

**MINUTES OF THE  
Public Hearing & REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON August 27, 2025  
TIME: 6:00 pm**

**SESSION A:** The meeting was called to order by Juan J. Ramos Jr. Board President.  
A quorum was established as follows:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Juan J. Ramos Jr.  
Berenice Martinez  
Yadira Flores  
Maria Acosta  
Agapito Perez Jr.  
Paola Candanoza  
Janie Sarmiento

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sergio Coronado, Superintendent  
Eden Ramirez, School Attorney

**PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET, 2025-2026 TAX RATE - 6:00 pm**

*Mr. Hernandez presents to the board, projected enrollment for 25-26 1,339 students, ADA 1,175 87% attendance rate. Property values 303,298,753 increase of 5% from prior year. Compressed Tax Rate 0.5984. 2025 Proposed tax rate, tax rate for maintenance & operation 0.7483, tax rate for interest & sinking 0.5546. 2025-2026 projected revenue 19,627,441.00. 2025-2026 projected expenditures 20,660,808. Fund balance 12,485,824. Proposed budget total expenditures 24,578,358.*

**Adjournment of Public Hearing 6:09 pm**

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Agapito Perez**

**VOTING FOR:** Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza

**VOTING AGAINST:** None

**MOTION PASSES**

**A- Call meeting to order 6:09 PM**

- A1 Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Flag
- A2 Prayer **Agapito Perez Jr.**
- A3 Public Audience

*Sarah Castillo asked the board about plans to recruit more students to increase ADA. Enrique Camarena expressed concerns regarding the cost of purchasing clock-in machines for employees and requested updates on band uniforms, coaches, athletic periods, police presence on school property, bullying, and facility conditions. Alicia Piña emphasized that school property should be used for PISD purposes and raised concerns about the cost of police enforcement for the district.*

**B- Superintendent's Report**

Discussion and possible action on the following:

**B1 District Reports**

*Mr. Coronado introduced Summer Basketball League student Samuel Hernandez, who thanked Board Member Agapito Perez Jr. for donating the team uniforms and expressed his appreciation for the football coaches.*

*Mr. Coronado reported that during the first week of school, enrollment was 1,261 students, compared to*



1,268 last year, a difference of seven students. He also noted that the new cell phone policy has resulted in only three cases districtwide. At the high school, students are engaging more by playing cards, interacting, and socializing. He shared that the golf tournament was a great success, raising over \$30,000, with an estimated net profit of \$20,000 after expenses. The door decorating contest winners will be selected on Friday. Additional updates included:

- Implementation of employee ID badges.
- Team of 8 meeting and strategic planning with Dr. ET.
- The district now has four psychologists to support student needs, including bullying prevention.
- Attendance at the Region One meeting, where the district received an A rating on the FIRST report.

## **B2 Progreso ISD Property Presentation**

Mr. Coronado informs the board the property is valued a little more than 1.5 million dollars, all property transactions (donations, leases, or agreements) follow state law, TEA regulations and local board policy. Progreso ISD maintains district-owned property that carries both financial and community value. Current property valuation will be presented. DEA it is located on the building (old Progreso Elementary).

## **C1 State Compensatory Education Program Policies and Procedures Manual**

Ms. Coronado presents to the board, districts receiving SCE funds are required to have local policies and procedures in place to identify: Students who are at-risk of dropping out of school under TEC Section 29.081 criteria; Students who are at-risk of dropping out of school under local criteria and document compliance with the 10% cap in TEC Section 29.081; Entry into SCE program and Exit from the SCE program. Each local educational agency (LEA) is required to have local policies and procedures in place for State Compensatory Education.

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

## **C2 Progreso ISD Bilingual Education Policies and Procedures Manual**

Ms. Coronado presents bilingual program policies and procedures are essential for outlining Bilingual and ESL services, clarifying state requirements, defining program models, and guiding finance and budgeting practices to ensure compliance and effective implementation. Each local educational agency (LEA) is required to have local policies and procedures in place for Bilingual Education.

