storage space for all athletic sports at the six high schools. Included is the Hudl Focus Camera to allow live-streaming for practice and games at each main gym. The BISD Athletic Department had budgeted for the purchase of \$91,500.00 (Sole Source). (7-0-0)

3. Recommend approval to authorize the ESSER Faulk Middle School HVAC Upgrades Group II Project as substantially complete. **(G7-0-0)**

4. Recommend approval to authorize the ESSER Pena Elementary School HVAC Upgrades Group II Project as substantially complete. (G7-0-0)
5. Recommend approval of the deductive Change Order #001 (Credit back to District) in the amount of \$40,000.00 for the Pullam Elementary School Chiller Replacement Project, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$443,559.00 with no change to the contract time. (G7-0-0)
6. Recommend approval of the deductive Change Order #001 (Credit back to District) in the amount of \$241,711.00 for the Lopez Early College High School Intercom Upgrades Project, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$703,484.00 with no change to the contract time. (G7-0-0)
7. Recommend approval of the deductive Change Order #002 (Credit back to District) in the amount of \$90,000.00 for the Hanna, Porter and Canales Chiller Replacement Project, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$1,087,000.00 with no change to the contract time. (G7-0-0)
8. Recommend approval of the deductive Change Order #001 (Credit back to District) in the amount of \$6,500.00 for the Hanna, Porter and Canales Chiller Replacement Project, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$1,177,000.00 with no change to the contract time. (G7-0-0)
9. Recommend approval to authorize Administration to accept Change Order #006 for the Food and Nutrition Project in the amount of \$144,073.69, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$3,644,356.69. The contract completion date has extended to December 31, 2026.

**Amendment: Item 9 Page 1 will be replaced with Page 1a
Page 3 will be replaced with Page 3a**

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated Motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President stated, Mr. Ortiz, you had a question? Mr. Ortiz stated, yes for FNS, Dr. Cuff anybody from FNS? Okay. I was looking at all these other items before this particular item, and I see credit back to district, credit back to district, credit back to district, all the way through. But when it comes down to FNS, we're paying into this project \$144,073.69. This freezer project started back in 2023. We're in 2026 already. Ready to go into 2027. Why are we continuing to pay and put more money into this project and why is it taking so long, and when will it be completed? And where's the money coming from? **Ms. Rosario Pena, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Business, stated, thank you, Mr. Ortiz, for that question. Previous administration had come to the Board with a June 2026 project completion date. However, as we moved along through the process, as a new administration it was determined or it was found that in the previous design for the food and nutrition freezer project, there were several items that had been omitted from the design. When the city of Brownsville came in and started trying to get it completed, they found several items that were not in the design. And I'm going to give you an example. The freezer in itself required two doors to exit. Those were not in the design. Therefore,**

the freezer came and there was no exits in the freezer. So the city cited that as one. The other one I believe that the Board had a lengthy discussion on the docking situation without the levelers being put on there. In other words, how are we going to raise the merchandise to get into the warehouse. So, all these issues have caused us to go ahead and amend the contract dates to now meet these items that were left out in the original design. So, 95 days from today is when we're going to have the project completion. We have already brought to the Board in August, sir a \$350,000 budget amendment to complete the project. So, this is the first phase, and I believe the last one that we're missing are several items, for example landscaping. That was not put on the design phase and that's required by the city now. So, I'm hoping that that answers your question sir. Mr. Ortiz stated, did we not have an architect at that time to look at these things to avoid these particular issues? **Ms. R. Pena replied, yes, sir we had the in-house architect was the one that designed the freezer facility.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so these things were overlooked? **Ms. R. Pena stated, yes sir unfortunately.** Mr. Ortiz stated, but it's costing us now, that's my concern. And where is the money coming from? **Ms. R. Pena replied this is from the unassigned fund balance sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, here we go again see, that's what I'm very, very concerned about. We keep on digging into our fund balance. And, you know I know that I'm always asking these questions about money because I know where it's coming from and it worries me and it concerns me because we're constantly digging into our fund balance. Now, as far as I know you all were asking they were asking for 95 calendar days, but now it's December 31, 2026. **Ms. R. Pena stated, I believe so, sir, yes it's a new deadline date.** Mr. Ortiz stated, and are they going to abide by that line? **Ms. R. Pena stated, we are going to we're going to make sure that they do, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, anybody else? Ms. Garza, go ahead. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, thank you, Mr. Elizondo, Ms. Pena and maybe Dr. Cuff, we've had a lot of projects that, due to design flaws we've had to pay extra money, can we ensure moving forward any future projects that everything is taking place during that design? Because this is not the first project that we have a design flaw. **Dr. Timothy Cuff, Superintendent stated, the only thing I can say to this is that we do have some new projects coming in. For example, the mini gyms, and so we, and I say we as a committee, as a team we're going to have to be on top of this to make sure that there are no design flaws for our kids because it all revolves around our kids. And so I'm going to give you my promise, the best I can do right now, moving forward is to make sure that we look at every design in its entirety to make sure that all the bugs have been worked out, so to speak before we dig one piece of dirt out of the ground. That's what I can tell you right now. But we'll have many many eyes on it before it's stamped for approval. Because I sit here as your Superintendent and cringe and not go to sleep at night because of the fact that it is dipping into the fund balance. And the fund balance is not the best in the world right now. So, this is why I lose sleep every night on this.** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, question. Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Denise Garza stated, thank you Dr. Cuff. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, thank you. Are we expecting any other items that maybe we just don't know the prices to now? Just forewarn us that something else is coming. Yes or no? You don't have to tell us what. Just yes or no. **Ms. R. Pena stated, no, Ms. Gonzalez we've insured and I sat with staff to make sure that the \$350,000 we have brought into budget amend in August was going to cover the whole thing.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, perfect. **Ms. R. Pena stated, yes ma'am.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, thank you so much. Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. M. Pena stated, yes, Dr. Cuff, can you do us a favor? And

I know it'll take you a while, but I know it can get done. Get us a list of the people in charge in every department to go over everything that is pending to be corrected and it's going to cost us money. And get us a list of everything that is pending to be fixed and what is the date that they expect it to get done, so we can have a list of the people responsible for this because I want to make sure that I know that as we're cutting positions, Dr. Cuff we turn around and give the work to a person who's already sitting there and sometimes not fill the spot. And I can understand that you're trying to make ends meet. But can you please give us a list on who is responsible for that? Because at the end of the day, if we end up just blaming someone, it doesn't help us because we lose money. So can you find out who's in charge of what they are in charge to make sure that they have the ability, the time and the sufficient knowledge to make sure that the things are getting done properly? Because it is not fair to appoint someone, like you know. I don't want to go and appoint an oncologist to do heart surgery because he is a doctor, but he doesn't know what the heart is sometimes. So, can you check that, please? Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, Ms. Pena. **Dr. Cuff stated, I will take care of that for you, Ms. Pena, and provide it to you.** Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Grantland. **Dr. Cuff stated, as well as the other board members.** Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland stated, thank you, Mr. President. I think the key to success moving forward is vetting the people very, very strictly and very properly when they come up for applications and appointment. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Grantland. Ms. Valdez? Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, I just wanted to point out I know that because we're talking about budget and FNS, in terms of the fund balance. This has been something that we've looked at for a very long time. And I think we also need to make sure, as a Board, you know, what our priorities were. And when we have to make decisions. That we really take into account where we are, because these decisions we've been trying to help with a bond. We've been trying to help with other budget amendments and making sure that we take these serious items into consideration. And so, it's not fair to say, oh all of a sudden let's go back and look at everything when we've been trying to find solutions for these for at least the past six years because we've been shouting for the rooftops that the budget has been under attack and public education forever. So, I mean, since I've been on the Board. So now we're finally at that moment and I think now everybody is worried but we've been trying to take preventative actions for a long time. So, it's just I want to make sure that the people who've tried to take preventative actions don't get forgotten and the other, the options that we've tried to take get taken into consideration instead of being forgotten that we've, that we have a plan. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. I just have a real quick question Ms. Pena. On this project here, it was just our in-house architect that had any involvement with this or do we have an engineer as well too? **Ms. R. Pena replied, I believe sir and I may have to call up Mr. Espinoza for that question.** Mr. Elizondo stated, let's call him up, come on, Mr. Espinoza. **Ms. R. Pena continued, thank you for the design, it's the architect and the engineer we hire from outside because we don't have an in-house engineer.** Mr. Elizondo stated, correct. Just real quick. My question was the architect the only one involved or do we have an engineer as well too to make sure that these things didn't fall apart? **Mr. Martin Espinosa, Facilities Supervisor stated, yeah, the architect of records at that time was an in-house architect and then we hired well and then we hired a design team under his directives. And then that's one of the problems that we faced there was a lot of omissions and errors and the team that Ms. Pena is asking for is no longer here.** Mr. Elizondo stated, correct. **Mr. Espinosa continued, so we inherited all of these situations.** Mr. Elizondo stated, just real quick the engineering, I guess, agency who was that? **Mr. Espinosa stated, we have three engineers**

