

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **28th day of April, 2026**, the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District met in a **Hearing #001/25-26 (V.C.) and Hearing #002/25-26 (O.A.)** at the Administration Building, 1900 Price Road, Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that came before the Board and with the following to wit:

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Shellie Smith	Hearing Officer
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ALSO ABSENT:

Dr. Alda T. Benavides	Interim Superintendent
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WHEREUPON, a quorum being present and it appearing before the Board, it is hereby so found that notice of this **Hearing #001/25-26 (V.C.) and Hearing #002/25-26 (O.C.)** 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. Hearing #001/25-26 (V.C.) and Hearing No. 002/25-26 (O.A.) called to order by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President at 5:00 p.m.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance led by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President.**
- II. Roll Call. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated that Ms. Pena, Ms. Grantland, Ms. Garza and myself are present in person, and Ms. Gonzalez and Mr. Elizondo are via zoom.**

Miguel Salinas, Staff Attorney stated, the Hearing for O.A. will not be going forward as per mutual agreement. We have tentatively received a settlement offer and we will submit it to the Board at the next Board Meeting.

- IV. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. 5:01 p.m.**

V. Discussion and consideration regarding Hearing No. 001/25-26 on Proposed Non-Renewal of (V.C.) and Hearing No. 002/25-26 on Proposed Non-Renewal of (O.A.) (Pulled Mutual Agreement)

VI. BOARD RECONVENES - Board action on agenda item discussed in Executive Session. 10:19 p.m.

- A. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Hearing No. 001/25-26 on Proposed Non-Renewal of V.C.

Ms. Shellie Smith, Board Attorney stated, the Board is reconvening in open session. The time is 10:19 p.m., do I have a motion regarding the recommendation issued in the matter of the proposed non-renewal of Vanessa Chavez? Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I'd like for a motion to actually give her the contract pending a true investigation of the school district in the process of the contract. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, Second. Ms. Smith stated, I have a motion on the floor and a second. Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, can you see my finger? I vote no. Ms. Perez stated, okay, ma'am, thank you.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Minerva Pena, to recommend approval to give Ms. Vanessa Chavez a contract pending a true investigation of the school district, in the process of a contract.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Failed: 2-5-0

Ms. Smith Stated, okay, the motion has failed. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I'd like to make a motion to non-renew the contract of VC. Ms. Gonzalez stated, Second. Ms. Perez stated, please vote. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I vote yes. Mr. Elizondo stated, just to, for the record, my vote is no because of the flawed investigation, the process that was done to get to where we're at. Ms. Pena stated, and I also vote no for inconsistencies in the ability to approve the (inaudible) that we made. And there's too many flaws in this, so at this point in time, I cannot vote yes. The answer is no, she should be allowed to be renewed until we conduct a new investigation.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, to recommend approval of non-Renewal for contract of V.C.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 5-2-0

Ms. Smith stated, thank you so much. The decision of the Board is final and this is not subject to rehearing. I will end my time as the Hearing Officer and turn it over to the Board President.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to take no action for Hearing No. 002/25-26 on Proposed Non-Renewal of (O.A.) (Pulled by Administration). (7-0-0)

VII. Adjourn.

Motion was made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to adjourn the Hearing at 10:22 P.M. (7-0-0)

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

(HANDOUTS ADDED TO OFFICIAL MINUTES)

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

Approved by:

_____ **Daniella Lopez Valdez, President of the Board**

_____ **Date**

Attested by:

_____ **Minerva Pena, Secretary of the Board**

_____ **Date**

Notes: Font style designation

- Board of Trustees
- Administration**
- Board Attorney*
- Staff Attorney**
- Speaker/Presenter

(Minutes presented at Special Called Board Meeting held on June 9, 2026)