

Minerva Almanza

From: Minerva Almanza
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 10:59 AM
To: Minerva Almanza
Subject: FW: Board Member Request

FYI: Board of Trustees
Interim Superintendent

Board Agenda Request – Carlos Elizondo

From: Carlos Elizondo <celizondo2@bisd.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 9:27 PM
To: Dr. Alda T. Benavides <atbenavides@bisd.us>
Subject: Board Member Request

Board Member Request – Carlos Elizondo Request for Agenda Item / Comprehensive Disclosure Regarding ESSER Non-Compliance Matter

In light of the recent communication received from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding the unresolved ESSER non-compliance matter involving disallowed costs totaling \$573,571.74, I respectfully request that this matter be formally placed on a future Board agenda for full discussion and administrative disclosure.

The April 22, 2024 TEA letter addressed to former Superintendent Dr. Jesus Chavez confirms that Brownsville ISD was found non-compliant with federal ESSER grant requirements and that TEA demanded corrective action, repayment, or appeal within 30 calendar days.

The letter further states that the questioned costs stemmed from:

- Payroll expenditures charged outside the approved grant period;
- Expenditures exceeding approved pre-award budget limitations; and
- Costs determined to be unallowable under federal grant requirements.

Additionally, the TEA correspondence warned that failure to comply could result in:

- Withholding of future federal funds,
- Suspension or termination of awards,
- Additional enforcement actions,
- Debarment proceedings, or
- Other legally available remedies.

Given the seriousness of this matter, I am formally requesting the following information and documentation from administration:

1. A complete timeline of events beginning with the original TEA findings and all subsequent district actions taken thereafter.

2. Copies of all correspondence, emails, memoranda, meeting notes, or communications related to this ESSER non-compliance matter, including communications involving:
 - Current or former superintendents,
 - Chief financial officers,
 - Federal programs personnel,
 - Internal auditors,
 - Outside consultants,
 - Legal counsel,
 - TEA representatives,
 - Any district employee, and
 - Any current or former Board member.
3. Identification of all district personnel who were responsible for:
 - ESSER grant oversight,
 - Budget controls,
 - Payroll coding and approvals,
 - Federal compliance monitoring,
 - Submission of corrective actions, and
 - Communication with TEA.
4. Whether the district submitted:
 - A repayment,
 - An appeal,
 - Corrective action documentation, or
 - Any extension requests to TEA.
5. Copies of any:
 - Corrective action plans,
 - Internal investigations,
 - Audit findings,
 - Legal opinions,
 - Repayment calculations,
 - Journal entries,
 - Payroll reclassifications, or
 - Compliance reviews associated with this matter.
6. Clarification regarding:
 - Why the matter remained unresolved for over two years,
 - Whether the Board was previously informed,
 - When the Board was first notified,
 - Whether prior administrations disclosed the financial exposure to trustees, and
 - Whether any additional TEA compliance concerns currently exist.
7. Confirmation of:
 - The district's current financial exposure,
 - Potential impact on future federal funding,
 - Whether penalties or interest may apply, and
 - Whether district insurance or legal counsel has been involved.
8. A determination as to whether any district employee, administrator, consultant, or vendor failed to comply with federal grant management requirements or district financial controls.
9. Identification of all corrective measures implemented since the original findings, including:
 - Policy changes,
 - Staff retraining,
 - Internal controls,
 - Oversight procedures, and

- Compliance monitoring safeguards.

10. A full administrative presentation to the Board outlining:

- The original findings,
- Current status,
- Remaining liabilities,
- Recommended district response,
- Legal implications, and
- Financial recovery or mitigation strategies.

As elected trustees, we have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure transparency, accountability, and protection of public funds. Given the magnitude of the questioned expenditures and the potential consequences identified by TEA, the Board and public deserve a full and transparent accounting of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Elizondo
Board Trustee, Place 1
Brownsville Independent School District

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Minerva Almanza

From: pena4bisd@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 8:46 AM
To: Patricia Perez
Cc: Minerva Almanza
Subject: Agenda Items

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Brownsville ISD. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

Please be advised that I would like to have this email stand as approval for all current and future agenda items requests, submitted by any and all of my BISD Board Members' Colleagues.

Respectfully,

Minerva M. Pena
BISD Trustee
946-345-5564

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