

STATE OF TEXAS

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **3rd day of February, 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:

Daniella Lopez Valdez	President
Frank Ortiz	Vice-President
Minerva Pena	Secretary
Carlos Elizondo	Board Member (Arrived at 5:37 p.m.)
Denise Garza	Member
Jessica Gonzalez	Member
Neida Ruth Grantland	Member

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez	Superintendent of Schools
Ben Castillo	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. Meeting called to order by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member announced that all Trustees were present for the exception of Carlos Elizondo.**
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, February 3, 2026, with any corrections/deletions.**

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent stated the following amendments:

Handout #1 added to official minutes

- X. A. 1. Should read 2026-2027**
- X. A. 2 Will be deleted from agenda/backup**
- X. A. 4 Page 1 will be replaced with Page 1a.**

Handout #2 added to official minutes

- XI. A. Level III Grievance(s)**
 - Item 2 will be deleted from agenda and backup**
 - Item 3 will be deleted from agenda and backup**
- XI. B. Personnel Item(s)**
 - Item 4 Page 14a will be added to agenda backup**
 - Page 14b will be added to agenda backup**
 - Page 27a will be added to agenda backup**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, February 3, 2026 with the amendments as stated by Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent. (6-0-0)

- VI. Recommend approving the minutes with any corrections:**
- A. Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, October 7, 2025.
 - B. Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, November 5, 2025.
 - C. Special Called Board Meeting of Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, October 7, 2025, Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, November 5, 2025 and Special Called Board Meeting of Thursday, November 13, 2025, with no corrections as stated by administration. (6-0-0)

- VII. Superintendent's Report: * SB1566**
- A. Conference Presentations:

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent stated, Madam President, as we're getting ready for that, I'd like to make some introductory comments. Let me first say that I'm very proud to be from Brownsville. I was born and raised here. I attended Cromack Elementary School, Faulk Intermediate. Brownsville High School, which is now Hanna, and I graduated from Porter High School. I'm very proud of being from Brownsville. Upon coming here as Superintendent, I signed a one-year contract that goes into a second year. This is my second year. I am not seeking a new contract. Martha and I want to continue to enjoy our life, and in particular, we want to be close to both of our sons. We also want to travel. I will be concluding my service with BISD at the end of this school year. As I prepare for the upcoming retirement for my district, I would like to share my sincere gratitude with those who have supported our schools and our community throughout my tenure. I will continue to serve as Superintendent through the end of my contract, June 30, 2026, and remain fully committed to supporting the district during this transition. I extend my deepest appreciation to the Board of Trustees for their leadership, their guidance, and trust. It has been a privilege to

work alongside great people, with each of you in service for our students, staff, and community. And I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this district with your governance. I also want to thank our dedicated employees and staff. Your commitment to students, professionalism, and passion for education have been the foundation of our district's success. It's truly been an honor to work with such a talented and caring team. To our families, community members, community organizations, thank you for your continued partnership and support. Your involvement and collaboration have strengthened our schools and have enriched the educational experience of our students. I am especially grateful to our city leadership, city police department, and county officials for their cooperation and support.

Carlos Elizondo arrived at 5:37 p.m.

Your dedication to the safety, well-being, and success of our schools has been invaluable and I appreciate the strong relationships we have built together. Serving this district has been one of the greatest privileges of my career. I am proud to what we have accomplished together and confident in the district's future. Thank you for your trust, your support, your kindness. You have all shown me. I will always carry fond memories of this community and wish you continued success in the years ahead. With sincere appreciation. Thank you.

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, first of all, Dr. Chavez, I want to thank you so much for your dedication to BISD. You came and you joined us in a time where your community needed you. And as someone who's worked really well with leaders across the state and the nation, the respect that you have and admiration that you have for the service in this education, in this world of education, is insurmountable. Everybody that I have talked to would tell me how lucky we are to have you and that we were able to get you out of retirement to come back and help your community. And I know very well in my heart that I'm happy that you and Martha will have wonderful memories. And I know that we'll continue working through this year because we still have a lot to do. And I'm very grateful that you will be here with us. And I'm very grateful that you have taken the time to accomplish your dream because I remember when you said that it was your dream to be the Superintendent of Brownsville. And I'm so glad and grateful that we are here. And I know the community feels the same way. Thank you. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, thank you. Dr. Chavez, I know we still have a couple of more months to go, but as I've always said, let's finish off this school year with a bang. Let's finish off strong. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, Dr. Chavez, I've really enjoyed hearing your stories about Southmost and being a student there. I just want to thank you for your devotion to education in general. I want to thank you for having come up from the hood like I did and coming into leadership and guiding students. I know that in your career there are thousands and thousands of students who have benefited from your leadership and I want to thank you for that. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Dr. Chavez, thank you for everything for your years of service and education. I know you got to work with my mom back in the day at Garza Elementary and there's so many fond memories that I hear from everybody that worked during those years with Mr. Carlos. So, but thank you that you were able to come back. You were able to navigate our district during the time that we were struggling with, you know, the state and the budget. So, thank you for your service. And I'm happy to hear that you and Martha will get to travel and enjoy your family. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, Dr. Chavez, I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything that you've done and what you will do in the next couple of months. I know that growing up, I know you want to go back to Round Rock. I know that growing up, I lived in Bastrop, I also lived in Round Rock, and of course here in Brownsville. So, I'm familiar with the area there, and it's a beautiful area. But once again, I know that you and my wife worked together at Garza Elementary as well. So I just want to take the opportunity to thank you for everything that you've

done, sir. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, thank you for your service, and you know how it is, the sooner the better. You retire, you enjoy life, because none of us are guaranteed tomorrow. So I'm glad that you're going to enjoy it and you can travel and I wish you and your family the best. God bless you.

1. Recognition of Charro Days 2026 Poster Student Participation.

On January 22nd, 2026, the official unveiling of the 2026 Charro Days Poster took place, marking an exciting milestone for the community and for the district. The poster was designed by artist Don Breeden, whose artistic interpretation was inspired by the creativity and spirit of a young student and his mother. The artwork prominently features third-grade student Daniel Hernandez from Del Castillo-Morningside Elementary School, alongside his mother, Marcela Garcia Hernandez. This heartfelt depiction beautifully encapsulates the rich traditions, cultural pride, and community spirit that Charro Days represents. The collaboration between the talented artist and this family underscores the importance of community involvement and the lasting legacy of this beloved celebration.

2. Recognition of All-State Band and Choir Students.

The BISD Department of Fine Arts recognized 33 high school students for qualifying for the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All State Concerts that will be held on February 11-15, 2026 in San Antonio, TX.

3. Recognition of 2025 BISD Mock Trial District Competition.

Mock Trial provides learning experiences such as teamwork, collaboration, oral presentation skills, productive argument, critical thinking skills, professionalism, and confidence.

A team of 6-10 high school students are gathered by a team advisor and prepares to compete against their peers in an organized district and regional meet. Each team must learn both sides of the case study (Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense) and students must play the roles of both attorneys and witnesses in a 'mock' trial. Students learn about the judicial system, develop speaking skills, and make connections with professionals that can someday lead to internships. BISD High Schools work together to learn the facts of the case and create strategies for trial and then compete in our district competition. The 2025 BISD Mock Trial District Competition was held on Saturday, December 13th 2025. The 2025 BISD Mock Trial District Competition were recognized. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams:

4. Recognition of the 2025 College Board AP School Honor Roll.

The AP School Honor Roll, established by the College Board, is a prestigious annual recognition program that celebrates schools whose AP programs have demonstrated outstanding efforts to expand access to AP coursework and support students on the path to college success. Schools may earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to building a college-going culture, increasing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness. The AP School Honor Roll offers four levels of distinction: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. Each year a school must meet all required criteria based on the performance of students in the most recent

graduating class were recognized. For the 2025 cycle, the College Board recognized three high schools: Gladys Porter Early College High School for the Bronze designation, Veterans Memorial Early College High School for Silver, and Brownsville Early College High School for the Platinum Award.

5. Brownsville Independent School District Financial Report for the period ended January 31, 2026.

Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer stated, good evening, Madam President, Ms. Lopez Valdez, Superintendent Dr. Chavez, members of the Board and audience. I'll walk the board through the district's financial position cumulative as of January 31, 2026. The General Fund which includes Funds 101 through 199 has received a total of \$287.7 million in combined local, state and federal revenues. Expenditures to date total \$281 million resulting in a positive net position. of approximately \$6.7 million. At this point in the fiscal year, the General Fund continues to show a favorable variance reflecting the timing of expenditures and ongoing budget controls. Moving to the Special Revenue Funds, which includes funds 206 through 499, total revenues received to date are \$21 million, while expenditures total \$30.4 million, resulting in a deficit of \$9.4 million. I want to remind the Board that Special Revenue Funds operate on a reimbursement basis. This deficit is expected at this point in the year and will convert to a receivable at year end once reimbursement claims are submitted and processed. For the Debt Service fund, revenues total 7.1 million with expenditures of 4.3 million which reflects the district's scheduled debt payment made in August of 2025. This leaves the Debt Service Fund with a positive balance of approximately \$2.8 million. Finally, the Self-Insurance Fund has received \$32.5 million in revenues, with expenditures totaling \$33.5 million, resulting in a deficit balance of approximately \$982,000. The reduction in this deficit is partly attributed to several positive factors, including an increase in the district's contribution adjustments to the per employee contribution and rebates received from pharmacy product providers. Overall, these figures reflect normal fund behavior for this point in the fiscal year with timing differences, particularly in Special Revenue and Self-Insurance, driving temporary deficits that will continue to be monitored closely. This concludes financial report presentation. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, thank you. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I have a question. Yes, ma'am, you touched in on the amount of monies that were brought back from the pharmacy group. How much money have they given us back? Ms. R. Pena replied, I don't have that exact figure. I believe Employee Benefits is working on that. It's based on percentages, sir. So we can have that information on a Friday letter to you. Mr. Elizondo stated, can you email it to me instead of the Friday letter? Ms. Pena stated, yes, sir, of course. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you.