on board. We have a structural engineer, which is Chanin. Engineering. We have an MEP engineer which is Sigma. And we have a civil engineer, which is MG Garcia. The issues that we're foreseeing are not related a lot to those disciplines, it's more of the architectural omissions and errors. Mr. Elizondo stated, I think it's a whole problem all of them should share the blame, because ultimately, at the end of the build, they all had a place in time to make sure that everything was knocked off, especially when it comes to fire safety. Anybody knows that you need at least two exits, especially when you're talking about a school or a government or public entity. And for them not to put that second entrance, I mean, come on that was just a big mess up. And it's not just architects, it's engineers, everybody that was involved in the project. I understand your position, but out of the four people that you mentioned, nobody saw it until the fire department came over and did their final walkthrough and they found out that it wasn't there. But again, at the end of the day, it's costing us more money more general fund dipping, you know. And I think that's what the consensus is up here we got to make sure that we stop that bleed. Thank you, sir, appreciate it. **Mr. Espinosa stated, yes, sir.**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to authorize Administration to accept Change Order #006 for the Food and Nutrition Project in the amount of \$144,073.69, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$3,644,356.69. The contract completion date has extended to December 31, 2026. (7-0-0)

10. Recommend approval of the deductive Change Order #001 (Credit back to District) in the amount of \$500.00 for the ESSER Faulk Middle School HVAC Upgrades Group II Project, resulting in a revised contract amount of \$394,000.00 with no change to the contract time. **(G7-0-0)**
11. Recommend approval to proceed with the Veteran's ECHS Memorial Stadium Track and Stadium Upgrades Projects and use the Competitive Sealed Proposal (CSP) method of procurement in accordance with Texas Government Code 2269.056(a). Funding provided through Local Fund 197 at an approximate cost of \$1,360,000.00 including fees and allowances. **(G7-0-0)**
12. Recommend approval for Patricia Valenzuela - Human Development, of Brownsville, TX, to provide consulting services for BISD parents and parent liaisons for the 2026-2027 school year. Categorical Funding: 211 for \$8,500.00 for 17 one-hour sessions. (Agenda item presented at the Student Achievement, Curriculum and Technology Committee Meeting of September 22, 2026) **(G7-0-0)**
13. Recommend approval for Patricia Valenzuela- Human Development, of Brownsville, to provide consulting services for BISD Migrant families for the 2026-2027 school year. Categorical Funding: Title I-C 212 for \$1,000.00 for 2 one-hour sessions. (Agenda item presented at the Student Achievement, Curriculum and Technology Committee Meeting of September 22, 2026)

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President stated, Ms. Pena, you have a question. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, 13, this is on Ms. Patricia

Valenzuela, correct? Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, yes, ma'am. Ms. M. Pena stated, no, I got my answer, so I'm okay. Dr. Timothy Cuff, Superintendent stated, Ms. Aldrete can you fill us in on that and on this and then I can add just a little bit more? Ms. Alejandra Aldrete, Director of Parent & Family Engagement/Migrant stated, so at the end of every year for the Migrant Department, it's part of our compliance for our families and students to do an evaluation. So, our families had requested for Patricia Valenzuela since, two years ago. So, I brought her in only to be with our migrant parents last year and they requested it again. So that's why I'm bringing back this. It's also Title IC categorical funding. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you yeah go ahead. Dr. Cuff stated, okay I will let you know that I had an opportunity to speak to Ms. Valenzuela. She came to my office and I will tell you that at the beginning I was a little bit hesitant because I knew she had been presenting quite a few times. And I was concerned that the parents were kind of hearing some of the same things. But after I talked with her, we had about an hour meeting in my office. I found her to be a very down to earth person. She goes to Harvard University, which is rather prestigious, to take some classes over there. And I found her to be a really self-motivator to do some things. And so, as we talked, I listened to her and found that she was quite an interesting young lady. And for what she's doing is for self-improvement was very interesting. And she goes to Harvard on her own money. I mean there's just no one to sponsor her or anything like that. And so, I brought, we brought this back because it did go through the Student Achievement Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting of September 22nd. And I also when I'm out visiting with people and I run into parents one of the first questions they ask me to be honest with you is will we have Ms. Valenzuela back and talking with us because we really enjoy her. And so, I was looking at our community members that are talking to us to me and that are watching this and so that's why we're recommending this for approval because I'm listening to our parents and I think our parents have a big voice in our district. And so that's why it's back. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you sir, Ms. Pat. Ms. M. Pena interjected, yes and I want to thank because I have been to a lot of her speeches and a lot of her presentations and I was wondering maybe we can have something where they can present to our counselors to be able to hear because a lot of the kids that are going through (inaudible), maybe they can help. And this way our counselors can do this with our children at no additional cost to the district. So, I would like to see if that would happen because that would really help them to understand what we need to say and do. Sometimes simple words will make a big difference in the world. So, thank you for that. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you Ms. Pena. Ms. Pat?

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval for Patricia Valenzuela- Human Development, of Brownsville, to provide consulting services for BISD Migrant families for the 2026-2027 school year. Categorical Funding: Title I-C 212 for \$1,000.00 for 2 one-hour sessions. (Agenda item presented at the Student Achievement, Curriculum and Technology Committee Meeting of September 22, 2026) (7-0-0)

14. Recommend approval to use Ascend Learning/National Healthcare Association, a provider, for curriculum, certification materials, and nationally recognized industry credentials for the 2026-2027 school year, based on District needs and available funding. Sole Source. * **(G7-0-0)**

15. Recommend approval of the 2026-2027 Campus Improvement Plans as required by the Texas Education Code. The Campus Education Improvement Plan will serve as a guide to District and campus staff for the improvement of student performance in order to attain state and federal standards. * (G7-0-0)
16. Recommend approval of the 2026-2027 District Improvement Plan as required by the Texas Education Code. The District Education Improvement Plan will serve as a guide to District and campus staff for the improvement of student performance in order to attain and surpass state and federal standards. * (G7-0-0)
17. Recommend approval of the 2026-2027 Local Improvement Plan to be held locally unless requested by the Texas Education Agency for Garcia Middle School, Perkins Middle School, Stell Middle School, Canales Elementary and Del Castillo-Morningside Elementary School with any needed corrections or revisions. * (G7-0-0)

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 \$881,063.03. (G7-0-0)

C. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments:

1. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #006 in the amount of \$1,400.00 for Local Funds. (Reallocation) (G7-0-0)
2. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #007 in the amount of \$4,600.00 for Local Funds. (Reallocation) (G7-0-0)
3. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #008 in the amount of \$650,000.00 from Local Funds. (Unassigned Fund Balance) (G7-0-0)
4. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #009 in the amount of \$1,604,071.00 from – Local Funds. (Carryover Purchase Order Budget – Assigned Capital Projects Fund Balance) (G7-0-0)
5. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #010 in the amount of \$281,000.00 from – Local Funds. (Unassigned Fund Balance) (G7-0-0)

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

1. Recommend approval for the Memorandum of Understanding with YouthBuild Brownsville, stipulating that all reimbursements for meal services provided under this partnership will be directed to the BISD FNS fund. (G7-0-0)
2. Recommend approval for the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Way of Southern Cameron County with the purpose of serving the local community in Cameron County. (G7-0-0)
3. Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Brownsville Independent School District and Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program under the coordination of Region One ESC to provide services for qualifying infants, toddlers, and their families for the 2026-2027 school year. At no cost to the District. * (G7-0-0)

4. Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Abilene Christian University and Brownsville ISD to provide a master's degree program for both in-field and out-of-field students. Will be effective October 6, 2026 through October 5, 2029 and shall renew for successive one-year terms thereafter if agreed upon by both parties. At no cost to the District. * **(G7-0-0)**
5. Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Unidos Contra La Diabetes (UCD) to provide the UCD Ambassador Program for Brownsville ISD Career & Technical Education students at no cost to the District.* **(G7-0-0)**
6. Recommend approval to renew the contract with Workforce Solutions Cameron, including reimbursement for nine designated holidays, for the contract period of September 2, 2025, through September 30, 2028, at no cost to the District. **(G7-0-0)**
7. Recommend approval to contract Rivera Educational Consulting LLC for the 2026-2027 school year to support district initiatives and practices for ~~Canales, Villa Nueva, Skinner and Garza at Southmost Elementary schools~~ **22 Campuses**, in the amount of ~~\$7,200.00~~. **\$118,800.00** (Presented at the Student Achievement, Curriculum and Technology Committee Meeting on September 22, 2026)

Amendment: Item 7 Page 1 will be replaced with Page 1a
Page 1b will be added to agenda backup

Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, Second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President stated, go ahead. Ms. Ortiz, you had a question on this? Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes. I've had this agenda that was given to us almost a week ago. And on the agenda, it said that this consultant firm was going to be brought in to work with four specific schools. These were schools that need additional assistance, and they were schools that we want to provide as much assistance as we can. And the price for the amount was for \$7,200. And I said, okay I don't mind, these schools need the assistance. Let's go, we've got four schools targeted \$7,200. That's pocket change to bring assistance to these schools. During the week I was informed by administration that yes only these four schools for 7,200. As lately as yesterday or the day before I was told again, yes, it's only these four schools for 7,200. I walk in at 525 this afternoon and I see an addendum that all of a sudden, it's 22 schools for \$118,000. I don't like being told this five minutes before we go into session after being told twice that it was just these four schools. We don't do business like this. And it concerns me that at the last minute we're being hit for \$118,000 and it's 22 schools instead of the four schools for 72 that I had been told consistently throughout the week. I don't know who made this decision at the last minute, but administration I am concerned that you told me several times and then now all of a sudden here we are at 118. And I know that that's coming out of TIA, it's just not the way that we run business. Not the way that I like business being run. When I'm being told one thing and in five minutes before 5:30, I get told something different big concern with that. I don't even know who the 22 schools are. You know, you were specific with the four schools and then all of a sudden you give me 22 elementary schools that I don't even know who they are or which schools they are. I'm concerned about that. At 6:45. Mr. Elizondo stated, just real quick, Eden? Just real quick if you can maybe give us some advice. Is this normal practice to where they-- five minutes before, I know that this needs at least 70-- what is it a week now into the public? *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney replied, right. So, the requirement is that we have a three-*

*business day notice of, on the public on the items to be discussed and considered. In this case you did have public posting that an item related to the purchase of this service or whatever it is was going to be considered. What changed here was not the item it was just a scope of the item and so the scope itself is not one that will be subject to the open records, I'm sorry, to open meetings act, just the subject of the item. And so if you had a subject, if you had an item on the agenda for the purchase of three school buses and that changed to six later, that's allowed, it's not an improper. Mr. Elizondo stated, so, we can always add more money if it comes in for ten dollars and we say a million dollars five minutes before it's going to be okay. Mr. Ramirez stated, so long as we have public notice of the item to be discussed and that's what the item is, then you can make an amendment on the floor regarding the purchase that you're doing. Now, that's the legal floor. I'm not saying that's anything else other than the legal floor. Mr. Elizondo stated, so the previous practice is this go against previous practice that we've done here in the school district? Is this pretty common. That we change it at the end of the. Mr. Ramirez replied in the past I know we have brought amendments to the agenda for items to change. I don't know what the value of those amendments were and how in reflection to the original posted item. So, I couldn't speak to the specific ones unless I go back to look at every amendment. But it is common practice for you all to have an amendment to your agenda at the beginning, which you all approve. But I don't know what the values of those changes have been in the past. Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you, sir. Ms. Grantland, go ahead. Grantland, go ahead. Go ahead. Ms. Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz stated I know Dr. Cuff, you just showed us the 22 schools here, but not even on the addendum were the schools here. That's why I'm asking, you know. **Dr. Cuff stated, okay. Mr. Ortiz stated with all due respect sir. Dr. Cuff stated, let me can I bring some clarification to this real quick? Mr. Ortiz is absolutely right. I had talked to him the previous few days about the four schools and so forth. So, he's right in that context. And I would never try to deceive anybody, that's not my goal. I did have a request from another Board member that we wanted to look, she wanted to look at the survey that was sent out previous asking the schools that really wanted this item. And so at the last minute this morning I did send a survey out, not a survey but an email to all elementary schools asking them if they would reaffirm their interest in color bands. And I asked them to send me a confirmation by 11 o'clock today. And I received their confirmation of which I have the paper here to demonstrate the 22 schools I believe that would like this color band item to be approved and...** Ms. M. Pena interjected, can you call it?, can you call out the name the schools, yes. **Dr. Cuff stated, I can name the schools if you like.** Ms. M. Pena stated, yes, that way the public will know just the ones that are listed. **Dr. Cuff stated all right.** Ms. M. Pena stated, how many schools? **Dr. Cuff continued, Aiken, Benavides, Breeden, Brite, Burns, Canales, Cromack-Castaneda, Del Castillo, Morningside, Egly, El Jardin, Garza, Southmost, Hudson, Martin, Ortiz, Paredes, Pena, Perez, Putegnat, Russell, Skinner, Vermillion, and Villa Nueva. They indicated that yes, they would like that via my email. We did have a couple of phone calls and they also jumped in. So, this was done today, somewhat at the last minute. But we did it at the last minute. And because of the fact that the schools were surveyed already a couple of weeks ago, so I wanted to reaffirm that. At the same time, we then went ahead and added them onto this with the price of. 118,000, I believe, in that neighborhood being paid out of TIA money. And so that's pretty much the way this went down. Again. I was not in any way trying to deceive anybody, and Mr. Ortiz is right for the last couple of days. This past weekend, I did say only four schools, so this was done at the last minute, but***

