

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON

(Minutes conducted via electronic voting)

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the **5th day of May, 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
Denise Garza	Member
Jessica Gonzalez	Member (via zoom)
Neida Ruth Grantland	Member

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Alda T. Benavides	Interim Superintendent of Schools
Eric Flores	Attorney for the Board

ALSO ABSENT:

None

WHEREUPON, a quorum being present and it appearing before the Board, it is hereby so found that notice of this **Regular Board Meeting** has been duly given in the manner and for the length of time as prescribed by law. The meeting was called to order and declared ready for the transaction of business with the following to wit:

- I. Regular Board Meeting called to order by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President at 5:30 p.m.**
- II. Moment of Silence led by Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent.**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President.**
- IV. Roll Call. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member announced that all Trustees were present.**
- V. Recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, May 5, 2026, with any corrections/deletions.**

Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated the following:

Under Personnel XII. B. 4 will be deleted from agenda and backup.

Handout 1 added to official minutes

Motion made by Neida Ruth Grantland, seconded by Minerva Pena, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, May 5, 2026 with corrections as stated b administration. (7-0-0)

VI. Recommend approving the minutes with any corrections:

- A. Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.
- B. Special Called Board Meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approving the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 and Special Called Board Meeting of Thursday, February 19, 2026. (7-0-0)

VII. Superintendent's Report: * SB1566

A. Conference Presentations:

- 1. Open Public Hearing - Naming of Hanna Early College High School Facilities.
- 2. Naming of Hanna Early College High School Facilities.

Ms. Beatriz Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer stated, good evening, Board President, Ms. Daniela Lopez-Valdez, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Benavides, members of the Board, members of the audience. On March 13, 2026, Hanna Early College High School conducted a facility naming consultation meeting to consider and develop formal recommendations for the naming of three campus facilities. The band hall, the tennis courts, and the new gymnasium. The process involved the formation of separate committees composed of stakeholders, including current staff, former students, and parent representatives. Each committee carefully reviewed the qualifications and legacy of the proposed honorees. Following discussion and presentations, each committee reached a unanimous decision. A final collective vote was then conducted with all committee members present, during which the recommendations for all three facilities were unanimously affirmed. For the band hall, proposed name, Arcadio R. Guajardo Band Hall. For tennis courts, proposed name, Terry Hoover Tennis Courts. New gymnasium, proposed name, Don Denson, Gymnasium.

Public Hearing. Mr. Patrick Hammes stated, good evening, Board President Lopez Valdez, Dr. Benavides, members of the Board. Patrick Hammes speaking for self. I want to thank Board Member Carlos Elizondo for first bringing this recommendation of naming the tennis courts after Terry Hoover about a year to 18 months ago. He brought it up to a Board Meeting, and I thank him for that. Terry Hoover is the epitome of what we want our coaches to be. He has dedicated 51 years to coaching at Homer Hanna Early College High School. He has coached generations of students, including generations of players, and then their children. Terry has maintained the same demeanor, humble, gracious, with a competitive

streak that has led to countless district championships, regional, and successful players and teams at regionals also. In his years as a coach and as a mentor, Terry has developed strong relationships with his players, former players, and their families. It is hard to go out with him to a public place where a former player, player's family, former coaches, and others come to talk to him or just to thank him. Every time I ask Terry how he is doing; his response is always the same. I'm living the dream. He loves tennis, he loves his student-athletes, and he loves Homer Hanna Early College High School. The naming of the courts in his name is an honor, one he has earned, and it is my honor to call him a friend. Thank you.

- 3. Close Public Hearing - Naming of Hanna Early College High School Facilities.**
- 4. Recognition of Police Officer Itsel Salinas Heroic and Bravery Action.**

On April 24, Officer Salinas demonstrated exemplary courage and quick thinking in response to a life-threatening emergency. A 7-year-old first-grade male student began choking in the cafeteria, creating an urgent and critical situation. Officer Salinas immediately responded and performed the Heimlich maneuver, successfully dislodging the obstruction-believed to be a piece of tostada-from the student's airway. Her swift and decisive actions restored the student's ability to breathe and prevented a potentially tragic outcome. Officer Salinas' professionalism, training, and commitment to student safety reflect the highest standards of the department and serve as a commendable example of dedication to duty.
- 5. Recognition of National Police Week.**

National Police Week will take place from May 10-16, 2026 offering a time of honor, remembrance, and peer support for law enforcement officers, survivors, and citizens. This annual event allows people to come together and pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as National Police Week. Today, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from across the world gather in Washington, D.C., to participate in events honoring fallen officers. The Memorial Service began in 1982 as a small gathering of about 120 survivors and law enforcement supporters at Senate Park. Over the decades, it has evolved into a major event, attracting thousands of survivors and officers to the nation's capital each year. National Police Week welcomes 25,000 to 40,000 attendees from law enforcement agencies across the United States and around the world. It provides a unique opportunity to connect with others in the field. In the spirit of camaraderie, the Fraternal Order of Police DC Lodge #1 hosts receptions each afternoon and evening, open to all law enforcement personnel-an experience unlike any other. Brownsville ISD proudly recognizes our Police and Security Services Department for their dedication and service.
- 6. Recognition of School Lunch Hero Day.**

School Lunch Hero Day is celebrated on the first Friday in May, and it gives us a meaningful opportunity to recognize the incredible dedication of our Child Nutrition team. These men and women play a vital role in student success - making sure every meal meets high nutritional standards while being prepared with real care and compassion. Our School Lunch Heroes do so much more than serve meals. They create welcoming environments, build genuine relationships with students, and contribute to the well-being of our entire

school community. From menu planning and meeting federal and state guidelines to the daily work of preparing and serving food, everything they do reflects commitment, professionalism, and heart. Through our "Hecho Con Amor ... Made with Love" initiative, we celebrate the passion and pride our teams bring every single day. School Lunch Hero Day is simply our chance to say thank you - because the impact they make is real, even when it happens behind the scenes. We are proud to honor our School Lunch Heroes for nourishing minds, supporting growth, and serving our students with excellence.

7. Recognition of National School Nurse's Week and Nurse Day.

Since 1972, National School Nurse Day has been set aside to recognize school nurses. National School Nurse Day was established to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. National School Nurse Day is celebrated on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6th - 12th. Brownsville ISD celebrates and acknowledges the accomplishments of our school nurses and their efforts of meeting the needs of today's students by improving the delivery of healthcare in our schools. In a large district like Brownsville ISO, these professionals do far more than just hand out bandages; they manage chronic conditions, coordinate emergency responses, and provide a stable support system that allows students to focus on learning. Brownsville ISD is very proud to recognize our nurses and staff from our Health Services Department. Our school nurses are truly the unsung heroes of the education system, serving as the first line of defense for student's wellness and safety.

8. Presentation of the D&M Commercial Auto Leasing.

Chief Ana Gaucin, stated, good evening, joining me this evening is Mr. Jerry Haddad from D&M Leasing. Tonight, you will be asked to consider and approve an agreement for the leasing of police vehicles. This fleet modernization proposal serves as a foundation for that request. If approved, our department will transition to a standardized fleet of Dodge Durango patrol vehicles fully equipped with the necessary law enforcement equipment. Our current fleet consists of 59 vehicles, of which 33 are classified as being in declining or poor condition, as reflected in the attached photographs. Our goal is to transition to a fleet leasing program that ensures reliable patrol vehicles, enhances officer safety, and provides predictable budgeting. This slide highlights the sample of the current condition of the 33 vehicles previously mentioned, and I've attached some more on your backup. Our oldest vehicles date back to 2005, with only 11 units, from model 2020 to 2024. Current maintenance costs average 24 cents per mile with the leasing program, we anticipate reducing that cost to approximately \$0.07 per mile, while also minimizing operational downtime and eliminating inconsistencies associated with capital replacement cycles. Now, this here is a visual of what we spent in the past six, seven years. with the current fleet that we have from parts and labor to purchases of nine new vehicles and nine used vehicles for a grand total of 1.3 million dollars. Our proposed leasing model includes an optimal fleet of 50 units at a 72-month cycle with a minimum threshold of 30 units over the same period. This slide outlines the annual cost structure and the number of vehicles scheduled for replacement each year. And again, this will be throughout a 12-year period starting with years one through six, phasing out our current fleet and replacing it with newer leased models. Here you will see a side-by-side comparison of the ownership versus leasing over a six-year period. The analysis reflects an estimated

savings of \$1.3 million while also delivering more predictable costs and newer, safer vehicles. Leasing police vehicles has become an industry best practice. Agencies such as the Brownsville Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, PSJA, ISD have adopted leasing models to maintain newer fleets, reduce repair expenses, and ensure consistent replacement cycles. As previously mentioned, you will soon be asked to approve and authorize the Police Department's first-ever leasing program with D&M Leasing. The company is affiliated with several cooperative purchasing networks, including Byboard, Sourceful, TIPS, and Choice Partners. And now, if time permits, I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me or Mr. Haddad.

Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, so what happens to the present fleet? **Chief Gaucin replied we're going to start phasing it out.** Ms. Grantland stated, as in selling them or just junking them? **Ms. Gaucin stated, well some will be junked because right now as it is we have about seven that are irreparable and then of course it is a fleet management program so they will help us with selling them and converting that bringing that down to the cost.** Ms. Grantland stated, okay, and we did recently purchase some cars, right? So you just now found out about this deep leasing thing We didn't know it at the time that we approved the rest of the money. **Chief Gaucin replied, we've been studying the leasing program, but right now we were in dire need of units, so it was patchwork as we've been doing for the past several years. And so a long-term waiting for this budget cycle and after studying the different options, this is where why now we've come before you with this option.** Ms. Grantland stated, thank you.

Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, oh, yeah, just a question on the on the vendor here, the D&M, was this a competitive bid, or did we go out and get the best price from other leasing companies? **Chief Gaucin replied, there are two, we are fortunate enough to work with our partners, City of Brownsville, which did a lot of research. They utilized D&M Leasing, and they were gracious enough to share their research and the best possible outcomes when dealing with either Enterprise, which is the other one, and D&M Leasing. Now, D&M falls under the cooperative, so therefore, and Ms. Pena can help me out with this one here, there is no need to, am I correct, Ms. Pena? Ms. Rosario Peña, Chief Financial Officer stated, yes, Chief, Mr. Ortiz, they do fall under a cooperative, one of the approved cooperatives that the district uses, therefore, the competitive procurement process is not necessary.** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, but are there any others that fall under the same procurement process, and were these the ones that gave us the best price? **Chief Gaucin replied, these are the ones, like I said, I worked with the City of Brownsville and I picked their brain a lot in coming up with this conclusion here. And between Enterprise and D & M Leasing, they offer a local rep and everything is turnkey service-wise. This is why they've chosen to go with D&M, and they provided some of the better products for us.** Mr. Ortiz stated, yeah, I meant to say co-op just a little while ago, but I just want to make sure that we're getting the best price for dollar. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, and may I address Chief Gaucin? And you said the older ones, you're going to sell them, and the ones that are junk, you're going to sell them too. **Chief Gaucin stated, for scraps.** Ms. Pena stated, no, well, not for scraps, but junkyard, trust me, we have that business. It's up to my family. So everything gets sold because then they turn around and take the valuable parts out and make thousands off of that. So make sure that we get good prices because when you take a vehicle apart and somebody's missing a major part, but that old car still has a functioning part, you can turn around and sell that at a comparable price. So we make sure we're not, when you say we're going to junk them, no; We're going to make sure that they all get sold because even

junk cars get sold for the other parts of their engine and their, the vehicle that can be useful for other cars. So can we make sure we do that? Because we're not going to just give them away. Am I correct? **Chief Gaucin replied, no, correct previously they go out for auction.** Ms. Pena stated, and we're going to do the same thing again. **Chief Gaucin replied, yes.** Ms. Pena stated, thank you. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, just real quick. I'm glad that you were able to think out the box, you know, this is important to be able to get as many brand-new vehicles out to be used with our officers, because they most definitely need it. So I want to thank you and D&M. I'm sure I've heard of you guys before in the city, but they're not just here in the city. They do a lot of work throughout the whole process. U.S. now. They do very, very good work. There's a lot of people that use their services. It is really, really important, like you said, to go and make sure that we get as many vehicles out on the street so that we can provide these officers the ability to go do what they're supposed to be doing. Thank you for that. Thank you, D&M. Thank you for being here. **Chief Gaucin stated, thank you for your support.**