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

## **C3 EFB (Local) - Instructional Resources Library Materials, SB 13**

Mr. Torre presents to the board, SB 13 regulates public school library content by requiring districts to adopt new policies for selecting and challenging materials, establishing a formal reconsideration process for contested books, and granting parents access to their child's library records. SB 13 regulates public school library content by requiring districts to adopt new policies for selecting and challenging materials, establishing a formal reconsideration process for contested books, and granting parents access to their child's library records.



**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**C4 Progreso ISD Teacher Incentive Allotment Handbook**

*Ms. Marivel Garcia presents to the board, TIA was established with the goal of providing outstanding teachers accessible pathway to a six-figure salary. Unlike previous education programs, the Teacher Incentive Allotment is not a grant. Local optional teacher designation systems (local designation systems or systems) allow districts to identify and designate highly effective teachers using single or multi-year appraisal data. Minimum of 25 students to be an eligible teacher.*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**C5 Progreso ISD Teacher Incentive Allotment Spending Plan**

*Ms. Marivel Garcia presents to the board, districts are required to spend at least 90% of their allotment on teacher compensation on the campus where the designated teacher works. At Progreso ISD, 70% is assigned to the designated teacher, and 20% is allocated to the student-phase instructional staff who support the designated teacher. Progreso ISD sets aside 10% for costs associated with implementing a local designation system or supporting teachers in getting designated. Spending plans can take many forms. The two main types of plans are those based on stipends or raises to base salaries. Progreso ISD uses stipends because they may be lost if a teacher is no longer eligible. Districts should obtain school board approval of the proposed spending plan.*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Janie Sarmiento**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**C6 Progreso ISD Gifted and Talented Handbook**

*Ms. Marivel Garcia presents to the board Each school district shall adopt a process for identifying and serving gifted and talented students in the district and shall establish a program for those students in each grade level (TEC, Sec. 29.122). School board approval of the 2025-2026 Gifted and Talented Handbook. Each local educational agency (LEA) must adopt a policy regarding the use of funds to support the district's program for gifted and talented students.*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Janie Sarmiento**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**



**C7 Child Find/Child Serve Agreement between Region One ESC and PISD for the 2025-2026 school year**

*Mr. Coronado presents to the board, this agreement between PISD and ROESC is to ensure all pertinent activities are carried out in a timely manner as described by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Child Find is the affirmative, ongoing process of public awareness, coordination with agencies and primary sources, and screening procedures to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities from birth through age 21 who may require early intervention or special education services. Child Find activities includes children with disabilities residing within the boundaries of each Local Education Agency (LEA), as well as individuals residing in residential and other private settings. In addition to children enrolled in public schools, the Child Find duty extends to parentally placed private school children with disabilities §300.11(a)(1)(i). The purpose of this agreement is to define the responsibilities of the agencies indicated above regarding the implementation of Child Find activities as mandated by federal and state laws which is required public school and ESC duty.*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**C8 TSTC Program Presentation**

*Mario Saenz assistant director (Harlingen) presents to the board, Texas State Technical College has been serving Texas, specifically the Rio Grande Valley area, for decades. The motto of TSTC is to place Texans in higher paying jobs that are aligned with the labor needs that are in shortages for Texas. TSTC has many online and in-person programs that are valuable to students seeking certifications and degrees aimed at immediately placing them in the workforce shortage of positions in Texas. Consideration for TSTC to be partners with Progreso JSD for academic initiative, community initiative, and early college/dual credit initiative*

**C9 Memorandum Understanding Region One Education Service Center Adult Education Department**

*Mr. Coronado presents to the board, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a formal partnership between Region One Education Service Center, hereinafter referred to as "Region One ESC", a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, and the Progreso ISD, a nonprofit organization hereinafter referred to as "Progreso ISO PFE Dept." The purpose of this partnership is to develop and implement a comprehensive adult education and literacy program for eligible participants under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). All eligibility and reporting requirements must be met for students to be counted towards the Region One ESC Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program performance. The eligibility requirements have been updated to ensure Region One ESL AEL Program operates in compliance with Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), (as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1641 and as clarified by the U.S. Department of Education's Notice of Interpretation, 90 Fed. Reg. 45321 (July 11, 2025)) Public Law 104-193 and Executive Order 14218 (Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders) by verifying participant eligibility for federally funded adult education services. Our eligibility requirements are subject to change based on new federal rules and regulations, TWC guidance, and/or our Region One ESC program needs.*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**