again. We wanted to validate the survey by those schools that wanted to jump on this. And the email today was to revalidate the request for TIA. The request for this item agenda. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you Dr. Cuff, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, thank you Mr. President. We've had I think this is our third extensive discussion on color bands. We've had several presentations. I asked questions initially because my concern was that our teachers not have overlapping programs that would require more paperwork. And more time spent on redundancy. This will always be my point of focus for our classrooms. The other point of focus is where the money was coming from. If it was general Fund that was going to be a problem for me. I found out at that time that it was coming in from TIA monies, that are specifically designated for this type of thing for our teachers. Going on a few days later, I did, well, at that meeting we were presented with a survey that had been sent out to the campuses. I don't know if it was that meeting or a subsequent meeting. But there was initially, additional, information that was presented about a survey that our Curriculum Department sent out to the campuses to ascertain whether, in fact it was a desire of the school to participate because it was going to be voluntary participation. There were some colleagues of mine that questioned the validity of that survey. And that kind of second guessing on our part I think is very detrimental to the process that we use for our teachers and to our central office staff who supports them. And so, I continued to have conversations with principals and teachers on an occasion when we were at functions and they said, you know, I really do like the color bands, it helped us whatever. So, my focus is still for the teachers in the classroom. When I found out that the alternate proposal was going to be these high attention schools, these schools of concern, I felt that our other schools were being shortchanged because they had initially said on a survey that I trust, they had said that they wanted the program and now they were going to be left out of the program because of some reaction to the insecurity of the validity of the survey or whatever that was on the part of some of my colleagues. And so, I do believe that we owe it to our campuses our principals and our teachers to give them what they need. Now this morning there was a resounding yes we want this because not only do we have the survey that was initially sent out, we now also have a response to our Superintendent's email in the interest of serving our schools the way we want to serve them to see if in fact they wanted it. So this was a reaffirmation as it had been said by Dr. Cuff of the need for this program at those schools. So, I feel that this program is coming from TIA it's not coming from general fund. I feel that it is something obviously that our campuses want. We've got 20 some campuses that want it and I think we need to go through with it for the teachers, the schools that want it. Now here's my other thing. I would like to see our monies categorical monies looked at so that we can send teachers out of Brownsville to conferences and trainings that will bring them into a different level of anticipation for their classrooms. I know that at one time I sent half of my faculty at Russell to the GT conference in Houston and then the second year I sent the other half of the faculty, it made all the difference in the world. Thank you so much for your time. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Ortiz? Mr. Ortiz stated, yes, Dr. Cuff, I know that with that survey that you sent out, you said today, the schools that say that they want color bands, Ms. Pena asked you to read out those schools, could you read out the schools also that said that they don't want color bands and the ones that did not respond? **Dr. Cuff stated, the ones that are not interested at this point in time, are Champion, Gallegos, Garden Park, Gonzales, Keller, Palm Grove, Pullum, Sharp and Yturria.** Mr. Ortiz stated, which schools did not respond? **Dr. Cuff replied, I have thirty-one here. I think we have thirty-one elementaries.** Ms. M. Pena stated, they all responded. Mr.

Ortiz stated, so you're talking about fifty-fifty. Once you look at the ones that don't want it and the ones that did not respond, compared. **Dr. Cuff stated, no, no they all responded.** Ms. M. Pena stated, they all responded. **Dr. Cuff stated, 22 said yes, they want it and nine said no.** Ms. M. Pena stated, that's not 50/50. Mr. Ortiz stated, and how many did not respond? You said they all responded. **Dr. Cuff stated, they all responded sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay. Mr. Elizondo stated, go ahead, Mr. Pena and then we will get Ms. Valdez. Ms. M. Pena stated, yes. I know this is difficult but I've had a lot of calls also. It's kind of strange how some people are calling certain people to say no and certain people to say yes, and studying what they're doing and their logic, because that's what you do when you're dyslexic, you look at details. The teachers are asking for this program, and they're good teachers. And I, please forgive me am not one that will stand in the way of giving the teachers what they need. It's going through TIA. I'm not going to tell a teacher how to teach and what they could use, and I'm not going to tell them what they can and can't use. I want us as Board members to be very responsible and I said, it's very strange that certain people, only certain people are getting calls, no, but the rest of us are getting calls yes, so I'm thinking what is behind the way they're operating? Be very careful. We live in a very strange world right now. I'm here for the teachers. I'm here, I asked them, I asked a lot of them and they do want it. Even the ones in some of the schools where the majority responded no some of them were yes, but the majority was no. So of course, that's a total of 22 said yes. And then only 9 said no. So that means that the majority want it. And I don't want to be the person that stands in the way of them getting something they need that will help them because I've looked at this program. And the more you give them to be able to Succeed and get the grades up to where they need to be the better, we are. Our money was designed to give it to the teachers to do what they need, what they want to do, and if they feel this is going to help them and grow, I think we need to stand behind them 100%. I know it's hard, but again I'm very leery at how this is going out and how certain people are advised and others aren't because that really bothers me, especially because of the times that we're living in. It's very different. Mr. Elizondo interjected, thank you Ms. Pena. Ms. M. Pena continued, so. I would ask that we support something for the teachers because that's what we're here for to support our teachers and their needs 100%. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Ms. Pena. Ms. Valdez? Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, thank you. Yes, I wanted to just state that I at first the concern was redundancy but once we actually had both tango and color bands up here and they did a very detailed presentation how one's a software and the other one's actually the individualized implementation. So, I think that's great. I do believe in transparency so I think that it's important that we update these agenda items throughout the entire process and make sure that we are as transparent as possible. I think it's important also to state that TIA is not going away unless people vote differently at the state level and TEA changes. So, TIA is not going to go away and that's the only way we're getting funds and in order to keep TIA then we need to make sure that our schools are rated because of the process that it takes to improve and in order to get those designations and to get those TIAs for our teachers and for them to get the pay that they deserve then they need programs like this to continue. If not, we're not going to continue to get that TIA designation. So, I think this is essential and because it's coming from that fund I think we should support it. Thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you Ms. Gonzalez did you have a question? Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, not necessarily a question just a comment to Dr. Cuff. Dr. Cuff I hate to use the word messy I know I've used it before, but this is one of those messy agenda items, and that makes me extremely, extremely uncomfortable. And to be honest, I'm extremely

turn. And sitting here today, I can tell you right at this moment I still don't know which button I'm going to press because this is a very messy agenda item. I do appreciate that Ms. Pena mentioned about calling people, calling each other, support, no support. You know we had a very good conversation when you called me about this item. But I just can't get past the word messy and I'm really, really struggling and I hate for staff to put you, you know the buck at the end of the day stops with you Dr. Cuff. So, I hate staff to be doing this to you. So, because of that I can again say at this moment I do not know if I can even support it just because messy agenda items make me extremely uncomfortable. There are agenda items that we can know absolutely nothing about but the backup is clear and to the point and it's easy to understand to the point that we don't even have to ask questions. I get what is it, how do you say that word? Amendom? Addendums I'm sorry. I get that happens, but again I do not think that you should be put in this position. It's not fair to you and it's not fair to us, and it's not fair to the campuses because they're the ones that are also being caught on limbo. And sometimes, I'll be honest, they are being forced to support an item that they don't even support themselves. Thank you. Mr. Elizondo stated, go ahead, Ms. Garza, and then I'll end up with you Ms. Grantland. Ms. Garza stated, thank you Mr. Elizondo. And I go with what Mr. Ortiz had mentioned. When we saw that it was the four campuses and they were the campuses that we really need to work on, I was, again I was like, okay, we can start off, do it as a demo, right? We start off with four let's see the progress and then move forward. But now, again, getting blindsided by the amount, it did catch me off guard because again, as Ms. Gonzalez has mentioned, the messiness, the calling, the support for this agenda item, it's, how can I say this without stepping toes on anybody? But people are pushing this agenda item and it's kind of hard to fully support it without second guessing how I'm going to vote only because I've been told, well, we've been forced to say yes. I get, just as Ms. Pena has mentioned, we get a lot of calls, and I've gotten calls where they don't support this. So, I'm caught in the middle because it seems just very messy. And only because, again as some of my colleagues have mentioned, you know, when they first saw these four schools it was easy to support. But now, seeing how we were kind of blindsided, that could have been brought at the next agenda at the next board meeting where we support these four, and then at the next board meeting we look into adding the other schools. I probably would have been more comfortable like that. Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Grantland and then we'll have Ms. Valdez. Ms. Grantland stated, thank you. I think we're confusing some things here. I think we need to look at the process, which, yes, I agree was pretty last minute and messy. I guess is one word you can use. We're also needing to look at the impact on the classroom and our teachers. And we're also looking at trying to play God on a situation that we can't really tell exactly what is going on at the campuses. All we can do is trust what happens. We have to trust that our principals are being honest in what they're saying. We have to trust in that our teachers are being honest in what they're saying and are getting what they need to bring the performance that we're expecting. I can't sit here and play God and determine whether this impact is being pushed or not. To me that has connotations of dishonesty and things like that. And I'm being very transparent here because my concern is the classroom and the teachers. My concern is our rating as a district. My concern is our general fund balance. General Fund Balance is not being touched and so yes, I do understand your dilemma, but I do think that the ultimate litmus test has to be classroom. And I as a principal which I have been, can tell you that as a principal I would be pretty offended that initially we were brought in to this item, we're expecting to get it or maybe not get it, whatever the Board decided and then at the same time that survey was. *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney interjected, you*