9. Presentation of Senate Bill #546 Relating to Seat Belts on Buses that Transport Children.

Dr. Nellie Cantu, Chief Operations Officer stated, good evening, President Lopez Valdez, Dr. Benavides, distinguished Board Members and our audience who are present or are watching us online. I'd like to invite Mr. Eliud Ornelas to the podium here with me, and we have some good and bad news. The good, the bad news, let's start with the bad news. We have a Senate bill requirement, 546, and it has a very specific mandate that Mr. Ornelas is going to talk about. The good news is that the full requirement and implementation will not go into effect until September of 2029. So we have a little bit of time, but it is, to tell us a little bit more about what this requirement is in this Senate bill is Mr. Eliud Ornelas, our Transportation Director. Mr. Eliud Ornelas, Transportation Director stated, good evening, Madam President, Superintendent, Dr. Benavides, Board Members, and audience. I know that we are eager to see all the slides that I have on this presentation, but I want to be a little bit respectful of your time. I will concentrate only on the most important information and key takeaways rather than going into detail of every single slide. All that information is required by the state, that is why I have to do so many slides and I really apologize for that. Okay what do we have on the Senate Bill 546? It's simple and it's very sweet. By the year 2025, we're going to have to have all the school buses rolling on the state of Texas with a three-point seat belt contact. That's all it is. Simple. By 2029, I'm sorry. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, okay, we missed it. Mr. Ornelas continued, this slide is just a snapshot of the statistics of the transportation. I have to do that because I'm proud of the Transportation Department. And this next one is just the steps that the bill requires for all the school districts to do. How to do it, how to gather the information, how to present it to the Board, and where to send it once we have all the information together. This one is one of the it's a report from the highway investigation and a recommendation from them to the state for all the school buses to have seat belts. And you have the links at the end of your package so you can see them. I know it's very hard to read it right now. And this is a summary of the bill. Simple as that, like Dr. said, September 1st, 2029, all the school buses need to have a three-point seat belt contact. And that's it. What we need to do it, we need to present to the Board all the information, all the pertinent data, what do we have on the school district, if determined if financially we are capable to provide, to retrofit the buses or

buy new buses, and send all the information by May the 30th of 2026. That's what the bill is. But we need to go through the motions, okay? So this slide. We have 225 buses. I need to present to you that of those 225, 102 do not have seat belts. 47 of those only have lap belts. 76 of those comply with the Senate Bill 546. So, 225 minus 76 is 149 buses that we need to retrofit or we need to replace that will have those seat belts. Here are the bids that I received. There are only two companies that can do it because the district only have International and Thomas buses. So, you see the prices there. At the bottom, see the red circles? We need to retrofit 149 buses with a cost of \$7.7 million approximately. The prices that I'm giving you are the bids that I received for the prices of 2026. If we do this in 2028 or 2029, probably it will be a little bit more expensive. But there's a light at the end of the tunnel. They say that it's going to be a grant. Probably we're going to be participating for them, but we need to wait for the state to provide that information for TEA. The other option that we have, which is the one that I like, is to replace the 149 buses for new buses and that will be only 25 million dollars. Ms. M. Pena stated, wishful thinking. That's a great thing. Mr. Ornelas continued, however, factors to consider. There are about 42,000 school buses rolling on the state of Texas. Only two companies can do it because they can provide that recertification. Can you imagine to retrofit 42,000 buses on the state of Texas? Actually 70%, about 30,000. Normally it takes a little bit of time. So, it's one of the things that we need to consider in the industry still seeing, I don't know what the state is going to do. So, what is next? And this is going to finish my presentation. Submit this data to TEA, because that's what they require, and inform that in light of the current situation, the replacement of 149 buses is not financially realistic for our district at this time. But I want to make a note, too, that of those buses that we have, 76 buses were acquired by BISD, including the three-point seat belt contract since 2018. We are buying it and we're going to continue buying it with that requirement and there's other requirements that are coming too with an illuminated school bus sign on the front and on the back. It's going to be nice. Questions? Less than four minutes. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you for that, for the speedy explanation, Mr. Ornelas Ms. Garza. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, thank you, Ms. Lopez Valdez, Mr. Ornelas, this went into effect September 1st of 2025. Mr. Ornelas stated, yes. Ms. Garza stated, correct? Okay. So, the state is giving us how many years to be in compliance? Mr. Ornelas replied, three. Ms. Garza stated, three years, okay. Why is this barely being brought to us right now? Mr. Ornelas replied, because we didn't have the information complete. I have to get the quotes I need to ask. I need to know if the companies needed to re-certify our buses. I cannot send them to anyone. There's no one that can do this job, only those companies. Ms. Garza stated, okay another just a question currently your transportation for special education are they documenting for SHARS for the trip the trips? Mr. Ornelas replied, yes. Ms. Garza stated, okay maybe we can find out what they are generating on the SHARS side are they providing personal care services on the bus as well? Mr. Ornelas replied, yes. Ms. Garza continued, that might be another amount that might be able to help you all. I do know back in 2012 or 2014, when Mr. Rendon was the Director, they were able to purchase X amount of buses with the SHARS funding that they had generated. So that is probably another way we can help out. Mr. Ornelas stated, yes, I'm aware of that. Ms. Garza stated, okay. Mr. Ornelas stated, and we are looking into that with the CFO. Ms. Garza stated, thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, and I know that it's hard because anytime you talk about money, that's what makes it bad. But the safety is not bad news. The safety

is good. The only reason we say that, because we're talking about money. But remember, your life is invaluable. I can get \$10 million, it's not worth what you're worth. You're worth more than that. So I'm very glad that they're doing this, and it's hard, but anything that we ever do to try and keep the safety, every once in a while, a seatbelt will end up hurting you more than helping you, but that's rare. It's like playing the lottery. Not everybody wins, but you want to keep everyone safe. So, any time that we do anything to keep our children safe, that's always going to be good news. The hard news, is that we have to come up with the funds to get all this done and that's what hurts. But remember, your life as a child's life is, you know, very valuable. No money in the world can replace you. So, thank you for keeping this up and we're just praying that we get all the funds and go out for all these grants and keep knocking on doors till we get everything we need to get it done. So, thank you. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yeah, just a comment here. I certainly agree as student safety is, you know, it comes in number one all the time. I'm glad that you said that there's going to be maybe some grants that we might be able to apply for to help us out with the cost. I just keep on going back to our lawmakers. Senate Bill 546, they mandate this and then they don't provide any monies. Is there maybe, in the future before the deadline that they could provide money for what they're mandating? **Mr. Ornelas stated, your guess is as well as mine. All the directors and South Texas because I go to those meetings, we are on the same boat. We don't have the funds. How are they want us to do that in three years? Our district is big. I have 149. I have a district, a friend of mine, he has only three buses and he's struggling with three. I have 149. How are we going to do it? I don't know. I will not recommend and I'm going to tell you, yes, as a professional advice, I will not replace 149 at once, because 15 years from now, you have to replace 149, its very hard.** Mr. Ortiz stated, thank you, sir. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Mr. Ornelas, everyone knows we love an unfunded mandate. But yes, of course, safety of our students is important. And what we saw on the Leg. was that I think they increased the price from \$0.09 in some sense to \$10 per student. So still haven't seen an increase in terms of safety and how they prioritize our kids at the Leg.

10. Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP will report on the Delinquent Ad Valorem Tax Collections for Brownsville Independent School District for the period covering July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

Mr. Hiram, Gutierrez, stated, good evening, Madam President, Dr. Benavides, and honorable members of the board. For the record, my name is Hiram Gutierrez, partner with Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, and Mott, your delinquent tax collection firm. And I'm here to present you with the first six months of fiscal 25-26 delinquent tax collection report. The collection program for Brownsville ISD is designed with working with your taxpayers to resolve their delinquent tax problem. To that end, we've mailed over 5,800 letters of delinquency to delinquent taxpayers. We've upgraded over 1,000 addresses, and our local call center has made over 11,500 contacts with delinquent taxpayers. When the delinquent taxpayer does not respond to our letters or calls, we also conduct field inspections. During this period, we've conducted 104 field inspections. Once we contact the delinquent taxpayer, they're not always able to pay in full, so we do enter into formal payment agreements. And during this period, we've entered into 304 payment agreements involving over \$664,000 in base tax owed to the district. When the letters, the calls, the personal visits don't have the desired effect, we do

enter into litigation. During this period, we have filed 179 suits involving over \$575,000 in base tax owed to the district. Another tool that we have when it's business personal property is tax warrants. During this period, we've conducted five tax warrants involving over \$5,900 in base tax owed to the district. We also represent you in federal court, mostly in bankruptcies. During this period, we filed 34 claims on your behalf involving over \$701,000 in base tax owed to the district. Once we take judgment, we don't immediately go to try to sell the property. We still try to work with your taxpayers, but if they do not respond, we will put the property up for tax sale. During this period, we put five properties up for tax sale, but even after that, we still try to work with the taxpayers. Four of those resulted in payment agreements or were paid in full, bringing over \$29,000 to the district. One other property was struck off. That means that there was no winning bid, so it was struck off to the taxing entities. This pie chart represents the delinquent tax roll as of January of 2026. At that point, the delinquency was at \$6.6 million, and this shows a breakdown of what your delinquent tax roll consists of. 38 % of it, most of it, is in litigation. Another 21 % is in deferral. In other words, the taxpayer has a homestead exemption, so 21 % of that we can't touch. As long as the taxpayer has a deferral, they're protected. This pie chart breaks it down by dollar range. The 25 % there represents most of the accounts, the highest dollar amount of accounts, and blue being accounts that are between \$1,000 and \$2,500. This breakdown shows it by delinquent tax year. As most of the time is the case, the newer the year, the larger the delinquency. This pie chart shows you that 36 % of your delinquency is for the 2024 tax year. Of course, all of these efforts are geared to one goal, and that is to collect your delinquency. taxes. During this six month, we collected \$3,568,000 in base tax and an additional \$879,000 in penalties and interest for a grand total of \$4,448,000. Out of those \$4,448,000, \$980,000 was used to pay refunds. These are people that filed late homesteads or had suits going and they prevailed and therefore they're entitled to a refund. The bar graph shows you a comparison of this fiscal year, the 25-26 fiscal year on the right-hand side. As you can see, collections are at \$4,448,000, compared to the previous year, same period, \$3,802,000. These bar graphs show a comparison for the last five fiscal years. As you can see, delinquent tax collections have been steadily growing in the last five years. And that concludes my report and I'd like to open it up for any questions you may have. Any questions? **(No questions or concerns from Board of Trustees)**

11. Brownsville Independent School District Financial Report for the period ended April 30, 2026.

Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer stated, good evening, Madam President, Ms. Daniela Lopez Valdez, Interim Superintendent Dr. Benavides, members of the Board and audience. Today, I'll walk you through the Board through the district's financial position cumulative as of April 30, 2026. In the General Fund, funds 101 through 199, total revenues received from local, state, and federal sources are approximately at \$366.9 million while expenditures total \$411 million, resulting in a deficit balance of 44.1 million. This deficiency is primarily attributable to the state's funding distribution methodology. As a reminder, state funding is now distributed based on ADA reported at the end of every six weeks. However, during the month of April, the district does not receive any state revenue distribution. While expenditures

such as payroll and operational costs continue to be normal, the absence of state revenue in April creates a significant temporary variance that is expected within the state funding cycle. Additionally, I would like to remind the Board that Fund 101 includes Food and Nutrition services which operates on a reimbursement basis. Expenditures are incurred prior to receiving reimbursement revenue which also contributes to the temporary timing variances within the General Fund. I would also like to clarify that the \$17.9 million in proceeds from the sale of Cummings and Longoria remain separate from the normal operating funds and are designated specifically for the CTE building project. The interest rates for each of these will be discussed during the quarterly investment report presentation. In the Special Revenue funds, funds 206-499, total revenues received to date are approximately \$32.7 million, while expenditures total \$42.4 million, resulting in a deficit of \$9.7 million. These funds continue to operate on a reimbursement basis. Expenditures occur first, and revenue is recognized after reimbursement requests are submitted and processed. At year end, this balance will be recorded as a receivable. In your Debt Service Fund, total revenues are at \$7.8 million, with expenditures of \$12.9 million, resulting in a deficiency balance of \$5.1 million. This continues to reflect the timing of property tax collections relative to debt of service payments. As tax collections continue to be realized, this fund is expected to return to a zero balance at year end. Your self-insurance fund. Total revenues at the end of this month in April were at \$46.3 million with expenditures totaling \$48.2 million, resulting in a deficit balance of approximately \$2 million. Revenue continues to improve due to increased district distribution, employee contributions, and pharmacy rebates. However, claims expenses continue to rise and remain an area we are monitoring closely. In summary, the April balances continue to reflect timing differences associated with state funding distributions, reimbursement-based funds, and tax collections rather than long-term structural issues. Most notable variance this month is within the General Fund due to the absence of state revenue in April, which is part of the state's normal funding schedule. Administration continues to closely monitor all funds and remains committed to maintaining fiscal stability while ensuring resources are aligned to support district operations and student needs. This concludes the financial report presentation. Thank you. (No questions or concerns from Board of Trustees)

12. Brownsville Independent School District Quarterly Investment Report for the period ended March 31, 2026.

Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer stated, Madam President, Ms. Daniella Lopez-Valdez, and Interim Superintendent Dr. Benavides, members of the Board and audience, this is the district's quarterly investment report for the period ending March 31, 2026. As of quarter end, the district held \$4.8 million in cash in bank accounts, which supports day-to-day operational needs, such as payroll, vendor payments, and other short-term obligations. In addition, the district held \$267.8 million in investments across various approved investment instruments, bringing total district investments to approximately \$272.5 million. For the quarter ending March 31, 2026, the district earned \$1.78 million in interest income, with total interest earnings are at \$8.3 million for fiscal year to date. This reflects strong investment performance while maintaining safety and liquidity as our primary objectives. From a liquidity perspective, approximately 59% of the district's portfolio is invested in

highly liquid accounts. Insurance funds are available for daily operations. The remaining portion is invested in long-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 rates on longer-term investments to protect earnings and stabilize returns. As a follow-up regarding the proceeds of the sale of Cummings and Longoria Elementary, I'd like to give you the following updates. As of March 31st, the proceeds from the sale of Cummings Middle School reflect an ending book value of \$16.8 million, while the proceeds from the sale of Longoria reflect an ending book value of \$1.3 million, for a total ending book value of \$18.1 million. Year-to-date interest earned total \$509,220.85 for Cummings Middle School and \$37,834.32 for Longoria Elementary. These funds remain, again, fully segregated from all other district investments and an interest earned year today continues to be reinvested into the same accounts, preserving the integrity and the 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, 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. That concludes our quarterly investment report. Thank you, Ms. Pena. (No questions or concerns from Board of Trustees)