## **MOTION PASSES**

### **C10 Senate Bill 10 (Display of Ten Commandments in Public School Classrooms)**

*The law mandates that, starting with the 2025- 2026 school year, all public elementary and secondary school classrooms in Texas must display a durable poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments, sized at least 16 by 20 inches and visibly positioned in each classroom. While the law permits donated displays, districts may choose to purchase their own, allowing greater autonomy in selecting and standardizing the design.*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

## **D- Support Services/Facilities**

### **D1 City of Progreso Police Department MOU**

*Mr. Coronado informs the board, this agreement is entered into by and between Progreso Independent School District House Bill 3 requires every school district to have at least one-armed security officer on each campus during school hours. This requirement may be fulfilled by assigning a district police officer or a School Resource Officer (SRO). Partnering with the City of Progreso and its police department helps the district meet the security requirement efficiently while strengthening community collaboration. Office \$20/Hr., Hrs-80, Bi-Weekly \$1,600, Yearly \$41,600. Per Office/Proposal \$30/Hr. Hrs 80, Bi-Weekly \$2,400. Yearly \$62,400.*

**Motion made by Juan J Ramos to give authorization to superintendent and attorney to negotiate with the City of Progreso.**

**Second by Agapito Perez**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

### **D2 Review and Approve the Bus Surveillance RFB**

*Mr. Hernandez presents to the board, the district went out for RFB for bus Surveillance system. The district received Three proposals from the following vendor:*

- *AngelTrax Cost\$ 27,428.75*
- *Safety Vision Cost\$ 65,312.50*
- *Cable Cloud Cost\$ 60,516.00*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**VOTING AGAINST: None**

**MOTION PASSES**



**D3 Review and Approve the Copier RFP**

*Mr. Hernandez presents to the board, Mr. Hernandez informed to the board, the district went out for RFP for copier lease and service thru approved purchasing coop. Vendors That received a RFP Xerox Copy Graphics Toshiba Imagenet Dewitt poth & Sons Ricoh USA. The district received two proposals from the following vendor:*

- *Xerox Cost \$ 7,653.18/Month*
- *Copy Graphics Cost \$ 14,399.71/Month*

*The district also received 1 incomplete bid.  
CPI-Tech*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**

**D4 Consider with possible action authorizing the Superintendent to Enter into a Contract Agreement with Valiant Energy Sources, LLC for Consulting Services on performance improvements, Affinity Program (Friends and Family Residential Program) and Price Negotiations for forward lock of the ISD'S Retail Electric Provider Agreement following the expiration of the Current Contract**

*Mr. Coronado presents to the board there is an existing contract 2030. Table item.*

**Motion made by Juan J Ramos to approve as presented.**

**Second by Yadira Flores**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**

**F- Finance:**

Discussion and possible action on the following:

**F1 Cash Disbursements**

*Mr. Juan Hernandez informs the board July month is \$353,975.23*

**F2 Investment Report**

*Mr. Juan Hernandez informs board of trustees of the current earnings for the month is 39,067 with total Investment of 10,666,818, total balance \$10,705,885*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**

**F3 Tax Collection**

*Mr. Juan Hernandez informs board of trustees of the collected to date 3.3 Million, 89% collected compared to last year of 87%.*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Agapito Perez**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**



**F4 Budget Update**

*Mr. Juan Hernandez informs board of trustees of the total revenue 20.4 million total expenditures 20.7 million. Fund balance deficit of \$231,000*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**