are out of time Ms. Grantland. Ms. Grantland continued, thank you, that survey was not recognized. So, as for me, I can support it completely because of the teachers. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you Ms. Grantland; Ms. Lopez you have something to say. Ms. Lopez stated, yes, one thing, I just saw that, you know we just approved routinely a 91,000-video camera for sports, and I think that's obviously, it's important, but this is only 118 for actual education, which is our main goal. If everything goes away and we have no more funding the one thing that we're going to do is educate our children. So, I think that the level of importance needs to be stated. And then the one thing is. I believe this was an agenda item that was brought to us two months ago, but then the Board wanted more explanation at a curriculum meeting. So, I believe the item was written correctly maybe two months ago. I would love to see that and then it was brought back and we went through it at a curriculum meeting and had several explanations and now it's, yes, I agree it was messy at this point but at the first point it was correct. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you anybody else? Go ahead Ms. Pat. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, Motion fails. Three yes, four no.**

Motion made by Neida Ruth Grantland, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez to recommend approval to contract Rivera Educational Consulting LLC for the 2026-2027 school year to support district initiatives and practices for 22 Campuses, in the amount of \$118,800.00 (Presented at the Student Achievement, Curriculum and Technology Committee Meeting on September 22, 2026)

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Failed: 3-4-0

Ms. M. Pena stated, if I may, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, go ahead, ma'am. Ms. M. Pena continued, yes, and I vote yes because I don't want to be an obstacle for our teachers because any program we can give them, we can turn around and what bothers me the most is somebody said we could have voted for four. So, I just wondered why one of the colleagues that did not vote for this didn't want to amend it and say, let's just approve this first four and then bring the rest later. No, they just shut it down. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you Ms. Pena. Ms. M. Pena continued, and we sign up to serve, the children not ourselves. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, Ms. Pena. Pena.

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

1. Recommend awarding CSP #26-112 for Third Party Administrator (TPA) Services for a Self-Funded Health Plan Featuring Preferred Provider Organization Networks and Wellness and Disease Management Program options, as ranked by the Employee Benefits Committee on May 14, 2026, and the District administration management team on May 18, 2026, and allow Administration to negotiate a contract with United Healthcare of Houston, TX. The term of this contract is effective from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027. Services will be rendered based on the District's needs, with the option to renew for up to two (2) additional one (1) year terms. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I second. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President stated, anybody have any questions? I have a question real quick. Just real quick, Ms. Pena, this is UHC, correct? **Ms. Rosario Pena, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Finance, replied, yes, sir.** Mr. Elizondo continued; this is the medical insurance? **Ms. R. Pena stated, yes, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated okay, just real quick, what's the cost day one? What are we looking at cost? And I'm talking about in the negatives by going with this contract right now. I know that we're being forced to do this. Unfortunately, our administrators put us to the wall again and we had no other options because if not, our employees might not have insurance. Correct? But what would be the cost to this program moving forward? **Ms. R. Pena replied, Mr. Elizondo I do not have that information I don't know if maybe Dr. Cantu or Mr. Zorola has it. But I do not have that.** Mr. Elizondo stated, Mr. Cuff would you have anything to say? **Dr. Timothy Cuff, Superintendent stated, no (inaudible).** Mr. Elizondo stated, no anybody would be in the positives? Would be positive something? Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, anyone? **Dr. Nellie Cantu, Assistant Superintendent for Operations stated, Mr. Elizondo I think that Ms. Pena has done a good job when she has reported the financials. The insurance fund is in the negative, however, it's been, if we look at the chronology of events, I had sent a memo, a weekly memo to the Board explaining when this started. This wasn't a one-year deficit. It happened several years ago for some of the actions that administration took.** Mr. Elizondo stated, that's not my question. My question was this program, not the ones in the past, what is it going to be at as soon as we start 1/1? **Dr. Cantu replied, because the data is already in the deficit we're going to begin in a deficit, sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, is it going to be like 20 million, 30 million? **Dr. Cantu replied, I don't have the actual numbers in front of me to tell you that sir. But I do know we're going to begin in a deficit because of the chronology of events.** Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Pena. **Ms. R. Pena stated, sir currently we're in a \$23 million deficit in that self-insurance fund. And we're estimated to be at 25 million at year end.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so we're going to be negative 20 million day one/one basically what we're saying right. **Ms. R. Pena replied, we are already in the deficit sir.** Mr. Elizondo stated, this is the reason I have a big problem with this kind of tactics, that were done. I know there was, hold on and another question is Mr. Zorola here or not? **Mr. Corpus Zorola, Director of Employee Benefits stated, President, Superintendent, Board Members.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so just real quick. We're looking to be in the negative 25, \$28 million deficit, 1/1. Was there any, more negotiations done to see if that number could have been less? And I think I had a conversation with you to go out there and ask for them for a BAFO, was that ever done? **Mr. Zorola stated, right, so you're asking for a best and final offer. Once we go into a negotiation based on the CSP then we'll ask actually UH if we can have the funding going down. However, that's not going to help with the funding that we currently have. I need to work with both the Finance Department and Ms. Pena and of course with the leadership to try to see how we're going to fund this because we've been underfunding it for so long based on history. And so when I saw it, it was like, well, Ms. Pena, where are we going to get the funding? Because it's the claims.** Mr. Elizondo stated, so the funding is more likely than not going to come from the employee and the taxpayer. Is that correct? **Mr. Zorola stated, once we get with the EBC, once I start talking to finance, we're going to try to see how we're going to balance out the plan. We have to, if not, our option would go to the state.** Mr. Elizondo stated, right and so the state's probably going to say no. So then the burden will fall on our