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Adina Alegria Good evening, Board President Lopez Valdez, Board of Trustees, Superintendent Benavides, and community members here with us in person and those tuning in tonight. My name is Adina Alegria, Executive Director of Texas Valley Educators Association. affiliated with Brownsville Union Coalition. May is a month to pause and honor the remarkable people who dedicate their lives to serving others and tonight along with the Brownsville Independent School District, TVEA is proud to recognize several of those groups. National Police Week, During National Police Week, we honor our law enforcement officers, especially those who serve in our schools and neighborhoods. They run towards danger so our students and families can feel safe, and they do so with courage and dedication every single day. To every officer serving this community, we see you, we respect you, we are so grateful, and we thank you. School Lunch Hero Day. Our cafeteria staff arrives before the rest of us, prepares hundreds of meals with care, and greets every student with a smile. For many of our children, a school meal matters more than we will ever know. To our cafeteria heroes, you nourish our kids' body and spirit, and this district is better because of you. We also thank you. National School Nurses Week and National School Nurse Day. All school nurses are the heartbeat of student wellness. They manage medical needs, respond to emergencies, and care for our children with skill and compassion. Often all before lunch. During National School Nurses Week, we want every nurse in our district to know your work is seen, it is valued, and it makes a profound difference. Thank you. And as we close, we wish a heartfelt Happy Mother's Day to every mother, grandmother, stepmother, foster mother, and mother figure in our community. Your love is the foundation upon which everything else is built. Thank you, moms. And for each of you, thank you for your time, service to Brownsville community, and your attention this evening. Thank you.

Celia Saiz Broussard

Handout #2 - added to official minutes

Good evening, Board President Lopez Valdez, Dr. Benavides, and members of the Board. My name is Celia Saiz, and I'm speaking as the president of BEST AFT Union Local 3877. I'm also a pre-K teacher at Skinner Elementary. I'm going to be speaking on agenda items XIIB1 and B2. This is Teacher Appreciation Week, and we hope that all campus administrators are recognizing the hard work that their teachers have put in this year and providing meaningful rewards to their teachers. I'm also sharing some handouts with you tonight on leadership taken from courts leadership as you look at resignations, retirements, grievances, and other personnel decisions tonight. We do not know if you have received your campus climate studies, but these are effective leadership tools that we believe the Board and administration should look at to see if it is being done in BISD. The first one is that employees can handle the truth. Some key points are the best leaders don't pretend that everything is fine. People can handle bad news better than they can handle feeling blindsided or misled. What employees want, they want the right amount of honesty. It's what people tend to want. Leaders should speak as soon as the issue is real enough to affect jobs, pay, workload, or strategy. Employees need three things. One, what leaders know. Two, what leaders do not know. And three, when they will hear more. In hard moments, the standard isn't perfect certainty. It's timely truth. Plain language and enough context that people don't feel they are being managed. With difficult news, the following order helps. What happened, why the decision was made, what it means to employees now, what is still unknown, and exactly when the next update is coming. Silence isn't a strategy. Silence creates vacuum, and teams fill it fast. When leaders go quiet, teams don't become calmer. They fill the vacuum with rumors, speculation, and worst case scenarios. The question leaders should be asking isn't, how much do I have to tell them? It's, what do my people need to hear right now to feel like humans and not like a head count? How to deliver difficult news. Honest communication requires three dials working in concert, integrity, empathy, and influence. Integrity is the foundation. It is the character dial that governs everything else. Without it, the other two dials are just techniques. Empathy, empathy is the receiving dial. It means genuinely internalizing the human impact before a single word is written. Influence is the transmitting dial. It governs not just what you say, but how, when, and through what channel you say it. Without integrity anchoring both, empathy becomes performance and influence becomes manipulation. BEST believes that BISD should evaluate their leadership to see if they meet or exceed these standards. Thank you and have a best evening.

Zoraya Salinas Good evening, Board President Lopez Valdez, Dr. Benavides, Board members, and our BISD and Brownsville community. My name is Zoraya Salinas, and I am the proud representative for non-certified staff at BEST AFT Local 3877. And I serve as a Behavior Intervention Aide in the upper BI unit at Ortiz Elementary School. I am speaking on agenda item XIIB11. I would first like to express my sincere appreciation to the Board and the district leadership for your response to the concerns raised at the last Special Education Subcommittee Meeting regarding ECSI units and the essential duties of special education staff. The effort to identify needs and provide training for substitute teachers, particularly responsibilities that require specialized support, demonstrates that our voices are being heard and I am grateful for that. At the same time, I would like to bring attention to an ongoing concern affecting our campus staff retention, particularly

within behavior intervention and special education support roles. We see experienced dedicated employees leave due to low pay, limited opportunities for advancement, and the increasing demands of the job. Working in behavior intervention units along with the other special education units is not easy. It requires consistency, emotional resilience, and specialized skill. Not everyone can do this work, and those who do often go above and beyond to support students with significant needs. Many paraprofessionals and support staff develop strong practical experience and instructional ability. However, the costs and barriers to certification prevent them from advancing into teaching roles, despite the district's ongoing need for special education teachers. I would like to respectfully recommend that the district consider developing a grow your own certification pathway for classified staff interested in becoming special education teachers, exploring financial support or partnerships to assist with certification costs, and providing retention stipends or incentives not only to attract new employees, but to retain the experienced staff who are already serving our students. These steps would not only support employees, but also strengthen our ability to serve students by retaining individuals who are already trained, committed, and invested in our district. Lastly, I want to acknowledge the reality of this work. We serve students with complex needs while balancing our own responsibilities outside of work. It can be discouraging when that effort feels unseen, but with the right support, recognition, and opportunity for growth, we can continue making a meaningful difference. We cannot continue to lose experienced staff and expect different outcomes. Retention must become a priority, not an afterthought. In closing, as we recognize Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all teachers and staff across the district, and especially to my colleagues at Ortiz Elementary. Your dedication, patience, and commitment to our students do not go unnoticed. Thank you for the work you do every day. Thank you for your time, your attention, and your continued commitment to our students and staff. I wish you the best of evenings. Thank you.

Beatriz Maldonado Good evening, Board President Lopez Valdez, Dr. Benavides, members of the Board, and those watching us through YouTube. I am Bea Maldonado, the Vice President of Brownsville Educators Stand Together, BEST, Union Local Number 3877, a union of professionals. I'm also a social studies teacher at Hanna Early College High School. I'm speaking on agenda items XA6 and XIA1. Best is curious about how the district can honestly report to TEA that all students were exposed to all of the TEKS in the content areas when we know that at the elementary level, social studies and science are taught once a week. If at that, at the middle school levels that students were pulled from classes during the blitz and that high school students are testing more often than providing instruction in the second semester. BEST is also concerned about the Wi-Fi connectivity failure that occurred during the STAAR EOC testing on April 13th at Lopez Early College High School. The fact that the district was given the directive or gave the directive to utilize the BISD free network as a workaround raises questions about the bypassing of established security protocols during the state testing. Is there a consequence or a possible consequence with TEA for the testing security breach? This is not the first online security breach recently BEST found out that until this past February, BISD employees during the summer months had access to grade books and other important student data. We were told that this had been the practice for each summer for a very long time. We thank technology services for finally correcting this issue, but at what cost for students and for how long? Please refer to Celia's comments on some guidelines for leadership

throughout the district and with the board. Happy Mother's Day to everybody this weekend and happy Teacher's Appreciation Week. We appreciate your listening and have the best of evenings.

Veronica Borrego Good evening, Board President, Mrs. Lopez Valdez, esteemed Board members, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Benavides, 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. This evening I would like to take my time to recognize and thank all those who serve our students with passion and dedication. Thank you to our food and nutrition staff for arriving before sunrise to ensure our students have the fuel their bodies need to be ready to learn. You truly are heroes. Thank you to our BISD police department, to security officers, dispatch, and campus police. We thank you for your dedication and vigilance and for working together the clock ensuring the safety of our faculty, staff, students, and our community. Thank you to our school nurses for providing not only screenings, band-aids, and cough drops, but also for providing medical care to students with chronic, acute, or complex health issues. Your dedication to our students' health and safety and ultimately academic success does not go unnoticed. Teaching is the profession that creates all other professions. So last but not most definitely not least, thank you to our teachers for the long hours spent off the clock, the out-of-pocket expenses, for the passion you put into every lesson, and for all you do to ensure the safety of our students. Your kindness, generosity, and dedication is seen, valued, and appreciated. On behalf of AOB, happy Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you for your time and attention, and have a wonderful 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 Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried for approval of the General Function Items as reflected on the Consent Agenda. (7-0-0)

- A. General Function 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9**
- B. Payments**
- C. Budget Amendments**
- D. Contracts/Agreements 1**
- E. Bids/Proposals/Purchases 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

(All presentations limited to five (5) minutes)

X. Consent Agenda:

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

1. Recommend approval of naming the following facilities at Hanna Early College High School, Band Hall to Arcadio “Art” Guajardo Band Hall, Tennis Courts to Terry Hoover Tennis Courts and the New Gymnasium to Don Denson Gymnasium.

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I second. Mr. Elizondo stated, just real quick, just a comment. This is a great recognition not only for our school but for the memories and also the living as well. These individuals were highly recognized by our community, parents, students, for always doing something to make sure that our kids had a better place. And this is just a small token that we can do to make sure that they're always memorialized in the hearts and souls of all those people that they touch, the kids that they touch and taught. Thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, if I may. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued; I also would like to thank Mr. Guajardo, Fifty-five years ago, he was my band director. I played the clarinet. The man was outstanding. Kept us in line. We loved him, but he was harsh. He was firm. He was stern. And I appreciate him so much because he taught us to do so much in such little time. And I always value having been taught by one of the best people in band that I've ever known. And that's why I encourage all my children to be in band. He's a wonderful person. And I remember 55 years ago, and I still remember him sitting in front and telling us what to do like it was yesterday. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, again, thank you all for your dedication to BISD and most importantly to our students.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of naming the following facilities at Hanna Early College High School, Band Hall to Arcadio “Art” Guajardo Band Hall, Tennis Courts to Terry Hoover Tennis Courts and the New Gymnasium to Don Denson Gymnasium. (7-0-0)

2. Recommend approval to accept the FDA grant in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) grant of \$10,000.00 at no cost to the District. **(Consent Agenda)**
3. Recommend approval to compensate staff for any work performed outside of approved calendar workdays during the summers of the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. This includes, but is not limited to, required training and special events.

Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated Second. Ms. Pena, this is your item. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, question, is this something that we've done in the past before or is it something that has to be approved every year? Can we, because I've never seen it like this on an agenda. **Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer stated, Madam President, if I may.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, yes, Ms. Pena. **Ms. R. Pena stated, I may call Ms...** Ms. M. Pena interjected, are you on the? **Ms. R. Pena stated, yes, I will call Ms. Jackie Cruz, F&S this is her item.** **Ms. Jackie Cruz, Director of Food Services Department stated, good evening, yes, thank you for the question, Ms. Pena. We have done this,**

we do it every year so that we can make sure that if our staff has to attend training during the summer for any leadership or culinary training, or if they need to attend or work at any kind of activity that may be for the school district, we have that approval to pay them outside, and they're paid at their regular hourly wage. Ms. Pena stated, and I guess my question is, is this something that we can do it as a blanket so she doesn't have to come and put it on the agenda? Mr. Eric? *Mr. Eric Flores, Board Attorney replied, Ms. Pena, it sounds like it's practice of the department to do this every year. We could write some sort of internal policy to have it, you know, not having to come to the board. But I think for transparency purposes, I think this is why they do that, just in case if there's an employee out and, you know, a trustee has questions about why they're out, you know, they would be able to state that they've brought this to the board, they've presented it. so on and so forth.* Ms. Pena stated, but is it possible? I see what you're saying. *Mr. Flores stated, yes, absolutely, the answer is yes. The answer is most definitely yes. It'd be a practice that the district would have to adopt.* Ms. M. Pena stated, would you like for that to be able to be done so we can have it and you don't have to, you're a super busy woman that makes great food with the staff. So would you like for the district to make it something written down permanently that takes care of it? Because we're going to trust that the people are out with your permission. And if anyone has any questions, whether it's a policy constantly approved every year or something written down, you're still going to give the answer. So would you like for this to become something in writing so you don't have to come up and present it to the Board? **Ms. Cruz replied, that would be very helpful and again, we don't take advantage of it, but in case we do have any kind of activities. But yes, to answer your question that you asked, yes, ma 'am. That would be helpful.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I just have a question. Is this monies that have already been allocated toward this? **Ms. Cruz replied, yes, we'll have those of it. We have that available for that and so and we don't really use it. Typically, during the summer if we have to bring the staff in for an additional training day but we always get approval for that even before we actually go through with that. So, I will consult with Ms. Pena, but this is just in case and also for example if the district has a back-to-school event and they need for our staff to work that way we are able to approve that time and that compensation, right?** Ms. Grantland stated, I just needed to assure that this money's already earmarked for that, thank you so much. **Ms. Cruz stated, thank you.** Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Ms. Jackie, and the reason for this is because our F&S staff, they do not work in the summer, correct? They're off contract, so this is for that, we can pay them and all of that, right? **Ms. Cruz stated, yes, so to answer your question, yes, our staff applies, but for those who do not apply during the summer and we may have an opportunity for them to attend a summer training at region one, or any of the free trainings that they have, yes ma 'am, that's why.** Ms. Garza stated okay, thank you. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, just real quick Mr. Flores, is there anything we can do now or do we have to wait to bring it back to policy? Ms. Pena interjected, can we amend it? The item? *Mr. Flores replied, no, I'll work with the Interim Superintendent to draft and craft an internal policy.* Mr. Elizondo stated, so my question was, there's nothing we can do about it now, right? *Mr. Flores replied, that's correct.* Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Dr. Benavidez, what do you recommend? **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, I'm thinking that perhaps in the compensation plan, there can be a note that states that certain, a little asterisk that says that members of this department may need to come in extra days, and that takes care of it. And when we**

update the compensation plan, we can include it there. *Mr. Flores stated, that also works.* Ms. Pena stated, if I may? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you; Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, yes, and so when we do that, make sure that we put in black and white that they can get paid and reimbursed for actually working there. So, make sure that we write it as basic as possible to be clear because it depends on the interpretation of the person in charge reading it. **Dr. Benavides stated, and that's a good point. We will make sure that it will say that it will be compensated at their daily rate like she mentioned.** Ms. Pena stated, excellent.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to compensate staff for any work performed outside of approved calendar workdays during the summers of the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. This includes, but is not limited to, required training and special events. (7-0-0)