6. Brownsville Independent School District Quarterly Investment Report for the period ended December 31, 2025.

Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer stated, Madam President, Ms. Lopez-Valdez, Superintendent Dr. Chavez, members of the Board and audience, this is the district's quarterly investment report for the period ending December 31, 2025. As of quarter end, the district held \$5.86 million in cash and bank accounts. which supports the day-to-day operational needs such as payroll, vendor payments, and other short-

term obligations. In addition, the district held \$267.3 million in investments across various approved investment instruments, bringing total district investments to approximately \$273.1 million as of December 31. For the quarter ending December 31st, the district earned \$3.33 million in interest income, with total interest earnings of \$6.53 million in the fiscal year to date. This reflects strong investment performance while maintaining safety and liquidity as our primary objectives. From a liquidity perspective, approximately 63% of the district's portfolio is invested in highly liquid accounts, ensuring funds are readily available for daily operations. The remaining portion is invested in longer term maturity instruments to enhance returns in a controlled and strategic manner. While interest rates have trended downward, and although Chairman Powell did not announce a rate reduction at the most recent Federal Reserve meeting, current market indicators suggest that additional rate cuts may be forthcoming. In anticipation of this, the district has been proactive in locking in interest rate on longer term investments to protect earnings and stabilize returns. As a follow-up regarding the proceeds from the sale of Cummings Middle School and Longoria Elementary, I'd like to provide the following update. As of December 31st, the total book value of these proceeds held with PNC Institutional Asset Management is \$17,931,243.06. Of this amount, \$16,531,945.15 is attributed to the sale of Cummings Middle School and \$1,228,297.69 is attributed to the sale of Longoria Elementary. For the quarter ending December 31st, these investments earned \$159,173.85 for Cummings Middle School, and \$11,826.37 for Longoria Elementary, for a combined quarterly interest total of \$171,022. These funds remain fully segregated from all other district investments, and all interests earned year-to-date continue to be reinvested into the same accounts, preserving the integrity and traceability of these proceeds. I would also like to confirm that all district investments are in full compliance with the Texas Public Funds Investment Act, the district investment policy, and board-approved investment strategies. Overall, the district's investment portfolio remains well balanced, liquid, and strategically positioned to support Brownsville ISD's operation and long -term financial needs. This concludes my quarterly investment report.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ruben Cortez - Good evening, Madam President, Trustees, Dr. Chavez. You know, it's an honor to be here with you guys today. It feels like I'm coming home. I haven't been in this boardroom in a long time and I used to sit where you guys are sitting now and, you know, I'm here because January was School Board Appreciation Month and the South Texas School Board Association, we just wanted to say thank you through our 2026 South Texas Voices series that we created. We hosted our inaugural school Board appreciation breakfast on January 17th at the Payne Arena in partnership with the city of Hidalgo. We invited every trustee and every superintendent, fully understanding that you guys serve as volunteers and that making every event sometimes is extremely, extremely difficult. And that's why I'm here tonight. One, to say thank you personally on behalf of the association and to recognize one of your members. In 2025, trustees across South Texas, you know, made a decision not just to serve. You all already do that. many of you for years, some of you for decades, but to plant yourself in something bigger than a single district, bigger than a single vote, bigger than any one of us alone. You

planted, they planted themselves in the belief that South Texas deserves its own voice, that our students should never be an afterthought and that our communities should never be overlooked and that our geography should not determine our children's destinies. For too long, South Texas has been one of the best-kept secrets in public education. We've watched our students succeed despite underfunding. We've seen our educators perform miracles with limited resources. We've witnessed our communities, I saw it tonight, show up again and again for their schools. At its core, the South Texas School Board Association was created for one purpose, to strengthen public education by strengthening those leaders who govern it. The theme of our breakfast on the 17th was rooted in Purpose, Rising Together. Roots don't grow in isolation. They spread. They connect. And underground, where no one sees them, they form networks strong enough to hold entire forests. That's what we believe we are becoming, not a single district standing alone, not a single voice fighting to be heard, but a connected South Texas rooted in purpose and rising together. Before a child walks across the graduation stage, before a teacher inspires a breakthrough moment, before a school becomes the heartbeat of a neighborhood, there's a decision, there's a vote, there's a late night, there's a hard conversation. School Board Members like you are the invisible architects of possibility. You don't build walls, you build futures. And every future you build is rooted in one thing, purpose. Purpose is what's brought you to this seat. Purpose is what keeps you coming back when the work gets hard. And I've been there, I know it gets really hard. Purpose reminds you that every policy, every budget line, every difficult decision is connected to a child's dreams. You are not just serving on a Board. You are planting roots that will hold up generations of students that you may never meet. But here's a beautiful truth. None of us rise alone. When you root yourself in purpose, you give permission for everyone around you to grow. Teachers will be able to teach with more confidence. Parents trust all with more hope, and students will dream with more boldness. Your roots become our wings. So we wanted to come and thank you for your service. Thank you for your leadership, because when leaders root themselves in purpose, entire communities rise together. Among those that we recognized at our event, we had what we called our legacy trustees, those who have committed a decade or more of service to this work. Their service represents continuity, institutional memory, and a deep belief in public education that has shaped generations of students and communities across South Texas. It is because of their commitment, year after year, that the roots I've spoken about run so deep. And that's why it's important for us to pause and recognize service when we see it. This evening, the South Texas School Board Association is honored to recognize one of yours, Minerva Pena, for 16 years of service on the Brownsville School Board. In honor of her unwavering service, the South Texas School Board recognizes you, Ms. Pena, and we thank you for your service. time. Yes, we thank you for your leadership and for the heart that you have given to this community. I just wanted to say I'm grateful for each and every one of you for the work that you're doing in service of my hometown. I just wanted to say God bless you guys and continue to do the great work for BISD. And so we've brought this plaque. The event happened on the 17th and so just wanted to share it with Ms. Pena. We created one for every trustee that had served 5, I mean 10 or more years. We had one trustee that had served 40 years. But Ms. Pena, this is for you. I apologize I didn't make it on time otherwise I would have made it on a normal agenda but I was out of town and I didn't call Ms. Pat on time to make it on your agenda, so. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, thank you. I appreciate it. No problem, sir. Mr. Cortez stated, who do I hand this to? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, maybe, Mr. Cortez, we could take a picture at the end of the public comment or unless we want to take one right now real quick. Ms. Pena stated, yeah, let's do it now and if we can come up here. So, it makes it easier for me not to have to walk right now because my hip is itchy. Do you all mind if we stand? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, come on up, yes. Ms. Pena stated, thank you, Daniela. Ms. Pena stated, that way he doesn't have to wait till the end. Thank you so much and I'm starting my 18th year. 2025 was 17 and 2026 will be my 18th year. So thank you so much Ruben for this consideration. Thank you.

Lazaro Cardenas Good afternoon members of the board, Dr. Chavez, Board President Lopez Valdez. My name is Lazaro Cardenas and I am the Vice president of AOB, the largest and longest serving union in our district. Thank you all for being here and for your continued dedication to the students of Brownsville. Today on the agenda is the board self-reflection. As you reflect, please think of our health insurance and what effect the increase in premiums and medication has on our employees. Recently, our district transitioned from Blue Cross Blue Shield to UnitedHealthcare. And many of you raised important concerns about rising co-pays, prescription costs, and out-of-pocket expenses. You are right to notice these changes and I want to help explain why this is happening, how it compares to state and national trends, and what possible solutions we could consider moving forward. Let's start with why the costs are going up. Healthcare costs have been rising across the United States for years. Not just here at BISD, according to national data, employer -sponsored health insurance premiums have been increasing faster than general inflation, driven by higher prices for medical care and prescription drugs, more expensive specialty medications, and increased utilization of services. In Texas, teacher insurance plans have seen similar pressures due to rising demand for care and higher cost paths from providers to insurers. In short, we are experiencing a nationwide trend, not an isolated local issue. Now, a compare and contrast of two plans. Blue Cross Blue Shield traditionally offered broader networks and different cost structures for prescriptions. UnitedHealthcare may have lower premiums in some categories, but pulls from a different pharmacy pricing model that can shift more cost burden onto employees, especially for brand name or specialty drugs and higher tier copays. Many employees are reporting that routine prescriptions now have higher costs at the pharmacy counter and that their annual deductible or out -of -pocket maximums are more difficult to meet before coverage kicks in. This is consistent with both state and national data showing that even when premiums remain controlled, employees cost sharing often increases as insurers shift costs to reduce overall financial risks. The Texas Education Agency and other public education systems have seen similar patterns. So why does this health insurance still matter? Despite these frustrations, quality health insurance is a critical benefit, perhaps more than ever, in a profession where teachers are leaving at high rates due to burnout, financial strain, lack of benefits, a strong health plan helps recruit and retain great educators in our classroom. It provides peace of mind for physical and mental well -beings, helps families thrive, and protects us from the financial devastation that could come with a serious illness. We cannot ignore the financial pain many of you, many of us are feeling. Here are some possible solutions. Collective feedbacks, cost transparencies, wellness and prevention programs, and benchmarking against other districts, and legislative advocacy. Work with us so we can ask the policymakers to advocate for state -level solutions that address prescription costs and fair insurance practices for educators. In closing, rising health care costs are painful, but they are part of a larger economic force affecting us, all of us. Our goal is to work together to understand these changes, protect the benefits that matter, and find solutions that ease financial burdens while continuing to support a strong competitive benefits package. Thank you for your dedication, your voices, and your commitment to our students and to one another.

Veronica Borrego Good evening Board President Mrs. Lopez Valdez, esteemed Board Members, Superintendent Dr. Chavez, and all watching this evening here in the boardroom and at home. My name is Veronica Borrego and I am an Educational Diagnostician with the district and the proud president of AOB, the Association of Brownsville Educators, the largest and longest serving association in BISD. I am here this evening to speak on XIE1. As you complete your self-evaluation, I ask you to pause and remember why you ran for this position. You were elected to govern, to set policy, approve budgets, hire and evaluate the superintendent, and establish a vision for student success. I have spent 20 years working in special education. In that time, I have sat with families during some of the most difficult and emotional moments of their lives. Parents come to us worried, overwhelmed, and trusting that the adults in this system will do what is right for their child. When the ARD process is

followed, that trust is honored. The student benefits from consistency, appropriate supports, and a team that is focused on their individual needs, not mixed messages or uncertainty. The Art Committee exists for a reason. It brings together people who know the student, understand the data, and are legally responsible for providing a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. When this process is respected, students receive better services, progress is clearer, and families feel confident that decisions are being made thoughtfully and lawfully. We are deeply concerned by reports that individuals who are not a part of the ARD committee are contacting parents or making promises about services or placement. While these actions may be well intended, the impact on the student can be harmful. Conflicting information creates confusion, delays support, and disrupts the stability students need to succeed. It also places parents and the district in an impossible position and leads to frustration and complaints that could have been avoided. When parents are directed to the appropriate professionals, the campus diagnostician, campus administrator, special education supervisor, or the director of special education, their concerns are addressed by the parents responsible for their child's plan. This leads to clearer communication, stronger trust, and fewer complaints because the process works when it is allowed to work. Following established procedures is not about red tape. It is about protecting students, supporting families, and respecting the professionals who serve them every day. When boundaries are respected, students thrive, families feel supported and the district is stronger for it. Thank you for your time and attention and have a wonderful evening.

Reba Cardenas McNair Good evening. I am Reba Cardenas-McNair and I have the pleasure of serving on the Educational Results Partnership which releases an honor roll every year and I wanted to congratulate the BISD because on this list are Veterans Memorial High School, Stillman Middle School, Manzano Middle School, Martin Elementary, Garden Park Elementary, Sharp Elementary, Burns Elementary, Gonzales Elementary, Southwest Elementary, Yturria Elementary, Hudson Elementary, Benavides Elementary, Paredes Elementary, Gallegos Elementary, Ortiz Elementary, Brite Elementary, Pena Elementary, Pullman Elementary, and Breeden Elementary. I wanted to let you know that some of your students are scoring at four times the national average of students of similar demographics. You are doing an outstanding job. I was here earlier, and obviously your musicians are very well honored, your choir members, your mock trial members, and your AP achievement. You have a wonderful district. I think a lot of the credit goes to you. to the teachers, the staff, the administration, and your leader, Dr. Chavez. I'm very sorry to see Dr. Chavez go. I think it's going to be very hard to replace someone as esteemed and admired as he has. He is, I wish him well. him the best. I think he's done a great job as evidenced here and I am very sad to see him go. I think he's one of the best superintendents we've ever had and I very much admire his dedication to the school and his manner of running a school and I hope that you can find someone who can equal him. I think that would be very hard because he is and outstanding superintendent and you all have much to be thankful for that he has dedicated two years here and I feel grateful for the city of Brownsville and for the students, the administration and the staff and I congratulate all of you on this outstanding achievement that we've just revealed to you and I hope that this is sustainable. You have done a very, very good job and you have more to accomplish, but you are outstanding. Thank you so much. Thank you.