**F5 Accept The Certified Totals from the Hidalgo County Appraisal District**

*Mr. Hernandez presents to the board, total certifies price value for the district net taxable is \$303,298,753*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Yadira Flores**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**

**F6 Accept the No-New Revenue Tax Rate and the Voter-Approval Tax Rate from the Designated Officer/Employee**

*Mr. Juan Hernandez presents to the board, the on new revenue tax rate \$1.1320256 and border approved tax rate \$1.203000*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**

**F7 Resolution Making Disaster Finding and Setting Tax Rate for Year 2025**

*I Move that the Board of Trustees Adopt the Resolution, as presented, Making Certain Findings Under Tex. Educ. Code § 26.042(e) Concerning Setting the Maintenance & Operations and Debt Service Tax Rates of the Progreso Independent School District for the Year Beginning on January 1, 2025, and Ending December 31, 2025 and I Further Move that: the District's Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate on the \$100 valuation be adopted and levied for the Tax Year beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$0.7483 on a \$100 valuation, payable in lawful currency of the United States, for the support and maintenance of the public schools of the Progreso Independent School District. And that: The District's Debt Service (Interest & Sinking Fund) Tax Rate on the \$100 valuation be adopted and levied for the Tax Year beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$0.5546 on a \$100 valuation, payable in lawful currency of the United States, for the payment principal and interest payments on approved and issued bonded indebtedness of the Progreso Independent School District. This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 15.09 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$0.00.*

**Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented.**

**Second by Maria Acosta**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**



**F8 Adoption 2024-2025 Budget – General Fund, CNP and Debt Service**

*Mr. Juan Hernandez informs board of trustees, 25-26 proposed budget for general fund, food service and debt service.*

**Motion made by Juan J Ramos to approve as presented.**

**Second by Agapito Perez**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Yadira Flores, Agapito Perez, Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**

**H- Executive Session: Closed Meeting under Texas Gov't Code 551.071; 551.072; 551.074; 551.076; 551.082. 7:46 pm**

- (a) Resignations and Superintendent's recommendations for resignations, terminations, proposed terminations, re-assignments and proposed non-renewals of district employees
- (b) Superintendent's recommendations and possible interviews for hiring of administrative & professional personnel - instructional and non-instructional
- (c) Superintendent's recommendations for hiring of non-professional personnel - clerical/technical and auxiliary
- (d) Discussion to Amend Compensation Plan

**I- Reconvene in Open Meeting to take action on the following items:  
Discuss and take possible action on the following items: 9:48 pm**

- (a) Discussion and possible action on Superintendent's recommendations concerning resignations, terminations, proposed terminations, re-assignments and proposed non-renewals or suspensions of District employees.
- (b) Discussion and possible action on hiring of administrative & professional, instructional and non-instructional personnel
- (c) Discussion and possible action on hiring of non-professional Clerical/Technical and Auxiliary personnel
- (d) Discussion and Action to Amend Compensation

**Motion made by Juan J Ramos to approve new hires.**

**Second by Agapito Perez**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Agapito Perez, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**

**Motion made by Juan J Ramos to amend compensation plan.**

**Second by Agapito Perez**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Agapito Perez Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**



**J- Adjournment 9:48pm**

**Adjournment**

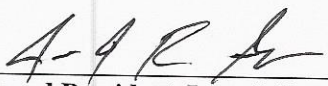
**Motion made by Juan J Ramos to adjourn meeting.**

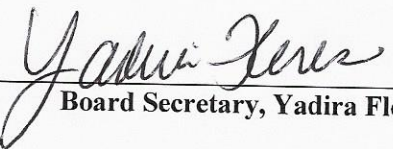
**Second by Berenice Martinez**

**VOTING FOR: Juan J. Ramos Jr., Berenice Martinez, Agapito Perez, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza**

**MOTION PASSES**

**Meeting was adjourned by Board President: Juab J. Ramos Jr. at 9:48 P.M. 08-27-2025.**

  
Board President Juan J. Ramos Jr.,

  
Board Secretary, Yadira Flores