4. Recommend approval for the Communications Center upgrade to ensure continued operational effectiveness, officer safety, and alignment with current public safety communication standards. Total cost is \$260,000.00 to be funded from 199-Local Funds. (Unassigned Fund Balance) **(Consent Agenda)**

5. Recommend approval of the lease-purchase of a 6-year fleet replacement and rotation plan with D&M Commercial Leasing, an approved vendor. The total estimated cost for a 50-unit fleet lease is \$3,046,710.00 for Years 1-6 and \$4,309,700.00 for Years 6-12, for a combined total of \$7,356,410.00 over 12 years. The total estimated cost for a 30-unit fleet lease is \$1,861,680.00 for Years 1-6 and \$2,292,980.00 for Years 6-12, for a combined total of \$4,154,660.00 over 12 years. To be funded from 199 - Local Funds. (Unassigned Fund Balance).

Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, move to approve. Mr. Carlos Elizondo stated, second. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, we have a first in a second Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah just real quick when is this going to roll out. **Chief Ana Gaucin replied, we have to order and you would be able to give a better timeline on that because we have to order the units.** Mr. Jerry Haddad, D&M Vice-President stated, yeah, if we're if you're looking to do it right away Chief wanted some, what we call Dodge Durango's for her police fleet. Those will start cut off to order in this month We don't have an exact date, but we're looking at the next two weeks to cut off. So if we're going to do that, we would need to get the orders in you're looking at 90 days for delivery, another 90 days for upfit with the police packages and then delivery. So six months from now. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you and that was my, that was going to answer my question because it's super important that you get these fleets on the road starting next school year. And that comes up pretty quick, especially if, depending on who you're going to use to retrofit these, these units, uh, if you're going to send them 12 units, it's going to take us some time to do that. So I just wanted to make sure that you know.... **Chief Gaucin interjected, it is a turnkey operation and we utilize...** Mr. Elizondo interjected, so you guys got your own deal, okay, perfect, thank you. Mr. Haddad stated, we'll use dana upfits, which is right here in Harlingen. Mr. Elizondo stated, correct. Mr. Haddad, well order the vehicles, they will be drop shipped there directly from the manufacturer, they will update them

and then they will deliver them when finished. Mr. Elizondo stated, and they will be able to suffice the need of this force. Mr. Haddad stated absolutely. Mr. Elizondo stated, okay, perfect. Mr. Haddad stated, yeah, absolutely. Mr. Elizondo stated okay, thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, yes, I think it's a great idea, and for the price, everything keeps going up, so we can lock it in now, because who knows what it's going to cost in two, three years from now. So, I'm glad that you're doing this and, on the side, note with your vehicles, remember, catalytic converter. The car's not good, but the catalytic converter is good. A used one is up to \$1,000. A brand-new catalytic converter is \$4,000. So, remember, sell them as parts. Don't just give away a used car or a junk car. Sell them as parts, please. **Chief Gaucin stated, will do thank you.** Ms. Pena stated, I mean sell it, don't give it away. That's what I'm saying. Sell the whole car and they can make money off of it.

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of the lease-purchase of a 6-year fleet replacement and rotation plan with D&M Commercial Leasing, an approved vendor. The total estimated cost for a 50-unit fleet lease is \$3,046,710.00 for Years 1-6 and \$4,309,700.00 for Years 6-12, for a combined total of \$7,356,410.00 over 12 years. The total estimated cost for a 30-unit fleet lease is \$1,861,680.00 for Years 1-6 and \$2,292,980.00 for Years 6-12, for a combined total of \$4,154,660.00 over 12 years. To be funded from 199 - Local Funds. (Unassigned Fund Balance). (7-0-0)

Note: As per consultation with Rosario Pena and Chief Ana Gaucin, it was determined that funding is only available for 30-unit fleet lease (\$4,154,660.00 over 12 years)

6. Recommend approval to submit the 2026-2027 Allotment & TEKS Certification Form. This is at no cost to the District. **(Consent Agenda)**
7. Recommend approval of the proposed list of library materials for purchase, as submitted, in accordance with Senate Bill 13 and BISD Policy EFB (Local). * **(Consent Agenda)**
8. Recommend approval to reschedule the Board Meeting from June 9, 2026, to June 16, 2026. This change is necessary due to a Special Called Board Meeting on June 9, 2026, which will be dedicated to the Superintendent's Search. **(Consent Agenda)**
9. Recommend approval to purchase the annual license for The System for Educator Effectiveness (SEE-One) for the 2026-2027 school year to manage the SLO student growth measure. Categorical Fund: 167 – Teacher Incentive Allotment \$262,044.30. ***(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend approval of payments for construction services and/or engineering services throughout the District in the total amount of \$748,035.60.

Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated Motion to approve. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, Second. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, we have a first and a second. Mr. Elizondo stated I have a, that was my item. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo continued, thank you, who's going to answer?

Hot seat, come on, Mr. Robert. This is all you, queries ser director. Ms. Pena stated, ya mero llega, ya mero llega. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, let's remember to be respectful to our staff. Mr. Elizondo stated, I'm always respectful, ma'am. Ms. Pena stated, he's just kidding with him because he knows him. Mr. Elizondo stated, you know me better than that. **Mr. Ramiro Pena, Facilities Manager stated, good evening, everyone.** Mr. Elizondo stated, welcome, sir. **Mr. Roberto Baez, Maintenance Director stated, good evening.** Mr. Elizondo stated, welcome sir, just. I just want to make sure that if you can give us a little explanation of where the 748 is going to go. That's usually what I always ask. So next time that comes up, I usually always circle these. Just give us a rundown on where this money is going, what we're doing, and what we have done, if we have done something with it, please. **Mr. Baez stated, if I may, yesterday was my first day, so first of all, I'm very excited.** Mr. Elizondo stated, I know. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, welcome, Mr. Elizondo stated, welcome sir, this is the reason I brought you up here. **Mr. Baez continued, but if you're okay with it, Mr. Elizondo, Mr. Pena would help me answer that. If that's okay, I'm catching up, and I'll make sure that next time you call me up, I'll be ready.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, sir, I appreciate it, and welcome. Mr. Baez stated, thank you. **Mr. Ramiro Pena stated, Mr. Elizondo, those are mainly payments for contractors that we have on the current project that we have.** Mr. Elizondo stated, just give me a real quick rundown on the payments that we're making for that total amount. Mr. Pena stated, okay. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, it's on the backup. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, it has the number and the amount. Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, I know. I know, but the public can't see this. I know I can see it. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, actually, the public can access it. Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, but they can't see it right now, ma'am. That's my question. **Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer stated, Madam President, if I may, I have that in front of me and I can, I'll read it out.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Ms. Pena. Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you, ma'am. **Ms. Rosario Pena continued, yes, sir, of course. Payment number two for Sams Stadium structural repairs, Green and Rubiano, \$28,000. Payment number two, Inside Public Sector, Lopez Early College High School Intercom Replacement Project, \$278,350. Payment number four to Sams Stadium Artificial Turf for football and soccer fields to Hellas Construction, \$225,235.03. Payment number eight, F&S Large Cold Storage Freezer Project, Arnold Refrigeration, \$95,559.61. Payment number 22 F&S Freezer Cooler Facility, Scoggins Construction Company, \$116,567.85, and the final, not final payment, but payment number five, Lopez Early College High School Intercom Replacement Project, Ethos Engineering, \$4,323.11, for a grand total payments of \$748,035.60.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you ma'am I appreciate that. Just real quick, I have a question on Lopez. Is that going to conclude the intercom phase of that project? **Ms. Rosario Pena stated, I will defer to Mr. Pena. Mr. Ramiro Pena replied, yes, sir.** Mr. Elizondo continued, so that will be the end of that. That's the last one for the intercom. Okay. Thank you very much. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Mr. Baez and Mr. Pena. We have a first and a second. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote.** Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I vote yes. **Ms. Perez stated, Motion passes 7-0 unanimous.**

Motion made by Jessica Gonzalez, seconded by Carlos Elizondo, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of payments for construction services and/or engineering services throughout the District in the total amount of \$748,035.60. (7-0-0)

Ms. M. Pena stated, I have a question before we leave real quick for him. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena, we already finished this item, so let's go on to the next one. You can ask him after the meeting. Ms. M. Pena stated, no, but this is going to be a public question. Let me ask this. Give me 30 seconds. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, no, Ms. Pena, we're done with this item. Let's go on to the next item. Ms. M. Pena stated, would you please give me? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, you can ask him after. No, Ms. Pena, we're moving on in the agenda. Ms. Pena stated, that is not (inaudible). Ms. Lopez stated, yes, we have our first and a second. Next item.

C. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments:

1. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #020 in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 for Fund 197 – Projects. (Assigned Fund Balance)

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Second. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I just wanted a little more detail. I know we have some backup, but I wanted a little more detail on why we're tapping into the fund balance again. **Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer replied, Madam Chair, Ms. Grantland, the Fund Balance that we are using for the structural repairs at Sams Stadium is an assigned fund balance. In other words, these projects, if you look in your financial report, we've got several construction projects that have been ongoing or will be starting. So, we have already assigned those, that fund balance. So, it's not tapping into your current balance of \$124,000.** Ms. Grantland stated, okay, I just wanted to be certain of that. **Ms. R. Pena stated, yes, ma 'am.**

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of Budget Amendment #020 in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 for Fund 197 – Projects. (Assigned Fund Balance) (7-0-0)

2. Recommend approval of Budget Amendment #021 in the amount of \$300,000.00 for Fund 199 Local Maintenance. (Unassigned Fund Balance)

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated Motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Second. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, we have a first and a second, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland stated, so this one is unassigned. Explain this one. **Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer stated, correct, ma 'am. This is coming from the \$124,000 thousand/million that we have unassigned. So that is where we're working currently. If I take away the \$300,000, I will be left with \$121,000.** Ms. Grantland stated, got it, thank you. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, if I may. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Gonzalez continued, I just want to publicly state I cannot support spending \$300,000 when all of our financial recordings have come out A or a hundred so because of that reason I can't support spending \$300,000 right now. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you Ms. Gonzalez, we have a first and a second. **Ms. Patricia Perez. Executive Assistant/Board stated, please vote.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, I vote no. **Ms. Perez continued, thank you ma 'am. Motion passes four yes, three no.**

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Denise Garza to recommend approval of Budget Amendment #021 in the amount of \$300,000.00 for Fund 199 Local Maintenance. (Unassigned Fund Balance)

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 4-3-0

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

1. Recommend approval of the ClassDojo Master Service Agreement & Data Privacy Agreement. Formalizing this collaboration will enhance digital communication and District level reporting at no cost to the District.* **(Consent Agenda)**