Celia Saiz Broussard Good evening Dr. Chavez, members of the Board. My name is Celia Saiz and I'm speaking as President of BEST/AFT Union Local 3877, and I'm also a Pre-K teacher at Skinner Elementary. I'm going to be speaking on agenda items XA5 and XID and B2. BEST/AFT supports the administrative recommendation to not seek a resolution for a mandated period of prayer and reading of religious texts in school. America is a nation of immigrants from around the world of various colors, languages, and religions. Our founding fathers had the sense to provide us with a First Amendment right to a freedom of religion. In America, we don't favor one religion over another, but respect the right

of our fellow Americans to worship as they believe. BISD has always had a silent moment of reflection after the Pledge of Allegiance at each campus. This allows students, if they choose to pray, reflect on their beliefs without intruding on the rights of others. BEST/AFT strongly believes that this gives everyone, no matter their religious persuasion, to worship quietly in their religious or beliefs. Apparently, in executive session, there will be some discussion of the district's climate survey. The employees are looking forward to receiving it and hope that the results are shared with campus and department employees and addressed at a future BISG board meeting. Thank you for listening and have the best of evenings. Dr. Chavez, thank you for your service.

Bea Maldonado Good evening, Board President Lopez Valdez, Dr. Chavez, members of the Board and those watching us on the internet. I am Bea Maldonado. Vice President of Brownsville Educators Stand Together, Best Union Local 38 and 77, a union of professionals. I'm also a social studies teacher at Homer Hanna High School. I'm speaking on agenda item XA6 and 7. XA6 recommended approval for region one to provide professional development for BISD appraisers, teacher incentive allotment of \$74,200. Is this training for all BISD appraisers, new appraisers or appraisers whose evaluations don't match up with the TIA results? Does this include T-TESS trainings? We still hear from members who have not had any walkthroughs this year. We hear from members being told by campus appraisers that there is a cap on teachers receiving the TIA and we have had members reporting to us that their campus appraisers aren't taking the training seriously since they cannot themselves qualify for the TIA. We've also received an email today regarding the TIA decision. If the TIA is not approved or accepted, how is that going to affect teachers? If it's not approved or we don't appeal, how is that going to affect the 90 -10 agreement that had been voted on before? How can the district ascertain that employees are being evaluated fairly and equitably? How do you address the fact that campus administrators use domain four to coerce employees to doing additional duties? We all know that TIA is a subjective system. We all know that it basically depends on who is evaluating you. Does anyone at the main office even care what and how these appraisers or how this evaluation is being done? XA7, recommend approval for Region I to provide professional development contracted services on the SLO, redesign for BISD teachers and administrators, TIA allotment 280 ,150. Will this be for all teachers? The same concerns that I mentioned in XA6 also apply. here. Any clarity or information should be shared with all employees affected. We appreciate your listening. Mr. Chavez, thank you for your service and for working with BEST. Have the best of evenings.

Adina Alegria Good evening, President Lopez Valdez, Superintendent Chavez, Board of Trustees, and all those with us today and those watching on the KBSD/ITV. News Channel. My name is Adina Alegria, Executive Director of Texas Valley Educators Association affiliated with Brownsville Unions Coalition. I stand before you today to express my heart full appreciation for the instructional calendar committee. It is evident that the administration committee invested considerable thought and effort into this calendar introducing an extra break in the fall. I am hopeful that this change will not only provide much needed rest, for all, but it will also benefit our school buildings, allowing them to take a respite. Senate Bill 11 in religion. Boy, the Texas government just can't stop telling us what to do. The bill is just that, it mandates that each school district designates time for prayer and reading religious texts every full day at each campus. While I acknowledge the importance of spiritual practices for many, I want to emphasize that this should encompass all religions and not be limited to one specific faith if the district chooses to move forward with this mandate. The principle of separation of church and state should guide your decisions, ensuring that you respect the diverse beliefs of our student body and staff. We are not made of one creed, one culture, one ethnicity, and certainly not one religion. I implore this board to consider these factors carefully as we navigate the implication of this legislation. Our focus must always remain on creating an inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their religious affiliations. And finally, I want to bring to your attention the need for professional development

surrounding the teacher incentive allotment. I also hope that tonight this becomes approved. It is crucial that we prioritize this training as it emphasizes observation and evidence alignments to strengthen the quality of evaluations. Each year we hear about inconsistencies with the appraisers of observations. We fully support teachers receiving TIA designations, but I must express my frustration with the current system. It should be more attainable and concise across the board, and the more developed an appraiser is, the better the outcome. If your primary goal is to ensure that all students have equitable access to highly effective teachers, then we must ensure that appraisers are trained effectively and consistently in all areas. This training will play a vital role while maintaining high standards and fostering an equitable learning environment for all BISD students. And on this upcoming Valentine's Day, let it be a reminder that love is for everyone. And let it transcend labels and embrace all identities. Dr. Chavez, while I'm sad, to see you go because I did not see this coming. My wish is for you and Martha that you enjoy your retirement. Thank you for leading this district with a sense of grace and an amazing and distinct leadership style. I know this is not goodbye. We've got a couple more months, but thank you for everything you've done because you've done it with a sense of grace. Thank you this evening.

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

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

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

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

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

X. A. General Function	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13
B. Payments	1
C. Budget Amendments	1
D. Contracts/Agreements	1
E. Bids/Proposals	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

(All presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

X. Consent Agenda:

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

1. Recommend approval of Calendar A as the 2026-2027 Instructional Calendar.

Amendment: X. A. 1. Should read 2026-2027

Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, a couple of questions, Mr. Hernandez. I'm looking at option one, which obviously was voted on by over 3,000 of our employees. Just a couple of questions for clarification. On August 6th and 7th, those are teacher preparation days. On those days, teachers are not going to get pulled out for any type of last training or meetings or anything on those teacher preparation days? **Ms. Beatriz Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer stated, I'm going to go ahead and call on Dr. Cynthia Castro to**

explain the first week of school when the teachers come back. That way, we have not only the teacher preparation days, but the professional development days. **Dr. Cynthia Castro, Director stated, good evening, Dr. Chavez, Board President, Ms. Lopez-Valdez, and members of the Board; Mr. Ortiz, you asked in reference to the teacher preparation days, sir?** Mr. Ortiz stated, yes, ma 'am, August 6th and 7th. **Dr. Castro replied, yes, sir, those teacher preparation days are so that the teacher can get ready in their classroom, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, I understand that, but my question is, we're not going to come back later on, because it did happen one year. We're not going to come back later on and say, oh, well, at the last minute, we're going to pull the teachers out for a half-day training on a Friday or a Thursday. **Dr. Castro stated, I sure hope not, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, we hope not, or for sure? **Dr. Castro stated, well, I sure hope not. The committee decided, and this is what the committee requested, so we honor, well, I mean, I'm hoping that we honor the committee. I'm not the one that makes those changes.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, this is why I was asking administration, because they were usually the ones that make that decision and let the schools know. I just want to make sure that that's not going to happen. **Dr. Castro stated, I don't think it happened this year, so I hope it remains the same.** Mr. Ortiz stated, it happened the year before. **Dr. Castro stated, yes, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, that's why I'm asking. **Dr. Castro stated, yes, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, my follow-up question is October, the mini fall break, where did this concept come from? And basically, you know, I mean I think it's good for teachers but I just you know just for clarification purposes where did this concept come from and what was the purpose that our teachers wanted this and my follow up to this is where are we taking away to give here? **Dr. Castro replied, okay, so the calendar requires us to have 75,600 minutes, so we have a flexibility of either the number of days that we can take and or take away or give some. So long as teachers work 187 contracted days and the minutes are bid by 75,600, we're okay with that. This committee is a 53 DEIC committee. They're broken up into five groups. They are given a presentation of what's required, such as teacher preparation days, staff development days, and so forth. Then the committee has full autonomy on what days they can choose.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so by giving them these three extra days, and I'm fine with it. I just want an explanation. By giving them these three extra days, did we extend the yearly calendar? **Dr. Castro replied, no, sir. Actually, we went from 180 days to 178 instructional days, to be quite honest with you. And we're still meeting the guidelines.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, so then for this year, we had a longer year. Is that what you're saying? **Dr. Castro stated, that's correct, sir. Instructional days. Yes, sir.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, very well. Thank you. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Dr. Castro, I just wanted to thank you and applaud you. As you know, I always look at the number of votes every year. Every year, you know, that's the first thing I look at. I'm going to be honest before I look at the actual calendar. And we're at 79 % now. I mean, I should say just 105 employees, which is 2.1 % did not vote. That is amazing, ma 'am. I do remember back when we started here, the numbers were just, I think it was 2.1 that would vote. So the fact that 2.1 are not voting, and I am looking at who those 2.1 people are, but that's a story for another day. But thank you, ma 'am, for making sure that this calendar does go out and making sure that staff has time and availability to vote and have their voice be heard. So thank you. **Dr. Castro stated, thank you, ma 'am. I appreciate that.** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, I thank you so much for doing that. And yes, we don't have to know who didn't vote. That is not our responsibility. We got to respect people, what they do and don't do. So thank you for everything you do. You have a very hard job, and you do your very best, and I appreciate you for that. Keep up the good work, and give us at least

maybe 20 more years. I know. You do a good job. Continue with anything you need. We're here to help you succeed. God bless you.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Calendar A as the 2026-2027 Instructional Calendar. (7-0-0)

Ms. Denise Garza stated, Castro, this will get posted tomorrow on our Facebook page? **Dr. Castro stated, yes, ma 'am, actually, I get to send it in a little bit as soon as I get to my car.** Ms. Garza stated, okay, thank you so much.

2. Recommend approval of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. **Agenda item deleted**
3. Recommend approval of the 2026-2027 Secondary Course Listing Guides at no cost to the District. *

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, second. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes a question here, I guess, Dr. Chavez to Ms. Longoria. **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, yes, sir, we have Dr. NIC here.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, I'm looking at the middle school core requirements for student's 6th, 7th, and 8th. I'm looking at page 20 of 196, and I'm looking at the core areas, and it has one period of each core area, and then of course you've got your electives, your fine arts, and your physical education. Ms. Longoria, this is obviously for next year, 2026-2027, is that correct? Do we currently have any middle school right now that have double periods of the core areas? **Ms. Rose Longoria, Assistant Superintendent stated, we have some courses, sir, with ALI math. The kids that need that extra intervention, some of the students are taking a math and then an ALI math.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so if we're doubling up on core areas, what are we taking away from the students? **Ms. Longoria replied, we have nine periods, sir. So they still have both of their electives and their PE.** Mr. Ortiz stated, now, is that in the course listings for 2025-2026 that was approved or was it changed? **Ms. Longoria stated, if the kids need the ALI, then they do take the ALI math.** Mr. Ortiz stated, but my question is, is that stated in the core listings for 2025-2026? **Dr. Nic Ibarra Cantu, Executive Secondary Director stated, if the course is still available, yes sir, it's still available. And it could be that course would be used as an elective, if they're going to need that ALI course, it would be in lieu of the elective.** Mr. Ortiz stated, in lieu, which means that we're taking an elective away. **Dr. Ibarra Cantu replied yes, it can be used as an elective, it just depends if the student needs those hours.** Mr. Ortiz stated, I am just concerned that, you know, we're taking some electives or physical education or fine arts period away from the students, doubling them up in core areas. **Dr. Ibarra Cantu stated, so they still have room for fine arts. If you notice in the bottom, it says the required and the number of semesters that are required. We have fine arts two semesters, health three semesters, and physical education four semesters. Those are the requirements.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, I guess let me ask my question again. So if we go back and look at the course listings for middle school for 25-26, it does indicate that they can take double core classes. **Ms. Longoria replied, the ALI is for the students that did not master the STAAR test the year before.** Mr. Ortiz stated, I understand what you're doing. **Ms. Longoria interjected, so there it depends on the child, if the child needs that extra intervention. But they**