employees, am I correct? **Mr. Zorola stated, the plan, yes, sir, the plan, yes, the taxpayer. Yes sir. You're absolutely correct.** Mr. Elizondo stated, this is just real quick on the EBC, do we have EBC here? **Mr. Zorola stated, we have the president here.** Mr. Elizondo stated, can I speak to him? **Mr. Zorola stated, sure.** Mr. Tony Meza, BISD Employee Benefits Chair stated, esteemed Board, everyone else, yes, sir. Mr. Elizondo stated, what's your name, sir? Mr. Meza stated I'm Mr. Meza, Tony Meza, EBC chair. Mr. Elizondo stated, Mr. Meza real quick were you told that there were going to be a negative \$28 million once we jumped into this. Mr. Meza replied, that has been since my very first moment that I stepped into EBC. Mr. Elizondo stated, so you knew there was going to be \$28 million deficit? Mr. Meza replied, no, but we have always been in the deficit. Mr. Elizondo stated, no that's not what I asked. Mr. Meza stated, no. I was not specifically told that it was going to be \$28 million, the answer is no. Mr. Elizondo stated, right. Would that have made a difference in the process? Mr. Meza replied, no. It would have not made a difference in the process. Mr. Elizondo stated, you're okay with the \$28 million deficit? Mr. Meza replied, it is sad that we are there but we are there. Mr. Elizondo stated, right. And it is okay to burn the rest of the employees with that deficit? Mr. Meza stated, no, because I told the employees, as long as I am here, we are going to have a minimal incremental cost. And the only difference has been \$2.25. Mr. Elizondo stated, but you have no control over that, do you? Mr. Meza replied, I don't have no control over that. Mr. Elizondo stated, that is right thank you sir. Mr. Meza stated, thank you all. Mr. Elizondo stated, I appreciate it thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, question? Mr. Elizondo stated, go ahead, Ms. Pena. Ms. M. Pena stated, yes, okay this is to approve a third-party administrator am I correct? Yeah. But it's a third-party administrator. Mr. Eden? *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, yes Ma'am that is correct. This is to approve third party.* Ms. M. Pena stated, so we're paying a third party to tell us yes or no on approving the medical needs for the employees. That third party looks at this and will tell us yes, approve it no, that's something that you don't need to approve. Am I correct? *Mr. Ramirez replied, in an oversimplified way yes there are some more nuances to that though, but oversimplified yes.* Ms. M. Pena stated, and the important part of it, of a simplified way is (inaudible), so the \$1.9 million, and for the other year it was \$2.2 million and then pending negotiations in the third year. \$2 million. So we are paying a third party administrator lots of money. We are paying in the millions to tell us yes, pay for that, no, don't pay for that. And I tell you because I'll say it again when this happened years ago and our insurance carrier—I won't name the name of the third party said no to the district and then the people were looking to see what was going on, and the man was going to die because he wasn't going to get approved to have that particular need. And the third-party administrator was gracious enough to tell the people. "We're just advisors. Your district decides. Because you all are self-insured. You pay one Hundred percent of the bill, we don't pay a penny, so they can say yes, and during that time several people called in to the main office and spoke to the one in charge of the insurance and looked at them and a very important question that was asked, that was very difficult for them to answer at the main office was "Who gave us as employees of BISD the right to choose who lives and who dies?" And thank God they decided to approve it and that man lived. My question is, the third-party administrator just tells us what they recommend, because it's not going to cost them anything out of their pocket. So my always concern has been why are we going outside and paying in the millions when we can hire an expert that retired from these companies to come work for us and give us that information and pay a whole lot less and have more money to pay for

the employees medical needs than to pay a third party administrator to give us their opinion of yes or no. And right now, you know the medical world is horrible. Your life is not important. Their money gains is what's important. But that's not on you and me. That's just the way life is right now. So, without a third-party administrator, this is just my thing without a third-party administrator we wouldn't have to pay them those millions to tell us yes or no. Am I correct in that? *Mr. Ramirez replied, not necessarily Ms. Pena and if I can, let me pause because I don't want to take up your time when I'm speaking. If I can add a little more to that. I said it in an oversimplified way, just because yes at the end of the day the third-party administrator is the individual who pays out claims or approves the payments of claims.* Ms. M. Pena interjected, okay, correct that. You said they pay out claims. Does that mean they pay out of their pocket? *Mr. Ramirez stated, no.* Ms. M. Pena stated, you just said that, no wait be very specific in how you speak. So, do they pay out claims from their pocket? *Mr. Ramirez replied, no.* Ms. M. Pena stated, where do they pay the claims out. *Mr. Ramirez replied, out of the BISD self-insured fund.* Ms. M. Pena stated, okay, so it's out of BISD, I want you to be very specific because today we play real funny with words, so go ahead. *Mr. E. Ramirez continued, right, and so the third-party administrator does more than that, right? So, if you go to a hospital, for example, or to your doctor, right, and you don't have insurance okay you have to pay out of pocket. So, if you went to the ER and you had no insurance, the hospital will send you a bill and that bill, if you can't pay it will create a medical lien on your property or whatever it is, right? So Third Party Administrators are the individuals who hold contracts with healthcare providers and those contracts govern rates with those healthcare providers. And so, the rates of those healthcare providers are based on the contract that is developed by a third-party administrator, and those entities and healthcare providers work with them to do those things. So, if BISD did not have a third-party administrator, BISD would have to create its own medical network, right? And that's more than one person. You'd have to hire a staff of 15 or 20 because you'd now have to negotiate with every hospital, every doctor, every primary health care physician, the rates that you're paying, how you're paying, transmitting the bills and doing the payments. The reason why I say that they pay the bills is because I mean that not that it's their money, I mean that they facilitate the movement of the money from your fund out to those health providers to do those services. And so, what you are paying for and what you are doing here when you hire a Third-Party Administrator to manage your fund it's because you're tapping into their networks of doctors and hospitals for rates that they have already pre-negotiated on your behalf in order to pay those things. So that is why some people sometimes prefer one Third part, United versus Blue Cross versus AETNA because they all have different networks of different hospitals of different doctors. And so BISD needs a Third-Party Administrator, or it has to create its own healthcare network, which would be extremely difficult for an entity the size of BISD. And so, the reason I say oversimplified, yes, they decide what gets paid and what doesn't. It's because in their policy criteria for the contracts that they negotiated with for the coverage that you are you are buying, so to speak, you've created the criteria within the plan on what is covered and what is not covered. So, when the Third-Party Administrator says we're not paying that it's because the plan that was selected by BISD does not cover that specific medical condition or medicine or whatever it is. So, when they say that it's not up to us, you all can pay, in theory, BISD could pay. But you'd be paying out-of-pocket, outside the coverage, network subscriptions that have been negotiated and predetermined. Now, what that causes, then is it's going to open up the floodgates to BISD, because now we're going to be saying we're paying 100% of every employee's medical health care and*