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

1. Recommend awarding RFP #26-019 Athletic Supplies for Football, Volleyball, and Girls/Boys Basketball District-wide (Catalog Bid) to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
2. Recommend awarding RFP #26-020 Athletic Supplies for Cross Country, Soccer and Track District-wide (Catalog Bid) to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
3. Recommend awarding RFP #26-021 Athletic Supplies for Baseball and Softball District-wide (Catalog Bid) to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
4. Recommend awarding RFP #26-022 Athletic Supplies for Golf, Swimming and Tennis District-wide (Catalog Bid) to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
5. Recommend awarding RFP #26-029 Consultant Services District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
6. Recommend awarding RFP #26-050 Curriculum and Instruction Supplies, Materials and Software District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027. (Annual Proposal) **(Consent Agenda)**
7. Recommend awarding RFP #26-090 Plumbing Services District-wide to several vendors and cast lots for item #22 of said bid. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027, with the option to renew (2) additional one (1) year terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board Member stated, thank you, Ms. Garza, I second, we have a first and a second. Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I was just wondering, do we have a shortage of certified plumbers within our school district? Or why is it that we're going out for vendors for certified plumbers? **Mr. Robert Baez, Maintenance Director replied, good evening again, no, we don't have any certified at this moment on the staff for plumbers.** Ms. Grantland stated, we don't have any certified plumbers. Is there a reason for that? **Mr. Baez replied, based on the short recollection that I gathered, a certified plumber and the pay rate that we offer, we haven't been lucky to get any that is certified or licensed.** Ms. Grantland stated, I see, that's what I figured. All right. Thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, question? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, okay and I know, because we have a lot of people that are certified plumbers that are unemployed right now. And a job with a little pay is better than a job with no pay. So, when they come to us and they say we applied, like we used to have certified electricians, right? Yeah. Remember, Jerry? So, because I come from a family of certified electricians. They were employed by us. So, we have had certified personnel. But what I'm hearing and what do they need to do when they come and they apply and they're told that right now they're not taking those positions. So, can we stay alert and awake? And I want to refer them to our Superintendent because, like I said, a certified unemployed plumber would be having a job that pays a little than a job that pays nothing. So can we look at that please, because I'm being told that they are being told, no, you're not going to get hired. There are no openings and yet we don't have not one. So, we need to look at that because in the long run, you end up saving money because some people like I said, would rather have a job that pays than no job that doesn't pay. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, thank you Ms. Lopez Valdez, maybe just a little recommendation to our curriculum department as we look at building our CTE program. Maybe plumbing is one of the certifications we might want to implement and then some of our students after graduation can come work for the district that provided this to them, this opportunity to them. Ms. Grantland stated, I just want to back up on these comments. I think it's really important that we start grooming people within our district and when we look at hiring, I mean, one of the things we need to do is look at what our need is and not just block people from being hired or not entice them to be hired. It's like Ms. Pena said, a job is better than no job at all. And so, I do believe that we, I mean, I come from the old school we're back in the old days here in the district. We had our own staff that went in and did everything. We had electricians, we had plumbers, they could go in, do the job, take care of it, and get out of the school or wherever they were going, you know. I just, we've gotten into the ease of vendors and I don't like that. I think that we need to groom our own. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, just real quick, when was the last time we had a certified plumber in the department? **Mr. Ramiro Pena, Facilities Supervisor stated, he retired last week, I mean last year.** Mr. Elizondo stated, just real quick, just if we can and this is probably on your behalf, Doc, is look to see if we can hire some individuals. I mean, because this contract will be, we probably have to approve it. We don't have any other choice, but if we can hire a certified plumber, all they need is journeymen, right, to be able to help them do the rest of the work. We just need a licensed master plumber to be able to actually push the project forward. I mean, for the amount of money that we're going to spend year one, I'm sure you can, you know, pay a really, really good plumber to come in here and help this district out, you know, and maybe train other individuals like they were saying through the CTE program, use them as

apprentices so they can get their masters too. Thank you. **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, and that's a good point. I'm going to check to see how quick, why the position wasn't posted when it became available.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, it looks like the bid is written as a one year and option to renew so maybe we can look at it next year. We have our cast slots. Dr. Benavides, will you please help me on this? Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, real quick question, comment on that. We can look at it now. We don't have to wait a year and continue paying. So, we can look at it now. So, we can save. I'm saying like, so we're at the same time. **Dr. Benavides interjected, oh no, I'm going to check tomorrow why the position was not posted.** Ms. Pena continued, not a year like Daniela mentioned. That's too long. That'll be too expensive. Ms. Grantland stated, so, Madam President, what would our action be at this point? If they're going to look into it, should we maybe put this on hold, table the motion? Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, well, they only get paid when they do a service for us. Okay. So, this was just contracted. So, if we hire, then their services would not be needed anymore. Ms. Grantland stated, got it, yeah. Ms. Pena stated, we wouldn't have to call them. Ms. Grantland stated, got it. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, exactly. Ms. Grantland stated, good point. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, okay we have one cast lot here. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, can I just ask a question on that one? Where are they from, this vendor? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, does anybody have the answer to that? **Mr. Ramiro Pena replied, he's local. Local?** Mr. Ortiz stated, okay, good. I'm glad that we're giving our local people an opportunity.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend awarding RFP #26-090 Plumbing Services District-wide to several vendors and cast lots for item #22 of said bid to Benny's General Contractor Services, Benito Ibarra. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027, with the option to renew (2) additional one (1) year terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. (7-0-0)

8. Recommend awarding RFP #26-104 Intercom Repair Services, Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027, with the option to renew for two (2) additional one-year (1) terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract.

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, Motion to approve. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated Second. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, yes, I do have an issue with this item only because we seem to still be having issues with our intercom. I did notice one of the payments we just approved was, you know, to pay for intercom service. Where do we stand currently with our intercoms because I know since I've been on this Board, we've been dealing with intercoms like is it even working or do we actually have an intercom in-house person who can assist us? **Mr. Todd Nichols, Technology Director stated, good evening, yes, we do have intercom technicians within our department. Last year they moved from Maintenance to our department. A lot of the intercoms are now going online as far as digital, so we're using those capabilities. The purpose of this is for supplies. In the event that a gateway or a talkback box goes down, we do need to replace those right away.** Ms. Garza stated, do you happen to know what or how many intercoms we currently have that are still having issues? I know some of our older buildings were having issues. Do we have a number on

that current. Mr. Nichols replied, we do roughly eight schools are having issues as far as needing to be upgraded because we've got digital and analog in some of those schools. We need to make sure that we move towards digital. Ms. Garza stated, thank you.

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Jessica Gonzalez, and unanimously carried to recommend awarding RFP #26-104 Intercom Repair Services, Supplies and Materials District-wide to several vendors. The contract period will be in effect from May 05, 2026, through May 05, 2027, with the option to renew for two (2) additional one-year (1) terms if all parties agree. Year one (1) of a three (3) year contract. (7-0-0)

XI. Board Member Request(s)

A. Conference Presentation(s):

1. Presentation regarding concern for STAAR End-of-Course Testing Failure. (Board Agenda Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Minerva Pena)

Ms. Nellie Cantu, Chief Operations Officer stated, good evening, everyone. I'd like to start by saying thank you to our Board Members that requested this information. It allows administration the opportunity to provide clear communication as to what happened with this isolated incident on April 13th. I would like to invite our Computer Services Director, Mr. Todd Nichols, to share a little bit about what happened on that day. Mr. Todd Nichols, Director stated, good evening, Board President, Board Members, and Dr. Benavides. The Department of Computer Services ensures all devices are continuously prepared and operational for district and state testing. Prior to testing, all devices were successfully configured through coordinated efforts of campus technology support teachers and our network staff. The connectivity issue at Lopez High School was traced to a standard wireless security certificate used to authenticate devices on the district secure network. While the certificate was deployed correctly within its normal life cycle, a recent unannounced change in Google Chrome OS security policies caused some Chromebooks to reject the certificate upon reconnecting. These certificates are used to authenticate devices and ensure that only authorized users can access the network. Unlike home networks, the district operates within a highly secure enterprise level network with advanced authentication protocols. The certificates are configured on a life cycle basis. In this case, a 297-day validity period and had been properly staged in advance for deployment. Upon notification, computer services responded immediately in coordination with campus staff, assessment and vendors to diagnose and resolve the issue. To avoid further disruption, affected students were temporarily moved to the BISD free wireless network allowing testing to continue. The BISD free network remains secure, limiting access to only approved testing resources. At no point was the district network security compromised. Because of SIPA, all of our networks are filtered. We segment different types of networks and the BISD free network is filtered. The issue impacted only a portion of students at Lopez High School. The Assessment Department worked with Cambium and the Texas Education Agency to restore access and students resume testing without loss of progress. The incidents was caused by an unforeseen external exchange, not a failure in district processes. Adjustments have been made to further strengthen reliability and ensure uninterrupted testing

moving forward. We would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of our campus TSTs and district technicians, an exceptional team whose quick response and collaboration helped us successfully navigate this unexpected situation. Questions. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, I don't have any questions, I mean, that pretty explains everything that you guys did. My biggest concern was there's a lot of parents that are pretty upset at what their kids are going through, especially when they're preparing for such a huge test and the outcome is so important for them to continue. That was the biggest concern for them. And just make sure that we maybe look into the future and go out there maybe a day or a couple of days and make sure that all the systems are working within the system. **Mr. Nichols stated, and we do. We're constantly testing. Testing is, and we work with, Assessment, she's here. We are in constant communication with the Assessment Department. Pretty much we're testing from January on, we are in testing mode. So we update devices, have them ready. It's just an anomaly, it happened. Not that we want this to happen, but it was an anomaly.** Mr. Elizondo stated, and then the other thing is just to maybe shine a little bit of light. If there's more personnel that's needed in your department, that we're made aware of that, so that way you have the ability to go out there and take care of these emergencies when they do happen, instead of you know, working at the end of it. **Mr. Nichols stated, correct we understand.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you sir. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, and Mr. Todd, this was a software issue. What's the issue that caused this? **Mr. Nichols stated, okay, so, devices, let's say a laptop, Chromebook, et cetera, inside of our type of network, they need a security certificate in order to get on to the network. Like at home, you can just get on the network. Here, you have to have a check and balance. You just can't have anybody log on to our network. And so, the certificate normally just processes, this time, Google changed where to place the certificate. So with our vendor, we had it properly placed in.** Ms. Pena stated, after or before this happened? **Mr. Nichols stated, this after. So, it was rectified that same day.** Ms. Pena stated, why did that happen? **Mr. Nichols stated, pardon? It was an unannounced change in their security.** Ms. Pena stated, unannounced change on whose part? **Mr. Nichols stated, Google they did not inform us.** Ms. Pena stated, and it is very difficult because, I'm sorry, the best machine is a human machine. We need to find out how to have a backup. You've seen H-E-B, where they shut down during a holiday. You go to the store, it shuts down, shuts down. And sometimes it's software, sometimes it's the equipment, because it's expensive to redo all the equipment. I've seen state offices closed for a week because of the equipment failure. And the gentleman sent in to fix it, looked at the equipment and said, I wasn't trained with this. It's way before my age. Are we sure that we have the proper equipment and everything's up to date? **Mr. Nichols stated, yes and that was plan B. We right away went to the BISD (inaudible) free so that way we could continue testing. We corrected the issue the same day. So the next day when all of BISD was testing, they were normally testing.** Ms. Pena stated, so our equipment in all our schools is up to date? **Mr. Nichols stated, yes, ma 'am. It was not an equipment failure. It happened to be where a certificate was placed.** Ms. Pena stated, okay. Thank you so much. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Mr. Nichols. **(No action taken)**

B. Action Item(s)

1. Discussion, consideration, and possible action to approve and authorize the Superintendent to move forward with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Little Haven. (Board Agenda Request Denise Garza/Board Support Frank Ortiz)

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated Motion to approve. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, Second. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland stated, the last time we discussed this, when we had the little presentation, I asked a question, I believe it was Mr. Salinas that I asked it to, whether we were obligated to go out to all of these agencies that exist, because we're recommending an MOU with one agency. And I wanted to know if there were, I think they said there were 18 other agencies? Ms. Garza stated, I'm not sure how many, but this is to get it started, at least by having a PPEC form, because right now we currently have a homebound form, so if any of our children were to end up in a PPEC setting, we would not be able to provide instructional services. because we don't have that form. So this is for us to move what I want to do is move forward and then open it up anybody else who wants to come and be part of our district. Because we owe it to the parents. It's not just homebound. They have other services out there. Ms. Grantland stated, they made that really clear, it was a good presentation, but my concern is that we are aligning with one particular agency when we were told that this is rather outside of our purview because it's the doctor and the parent that make the decision for these additional services. And there are other agencies that would also like MOUs with us. And I'm not sure legally where we stand with going, aligning ourselves, and I say aligning ourselves for lack of a better term, with just one particular agency. **Mr. Miguel Salinas, Staff Attorney stated, as you said, Ms. Grantland, this is up to the parent and the physician. We are aligning ourselves with Little Haven. It's an MOU, it's not a contract, there's no legal obligation for the district. But I would recommend that we go out and make the services available to anyone who's interested in doing this, yes. But there's nothing wrong with us getting into this MOU right now, yes.** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, and that was my question, is if we approve something like this to happen, will we be doing anything illegal, Mr. Eric? *Mr. Eric Flores, Board Attorney replied, nothing illegal, Ms. Pena.* Ms. Pena stated, and that's the point of this, because I want to make sure that this is something that you can do and it has nothing to do with legality, but to take care of our children. And I don't want to, I can see open the door for anybody else to come, but to hold it and hold it and hold it and hold it, I want to make sure. Are we doing anything illegal if it by any chance gets approved today? *Mr. Flores replied, nothing illegal, Ms. Pena.* Ms. Pena stated, I appreciate that thank you. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, if I may? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Gonzalez continued, I just wanted to just pretty much reiterate what (inaudible). Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we can't hear you. Ms. Gonzalez continued, okay, can you hear me now? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated yes. Ms. Gonzalez continued, okay I already forgot what I was going to say. I prefer this decision to be made between the parent and the medical provider. So I personally just cannot support it unless it goes out for everybody, but it's a good thing. I just don't think that we personally should say for right now, go to this one. Ms. Garza stated, may I say something? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Garza. Ms. Garza continued, yes, and we're not saying the parents have to go with this Agency, but this opens the door because right now I don't think the parents know about this service. So this opens the door for us to prepare because currently right now our district doesn't even have a form. We only have a homebound form. So we're able to initiate a form, so if this is ever available for one of our students they would not stop the education part because we have a form in place and we have an MOU in place. The decision would still be made between the parent and the physician. We're not going to get involved in that. But currently, I will tell you that there was a student that was receiving services and homebound teacher was not allowed to