still, we do not take away their electives. They still have room for the elective. They still have their PE. They have their health. Everything that is required by the state is given to them. **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, let me see if I can clarify as well to help.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yes, because I'm not getting a clear answer here. **Dr. Chavez stated, so here at the middle school, students can take up to how many extra courses can they take? And the electives piece, is that three, right?** Ms. Pena stated, how many electives are there per student? **Dr. Chavez continued, okay, so two is the maximum they can take. And so here, with regards to them taking the additional time, then they go down to one, right? That's what happens to the family. Now, if I remember correctly, one of the things that we talked about was that we would give the parent the choice. If the parent didn't want that, that they could go back to the two. And so it's something that we work with parents. And obviously here, I mean, the idea is that if a student didn't do well in the mathematics area, that they have the ability to do a longer time period for that. But the choice is always left with the mother. Now, I said mother, father, family, parents, right? And I say that because I know sometimes, you know, the parents want to do that, but maybe the student doesn't want to do that. But I just want to assure everybody that yes, we give the parents the choice of doing the two if they don't want to do just the one because we are suggesting that they do the additional time in math.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so Dr. Chavez, just a final question here. So it is embedded in the course listings from last year, that wording and that language that you're using right now. **Dr. Chavez replied, that I'll need to ask them to answer, so I see them shaking their head no. So that was not included in the language.** Ms. Beatriz Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer stated, not the exact wording. And just for additional clarification, It's not a continuation of the original core math or core reading. It is considered an elective because even the content and the materials used in this accelerated learning instructional class varies from the core content area. There are some campuses that do not have the staff or the periods to offer. The campuses that do have the staffing to offer this course, it's a way, again, to provide additional instructional support for the students that have shown not to be at that approach's performance level in their STAAR assessment. Mr. Ortiz stated, Legal, how much time do I have? *Mr. Ben Castillo, Board Attorney replied, three minutes and 15 seconds.* Mr. Ortiz continued, so you mentioned, Mr. Hernandez, that I mean, if you're going to offer more classes, you need additional staff, obviously, like you said. So, are we opening up new FTEs or did I hear you say that within the campus, you're finding staff members to teach those classes? And if you are, what are we taking away from the other students when we took this teacher away? **Ms. Hernandez replied, all the students are receiving the required components plus their electives.** Ms. Pena stated, that wasn't the question. Mr. Ortiz stated, no, no. **Ms. Hernandez stated, we're not removing anything that they need to receive.** Mr. Ortiz stated, so where do you get these teachers from? Like you said, access teachers, where do you get them from? **Ms. Longoria stated, I believe that what facilitates is that we have nine periods, and that's what we have in the middle schools. So that gives us the time for us to be able to add that class if the kids need it.** Mr. Ortiz stated, no. Ms. Pena interjected, no one's answering the question. Where do you get the teacher to teach it? **Ms. Longoria replied, yes, we utilize the same staff, sir. The same staff, if I teach math, I have five classes. I have one class of ALI per se. I have my two periods and my lunch that equals to nine periods. We utilize the same staff.** Ms. Lopez Valdez So the same staff. Ms. Garza. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, yes, so I'm going to put my PEIMS thinking cap on. So from my understanding,

don't all students already take double ELAR and double math? **Ms. Longoria replied, no ma'am, not all students take double ELAR. It's reading, they take a class of reading and a class of English. It's two different classes. For math, not all the students, ma'am. No, it depends on the campus and it depends on the child and if the parents are okay with it.** Ms. Garza stated, and the only reason I say that is because we did get a lot of concerns in the beginning of the school year of the doubling and where if we look at it, that's already four classes, right, that were doubling ELAR and math. So, we have nine periods. So, technically, the students will only be eligible for one elective. **Ms. Longoria stated, we always have the English and the reading. That's two separate classes, always. Even when I was a principal in high school, we had an English class and a reading class. But the math is the only one if the child needs it, and if the parents are okay with it, we offer that ALI.** Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, let's just make it easy for parents, because I know that was very common. this past year where parents were being told or kind of being pressured, you know, for the doubling and some children were having to drop some of the electives. So, we want to make sure that you know, that the parents know that they can make this decision and not make it hard for them because this past year I know that was one of the major concerns that was brought to the school board about it being very complicated for them to get that elective that they needed and to drop one of the ALI classes. And some of these were even some of our top students that are top students but for whatever reason did not master the STAAR. **Ms. Longoria replied, yes, ma'am.** Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland stated, thank you, Madam President. One of the things that concerned me about this particular school year is that it seemed to have been an abruptly planned thing to do, because the way we were hearing it from parents was, wait, this was coming up right here, right now, I didn't know about it. I think that there's a major gap in communication with the parents. And I think, I don't think, I want it to change. Because it's important that parents be informed. It's important that they have the ability to dialogue with their children. Because, I mean, what we saw tonight on these honors, those are all electives. We're talking band. We're talking choir. We're talking probably some other things that go on. I think that, you know, all of these things are important. But one of the things that electives does is to build students' leadership skills and build their talents, and I think we're selling them short by focusing on the academic part of it to the disruption of the other part of their instruction. We teach the child, the whole child, not just one part of it. And yes, we're focused on academic performance. You're talking to one who's very data-driven, so we're very focused on that. The problem is that if you're going to do that at the end of the year, at the detriment of the other then we're failing our students. We're failing our parents when we fail to give them the information well in advance. We're failing our parents when it's not written in the documents that they receive and we're failing them even further when they come in to speak to us already at a disadvantage because when parents come in to a campus to speak to an administrator there's an advantage an administrator has that sometimes an unfair advantage depending on the administrator that's using that. If you want to deal with a parent in the best interest of their child, young or older in high school, you need to remember that. And I'm not saying you personally, I'm just saying in general. Communication is extremely important and this is one of the things that I've noticed this year. Well, because this is the first year I've been here, right? That communication at the last-minute leads to a lot of error. And we need to stop doing that. And so I do appreciate Mr. Ortiz's question about whether that's reflected in everything that the parents receive. Mr. Ortiz stated, just to follow up, Ms. Longoria, would you happen to have numbers on how many students are taking these additional courses? **Ms. Longoria replied, we did**

submit this prior, like during the school year. I don't have them with me right now, but I could. Mr. Ortiz stated, could you send them to us? **Ms. Longoria stated, yes, absolutely. I believe we did work on that, right? Ms. Hernandez stated, we can send it to you on the Friday letter or earlier through an email. We have the data prior to that.** Mr. Ortiz stated, earlier would be better. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, and I have a question, a serious concern because we are getting the parents calling us because there's a difference between recommending and ordering. And it's really heartbreaking to hear when we are being told that they're not being told, they're being directed. It's not what you say, it's how you say it. Because here we signed up and the higher, we go, the more responsibility we have to serve. We don't own it. We are trying to convince them. And if the parent decides, no, no, I don't want him in that, we need to be very conscientious of the person that is responsible to shape that child's life. And that's mom and dad. And I've seen children who barely got through the STAAR test. I mean, passed where a teacher celebrated a 70, where the child with a 90 says, how come you're celebrating him? Because he hadn't passed it in the last four years until he got a senior. And he's now making \$200,000 a year and doing wonderful. But he couldn't pass the test, he just froze. So we need to respect mom and dad. Because only mom and dad know that child, know the anxieties, know the fears, and they don't want to share it with you. They don't want people to know. And for us to dictate to them like we are dictators and we tell you what to do, they just pack their child and move him to another district. A lot of them are going to Los Fresnos or San Benito because they're telling me that they're not being heard. So we need to be very conscientious. It's not what we say, it's how we say it, and respect what the parent decides, because if we put them in a position where they feel uncomfortable and they call us, then we don't know what to tell them other than direct them to the Superintendent. And he can look at it because we are signed up to serve, not to be served. So be very, very conscientious on what mom and dad think this child needs. Because guess what? At the end of the day, the only one that's going to get blamed for how that child ended up in life is going to be mom and dad. So please be careful with that. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, thank you. I just wanted to mention that one thing that my colleague's comments today is how important parental involvement is. I just thought I would mention that. One thing that I learned, I always call it my previous life as a parent volunteer. Unfortunately, sometimes those parents who we adore and they show up to all the meetings, sometimes those aren't the parents that we really, really are trying to target. That's one thing that I've learned from years past. But another thing is that the importance of these parents, of how important it is for them to take the message that they are learning, back into their community, back into their schools, and just explain the importance of it. So, I just wanted to highlight, I was listening to everybody's comments, and I was like, parents, parents, parents, and I'm over here thinking, parental involvement, guys, it's important, and it's just so important to have these people. But at the end of the day, we do know that no matter how many times we tell a parent to show up, they either just unfortunately aren't interested, and some can't. You have a lot of your eight to five parents. So anyway, I just wanted to highlight that I was just getting that from my colleagues. It's just, again, the importance of parental involvement. Thank you. Ms. Garza stated, yes, just really quickly, how does this impact our English learning students, the ESL students, are they allowed an elective or are they not given an elective? Because I've heard some concerns from some parents that have their students in ESL that they don't have an elective. **Ms. Longoria replied, no, they are allowed an elective, ma'am. We're not going to place the students in ALI, if it's going to prevent them from having an**

elective. Ms. Garza stated, okay. I'm just saying because that was brought to my attention this past year about our English learning students that are not given an opportunity to be placed in an elective.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez seconded by Jessica Gonzalez to recommend approval of the 2026-2027 Secondary Course listing Guides at no cost to the district.

The following vote was recorded

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

Nay: Mr. Elizondo

Abstain:

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

4. Recommend approval for Coaching Excellence in Organization, of Edinburg, Texas to provide consulting services for students in the Youth Connection Project & Migrant Education Program for the 2025-2026 school year. Categorical Funds: Fund ~~162~~ **289** \$9,998.00.*