your 20-some million will turn into 100 million very quickly in terms of deficit. So yes, they decide what pays and what doesn't pay, but the work goes beyond that. They are the actual individuals working through these contracts with health care providers to provide those services. Ms. M. Pena stated, and I know what you're saying and I respect what you're saying. In today's age when we're using a lot less people to do a lot more work, we can create our own network. I've seen that. We're a huge entity. You said the magic word, we're huge and we have half a billion dollars, we start a year. And that can be established and that can be done. So for people to turn around and say, well you have to go through this sir, I've already researched it and the answer to that is it can be done and it can be done by a lot less people and it can be more beneficial to our employees and not pay the millions to the third-party administrator. Because like I said now people are doing a lot more work with a lot less people. It can be done. We're an entity that can negotiate and we become our own third party with our own individuals. Everything is possible especially today. Because I want to use the money for our health of our employees and not pay a third party to say yes and no because everything can be negotiated. Everything. Mr. Elizondo interjected, thank you Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, anything that they negotiated as Blue Cross, United or what have you, we can do the same thing. Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Pena we got it. Ms. Pena stated, thank you. Ma'am. *Mr. Ramirez stated, yes and there are just...* Ms. Pena interjected, thank you sir no more comment, thank you. *Mr. Ramirez stated, may I make another comment?* Mr. Elizondo replied, go ahead, sir, finish. *Mr. Ramirez stated, so there are other TPAs out there that work on creating your local network and they help you create your local network of doctors and hospitals. But so, there are people out there who help you do that stylesque of service.* Ms. M. Pena interjected, and it would be less. *Mr. Ramirez stated, I don't know of the cost.* Ms. M. Pena interjected, I've seen them do it, they do it less. *Mr. Ramirez continued, I'm just giving you that there are people who do that, yes.* Ms. M. Pena stated, yes, thank you sir, I apologize for that. Mr. Elizondo stated, anybody else? No? Go ahead, ma'am. Mr. Elizondo stated, I'm sorry Ms. Daniela, you had a question? Go ahead, I'm sorry. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, no. I just wanted to thank our employees who represent the EBC committee. I know some of you don't prepare for cross-examination but I appreciate your all's honest feedback and for participating in this process. Thank you. Ms. Grantland stated, I agree. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, Motion passes, 5 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstention.** Ms. M. Pena stated, I'm sorry was that abstention me. **Ms. Perez replied, yes.** Ms. M. Pena stated, yes. I'm sorry I want to vote No. And no because I think right now this is not the right thing to do for our employees. Because too many of them are getting disapproved and they're being recommended not to get them paid and they need the health services. So the answer is no. I don't like the way this company is hurting our employees.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, to recommend awarding CSP #26-112 for Third Party Administrator (TPA) Services for a Self-Funded Health Plan Featuring Preferred Provider Organization Networks and Wellness and Disease Management Program options, as ranked by the Employee Benefits Committee on May 14, 2026, and the district administration management team on May 18, 2026, and allow Administration to negotiate a contract with United Healthcare of Houston, TX. The term of this contract is effective from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027. Services will be rendered based on the District's needs, with the option to renew for up to two (2) additional one (1) year terms. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

The following vote was recorded:

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

Motion Carried: 5-2-0

Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, Ms. Pena; Ms. Garza had something to say too ma'am hold on. Ms. Garza stated, yeah just a comment thank you, Mr. Elizondo. Going to what Ms. Pena has stated, since this is only for a one-year contract, correct? Maybe our team you can go out and look and see what it costs for our district to be its own third-party insurance and bring that forward. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you also just real quick my vote is no due to the fact that it's about a \$28 million deficit. We'll talk about this next year. But just so you know, I don't want to tell you I told you so. But the biggest thing is the burden is going to fall back on our employees and I have to say no to that as well and our taxpayers. So my big no is no Dr. Cuff, is no, but you can talk. Ms. M. Pena stated, I agree with Mr. Elizondo. **Dr. Cuff stated, I would just like to say that we've had some internal meetings leading up to tonight and we do feel the same way as you all do. And so that's one of our goals for next year to begin to look at all different scenarios to bring it back to you next year. Because we just have to do that. I'm just going to leave it there. I would just have to leave it there (inaudible).** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you Doc, just I want to, just let you know, you don't have to wait until next year, you can probably start tomorrow to start looking because I know that last time Ms. Grantland was told that they would start in March and then start till June and this is why we're in this position, okay, just, you know, thank you. Ms. Grantland stated, Mr. President I agree that the lack of time is working against us and we have time now to go forward and look at what's out there and look at other options but I do agree. Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Valdez go ahead ma'am. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, and I think the, what we have to do is actually think how do you prevent getting to the point, where we're spending this much on these types of medications and that's through programs like the FNS program that helps us make sure that our kids don't eat processed food and it's to make sure that our kids are healthy in playground play. So I think that's what we have to look at how do you actually change the cycle and make sure our people and our employees are healthy? And that's what we start at here in elementary. Thank you. *Mr. Ramirez stated, if I can just add, Mr. Board President, also I know that Board Member Garza mentioned about the one-year contract. So it is a one-year contract, but I want to make sure I qualify that by saying it has the option to extend for two additional years. We don't issue proper notices of cancellation before we get that. So, if administration is going to be considering a different route, they need to make sure they don't lapse the notice periods to send those notices out.* Mr. Elizondo stated, correct so the administration has been put on notice to make sure that they start and do all that stuff as long as it's legally. Go ahead, Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, just a comment, legal for what you just said right now, we need to go ahead and notify them and we need to start moving on this as fast as possible. I concur with what Ms. Grantland said, you know, she wanted this process started early, it didn't get started until June, and here we are stuck in October, and this is the situation that we are in. Ms. Pena stated, may I. Mr.? Mr. Elizondo stated, yes, go ahead, ma'am. Ms. Pena continued, and, sir I know that this is something that we can look at, but could we have amended the motion and said we approve it for one

year, no extension for two years? Could we have done that? *Mr. Ramirez replied, not in this case because the RFP went out the way it did.* Ms. Pena stated, oh the RFP already went out. *Mr. Ramirez continued, and so I recommend we can approve it the way it is. Let's just issue the notice of non-extension.* Ms. Pena stated, so, how much time do we have to let them know about it? Can we let them know about it tomorrow? *Mr. Ramirez replied, in theory we could.* Ms. Pena interjected, but in theory. *Mr. Ramirez continued; I need to look at the contract.* Ms. Pena stated, yes. Mr. Elizondo stated, let him look at the contract and come back (inaudible)... Ms. Pena interjected, and can you get that information to us as soon as possible? *Mr. Ramirez replied, I can get it to the next board meeting.* Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Go ahead. Ms. Pat.

2. Terminate current third-year contract with Tri-Star Management Services and direct Administration to issue a CSP.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, a motion to approve. Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, do we have a second. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated Second. Mr. Elizondo stated, Ms. Gonzalez, you had something to say? Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, yes, I had a concern this is one of those, I hate to say it again, the messy agenda items, Dr. Cuff. So a couple-- I have a question and I have-- well, two questions I'll start with, and what I mean by messy is I noticed that there's no signature supported by the Director, Assistant Superintendent Operations or Assistant Superintendent Administration and Finance only you. Does this mean that even our directors are not supportive of it only you? And how much is this costing to break this contract? **Dr. Timothy Cuff, Superintendent stated, yes, I was the one that put my John Hancock on their based on a conversation with a Board Member today, not today, but in the near future. The past, I'm sorry, I'll get it. We do have Mr. Zorola or Dr. Cantu can you come forward and talk about if we were to terminate this contract there's three situations on this that I'm familiar with. Can you bring the board up to speed on those? I know there's, I believe, a 120-day situation that we need to look at. Number two I didn't bring, I don't have my notes and number three is we can just let it run its contract out.** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member interjected, when does it expire. **Dr. Cuff continued, and next summer at the end. So I need some, just some summer at the end so I need just some clarification please on that.** **Dr. Nellie Cantu, Assistant Superintendent for Operations stated Dr. Cuff, may I defer to our legal counsel who provided the three options and clarification on this Mr. Ramirez?** *Mr. Eden Ramirez, Board Attorney stated, in terms of what it means to terminate this or so I can't speak.* **Dr. Cantu interjected, the options on TriStar.** *Mr. Ramirez continued, all right so I can speak to you about the contract itself. I can't speak about the operations and what that means. So as to what it means for the district operationally to do this that's administrations to answer in terms of what it means for us to cancel from a legal perspective. Basically, the contract has built-in termination clauses and we have to adhere to those in order to not be in breach of contract. And so, I won't advise them in open session I'd have to do that in close as it is legal advice. But I can just tell you that there are very specific termination clauses to follow in there. But as for the operational part of it, how it works, what to do, what it means I'll defer to administration.* Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, so you can't tell us the cost here. *Mr. Ramirez stated, in an executive session? Oh, I mean. Yeah, we can go into executive session if you want real quick and I can advise you all. And then you can tell me there if you want me to disclose it.* Mr.