go give instruction at this agency because we did not have an MOU. We should never have denied that education to that child. And that happened. So this is why I wanted to move on this because that one child did not get that education because that homebound teacher was not allowed to go provide that service. Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, yes, I think it's been said quite a few times. Ultimately, it's up to the parent and the physician. All we're saying, and I hear this being said over and over, that we have a place, we have an MOU in place to where the parents have a choice. It doesn't necessarily mean that they're going to go there. We're just giving them a choice. Ms. Grantland stated, just one more comment because I'm trying to wrap, I love the concept because I think the social interaction that the students can attain is really good. And I think that parents do need to have other options to help, to be advocating for their children. I'm just trying to understand why a school district, any school district, has to have an MOU with an agency in order for a parent and a doctor to open up that service. It's kind of outside of our purview, and I don't understand why it requires, and is it legally a requirement that we have an MOU? ***Mr. Salinas replied, it's because we will be providing services that normally we'd be providing at home, so it's just to clarify what our roles, both of the institution and the school district. But it's just so our people can go in there.*** Ms. Grantland stated, and this MOU will be written up by you? ***Mr. Salinas stated, typically, it will be written by the agency. It will be reviewed by me before it's brought to the Board. But that's why I'm recommending that we open this up to other agencies so we don't have the kind of issue Ms. Garza indicated.*** Ms. Grantland interjected, no, we shouldn't ever have to deny someone access to teach a student who requires the education. So, if anyone else comes up, let's say next week and says, hey, we heard that you've opened up an MOU with this particular agency, we want one too. So then that would be totally available to them as well, yes? ***Mr. Salinas stated, we'll bring it up to the Board, yes ma 'am.*** Ms. Grantland stated, okay. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, and agreed on making sure that the parent has a decision. But fiscally, fiscal decisions in this, was there anything in terms of how we actually get funded on this in ADA? Do we lose at ADA? Any questions, any answers on that? ***Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer stated, no ma 'am, as far as it was presented to my office, no we will not. The only thing that we need to look is on the SHARS end.*** Ms. Garza stated, so SHARS would not even impact this because it's skilled nursing and education is not a skilled nursing and so homebound does not provide any form of skilled nursing during instruction time. ***Ms. R. Pena stated, correct. Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, if I understood correctly, it was if the kids get four hours of instruction, then the district gets ADA. If it's two hours then the district gets half a day. Ms. R. Pena stated, that is correct ma 'am.*** Ms. Grantland stated, but that's the case anyway whether they're in that setting or in the house setting. Ms. Garza interjected, or homebound, correct. Ms. M. Pena stated, if I may. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated Ms. Pena. Ms. M. Pena stated, this just gives them the option to be able to go there and our teachers to go there and assist them, am I correct? Because right now we have to have an agreement for the teachers and some parents want children to go out and this will open the door and then other people can come and apply and we have MOUs but we got to start somewhere now for the children. And so this is why I support this, because the way it was presented and the support for these children, because it's very hard when you have a child that's being educated at home that can't go to school. They don't have any options to go anywhere else. So this is a plus for our students that can't come to the classroom. Ms. Grantland stated, and this has the support of Ms. Lippa, right? Our Special Services Department is behind this as well. Ms. Garza stated, I'm not sure she's not here. Ms. Pena stated, she was here last time. Ms. Grantland stated,

oh, she was part of the presentation, but... Ms. Pena stated, I felt that she was in support of this. Ms. Garza stated, Ms. Hernandez, can you share any insight? Ms. Jessica Gonzalez stated, I thought she said she didn't support it. **Ms. Beatriz Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer stated, well, just like she mentioned last time, she did meet with Dallas ISD worked with the Little Haven Ms. Sharma as far as we didn't get you know, it was more of an informational. I know we'd met with Mrs. Rosario Pena and Mr. Salinas and miss Julie Salinas, as far as coming together and say whether it was a recommendation or not, we're basically bringing you the information that we found. As far as the MOU, some clarification questions that we needed from Mr. Salinas and O 'Hanlon. And so that's pretty much what we have, what was informational from the department.** Ms. Grantland stated, the reason I ask that is I'm coming from, are we going to complicate your lives by doing this? Are we going to make this better by doing this for the department? Not for the department, for the students through the department. **Ms. B. Hernandez stated, I think in this case, like Mr. Salinas was saying, it is an MOU. It still needs to come back to the Board. He would need to review it. Like y'all were stating, it still goes through the parent and the physician. And so, I think once he gets the MOU and the details of it, I think we would have more information on that. Mr. M. Salinas stated, and if I may, Ms. Grantland, I think this could be a test product. When Little Haven presented, they indicated there that Dallas ISD had a similar MOU. Dallas ISD does not engage in this type of activity. So, we're really going to be testing it. So, if it works good, but if it doesn't, we'll come back to the Board and express our concerns Ms. Lippa, obviously her concerns were that it is untested, not sure how it's going to affect her resources, but if it's good for the children then certainly we want to give it an opportunity.** Ms. Grantland stated, so nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Mr. Salinas stated, that's right. Yes ma 'am.**

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Denise Garza to recommend approval to authorize the Superintendent to move forward with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Little Haven. (Board Agenda Request Denise Garza/Board Support Frank Ortiz)

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 5-2-0

2. Consider termination of the current contract with Valley Risk Consulting, Inc. (Roger Garza), in accordance with contract provisions, and direct the Superintendent to issue a new RFP for insurance and benefits consulting services and return recommendations to the Board. (Board Agenda Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Minerva Pena)

Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, Move to approve. Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, Second. Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, we have a first and a second. Any discussion? Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I have a question for legal. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Gonzalez continued, Mr.

Flores, just out of curiosity this is the third time that this has been placed on the agenda against this specific vendor at what point are we harassing the vendor? Ms. Pena interjected, at no point. *Mr. Eric Flores, Board Attorney stated, you know I really so I was speaking to Mr. Salinas here I think we need to look at if there's an out clause this is a professional service agreement so typically there is one to answer your question specifically you know really, I think the result of that or the determination will be in the, you know, this, the vendor itself. You know, harassment is a pretty broad definition, but you know.* Ms. Gonzalez stated, yea I just don't want to give the impression that we harass, we the district harass any vendor for that matter. Ms. Gonzalez stated, and then also, again, back to the, it's the third time that it's on the agenda. I thought if it was shot down, only people that voted against it could bring it back, but it keeps being brought back by the same person, people. *Mr. Flores stated, typically, of course, Madam Chair of the Board as well as the Superintendent can decide what agenda items pursuant to the Board policy can come back. Any Board member with the support can put any agenda item on so long as it is legal and pursuant to board policy.* Ms. Gonzalez stated, okay, I appreciate that, thank you. Again, here we go I think that this is just, we have to follow administration. Last time, I forget which one it was, if it was the first time or the second time, administration flat out asked us, let us continue the process. We're just going to damage the integrity of our procurement process. And let's just not undermine the system. We talk about process and procedure all the time, let's finish the procedure. These guy's has got two more months left in his contract. I know you guys have a thing about not letting people finish up their contracts. But this is a whole procurement thing, this is a whole different thing, let's just finish the process. That's all I have. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated thank you Ms. Gonzalez, Dr. Benavides, do you have something? **Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, he's going to continue with a procurement process because he's got a 60-day period notification, so he'll continue to work for the next 60 days.** Ms. Pena stated, excuse me. May I? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Dr. Benavides; Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, and those are the two months that Jessica's talking about. So he's going to continue doing that for 60 days. So he's covered for two months, Jessica. Ms. Gonzalez stated, perfect, then, let's leave it alone. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Mr. Elizondo stated, yeah, I have something to say. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Elizondo. Mr. Elizondo continued, Ms. Gonzalez, I'm the one that keeps bringing it on here, I'm sure you already know that. Just real quick there's been some concerns and I think I brought him up to Eden and your law firm on this individual vendor. *Mr. Flores stated yes, sir.* Mr. Elizondo continued, there's some concerns with other districts and other cities that he has been involved with. I mentioned the last time in public because I've read up someone send that to me there was a concern with one of the constituents who actually is also a taxpayer in this district Ms. Gonzalez and so their concern was going to be voiced through my voice, as I'm obligated to do so. But again, the concern continues to happen and that's from an internal source saying that this individual is leading the Employee Benefits Committee and to be able to make sure that the decision is made within 60 days, May the 15th, 17th or whatever it is. Am I pretty far off? The decision is to be brought back to us by May something? So hence again, the effort and the push from this same vendor to continue to make a decision for everybody else. My concern is the vendor should not be involved with the EBC, especially when they're sitting down to consider who the next \$57 million contract is going to be given to. That's my concern. That was their concern, and I'm bringing it to this table and to this Board. Whether you like to vote for it or not is up to you, but this is a concern that was brought to me. It's a \$57 million deal, and this

individual is strictly heading this decision. *Mr. Flores stated, thank you, Mr. Elizondo, I'll get with Dr. Benavides as well to ensure that all those, of course, procurement policies and, of course, statutory requirements are met in regards to that procurement of that contract.* Ms. Gonzalez stated, can I just say something else? Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I'll just go on record, just as the Insurance Committee Chair and as somebody that has been to EBC committees, I have not heard one single concern out of the people there. On the contrary, they begged us there at the podium to let them control what they do. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, Ms. Gonzalez. We have a first and a second; Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, so if we do nothing, it's still only two months left in his contract, correct? If we do something, it's still only two months left in his contract, correct? *Mr. Flores stated, according to.* Ms. Pena interjected; we have to find out what the Contract reads. Ms. Grantland stated, I'm asking him. *Mr. Flores continued, according to Dr. Benavides there is a 60-day notice as any contract typically has some sort of notice provision to the contract holder here. It's 60 days so we have to give him that notice pursuant to the contract to be compliant there. I think there's also alongside a lot of those notices whether it's a 30 or 60 day there also might be a renewal clause there. So, I'd have to look at that specifically alongside Dr. Benavides. But let's just play this theoretically, if he's owed the notice, that contract would be over, then forcing the district to renew either said contract or to go out and follow the procurement process for somebody else.* Ms. Grantland stated, my big concern with these items that keep coming forward, we need to be focused on getting our new superintendent, we need to be focused on moving forward with a budget that is fiscally responsible. And I know that I understand the concerns that have been brought to the table. I have researched pretty extensively before tonight's item and found that the roles that are played by our Benefits Director, and the consultant are pretty much separate roles. And I don't know that this consultant is at this point, at first I had the impression that there was a conflict of interest in the process. But I don't find that to be true after the research that I've been doing. I just I think that we just need to stay focused on our Superintendent search and on our budget process because that's what the community expects. Now if we want to look at this situation and give him the notice and in 60 days we go out for RFQs or whatever the proper term is, so be it. I understand he's one of very few people qualified to do this kind of thing, so we'll probably see him come back and try to be awarded the contract. There may be other people that come in, and I don't see anything wrong in looking out for out for people to come in and apply. My concern is our employees. Our employees need the security of a good insurance program. Our employees need the security of having premiums that they can somewhat afford even though it's really medical costs are skyrocketing badly. Our district needs to be competitive when it comes to attracting people because of our benefits. And so I don't want us shooting ourselves in the foot just because there are innuendos or rumors or even proven things. We just need to be very cognizant of what we're doing. And I do think that at some point it appears to be harassing. I'm not saying that it is, but the appearance to our community is not a good one. I want to stay focused on our Superintendent search, on our budget process, and on doing the best thing for our students. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, may I? Ms. Lopez Valdez, stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, yes, and I agree we need to stay focused on taking care of the students, but especially our employees. And our concern is like we need to make sure, remember, we are self-insured. He's just a consultant. We pay everything. Am I correct, Mr. Eric? *Mr. Flores replied, I would defer to the staff on that specific question in regard to payment.* Ms. Pena stated, Self-insured when the bill comes in for the employee, who pays the bill?