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated Motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, second. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, Dr. Chavez, I look at this thing and that they're going to come in and they're consultants and encourage students and things of that sort. I've read the background where they're very good speakers and they really push. But my concern is the \$10,000 that we're going to be paying them. How long are they going to come and present for those \$10,000? How many times? **Dr. Nellie Cantu, Chief Operations Officer replied, thank you for asking that question. Coaching excellence, let me explain a little bit about what they do, then I will answer your question. One of the things is , these funds, the funds 289, are very specific for students that are at-risk and students that need help that are economically disadvantaged. So the target of these students that we're looking for right now for this project or this initiative are the homeless, unaccompanied minors, and migrant students. And the idea is to engage the students, engage the parents, and I know that Ms. Gonzalez was talking about engaging the parents, and equip them with to lead with purpose. And so they focus on character, responsibility, self-confidence. These are life skills, and these are skills that sometimes they don't get at home. And the ultimate goal is that they're going to help them academically and personal growth. These, as we know, not only are they going to learn about it, they're also going to have an opportunity to practice it. And so this is, you know, skills that promote lifelong success, they would be coming one full day, and it would be approximately, we have 100 students, they're listed, but we can accommodate up to 200, and our goal is to try and hit 200 students. And this would be on April the 25th at CAB Cafeteria, and again, this is to meet their educational needs, and this funding is restricted to help these students. We also have the top speaker that's very well recognized, Mr. Jonathan Medina here, that he could also answer very specific questions about the program.** Ms. Pena stated, no, no, and we don't need to answer because I know how good he is, so thank you very much. You're not the concern, it's the fees that are the concern, okay? No offense to you in any way, shape, manner, or form. But my thing is that these

funds are specific to spend this kind of money to bring people from the outside. **Dr. Cantu stated, it's specific funding that is restricted to help Title I students that are in the biggest needs and we know that our homeless children and our migrant students have some of the greatest needs along with our economically disadvantaged students.** Ms. Pena stated, and I agree with helping the students, but what I also would like to see is for the teachers deal with the students daily to be in those presentations, to pick up on something that they might take for granted. Because it's not going to help me to have this excellent speaker come and speak to the students, and then they walk out, he goes away, one day it's over. But we don't have the teachers that remember what they said, so they can turn around and it with the students. So how many instructors, our BISD employees, will be there to listen to this great presentation so it can resonate within them what they need to do to make sure these students make it? Because telling the student today to do something, because we're human, tomorrow we forget. But do we have some kind where the educators can be present with this gentleman to pick up on some of the things, he's going to teach the students so they can take that with them and remind the students in the future of how and what the objectives are for you to make it so you don't fall between the cracks. So are we going to do that with our educators? **Dr. Cantu replied, that certainly makes a lot of sense, Ms. Pena, to invite our teachers to attend, those that wish to attend. However, one of the backup plans that we also have is that anytime we have a speaker, either for parent engagement or homeless youth or any of the programs, one of the things that we look at is we make sure that we share that information with our principals first through a principals meeting or through an email and say, we had this speaker, these are some things that were highlighted. So we always make an effort to keep our administrators informed and follow the protocol, that it starts with the administrator and then it's shared with staff. But we certainly do not have a problem in inviting teachers to attend.** Ms. Pena stated, well, that protocol doesn't answer my question, because nowhere in that protocol did you say that their teachers are being told to go to this presentation so they can pick up on what's going on so they can share it in the future. So my question stands. The protocol, I totally understand it. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, Mr. Medina can you please answer that question? Ms. Pena stated, yeah, can they bring teachers or somebody in and well its not his decision to bring the teachers, its our administration to have the time because you're going to be here during a day of school. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected he raised his hand and I think he had.... Ms. Pena interjected, no no but I'm asking him he's going to be here during a day regular school or is it going to be like on a Saturday or a time off. Mr. Johnathan Media, Representative replied, it is a Saturday. Ms. Pena stated, excellent. Mr. Medina continued, and the way it's specifically the camp that we will be doing for these specific students, it's designed to where we incorporate all of the staff. I believe when we did it in the past, there's staff that are there picking up the kids. They bring them. The way we designed this new camp that we're doing for them, it's actually several of the activities. It's the staff, the students, and us training them all together. So it is actually incorporating both the students the BISD staff as well as the students working on these projects together to give them the confidence to go and learn all the leadership skills that they have, as well as part of the program that we have, the staff as well as the students sign a commitment of working together for them to achieve their academic success. Ms. Pena stated, how many staff members have you had in other school districts when you've done this? Give me a total. Mr. Medina replied,, most school districts, when we've done this in the past, they typically keep a 10 to 1 ratio. So typically,

in an event with 200 students, we have at least 20 staff, but sometimes it's more of a five to one. It really just depends on each school district. Ms. Pena stated, okay, that's excellent. I'm so happy to hear that. Now, if our employees were to do that, would they, because not everybody does volunteer work. Okay, let me put it that way. That's a fact of life. So, is there something we can do to encourage, to make sure that we have somebody there? Because He does an excellent job, and it would be excellent if we can have a staff member or a teacher from that school with those students, like 5 to 1 or 10 to 1. Have we looked at making sure that we can get that done? And I don't know if they would require a stipend, or maybe you can find volunteers. A lot of people love to volunteer. So can we make sure that we look into that? **Dr. Cantu replied, absolutely, ma'am. Yes, we can do that.** Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, well, actually, I just wanted to highlight that Mr. Medina was here in the audience, but you did me the favor of introducing yourself. So but thank you so much for being here. I have I have had the pleasure of sitting through one of one or two of your presentations. and they are always amazing. I am so glad that now we're targeting this specific audience because, you know, everybody has their specific needs, so I don't want to say this one's more needy than the other one, but great job in choosing who to do this presentation. Ms. Clough, good job. Mr. Medina stated, I did bring a gift of a new book that was recently released for mental health for the students. So I got one for all the board members and I'll drop one off for everyone else that's here as well. Ms. Pena stated, excellent, thank you. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland stated, yes, in keeping with this idea of compensation for the teachers, my initial question was going to be on the logistics of this whether it was weekday, during the day, or weekend, or whatever. So in keeping with that, is there provision in your categorical funds to provide for a stipend for the teachers that attend? Okay, so they will be provided with a stipend? **Ms. Diana Clough, Director stated, yes, so we do have funding with our 206, with our McKinney-Vento grant. We also received 162, our state compensatory, and we also received 211, so our Title I funding. So we do have monies to be able to compensate our teachers and staff that attend.** Ms. Grantland stated, so my follow-up is, have you planned on doing so in this particular project? **Ms. Clough stated, so we've had staff in the past that assist us like to supervise and to make sure we have the ratio that when we're meeting with kids, but specifically for this training no, ma'am, but it's something we can work on because it's not until April if y'all approve.** Ms. Grantland stated, well, I'd appreciate that follow-up on your part because if these teachers that are attending actually work with the students in the school setting I'm assuming that they do, then I think it's worthwhile to put your money where your mouth is. It's important. The days of total volunteerism are gone. We need to understand that. And time is important to everyone. But I do appreciate it. I think this is a wonderful program. And I think you're doing a great job. Thank you for being involved. Ms. Pena stated, yes, I have a follow-up. I think that's excellent. And you do a great job, by the way. I've seen everything you do. And if we would be a little more specific and do a five-to-one. Instead of 10 to 1, because it makes it a lot easier, you get more people. And the more people that can hear this encouraging words and resonate with their self and their spirit and go out there and maybe talk to kids that didn't make it to this presentation, it would be a big difference. So if you could really incorporate that, do a 5 to 1 and do a stipend, because we do need as much help to look at these children as possible. Because the only mandate you have as a human being, and I was raised with this, take care of the children. They are your future, they are tomorrow, and everything that happens on this planet with the children goes back to what you did as an adult to open the doors and make sure that children

succeed, that child succeeded. So thank you, and I really appreciate we looked at five to one instead of ten to one. Thank you. And thank you, sir, for coming and presenting to us. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I also just wanted to thank you. Thank you for being innovative. Thank you for making sure that this population is always taken care of and for making sure to go above and beyond. I love this book on mental health. I know that's something very important to us here on the Board. And Dr. Cantu, I know when you say categorical funds 162, we know that this means that this money is specifically allotted for this population. So we're good on that. So thank you all very much.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval for Coaching Excellence in Organization, of Edinburg, Texas to provide consulting services for students in the Youth Connection Project & Migrant Education Program for the 2025-2026 school year. Categorical Funds: Fund 289 \$9,998.00.* (7-0-0)

Amendment: X. A. 4 Page 1 will be replaced with Page 1a.

5. Discussion and possible action of adopting Resolution #026/25-26 regarding a period for prayer and reading of religious texts under Senate Bill 11.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I motion to approve the resolution as written in the backup. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, second. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, the way the resolution is written and the line that really caught my attention that I think we need to be more specific in today's world, because today's world, every word has a meaning. People don't know what they don't know, and people go by words literally, and their interpretation makes it difficult sometimes to do what is right. But what it says here, now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Brownsville Independent School District will not adopt a policy requiring every campus of the district to provide students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading of religious texts on each school day. Here is the \$100 interpretation. Employees with an update will not allow in employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer That doesn't say not having a class that doesn't say not having an elective, it says no opportunity for a period of prayer. My concern is they pray before school. They pray after school and some children get together and go to the cafeteria as a group and they pray during their lunch and they talk about stuff like that with lunch. When we put in here that students and employees will not be allowed to have an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading a religious text on each school day, then I am fearing that we'll have some administrators or some teachers interpret that. They walk into the cafeteria, and children are there doing scripture, reading, or praying. No, no, no, no, no, no. The board said we can't do that. And yes, it's the board, because it says that the board of trustees, not the government, not anyone else, just the board of trustees. This is too vague. It's too dangerous where you're going to tie the hands of the people, because everything is in the interpretation of the mind that is reading it. So I have a concern with the way you wrote it, because it really pretty much says, during the school day, prayer and your thoughts out. And that's not what you mean. Am I correct, Dr. Chavez? **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, let me first say that I'm very happy that I'm always wearing my religious pin. And in addition to that, I'll tell you while**

I'm not the individual that would consider myself the most religious, I do pray on a daily basis. And I say that because, you know, certainly as you think of us as educators, as you think of our students, I'm sure that we have a number of them that pray daily, even when they're in our schools. So I wanted to begin with that. I'm going to go ahead and turn it over here to our folks then to, you know, specifically address the praying that can be done and how the wording here really relates to, you know, the situation and how it can be helpful to our students for them to continue praying the way I'm describing, so. Ms. Pena interjected, and if I can real quick before they turn in that. Because I looked that up, and I've been asking around. And let me read this. While religion refers broadly to an organization, system of faith, worship, and beliefs, Christianity is distinguished by the focus on a person's relationship with God through Jesus Christ, rather than rituals and work-based merit. So it's a difference. And I've been brought up with, there's a difference. between being religious and being Christian. Let me give you an example. Mexican birthday parties, we have pinatas. You know, you go to a society, an Anglo society, I grew up when I was in Illinois, and they didn't know what a piñata was. It was still a party. So the rituals is a way that you practice and you honor someone. Doesn't make it against the rules, it just makes it different. That's what religion is. Rituals, the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, lighting of a candle, those are rituals. The Christianity is a praying. So my concern is, what are we going to do to allow the children during their lunchtime, if they can do that, in the cafeteria, because that's on school grounds, before school, outside by the flagpole, or after school, right before they go into football practice? That's what I want answered. Can we make sure that we assure they have that freedom? Or the way that the resolution is written, it says nowhere on school grounds we can do that. **Dr. Chavez stated, if we can have our attorneys, you know, speak to that and respond to, again, the questions that are coming up. Mr. Miguel Salinas, Staff Attorney stated, Ms. Pena, Senate Bill 11, basically entails designating a period of prayer every single day. Let me tell you what we do at the district. First of all, we do not forbid prayer. We have Bible study classes that are chartered. We have had Fellowship of Christian Athletes in the past. I don't think we have any active chapters right now. And we have never forbidden prayer. And as someone famously said, as long as we have tests, we will always have prayer in school. So the intent of Senate Bill 11 is simply to designate a period and tell us that we should have a designated period of prayer. There's a lot of concerns legally. that we discussed, you know, my group, Council of School Attorneys. The state recognizes that this may be unconstitutional and part of Senate Bill 11 requires that a student sign a waiver that they will not sue the state for engaging in this in this designated period of prayer. So the state's already concerned about violation of the Establishment Clause. The state constitution is even more expansive than the United States Constitution. The other concerns we have are the operational burdens. The prayer must not be, well, as I said, we must get a waiver for everyone that participates. How are we going to enforce that? Secondly, the prayer and reading must not be done in the physical presence of someone who did not sign a waiver. How are we going to police that? The prayer and religion reading may only be observed in segregated areas. We already do that with our Bible studies. We provide classrooms or different areas where these clubs can meet. So they meet. on their own. It's not the school imposing a designated period of prayer. Most of the school districts in Texas, we have until March to vote, but most of the school districts that have voted have voted against or not having a designated period for all the reasons that I've stated. I don't think it's really a good idea for the state of Texas to be telling us when and where and how and why we should pray. I think that's**