Elizondo stated, sure, let's break into executive session. *Mr. Ramirez stated, okay so I know we have a motion and a second. So, we can get the second withdrawn and the motion withdrawn.* Ms. Garza stated, I withdraw my second. *Mr. Ramirez stated, and then whoever had the motion can withdraw it?* Mr. Elizondo stated, I did. *Mr. Ramirez stated, you withdraw it? Okay, and then we can have a motion to go into executive session for the second.* Mr. Elizondo stated, I make a motion to go into executive session. *Mr. Ramirez stated, oh, but that's oh, no. Never mind. You pulled out the other item, right? The A. So, we're going to executive already. Oh, yeah, let's just. Yeah so, we'll just take it out of order and we'll come back after executive session.*

Closed Meeting to discuss item 2 and Personnel Matters: 7:25 p.m.

XI. Board Member Request(s)

A. Action Item(s)

1. Review and possible action of a printed side-by-side comparison of services provided by Tango and Color Bands including the exact classroom coaching provided by tango and color bands, describing who is involved in the classroom with the teacher in need of assistance and what materials, in general, are used. Additionally include the exact source of the preliminary student performance data retrieved by each program and the process used to receive said data which is used to determine areas in need of attention. Also, for the last two years, report specific data on how the use of tango and color bands improved student outcomes. Additionally, provide information of what other options for use of the TIA funds will be considered if color bands is not approved. (Board Agenda Request Neida Ruth Grantland/Board Support Minerva Pena) **Delete as per Neida Ruth Grantland**
Amendment: Item 1 will be deleted from agenda and backup

XII. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. (Board action taken after Executive Session)

A. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

1. Presentation and acceptance of Retirements. (1)
2. Presentation and acceptance of Resignations. (3)
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Timothy E. Cuff)
 - a. Superintendent's Performance Goals for the 2026-2027 School Year.
4. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Principal. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
5. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Specialist, Educational Technology. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
6. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Counselor. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
7. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Counselor- Guidance & Counseling. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)

8. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Lead Teacher, Advanced Academics. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
9. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Assistant Principal. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
10. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Nurse. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (3)
11. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Speech Language Pathologist Assistant. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
12. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Coordinator, 21st Century CCLC. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
13. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Physical Therapist. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
14. Campus Professional Employee (B.E.) for change in contract, days and salary for the 2026-2027 Fiscal School Year.
15. Campus Professional Employee (L.A.) for change in contract, days and salary for the 2026-2027 Fiscal School Year.
16. Campus Professional Employee (M.G.) for change in salary for the 2026-2027 Fiscal School Year.

B. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney
 - a. Possible settlement of District employee J.J.V.
2. Board Attorney:
 - a. Legal Update with Board Counsel.

C. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION:

1. Status of past, ongoing and completed Board approved audits.

D. DISTRICT WIDE INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT:

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

XIII. BOARD RECONVENES - Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session. 9:27 p.m.

- X. E. 2. Terminate current third-year contract with Tri-Star Management Services and direct Administration to issue a CSP.

Dr. Timothy Cuff, Superintendent stated, based on the information that I have I'm going to recommend that the district does terminate the contract with TriStar at a cost of approximately \$265,000.00 This will allow our district to go out for a request for proposal in

order to address future expenditures and we believe that that will be a benefit, a great benefit to BISD. Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, may I have a motion please? Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board President stated Motion, Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated second. **Ms. Perez stated, please vote.** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, this time I'm abstaining because I don't have enough information. **Ms. Perez stated sorry, I didn't get Ms. Grantland's vote, I didn't pick up Ms. Grantland's vote and I had already ended; Ms. Grantland, what is your vote?** Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I vote yes. **Ms. Perez stated, so that would be motion passes four yes, two no and one abstention.**

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Denise Garza, to recommend to terminate the district's current third-year contract with Tri-Star Management Services at an approximate cost of \$265,000.00 and direct Administration to issue a Competitive Sealed Proposal (CSP) to solicit proposals for future services and expenditures, in the best interest of the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD).

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 4-2-1

PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to group agenda items, and approve XIII. A. 1, 2, 3, 3a, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. (G7-0-0)

1. Presentation and acceptance of Retirements. (1) **Belinda L. Lara (G7-0-0)**
2. Presentation and acceptance of Resignations. (3) **Dora E. Garza, Winifred Rios, Ana L. Villarreal (G7-0-0)**
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Timothy E. Cuff) **(G7-0-0)**
 - a. Superintendent's Performance Goals for the 2026-2027 School **(G7-0-0)** Year.
4. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Principal. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Jessica Todd, Vela MS (G7-0-0)**
5. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Specialist, Educational Technology. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Genesis Blanco (G7-0-0)**
6. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Counselor. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Lilia Garcia – Putegnath Elem (G7-0-0)**

7. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Counselor- Guidance & Counseling. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Angelita L. Garcia (G7-0-0)**
8. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Lead Teacher, Advanced Academics. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Bertha A. Williams (G7-0-0)**
9. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Assistant Principal. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Nadia Villarreal – Besteiro MS (G7-0-0)**
10. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Nurse. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (3) **Monica Olvera-Besteiro MS/Heidi Palomo De Carranza-Yturria Elem/Karla Guzman-Aiken Elem (G7-0-0)**
11. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Speech Language Pathologist Assistant. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Maria Tistan (G7-0-0)**
12. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Coordinator, 21st Century CCLC. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Melissa Garza/Grants-Paredes Elem) (G7-0-0)**
13. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2026-2027 school year(s) - Physical Therapist. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Denise Kingsbury (G7-0-0)**
14. Campus Professional Employee (B.E.) for change in contract, days and salary for the 2026-2027 Fiscal School Year. **(G7-0-0)**
15. Campus Professional Employee (L.A.) for change in contract, days and salary for the 2026-2027 Fiscal School Year. **(G7-0-0)**
16. Campus Professional Employee (M.G.) for change in salary for the 2026-2027 Fiscal School Year. **(G7-0-0)**

B. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney

- a. Possible settlement of District employee J.J.V.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of possible settlement of District employee J.J.V. (7-0-0)

2. Board Attorney:

- a. Legal Update with Board Counsel. (No action taken)

C. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION:

1. Status of past, ongoing and completed Board approved audits. (No action taken)

D. DISTRICT WIDE INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT:

1. Discussion of the findings of the Intruder Detection Audit report. (No action taken)

XIV. Announcement(s):

Dr. Timothy E. Cuff, Superintendent stated, October 7th, Colorin Colorado Family Literacy Night 5:30 at Hanna Early College High School. October 7th, College and University Fair 5:30 p.m., Brownsville Event Center. Fall Mini break. 9 through 13 October. We have October 15 yearly Buddy Fun Meet, 9:30, Sam's Memorial Stadium. October 16, Dyslexia Awareness Conference, 8 a.m. in the CAB Cafeteria. October 17, Chess Tournament at Paredes Elementary 8 a.m. We also have the same day at Pigskin Jubilee at the Bobby Morrow Stadium in San Benito. October 21, Night of Discovery 5:30 p.m., Perkins MS. October 22, Night of Discovery 5:30 p.m. at Besteiro Middle School. October 24th, Elementary Science Fair at Benavides Elementary. October 27th, Night of Discovery 5:30 p.m. at Stell MS. Night of Discovery 5:30 p.m. at Vela MS. October 28th, State of the District 9:30 a.m., Hanna Buchanan Performing Arts Center. October 31, hope to see all of us there, Pedal with the Superintendent 7:30 a.m. You don't need to ride; you can come and cheer that is at the BISD Aquatics Center.

XV. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Minerva Pena, and unanimously carried to approve to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 9:33 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:

Carlos Elizondo, President of the Board

Date

Attested by:

Minerva Pena, Secretary of the Board

Date

Notes: Font style designation

Board of Trustees

Administration

Board Attorney

Staff Attorney

Speaker/Presenter

(Minutes presented at Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting held on November 2, 2026)