Mr. Miguel Salinas, Board Attorney stated, we're insured. we're self-insured, ma 'am. We pay the bills. We have a third-party administrator that just tells us... Ms. Pena interjected, just tells us how and what and when to do it. But to choose to live or die, at the end of the day, BISD has a choice. Why? Because I've seen situations where the consulting service said, we're not recommending they pay this, but they're self-insured, call your district, because your district is making the choice. We're just telling them not to. But if it's life and death, they have a choice to go against. So, I've seen that. So, my concern is this, he's just a consultant I see that so for right now, can we do it's going to save 57 million it's going to cost for right now I want to go ahead and put this on so we can put it on and put it out there right away so we can to the RFQs and not worry about that. Like if Ms. Grantland just mentioned, if he's the best one out there and he comes back and we have nothing else and nobody else, then he gets the contract again and everything's fine and we've done our due diligence. But to turn around and say, well, you know, we only like, no, no, no, no, let's be fair because this money belongs to the people out there that are starving and sacrificing to pay their taxes so we can get the money to pay the teachers and our students. It wouldn't affect him in that sense, because it could be RFQs. And like I said, if he's the best one out there, and that could be possible, then we renew his contract again with no issues. At the end of the day, we are self-insured. Because I've asked questions, when they get turned down, I say, who gave you the authority to choose if a person lives or dies? I have a big concern with that. And insurance companies are playing that game there. But luckily for us, we're self-insured. We can choose a job. and pay the bill and get you to where you need to go so you can stay alive. Thank you. Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, okay, so going back to this agenda item, are we currently already looking for a new consultant or where do we stand on the contract? **Mr. Salinas stated, Board, I'm sorry, I'm at a disadvantage. I haven't seen the contract obviously since I approved it two or three years ago. If indeed it expires in 60 days, then we simply don't renew it. There's no reason to take any action. But I don't know that for a fact. I would like to look at the contract to see what the terms are.** Ms. Pena stated, why did we not look at it if you knew this was on the agenda a week ago? **Mr. Salinas stated, I wasn't asked, ma 'am. I'm sorry.** Ms. Pena stated, you didn't see the agenda item? **Mr. Salinas stated, this was not my item I'm sorry.** Ms. Pena stated, oh, I'm sorry I didn't know that. I'm sorry. I thought that everyone does it anyway. I apologize. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Grantland stated, is it possible to go on with our agenda and you find that out right now and bring it back to us because I don't see that sitting on this any longer is an option for us. I think we need to determine whether to give the notice or not because this is the third time. We need to be done with this and we need to get focused on our superintendent search and our budget process. **Mr. Flores stated, Trustee Grantland to answer your question, we can put this item aside for a little bit and address it at a later time during this meeting. However there is a motion, there is a second, they would have to retract that at this moment.** Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Gonzalez, I know she has a ... Mr. Elizondo interjected, I can retract my motion so they can get the information that Ms. Grantland is looking for. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I was just going to say, I believe that currently we are in the process of the RFQ process. Ms. Pena stated, we do need to look at the contract. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, it's my understanding that we are in the RFQ process. (inaudible). Ms. Lopez continued, is there anyone in here who knows? Is purchasing? Ms. Pena stated, only the contract has that. Can we get someone to look at that contract? Ms. Gonzalez stated, Dr. Cantu doesn't Insurance fall under you. **Mr. Flores stated, so I'm requesting a contract as we speak, Dr. Cantu is going to get that for me?** Mr. Elizondo stated, I retracted my

motion, if you want to get the information, we can continue with the agenda. *Mr. Flores stated, okay if Ms. Grantland, if that is your request, we can do that. He retracts the second. And the motion maker, which is Ms. Pena.* Ms. Pena stated, yes, to reject to later on during the meeting after we get the contract. *Mr. Flores continued, we'll momentarily table it and I will get that contract myself and Mr. Salinas will review that contract. And then I will signal to Madam Chair.* Ms. Grantland stated, that is my request. Mr. Flores stated, all right thank you, Trustee Grantland. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you. Ms. Pena stated, thank you, sir.

Note: Agenda item moved in Executive session – action taken after Closed Meeting.

3. Discussion, consideration, and action to replace current person serving in school board president position. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)

Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated I'd like to move that we put Carlos Elizondo as Board President at this time. Mr. Frank Ortiz stated, Second. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, I have a question. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated Ms. Grantland. Ms. Grantland continued, again, I'm going to sound like a broken record. Our focus right now needs to be on the Superintendent search, our budget process, and I think that we need to just be patient enough. *Mr. Eric Flores, Board Attorney stated, if we could just hold all applause and just maintain decorum in the audience, it'd be much appreciated.* Ms. Grantland continued; I believe that the point where we can reorganize our Board configuration comes in November when the election takes place. I don't see any problem in continuing if we can all agree to just be civil, allow everyone the time that's allocated for them to speak and not continue with the animosity that has been displayed. I'm calling a spade a spade. I don't think this is the time to do this. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member stated, I agree. I agree. Now is just not the time. I was going to take it further as far as signatures and stuff, but at the end of the day, let's just put it out for a vote. But I will say now is not the time. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you we have a first and a second. **Ms. Patricia Perez, Executive Assistant stated, please vote.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, I vote no. **Ms. Perez stated, motion failed three yes, four no.**

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Frank Ortiz to recommend approval to appoint Carlos Elizondo as Board President.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Failed: 3-4-0

Ms. Minerva Pena stated, I'd like to make another motion to appoint Frank Ortiz as a Board President. Mr. Carlos Elizondo stated, I'll second that. Ms. Jessica Gonzalez stated, my comment still stands with Ms. Grantland. It's just now is not the time. Ms. Neida Ruth

Grantland stated, I agree. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. **Ms. Perez stated, please vote.** Ms. Gonzalez stated, I vote no. **Ms. Perez stated motion failed three yes, four no.**

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Carlos Elizondo to recommend approval to appoint Frank Ortiz as Board President.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Failed: 3-4-0

Ms. Lopez Valdez stated Ms. Garza. Ms. Denise Garza stated, Finance, when it comes to spending on the diplomas, right, that's where it's going to cost us money with a reorganization because of signatures and diplomas probably have already been ordered? **Ms. Rosario Pena, Chief Financial Officer stated, yes, ma'am, and they have signatures on them.** Ms. Garza stated okay, thank you. Ms. Pena stated, I have a comment then. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena continued, then what I can do is I'd like to reword my motion for us to have a new president sitting in July. I'll move to have a Frank Elizondo become the sitting President for the school Board in July. That way we don't have any expenditures for this Board, because if that's the concern of our Board at this point in this time, I'd like to motion that we make this change in July, and for Frank Ortiz to be the school Board. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Legal, is that something that we could do, or do we bring it back on the agenda in July? *Mr. Eric Flores, Board Attorney stated, Madam Chair, so pursuant to the Open Meetings Act the reason why we have these agenda is to give the public sufficient notice, we have taken up two motions, both have failed. Considering a third motion with a designated timeline, I'm not too sure it would suffice.* Ms. M. Pena interjected, it did, I looked it up, do you want to look it up. You're welcome to. *Mr. Flores stated, you are more than welcome to make the motion, but again, making a third motion with a very specific timeline and specific person, I just don't know if it would be proper at this time. I think a separate agenda item would be more appropriate. But again, you're more than welcome to make the motion.* Ms. M. Pena stated, yeah, and the reason is because of the concern of my constituents here. And one said, well, it's because of the signatures already there and I don't want that expense, you know, at this point in this time. And if that's the reasoning, and then let's add that on there and that can be done. I've already studied this. The motion can be made, can be turned down or, you know, and that way the public knows where we stand and how we feel and this is why this is done. So I'd like to put it that way, that way we know and if it says no now, then I just leave it alone because no one's going to have the courage to do what needs to be done at some times. And I do because I serve the community. I don't let the community serve me. Ms. Grantland interjected, it's not lack of courage. Ms. Pena stated, no, no, I'm just, I'm making my statement, I let you make yours, let me make mine. Thank you. So. *Mr. Flores stated, Ms. Pena, you're more than welcome to make any motion if you feel that it is sufficient. As you said, you conducted the research. Again, I think I've stated my legal opinion. I think it'd be more appropriate, you know, to actually put down exactly what you*

would like in this third motion for, you know, you gave a timeline, you gave a specific person. Again, as this agenda item reads, my legal opinion is that it's a board reorganization. Ms. Pena stated, it's a replacement because I didn't put reorganization for that purpose. Mr. Flores stated, I understand that. Ms. Pena stated, I know how we make sure the words are. And I respect your legal opinion. Don't get me wrong. But, you know, I just want to, if it dies, hey, it died from the lack of the vote, we did our part. Mr. Flores stated, Ms. Pena, again, Trustee Pena, you're more than welcome to make the motion if you do have a second. Again, I just don't think it's sufficient. But however, I'll leave that to your judgment. Ms. Pena stated, I say we'll bring it back to the next one. No, I wanted to go not have this animosity and horrible feeling never in my life in 17 years. Yeah, never. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Pena I'm letting you put a motion so that actually shows that I'm not a dictator like you have continued to say. So go ahead and make your motion. Ms. Pena stated, I'd like to motion that we replace the sitting board president with Frank Elizondo in July 2026. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, you probably want to state the name correctly. Ms. Pena stated, I'm sorry, Frank Ortiz. I apologize. I just made you an Elizondo. I so apologize. It's not the first time that somebody calls each other different names, I am sorry. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, it sounds like our legal doesn't even recommend this but. Mr. Flores stated, yeah again just, just for the record here right when you we put up agenda items, we want to give the public sufficient notice you know. Ms. Pena interjected, and we have it's a replacement you're going to detail I understand, and the detail is an option, not a specific. I know what you're saying. Mr. Flores stated, you don't have to agree with my opinion, Ms. Pena. Ms. Pena stated, no, no. Mr. Flores stated, I'm just stating it again clearly before the motion is made. Legal's recommendation, considering the motion has failed twice, in two different occasions with two different people, I would recommend that a cleaner agenda item be written for the next meeting. That is my opinion. You don't have to agree. I'm just here solely as an advisor. You're more than welcome to make that motion. Madam Chair has made, has stated that she will allow the motion to be brought forth before the dais. If you have a second, then you go to a vote and we'll see the result at that point. Ms. Pena stated, I appreciate it, thank you. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we just have a motion. Ms. Pena stated, who second? No one second? Mr. Elizondo stated, I'll second your motion. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and second. Ms. Perez stated, please vote. Ms. Gonzalez stated, I'll vote no. Ms. Perez stated, Motion failed three yes, four no.

Motion made by Minerva Pena, seconded by Carlos Elizondo to recommend approval of the appointment of Frank Ortiz as the sitting President of the School board effective July 2026.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Failed: 3-4-0

Ms. Pena stated, and the reason I wanted to do it now is I don't want to wait till July because it's over and done with and that's it, leave it alone. That's the reason. I didn't want to bring

it back in July. *Mr. Flores stated, Madam Chair, considering that this motion has died three consecutive times, at this time I recommend closing this motion and anything in regard should be brought up in a separate agenda to be a little bit more detailed if possible and just to continue to comply with standard practice.* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you, lets go ahead and close this item.

Eric Flores, Board Attorney stated, Madam Chair if you can take one item out of place, I have consulted with Mr. Salinas in regards to, there is a law enforcement item, I just don't know how long executive session will take; I know they are taking time out of their time, if we could hear that item before hand that would be great. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we could take it first in executive. *Mr. Flores stated, okay, we will just take it first in executive.* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, yes is that okay Mr. Salinas. ***Mr. Miguel Salinas, Staff Attorney stated, yes, it is not going to take very long, Border Patrol is here, I don't know how long executive will take.*** Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, do we need to have on speaker. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, if we could move it to the top, I am okay with that. *Mr. Flores stated perfect.*

XII. CLOSED MEETING: as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. 7:50 p.m.

A. LEVEL III GRIEVANCE(S):

1. Discussion and consideration regarding Level III Grievance No.026/25-26 on R.Z.
2. Discussion and consideration regarding Level III Grievance No.027/25-26 on C.C.

B. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

1. Presentation and acceptance of Retirements. (33)
2. Presentation and acceptance of Resignations. (2)
3. Personnel Update with Interim Superintendent (Dr. Alda T. Benavides)
4. Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Assistant Principal-HS. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **(Agenda item pulled by administration)**
5. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Athletic Trainer. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
6. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Coordinator, Procurement. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
7. Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Director, Childcare Center. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1)
8. Campus professional staff for Chapter 21-term contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year.
9. Campus professional staff for Probationary contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year.

10. Proposed non-renewal of a term contract professional teacher (A.N.) at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year.
11. Discussion of Non-Renewal of Non-Chapter 21 Contractual employees.

C. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney
 - a. Discussion regarding the Display of Ten Commandments in Texas Classrooms.
 - b. Discussion regarding Civil Action No.1:26-CV-00339; Adelida Ruth Vento vs. Brownsville Independent School District.
 - c. Possible settlement regarding restitution fees owed to the District from former employee C.D.
 - d. Possible settlement of District employee E.G.
 - e. Possible settlement of District employee R.C.
 - f. Discussion and consideration regarding possible settlement of District employee (O.A.)
2. Board Attorney:
 - a. Legal Update with Board Counsel.
 1. Interim Superintendent's Employment Contract. (Dr. Alda T. Benavides)

D. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

1. Internal Auditor Consultation.

E. BOARD MEMBER REQUEST(S):

1. Discussion and consideration regarding Interim Superintendent contract regarding pay, and details in superintendent contract. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)
2. Presentation, discussion and possible action on the Agency conducting the District's Audit (Clifton, Larson, Allen). (Board Agenda Request Frank Ortiz/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)

F. REAL ESTATE:

1. License Agreement between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Brownsville Independent School District within Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sector.