an individual choice for each family. But more importantly, the operational concerns My concern is the state of Texas, if we violate one of the premises of Senate Bill 11, what are the consequences? Is the state going to come and investigate us? What are the sanctions, the penalties? We're still waiting for regulations from TEA and the Texas Attorney General. I think it's a trap for the wary. There's no reason to impose something that we're doing voluntarily. And for those reasons, we wrote the resolution not to adopt the designated period of prayer consistent with Senate Bill 11. Ms. Pena stated, okay, and so here's my concern because the designated period, you didn't put that in there. Is there a possibility to add and amend this resolution? This does not include prayer before school starts, I'll buy the flagpole because that's (inaudible). This does not include prayer during the free lunch time at the campus chair with the students. This does not include after school prayer. We're in 2026. You know how different it is when you and I were in school. We're in shock at what things are happening. But it's because we allowed it. The bad things happen when the good people be quiet, let it go, don't do nothing. And then when it falls apart, what do we do? We were the problem because we didn't stand up. My only concern is I want to make sure that it's clear in black and white they can pray before school starts outside by the flagpole. They can pray after school right before they go to football practice. They can get together at lunch and decide to as a group to pray the way you're speaking if I'm sitting there and I'm an atheist and you're allowed to be an atheist and you're like I don't look. I can see the Bible. No, that's against me. You need to get them out of here. No, no, no, no. We're infringing and the better succeeding. Well, the good is being squashed. It's happening all over the world. My concern is, can we do something to make sure that we assure students they can do what they've been doing before school, they can do what they've been doing after school, they can do what they've been doing with their Christian clubs or Bible clubs, whatever they call it, and they can do it at lunchtime while in the cafeteria eating and discussing this and telling each other their problems and praying over their problems because it makes them feel better. Our anxiety today for children is through the roof because they don't know who to talk to, when to talk to, and why to talk to them because they're scared, because of things like this. So, what can we do to make sure that when it says clearly to participate in a period of prayer and reading a religious text on each school day? Well, the lunch hour is during the school day. So, how can we put that to protect that and continue to allow it? Because if you have someone who's a principal, it says I can't. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, how can we do that? *Mr. Ben Castillo, Board Attorney stated, so, Trustee Pena, I understand what you're saying. And yes, we could definitely put that disclaimer that this does not apply to prayer that is not subject to Senate Bill 11. We could definitely do that. Or what's meant by Senate Bill 11, so we could clear that up. I get what you're saying, that if it's read literally, it could be no prayer at all. And so I totally understand that. And I'm going to try not to complicate this item as well. What the law requires right now is not necessarily a resolution. It's really just a vote whether we're opting in or opting out. So there's a concern on having a resolution out there and the board, which most boards are opting out, not because they're against prayer, but just because, you know, the administrative burden that it may cause. The board could just vote. with not adopting a resolution but just voting to vote to opt out of Senate Bill 11 and we'll be in compliance with the law if we're concerned about any resolution language being out there.* Ms. Pena stated, so we don't need the resolution then we yes I agree what you're saying we can opt out because there it doesn't specify about your lunch hour before school and after school during football practice but this right here the way we wrote it it's very dangerous sir. *Mr. Salinas stated, so what the intent was that*

we're opting out of Senate Bill 11, we're not adopting it. Ms. Pena stated, I know what the intent is. But what you see in black and white is apple and orange. I've been to law school. And let me tell you, it's an interpretation of the person who's looking at it. I want to make sure we cover everything, and I like what Mr. Ben said. Ms. Gonzalez stated, can I amend my motion? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, yes and I know that Ms. Grantland also wanted to say something. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I don't know if this would help whatever your is your concept but I have to preface this by saying it is no secret that everyone knows I teach a Bible study and I sing with a choir at Central Christian Church. I am a Christian from top of my head to the bottom of my feet. Having said that I do believe that God gave me a modicum of wisdom to know that opting into a plan of designating time in the classroom in the school day for such a thing as this, although on the surface it looks like a good thing, could be used to the detriment of a school district. I also recognize the fact that our students are so in need of some kind of guidance. I mean, we've seen suicides. We've seen all kinds of things going on. So there is definitely a need for some kind of guidance for our students. But there are all kinds of students. And so my idea would be we opt out, but in our student activities book or whatever, just the way we do with Fellowship of Christian Athletes and all other clubs, why couldn't we allow a prayer club to form at the request of either the sponsor who wants to sponsor it or the students who would like one, you know, and that they could do that and then with a stipulation that our campus administration would promote that with as much enthusiasm as they promote the cheer club and the fellowship of Christian athletes and everything else the same way and then let the students do that if they want. It would be before school, it would be after school, it could be during their lunchtime if they're through eating lunch and want to go meet for a few minutes somewhere. It would be with a sponsor, someone who's guiding that in a very generic way because you're not proselytizing, we can't do that. But we can offer a spiritual support to students who really, really need it. And so why couldn't we offer that as an alternative in our school district knowing that in our community, we are usually apt to support something like that. I know I've seen fellowship of Christian athlete groups operate and I marvel at how they support one another and the good things that come out of it. But I also know that for us to opt into this is not the right thing to do. For us to totally opt out is not the right thing to do. in my opinion. ***Mr. Salinas stated, yes, ma'am. And I started too late, but I did run into some of the high school principals. Most of them have Bible studies. The issue is always sponsors, things of that nature. That's why Fellowship of Christian Athletes is not on all the campuses like it used to be. But we have that.*** Ms. Grantland stated, but what would keep us, forgive me for interrupting you, what would keep us from promoting something of that nature? Nothing. And I think it would be wise for us to do that. I think our community would like that. ***Mr. Salinas stated, I know individually the campuses do promote that when they have the group but surely we can, you know, we'll look at that certainly. But our recommendation is that we opt out of Senate Bill just because it imposes some burdens that I don't think we're ready to take on.*** Ms. Gonzalez stated, I did want to amend my motion. but I just did want to say for me personally, I do respect and I do believe in the separation of church and state. Let's remember that when we talk about religion, we're not only talking about my religion, but there's so many religions out there. So we have to be respectful of absolutely everybody. So again, I am super respectful of the separation of church and state. I appreciate that as a person, a parent who has children studying in the district right now. I think if I would want them to have a religious education, I have the choice to pull them out. and put them in a private school where they can get their religious education. That is a choice of a parent.

That is a choice that I wasn't so happy that the governor took some money away from public schools and gave them because now we have vouchers for those people. But that's a story for another day as well. I will amend my motion to opt out of Senate Bill 11. Ms. Pena stated, question about that. Ms. Lopez stated, I have Ms. Grantland first. Ms. Grantland stated, I think that we need to be careful not to confuse religion with prayer, prayer time. Ms. Pena stated, correct. Ms. Grantland continued, we're not going to be teaching religion to students. We're not going to be teaching them the dogma of a church. We're not going to be teaching, uh, you know, even, even biblical portions where it's a prayer club. And so kids can come together and say, you know, we're having the test coming up. Okay, let's, let's pray about that and, and just do it as a, as a general thing because you're right. You know, everybody has a right to pick and choose their own faith. And I think that's, that's the beauty of, of, what we have in our country. But I also believe that by offering this, we're doing something that needs to be done. It's desperately needed. But we're also allowing those who don't want it not to go. You don't have to go if you don't want to be in a prayer club. And that's as simple as that. But I would like to amend the amendment if I may. Could I do that? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have to vote on this right. Ms. Pena stated, unless Jessica would agree to do it the way that. Ms. Grantland stated, the only thing that I wanted to say was to opt out with a stipulation that we begin the process for allowing prayer clubs at all of our campuses. And then with the stipulations of how they get formed and things like that. But it's up to you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, ultimately, right now, legal counsel, please guide me. We have a motion and we have an amendment. We vote on this motion, is that correct? And then we discuss, because I want to make sure we do this correctly. *Mr. Castillo stated, so my understanding is the original motion is being amended by the person who made the motion to opt out of Senate Bill 11, and not because we're against prayer in school, but just opting out of prayer with respect to the mechanism of Senate Bill 11. And then there's been discussion about prayer clubs and I don't think the administration has objected to that and so if the administration is okay with moving forward with that the board can move forward with the motion on the table or if the board so feels you could vote down that one and make that that other motion after with that stipulation but it seems to me that the administration is going to move forward with that based on the discussion.* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, and it seems and based off of what you said we already have prayer clubs and we already have Bible study. So, that is already part of our schools and campuses. So, for this specific vote, Senate Bill 11, we have that, we can vote on that and then if not and if Ms. Grantland still wants to add your part of the motion, we can do that. *Mr. Castillo stated, yes.* Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, may I add something real quick? Just real quick. we do have the first amendment, am I correct? *Mr. Castillo stated, yes, sir.* Mr. Elizondo stated, so what's the issue there? *Mr. Castillo stated, with respect to what, sir?* Mr. Elizondo stated, to all this. I mean, whether we amend it, we don't amend it, whether we approve it, don't approve it, it all falls back on the First Amendment. We have... *Mr. Castillo stated yes, sir, so, this new statute just requires us to make...* Mr. Elizondo interjected, I understand, but the amendment's already been done. We just continue to change it. It's not going to change much of anything other than we're going to be in or out. Simple as that. *Mr. Castillo stated, yes, sir.* Mr. Elizondo continued, We're going to change our right to worship whoever we want to worship, when we want to worship them. *Mr. Castillo stated, that is correct.* Mr. Elizondo stated, yes, sir. Thank you.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo stepped out at 7:45 p.m.

Ms. Grantland stated, so just a quick question, does that clause that Ms. Pena brought up, that's a very good point that she brought up. Ms. Pena stated, but let me finish real quick. Ms. Grantland stated, so does that clause stand? Ms. Pena stated, no, because if we're going to just opt out, that was my thing, that we don't need a resolution. *Mr. Castillo stated, no.* Ms. Pena stated, so we don't need a, the resolution is gone and out because it's the way it's written, it's too confusing. And by the way, the freedom, you know, the separation of state and church or religion meant that you cannot force people to do one thing or the other. That's the only thing it meant. It never said, get your Christian beliefs and kick them out the door. That's not what it meant. It meant we cannot force anything down your throat. You're going to choose what you're going to do, and we need to respect it. That's all that meant. But now, it's gone so far with the left wing, right wing, I don't even know what wings they are anymore, where they turn around and interpret it in a very malice way to confuse people. So my thing is, and my question to you is, at this point in time, The amendment that Ms. Jessica made is just to opt out of that Senate bill. That's it. And this resolution has no part in it. It will be taken off the table. Am I correct? *Mr. Castillo stated, yes, ma'am, that's it.* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, okay we have a first and a second. Ms. Grantland stated, I would just like to add that my proposal for these prayer clubs stands. I would like to see that come to fruition. And if there's anything I need to do to help that happen, I'll be happy to do that.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo returned at 7:47 p.m.

Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you. We're voting, right? Oh, we need Mr. Elizondo. Ms. Pena stated, and at this point in time, real quick, Ms. Pat, because there's too many unanswered questions, I'm just going to abstain because it's not clear what they want us to do. But I agree with what Jessica said. We'll opt out of it. But there's too many questions on how it's being presented by the Senate. Motion passes, six yes, one abstention. Next item.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez to recommend approval opting out of Senate Bill 11.