XIII. BOARD RECONVENES-Board action on agenda items discussed in Executive Session.10:51 pm

Note: Jessica Gonzalez, Board Member signed off, via zoom during executive session

- XI. B. 2.** Consider termination of the current contract with Valley Risk Consulting, Inc. (Roger Garza), in accordance with contract provisions, and direct the Superintendent to issue a new RFP for insurance and benefits consulting services and return recommendations to the Board. (Board Agenda Request Carlos Elizondo/Board Support Minerva Pena)

Mr. Carlos Elizondo, Board Member stated, Mr. Flores. *Mr. Eric Flores, Board Attorney stated, Madam Chair, so there was a question in regard to the contract. I did receive a*

copy of the contract as well as when there was just a question. If you all want copies, I'm more than happy to distribute those. Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, you're going to give us the answer right now? *Mr. Flores continued, yes, so there is a 60-day out as we expected. There is not an automatic renewal provision. It seems on June 26, 2025, there is a memo, I guess, when they were awarded under that RFP again, that insurance consultant, which was the proposals for the insurance consultant for 2025, 2026 school years. The term of the contract was one year with the option to renew on a year-to-year basis. The contract provides services for all district insurance products. So yeah, that answers the question.* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Ms. Grantland. Ms. Neida Ruth Grantland, Board Member stated, just a quick question, so you're saying that it does not automatically renew at the end of this contract point? *Mr. Flores replied, no. So it's the term of the contract was one year with the option to renew on a year-to-year basis.* Ms. Grantland stated, but it doesn't happen automatically. *Mr. Flores replied, that's correct. Does not happen automatically.* **Mr. Miguel Salinas, Staff Attorney (inaudible).** *Mr. Flores stated, that's correct.* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, thank you. Any other questions? Ms. Pena stated, yes, may I, so when it says that that means that we don't have to go out for RFQ's we have the option to renew. Am I correct? He is saying yes over there. *Mr. Flores stated, that's correct but coming back to the original question, right was that are we going to renew them or we're going to go out for RFPs?* Mr. Elizondo stated, so I'd like to amend my motion. I would like to amend it to at the end of this contract to go out for RFQs. Ms. Pena stated, at the end of this year's contract? Mr. Elizondo stated, well, they say it's at the end of June, July. What is it? June. So my motion would be to go out for RFQs for these services at the end of this contract. Ms. Pena stated, at the end of June 2026. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, Mr. Ortiz? Mr. Frank Ortiz, Board Member stated, just a question here. If it stays the way that it reads, could we go out to RFQs immediately and not wait two months from now? If it stays the way that Mr. Elizondo wrote it here. *Mr. Flores replied, could you go out for an RFQ immediately?* Mr. Ortiz stated, yes, I know Mr. Salinas is saying yes over there. *Mr. Flores stated, you could.* Mr. Ortiz stated, and not wait the two months. *Mr. Flores stated, until the contract expires? Yeah, you could be proactive. Yes, Mr. Ortiz, be proactive.* Mr. Ortiz stated, so, I don't know what you want to do. Mr. Elizondo stated, I'll amend my motion to state that. *Mr. Flores stated, so, I do have a second, Mr. Elizondo, so if Ms. Pena could resend her second and then it would allow you.* Ms. Pena stated, okay, I'll resend the second to his first statement and now to this one. Mr. Elizondo stated, well, thank you, Mr. Ortiz, for that. Ms. Pena stated, yeah, I resend for the first motion and I say yes second to his second motion. Mr. Elizondo stated, so, I'll just amend it to add the language that Mr. Ortiz brought up. *Mr. Flores stated, okay so then it seems like Mr. Elizondo your motion now will read that you would like to go out for RFPs immediately.* Mr. Elizondo stated, correct. *Mr. Flores stated, okay so not terminated so just to go out for RFPs.* Ms. Pena would you second or anybody else? Ms. Pena stated, Second. Mr. Flores stated, all right. Thank you. Any questions? Ms. Denise Garza, Board Member stated, okay, so we are going to end this contract, right, when it ends, but we're already going to be looking for a new consultant. *Mr. Flores stated, well, it sounds like that was the original, but then it's now changed because Mr. Ortiz added it, and then rescind, and then he made a new motion. So the direction to the administration would be that we start immediately sending out an RFP package. Let the contract run so that when it does run You know, we're already at least a quarter maybe midway through that process. So we're not terminating the contract we're just listening to go out for RFPs now.* Ms. Garza stated, for the new contract; for a new contract with a new potential possibly new individual. Mr.

Flores stated, that's correct. Ms. Grantland stated, or the same person. Ms. Garza stated, or the same person, yea just depending. Okay, that's what I want to make sure because the 60-day notice, we would have not met it because we're already. *Mr. Flores interjected, yeah, so it sounds like we're not electing to end the contract.* Ms. Garza stated, okay. *Mr. Flores continued, we're just going to be a little bit proactive just in case the board or administration decides to go a different direction.* Ms. Lopez Valdez interjected, let's just make sure we state that correctly. Let's state that again. Mr. Elizondo, can you state that word for word. Mr. Elizondo stated, I think Mr. Flores can do the legal term and then make it. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, please Mr. Flores. *Mr. Flores stated, Mr. Elizondo's motion is to allow the contract to run its original term but to proactively go out for RFPs so that when that contract does end, it runs its contractual date, we're already through that process. So that's how the motion would read. We allow the contract to run, we proactively go out for RFPs.* Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second, and Mr. Ortiz? Mr. Ortiz stated, yes, just to make sure again to make sure that I understand it. Well, we're going to let it run its course, it doesn't mean that we're not going to renew it once it runs its course for the first year. Is that correct? *Mr. Flores stated, well, there is a there is a possibility that it could be renewed right because in essence he could be the best one throughout the RFP process.* Mr. Ortiz stated, okay right. I just want a clarification on that. Mr. Flores stated, but that would be a new contract. Ms. Pena stated, it wouldn't be renewed. *Mr. Flores stated, correct.* Ms. Garza stated, it would be rewritten out again. One year with a possible renewal. Mr. Ortiz stated, got it, okay. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, we have a first and a second. Let's go ahead and vote.

Amended motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Minerva Pena, and unanimously carried to recommend approval to allow the contract to continue through its original term while proactively initiating the RFP process so that, upon expiration of the contract, the procurement process will already be completed. (6-0-0)

A. LEVEL III GRIEVANCE(S):

1. Recommend approval of Level III Grievance No.026/25-26 on R.Z. **No action taken**
2. Recommend approval Level III Grievance No.027/25-26 on C.C. **No action taken**

B. PERSONNEL MATTER(S):

Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President stated, remove item 6, the rest of them will be grouped.

Motion made by Denise Garza, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, and unanimously carried to recommend approval grouping Personnel Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. (6-0-0)

1. Recommend approval of Retirements. (33) **(G6-0-0)**
Mary Atkinson, Margarita Brashear, Thomas Brashear, Laura B. Calderoni, Leslie M. Cano, Rosa Casas, Marty L. Castillo, Jesus H. Chavez, Melinda DeLeon, Kristine Ellefsen, Leticia Errisuriz, Rogelio Errisuriz, Deborah A. Espinoza, Dennis Ewing, Salvador Garcia, Lorraine Garza, Maribel Gracia, Carlos A. Guerra, Carolina Laughlin, Nita R. Luna, Hilda Maldonado, Miguel A. Martinez, Sabrina Mathers, Patricia A. Obell, Sonia L. Padilla,

Rolando Rodriguez, Norma G. Sanroman, Agustin Serna, Maria G. Stambaugh, Heidi Wild, Maria I. Ybarra

2. Recommend approval of Resignations. (2) **George Saldana, Eduardo Torres**(G6-0-0)
3. Recommend approval of Personnel Update with Interim Superintendent (Dr. Alda T. Benavides) **(G6-0-0)**
4. Recommend approval of Chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s)- Assistant Principal-HS. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Daniel Yaacobi-Pace ECHS (Agenda item pulled by administration)**
5. Recommend approval of Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Athletic Trainer. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Selena Vargas** (G6-0-0)
6. Recommend approval of Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Coordinator, Procurement. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) – **Procurement Services (Agenda item pulled as discussed in Executive Session)**
7. Recommend approval of Non-chapter 21 contractual personnel for the 2025-2026 school year(s) - Director, Childcare Center. Subject to receipt of all outstanding documentation. (1) **Flor Diaz – Lincoln Park School** (G6-0-0)
8. Recommend approval of Campus professional staff for Chapter 21-term contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year. **(G6-0-0)**
9. Campus professional staff for Probationary contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year. **(G6-0-0)**
10. Recommend approval of Proposed non-renewal of a term contract professional teacher (A.N.) at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. **(G6-0-0)**
11. Discussion of Non-Renewal of Non-Chapter 21 Contractual employees. **(G6-0-0)**

C. ATTORNEY CONSULTATION

1. Staff Attorney

- a. Recommend approval of Discussion regarding the Display of Ten Commandments in Texas Classrooms. **(Discussion item only/No Action Taken)**
- b. Recommend approval of Discussion regarding Civil Action No.1:26-CV-00339; Adelida Ruth Vento vs. Brownsville Independent School District. **(Discussion item only/No Action Taken)**

Motion made by Daniella Lopez Valdez, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, and unanimously carried to recommend approval grouping Attorney Consultation items c, d, e, and f (6-0-0)

- c. Possible settlement regarding restitution fees owed to the District from former employee C.D. **(G6-0-0)**
- d. Recommend approval of Possible settlement of District employee E.G. **(G6-0-0)**
- e. Recommend approval of Possible settlement of District employee R.C. **(G 6-0-0)**
- f. Recommend approval of Discussion and consideration regarding possible settlement of District employee (O.A.) **(G 6-0-0)**

2. Board Attorney:

- a. Legal Update with Board Counsel.
 - 1. Recommend approval of Interim Superintendent's Employment Contract. (Dr. Alda T. Benavides)

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Neida Ruth Grantland, regarding the approval of Interim Superintendents Contract, as discussed in Executive Session.

The following vote was recorded

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

Motion Carried: 5-0-1

D. INTERNAL AUDITOR CONSULTATION

- 1. Internal Auditor Consultation. **(No action taken)**

E. BOARD MEMBER REQUEST(S):

- 1. Discussion and consideration and possible action regarding Interim Superintendent contract regarding pay, and details in superintendent contract. (Board Agenda Request Minerva Pena/Board Support Carlos Elizondo) **(No action taken)**
- 2. Presentation, discussion and possible action on the Agency conducting the District's Audit (Clifton, Larson, Allen). (Board Agenda Request Frank Ortiz/Board Support Carlos Elizondo)

Ms. Minerva Pena, Board Member stated, this is for number two correct, and number one there as no action. *Mr. Eric Flores, Board Attorney stated, that is correct.* **Ms. Patricia C. Perez, Executive Assistant stated, there is no action on E.1.** Mr. Flores continued, so on this one it was.... Ms. Pena interjected, because this one is part of 2A. 1. *Mr. Flores stated right...* Ms. Pena interjected, is this (inaudible) also. *Mr. Flores stated, yes so we apologize so on that one.* Ms. Pena interjected, you skipped it. *Mr. Flores continued, so on that one, I think we just grouped them together, if that is okay with the Board.* Ms. Pena stated, okay. *Mr. Flores stated, because this was just the update, but really and truly.* Ms. Daniella Lopez Valdez, Board President interjected, that works. *Mr. Flores stated, okay.*

Ms. Perez stated we are voting on E.2 ma'am.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to recommend approval District's Audit (Clifton, Larson, Allen), as discussed in Executive Session. (6-0-0)

F. REAL ESTATE:

1. Recommend approval of License Agreement between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Brownsville Independent School District within Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sector.

Motion made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Daniella Lopez Valdez, and unanimously carried to recommend approval of License Agreement between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Brownsville Independent School district within Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sector. (6-0-0)

XIV. Announcement(s):

Dr. Alda T. Benavides, Interim Superintendent stated, **BISD Mariachi Festival, 7 p.m., CAB Auditorium, May 7th, Elementary Teacher of the Year Ceremony at 8:30 at the CAB Cafeteria, Budget Committee Meeting Number #2, 5:30 in the Boardroom. , Ports Corner, 6 p.m., CAB Auditorium. May 8th, Secondary Teacher of the Year Ceremony, 8:30, CAB Cafeteria, Youth in Philanthropy, 9 a.m. TSC Performing Arts Center. May 9th, Elementary Art Contest Reception, 1 p. m. at the Cultural Center. May 9th through the 22nd, Elementary Art Exhibit at the Cultural Center. May 13th, Parent Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, 9:30 at the CAB Auditorium. CTE Certification Orientation Night, 5 p.m. CTE Center. May 14, Top Graduates Recognition Dinner, 5:30 Ambassador Event Center, CTE Certification Center Orientation Night also on May 14 at 5 p.m. at the CTE Center. May 15, Elementary and Middle School Coding Summit at 8:30 in the CAB Cafeteria. May 18, Student Recognition, 5:30 BISD Boardroom. May 19th Budget Committee Meeting Number #3, 5:30 p. m. at the BISD Boardroom.** Mr. Elizondo stated, thank you. Motion to Adjourn. Ms. Lopez Valdez stated, I just also wanted to quickly thank all our teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week and I know we recognized all the other weeks but really wanted to take time to thank our amazing teachers for all that they do for our kids and for changing and inspiring lives every day, thank you. Ms. Minerva Pena stated, could you please send us a list of all those events coming up? If they can take it to us, because my internet doesn't work at home. So if you can do that. And thank you to the teachers.

XV. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Carlos Elizondo, seconded by Denise Garza, and unanimously carried to approve to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 11:05 P.M. (6-0-0)

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

(HANDOUTS ADDED TO OFFICIAL MINUTES)

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

Approved by:

Daniella Lopez Valdez, President of the Board

Date

Attested by:

Minerva Pena, Secretary of the Board

Date

Notes: Font style designation

Board of Trustees
Administration
Board Attorney
Staff Attorney
Speaker/Presenter

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