The following vote was recorded

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

Nay:

Abstain: Ms. Pena

Motion Carried: 6-0-1

6. Recommend approval for Region One Education Service Center of Edinburg, Texas, to provide professional development contracted services to BISD Appraisers. Categorical Fund: 167 - Teacher Incentive Allotment \$74,200.00. **(Consent Agenda)**
7. Recommend approval for Region One Education Service Center of Edinburg, Texas, to provide professional development contracted services on the SLO Redesign for BISD teachers and administrators. Categorical Fund: 167 – Teacher Incentive Allotment \$280,350.00. **(Consent Agenda)**
8. Recommend approval to reschedule the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, March 3, 2026

to Wednesday, March 4, 2026. **(Consent Agenda)**

9. Recommend approval of Change Order # 001 to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Sigma HN Engineers, LLC for the CSP #23-153A HVAC Improvements - Sharp Elementary. The amount of \$16,087.00 represents unused funds in the Contingency Allowance Fund 197. (credit back to the District). **(Consent Agenda)**
10. Recommend approval of Change Order # 001 to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Sigma HN Engineers, LLC for the CSP #23-153B HVAC Improvements - Martin Elementary. The amount of \$16,339.00 represents unused funds in the Contingency Allowance Fund 197. (credit back to the District). **(Consent Agenda)**
11. Recommend approval to Change Order #004 to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Scoggins Construction., Inc., for the Food and Nutrition Services New Freezer/Cooler foundation modification and electrical upgrades. The amount of an increase of \$14,400.00. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Second. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, yes I have a few questions. When did this project first begin? Because I know it's been a while, but when was the initial project date? **Mr. Alonso Guerrero, Director of Health/Operations stated, good evening, it was about three years ago when it started.** Ms. Garza stated, and what's the reason for the increase? Because I'm just curious, because it is \$14,400. **Mr. Guerrero replied, yes, so during one of the routine inspections by our architect, Mr. Hinojosa, he noticed that the dock leverage at the Freezer were not included in the initial drawings So these are needed to adjust the level of the trucks when they're backing up into the freezer to unload their items.** Ms. Garza stated, are you talking about the initial drawings? **Mr. Guerrero replied, yes ma'am.** Ms. Garza stated, okay, can you give me the actual initiate? Okay, so the project began, you said, three years ago. When did the project officially begin? **Mr. Manuel Hinojosa, Construction Manager stated, well, it's two years ago, when I say three years, it went out for bid one time, and it was a shelf for a while, and then it went out for bid again. But the same documents were presented. The contractor currently has a couple of years on it right now.** Ms. Garza stated, okay, but, okay, I'm not in construction, but, you know, it's kind of when we're building something, you know, we don't forget to include, like, the restroom or the kitchen. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, and let me explain that a little bit, let me give you a description of what we're talking about. The changes for a, there's three lifts, there's three docks or where the overhead doors and we make the deliveries that you load. There is a need to have a lift. Now we were not aware that there was going to be a lift there. And the reason why there's a lift, and I'm talking about a lift with hydraulics, the reason there's a lift because we found out that the FNS has three levels of trucks. I'm in Warehouse. I don't have a lift. We have a manual, but there's no hydraulic lift. Maintenance doesn't have it. But because of the use of the way they operate, which we're not aware how they operated, the lift wasn't put on there. So when we were reviewing the drawings, this (inaudible) to pour this last section, we had to review it with the staff of FNS. And that's when they said, well, we're going to have a lift. They says, well, why didn't you say we didn't have a lift? I said, I thought it was on the drawings. Anyway, at that moment, before they poured, because you have to do a three-foot drop, little section, and you put an apparatus there, and you make your electrical connection. And that's adjust to the height of the truck that only**

FNS delivers and loads with that amount. So actually, if we hadn't done that, you would have to cut the concrete to do it. Now, you can really operate without any lift, but it's not practical. For what they want to do, the best thing to do is have that. And so the idea of designing that truck that section to fit an apparatus goes in there. And the apparatus has a hydraulic that picks it up to those levels. So we needed to set the foundation. But since it has a hydraulic, you need an electrical connection. So that also had to be installed. And that's why it came out. But we're just not aware. We didn't know the operations of that FNS to really include in the beginning. Because even Maintenance doesn't have lifts. We have a manual lift, but not that. So all the drawings never showed lifts on warehouses. Ms. Garza stated, thank you, Mr. Hinojosa. And maybe a recommendation for future projects is maybe when the designs are going out, maybe that there's some collaboration between the department that has the project with yourself. And maybe by that point, we should already have the construction company that will be working on this project so that everyone's on the same page to avoid having to bring something like this back to the Board with an increased payment. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, yes, ma'am.** Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland stated, thank you, Madam President. Was there not a physical inspection done at the time of early planning? I'm having trouble reconciling the fact that that was such a major thing that went totally unnoticed by anyone on either side of this project? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, we first start we started this project actually five years ago or even more. FNS it was brought to my attention so we sat down actually we the first two years we met once a week and planned on this project and made reference to the drawings of what they had before. Actually, they didn't have lifts on the other drawing. They actually had to cut them out later. But all the details were discussed and everything. But like I mentioned, we're not in the operations. We depend on the staff from FNS to tell us what they need. And it was not mentioned until we were doing a review. We have a Project Manager with an Inspector on the project, and I, as the architect, review things, but I was not aware. As a matter of fact, I'm the one that really caught the fact that if we needed something like that. Actually, right now, I really think we need a lift at the, you know, propose that we put a lift at the Warehouse building at Fixed Assets. But yeah, it just didn't, it wasn't brought to our attention.** Ms. Grantland stated, well, that's a mighty expensive mistake. And I think it probably would be wise on our administration's part to bring it to everyone's attention so that it's not done again. Because to me, that was a flagrant mistake. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, and this is a two-phase part. What we're talking about right now is the actual concrete forming and preparations to put the apparatus, an apparatus that goes in there. And that apparatus, we have to come back for the apparatus.** Ms. Grantland stated, at what point did you find out that this was a problem? Just now? **Mr. Hinojosa stated, no, actually in December I was looking, when they were forming the slab, I went and I asked, I consulted with Mark Mullendore, and I came and he says, and he thought that there was, he thought based on the drawings, it was going to be something like that. And he says, well, aren't we going to need a lift here? And he says, yes, we will. And at that point in December, because of that, I made preparations to change the drawings, look for a manufacturer or person that made these, consulted with them, got the electrical and the structural together, so we would have something put together very quickly before they poured. Because if you didn't put this then, you would have to cut it out of the slab, and it would be a little bit more costly.** Ms. Grantland stated, so this was kind of four years after the project got started and off the ground. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, yes ma'am.** Ms. Grantland stated, not good. Ms. Jessica

Gonzalez, Board Member stated, thank you, I just wanted to touch something you mentioned. And you don't have to answer this now, but maybe Dr. Chavez, if we could get it in writing. I know Mr. Hinojosa right now mentioned the item was shelved. I'm curious if we can get a detailed explanation on why this project was shelved. how long it was shelved and why specifically it was shelved because I would hate that us as a board are approving items, are approving the monies for it and the project's not getting done. So if we can get that information back to us and then just again emphasize how important it is for our staff, our vendors, our consultants, whatever they are, everybody to work together because I'm really worried, God forbid, here I am mentioning God Ms. Pena, God forbid, that, yes, I'm sure he's okay with it. Again, God forbid this FNS freezer ends up being another Resaca. And we cannot let that happen. We absolutely cannot. So that's all I needed to say. Thank you. Ms. Pena stated, question? Yes, I noticed also, Mr. Hinojosa and Dr. Chavez, that the original contract was for \$3,360,000. Then in December, when you notice this has to be increased, it's increased by \$14,400. So now the bill for this is \$3,500,283. And my concern and my question is prices have gone up drastically in the last year or maybe. They keep going up. Every time we blink, it goes up. So because this was an oversight, we're paying a lot more if it had been done right the first time. So what is going on, that this is not the first time something like this happens, and who is in charge of making sure that we look at the projects and see what it costs, because you need the expertise. And I know that we have some electricians that work for BISD, not electricians, but I know because I come from a family of master electricians and construction. So I know they exist. My concern is, how are we going to guarantee that something like this doesn't happen again? Because the prices of today are way higher than the prices of 2023, 2024. It's amazing how they've gone up. So how do we guarantee that something like this doesn't come back? And if they know this, but they kind of kept a little bit quiet, and we'll bring it up later. And by the time you bring it up later, we're going to have to charge them more. How do we guarantee this doesn't happen again, Dr. Chavez? **Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, well, I think one of the major things that we've got to take a look at is to make sure that, yes, we have everyone involved, not only from the architectural standpoint, but the construction standpoint, our maintenance folks, our, you know, wherever the facility's being built, here we're talking food service, food service is involved, and that we do really good research up front before we get going with it. So, and for those meetings to continue on every quarter or every month, if necessary, and move forward with that kind of plan.** Ms. Pena stated, and if you could maybe mandate that the person conducting these meetings to do these projects list the people that are in the meeting and are being told and everything, because at the end of the day, no one wants to be responsible for it. But yet the money has to get paid because we have to do the best that we can to make sure everything's right so it doesn't come back and haunt us and hurt our students or anybody in facilities that were built incorrectly. So can we do that, make sure that they turn in a list of everyone in the meeting, their qualifications and the criteria that was mandated for them to know before they became part of this project? **Dr. Chavez stated, yes, ma'am, we'll provide you all the board some information about that.** Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I have a question real quick. Ms. Daniella Lopez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo continued, yeah, just real quick. You said that this is going to cover just the structural of the lift and then do, are you going to come back for the actual lift itself? **Mr. Hinojosa replied, the lift, yes, the lift. The lift needs to be connected to the electrical part.** Mr. Elizondo stated, and what's the lift going to cost us? Do we know that? **Mr. Hinojosa stated, there's three lifts, okay? So there's**

three docks. Each one has a lift. I checked into the lifts and they were in a, it was about \$40,000 for all three. Mr. Elizondo stated, so it's an additional \$40,000 for the lifts. So we're not even done with this project yet. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, the actual, it's an apparatus.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I'm well aware of what they are. That's why I was asking because that's not on this here. So we're going to have to come back for an additional purchase. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, we don't have a quote yet from the contractor on that.** Mr. Elizondo stated, right, but that wasn't included in the initial setup, construction, design. architect, so that we can have a whole. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, there was no lift in the initial design. Not all warehouses have lifts.** Mr. Elizondo stated, right. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, the problem we have right now is that we were not aware and it wasn't brought to our attention.** Mr. Elizondo stated, correct, because that's what I'm trying to say. Usually, if you're going to have a place where you're going to dock, it's a dock. There's no lift. It's a dock. You back into the dock and you unload, whether it be by manual. **Mr. Hinojosa interjected, 18-wheeler dock.** Mr. Elizondo continued, manual lift. **Mr. Hinojosa stated, all warehouses are like that right now.** Mr. Elizondo stated, 100%. Why was it this one thought of like that at the beginning? **Mr. Hinojosa stated, because the way the FNS operates with the different sized trucks.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I agree, but then you have an 18-wheeler lift, then a 5-ton lift, 2.5 ton lift. **Mr. Hinojosa interjected, it adjusts to every, it drops.** Mr. Elizondo stated in this case, they made them all the same, not thinking that we have different vehicles that transport material at FNS? **Mr. Hinojosa stated, yes.** Mr. Elizondo stated, did we not know that from the beginning? **Mr. Hinojosa stated, we did not know that. I did not know that. Mr. Hinojosa stated, thank you.** Ms. Pena stated, okay, follow up, Daniella? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I think we, it's been very clear on what the Board feels about this mistake. So I think we have some solutions on what we want to see in the future. Thank you, Mr. Hinojosa. I think we have a first and a second so we can move on because I think that it's very clear on what we want to speak. Ms. Pena stated, may I make my comment or not? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena, please finish up. Ms. Pena continued, yes and real quick and make sure sir and whoever is going to be in charge Dr. Chavez that they think for the future because the prices I go back again the prices, my let me give you an example my son bought his house for 120,000 from 130,000 build it you know what they appraised it now 430,000. Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, Ms. Pena, lets stick to the.... Ms. Pena continued, my thing is that everything is changing and changing and changing can we make sure.... Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, I know you stated that before so I'm trying to move this along. Ms. Pena continued, so I want to stress it because no one seems to be listening. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Ms. Pena stated, thank you, Mr. Hinojosa. And like nothing personal I can do is just, you know, the people behind you or with you have to support you and look out for you.

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to Change Order #004 to amend the Owner/Contractor Agreement with Scoggins Construction., Inc., for the Food and Nutrition Services New Freezer/Cooler foundation modification and electrical upgrades. The amount of an increase of \$14,400.00. (7-0-0)

12. Recommend approval to authorize Administration to accept the Change Order #005 from Scoggins Construction Company, Inc. of Harlingen, Texas CSP# 22-147 Food and Nutrition Services Freezer/Cooler Facility, project was to be Substantially Completed by

December 24, 2025, requesting to extend the Substantial Completion date to June 02, 2026.
(Consent Agenda)

13. Recommend approval to authorize the Superintendent to submit applications for the District attendance waiver(s) due to inclement weather, health, safety-related, or other qualifying issues to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as needed for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years. **(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend the approval of payments for construction services and/or engineering services throughout the District in the total amount of \$694,251.25. **(Consent Agenda)**

C. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments:

1. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #017 in the amount of \$10,000.00 for Fund 166 – State Special Education. (Additional Funding) **(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend approval of the Memorandum of Understanding among the Rio Grande Valley Institutions of Higher Education, Region One Education Service Center, and all Brownsville Independent School District Early College High Schools. Schools offering the HB5 College Prep courses are required to ensure teachers receive the required training at the cost of \$990.00 per participant at Region One. * **(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend awarding RFP #26-014 Paper Multipurpose and Color; Printing Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026, through February 03, 2027. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
2. Recommend awarding RFP #26-015 Career and Technical Education Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026, through February 03, 2027. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
3. Recommend awarding RFP #26-048 Employee Uniforms District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026, through February 03, 2027. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
4. Recommend awarding RFP #26-060 Building Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026 thru February 03, 2027, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. **(Consent Agenda)**
5. Recommend awarding RFP #26-080 Glazing Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors and cast lots for items #35 and #39 of said proposal. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026 thru February 03, 2027, with the option to renew

up to two (2) additional one (1) terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend awarding RFP #26-080 Glazing Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors and cast lots for items #35-Tonzalez Glass and #39 – Gonzalez Glass of said proposal. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026 thru February 03, 2027, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) term if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. (7-0-0)

6. Recommend awarding RFP #26-086 HVAC, Chiller, Ice Maker and Other Related Maintenance Services, Repairs and Installation of Equipment District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026 thru February 03, 2027, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. **(Consent Agenda)**
7. Recommend awarding RFP #26-089 Door Repair/Replacement District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026 thru February 03, 2027, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. **(Consent Agenda)**
8. Recommend awarding RFP #26-098 Facilities Maintenance Repair Services District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026 thru February 03, 2027, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. **(Consent Agenda)**
9. Recommend awarding RFP #26-099 Construction Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026 thru February 03, 2027, with the option to renew up to two (2) additional one (1) terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. **(Consent Agenda)**
10. Recommend awarding RFP #26-102 Network Cabling Installation and Repair District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from February 03, 2026, through February 03, 2027. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. **(Consent Agenda)**
11. Recommend awarding CSP #26-141 HANNA ECHS Tennis Courts upgrades, to Hellas Construction Inc. Austin, TX. Funding to be from 197. **(Consent Agenda)**

XI. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. 8:04 p.m.

A. LEVEL III GRIEVANCE(S):

1. Level III Grievance No.015/25-26 on M.M.
2. Level III Grievance No.016/25-26 on J.L.

Amendment:

Item 2 will be deleted from agenda and backup

3. Level III Grievance No.017/25-26 on J.J.

Amendment:

Item 3 will be deleted from agenda and backup

B. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

1. Retirements. (8)
2. Resignations. (1)
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Jesus H. Chavez)
4. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Assistant Principal. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (2)
**Amendment: Page 14a will be added to agenda backup
Page 14b will be added to agenda backup
Page 27a will be added to agenda backup**
5. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Dean of Instruction. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
6. Non-Ch.21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Director, Finance/Business Manager. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
7. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Director, Procurement Services. Subject to receipt of all outstanding. (1)
8. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Network Administrator. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.(1)
9. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Emergency Management Coordinator. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.(1)
10. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Coordinator, Gear Up. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation.(10)
11. Termination of a term contract teacher (G.E.G) for good cause for the 2025-2026 School Year.
12. Discussion and Conduct Superintendent's Formative Evaluation.

C. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION:

1. Consultation with Director of Internal Audit.

D. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION:

1. Staff Attorney:

- a. Cause No. 2021-DCL-06699; Jimmy Haynes vs. Brownsville Independent School District.

2. **Board Attorney:**

- a. Legal Update with Board Counsel/Pending Board Member Request(s).
- b. Discussion with legal counsel on matters related to District Climate Survey.
- c. Discussion with legal counsel on matters related to contract negotiations with Deveraux, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, Forensic Auditors.

E. **BOARD SELF-EVALUATION:**

1. Board Self Evaluation.

F. **BOARD MEMBER REQUEST(S):**

1. Superintendent's contract. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Denise Garza)

XII. **BOARD RECONVENES-Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session. 11:42 p.m.**

A. **LEVEL III GRIEVANCE(S):**

1. Level III Grievance No.015/25-26 on M.M.

Mr. Ben Castillo, Board Attorney stated, yes, Madam Board President, Members of the Board and Dr. Chavez, it is the advice of Board Council to uphold the Level II decision regarding the placement at a campus on the basis that the Board does not have the authority to overturn the Superintendent's Reassignment. However, the board does encourage the employee to apply for open Principal vacancies and further, the Board directs that the documentation minus the internal auditor finding be placed in a separate file to be kept at HR.

Motion made by Neida Ruth Grantland, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez to uphold Level II decision regarding the employee's campus placement, based on the advice of Board Counsel that the Board does not have the authority to overturn the Superintendent's reassignment. Further move that the Board encourage the employee to apply for any open Principal vacancies for which they are qualified. Additionally, move that all documentation related to this matter, with the exception of the internal auditor's finding, be maintained in a separate file to be kept at Human Resources.

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

2. Level III Grievance No.016/25-26 on J.L.

Amendment: Item 2 will be deleted from agenda and backup

3. Level III Grievance No.017/25-26 on J.J.
Amendment: Item 3 will be deleted from agenda and backup

B. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval grouping Personnel Agenda Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

1. Retirements. (8) **(G 7-0-0)**
Deborah Bycznski-Rojas, Gabriela Castaneda, Jaime Castaneda, Maria Garza, Michele E. Lazorko, Jose R. Martinez, Olga Melendez, Luis A. Villarreal
2. Resignations. (1) **(G 7-0-0)** **Rebeca B. Wood**
3. Personnel Update with Superintendent (Dr. Jesus H. Chavez)
4. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Assistant Principal. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (2) **(G 7-0-0)**

Christian Caldarera-Stillman Middle School and Gloria Chavez-Veterans Memorial ECHS

**Amendment: Page 14a will be added to agenda backup
Page 14b will be added to agenda backup
Page 27a will be added to agenda backup**

5. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Dean of Instruction. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **(G 7-0-0)**

Priscilla Alanis – Garden Park Elementary

6. Non-Ch.21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Director, Finance/Business Manager. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **(G 7-0-0)** **Lyzeth Alaffa - Finance**
7. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s)-Director, Procurement Services. Subject to receipt of all outstanding. (1) **Delia Rodriguez (G 7-0-0)**
8. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Network Administrator. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Mark Ortiz – Computer/Technology Services(G 7-0-0)**
9. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Emergency Management Coordinator. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Cindy Paz-Police/Security Services(G 7-0-0)**

10. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Coordinator, Gear Up. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (10) (G 7-0-0)

Vanessa Bermudez – Lucio MS
Victoria Camargo – Oliveira MS
Rebeca Cervantes – Stell MS
Erick Gonzalez – Perkins MS
Ronnica Gutierrez – Garcia MS
Lizzetty Lara – Manzano MS
JoAnn M. Marchan-Briones – Vela MS
Nora Martinez – Besteiro MS
Ciria Nieto – Faulk MS
Rocio Rojas – Stillman MS

11. Termination of a term contract teacher (G.E.G) for good cause for the 2025-2026 School Year. (G 7-0-0)
12. Discussion and Conduct Superintendent's Formative Evaluation. (G 7-0-0)

C. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION:

1. Consultation with Director of Internal Audit.

D. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION:

1. Staff Attorney:

- a. Recommend approval of Cause No. 2021-DCL-06699; Jimmy Haynes vs. Brownsville Independent School District.

Mr. Ben Castillo, Board Counsel stated, It's the advice of Madam Board President, members of the board and Dr. Chavez, it's the advice of counsel that the Board approve as discussed in closed session.

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Cause No. 2021-DCL-06699, Jimmy Haynes vs Brownsville, Independent School District, as discussed in Closed Session. (7-0-0)

2. Board Attorney:

- a. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Board Member Requests.
No Action Taken
- b. Discussion and possible action to approve and issue District-wide Climate Survey study.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to authorize legal counsel to take action as discussed in Closed Session. (7-0-0)

- c. Discussion and possible action on matters related to contract approval with Deveraux, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, Forensic Auditors, for forensic audit services.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Minerva Pena, to recommend approval of contract with Deveraux, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, Forensic Auditors for forensic audit services and to include the ESSER I and ESSER II funds as discussed in Executive session.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

E. BOARD SELF-EVALUATION:

1. Board Self Evaluation.

Mr. Ben Castillo, Board Counsel stated, yes, Madam Board President, members of the Board and Dr. Chavez, it's the advice of council that the board authorize legal counsel and Board President to take action as discussed in closed session with respect to this item.

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, and unanimously carried to recommend approval under Board Self-Evaluation that the Board authorize Legal Counsel to take action as discussed in Closed Session. (7-0-0)

F. BOARD MEMBER REQUEST(S):

1. Discussion, consideration and possible action on Superintendent's contract. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Denise Garza) **No Action taken**

XIII. Announcement(s):

Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent stated, February 5th, have the 8th Annual Emergent Bilingual Parents Symposium at 9 a.m. m. at Amigoland Event Center. That day, we also have TMEA Preview Concerts at 6 p. m. at Hanna Buchanan Fine Arts Building. February 7th, we have the District Spelling Bee, 8 a.m., Oliveira Middle School. February 10th, 33rd Annual Principal for a Day, 11:30 a.m. over at the Onyx Event Center. February 11th, the 23rd Annual Education and Career Expo, 9 a.m., TSE ITEC Center. February 13th, we've got Scott Government Day. February 14th, BISD Chess Tournament over at Manzano Middle School, 8 a.m. February 16th, Special Education/504 meeting, 5:30 p.m. BISD Boardroom. February 17th, Special Services Transition Fair, 8:30 TSC ITECH Center. February 19th, Coffee with the Superintendent, 9 a.m. BISD Boardroom. Facilities Committee meeting, 5:30, BISD Boardroom. And we also have Special Called Board meeting, 6:15 p. m. BISD Boardroom. That's all we have for tonight. Thank you.

XIV. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 11:49 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 Regular Board Meeting held on May 5, 2026)