

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON January 21, 2026
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.
Yadira Flores
Berenice Martinez
Maria Acosta
Agapito Perez Jr.
Paola Candanoza
Janie Sarmiento

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sergio Coronado, Superintendent
Leslie Alvarez, School Attorney

A- Call meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

A1 Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Flag

A2 Prayer – **Janie Sarmiento**

A3 Public Audience – **Alicia Pina, presents a certificate a certificate to the school board of trustees in honor of school board appreciation month.**

A4 Board Minutes:

- *December 8, 2025– Special Board Meeting*

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

B- Superintendent's Report:

B1 Recognition of Board Appreciation Month:

Progreso High School's Conjunto performed for the Board. Each campus presented and recognized it assigned board members: High School – Juan J. Ramos and Berenice Martinez; Dorothy Thompson Middle School – Yadira Flores and Carmen Acosta; Elementary – Paola Candanoza and Agapito Perez Jr.; Progreso Early Childhood – Janie Sarmiento.

B2 Resolution Recognizing January 2026 as School Board Recognition Month:

Consideration and approval of a resolution designating January 2026 as Board Recognition Month, honoring the dedication, leadership, and service of the Board of Trustees. The resolution recognizes the Board's commitment to student success, fiscal responsibility, and the continued advancement of the district, and provides an opportunity to express appreciation for the time, effort, and service board members contribute to students, staff, families, and the community.

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

B3 Student Achievement –Benchmark Results:

Each principal presented and discussed student achievement data from the most recent district benchmark assessments. The presentations provided the Board of Trustees with an overview of performance trends, areas of strength, and identified areas for growth across grade levels and content areas. The benchmark results will guide instructional planning, targeted interventions, and continuous improvement efforts aligned with district and campus goals.

B4 Rural Pathway Excellence Program R-PEP Updates:

Ms. Alejandro (Region One) presented updates to the Board regarding the Rural Pathway Excellence Program (R-PEP). The presentation included information on program implementation, student participation, progress toward program goals, and upcoming activities. The updates highlighted how R-PEP supports college, career, and military readiness through expanded academic pathways, industry-aligned experiences, and partnerships designed to increase student opportunities.

D- Support Services/Facilities:

D6 Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Contingency Fee Contract with Daly & Black, P.C. and Ordonez Law Firm

*Jose Gamez presents to the board, this **Professional Services Agreement (“Agreement”)** is entered into by and between **Progreso Independent School District (“Client”)** and **Daly & Black, P.C. and Ordoñez Law Firm (“Special Counsel”)** (collectively, the **“Parties”**).*

- 1. Upon execution by the Parties and approval by the Attorney General of Texas, pursuant to Texas Government Code §2254(b) and (c), this Agreement shall become effective on the date of Attorney General approval if the referenced effective date is not permitted.*
- 2. The Parties acknowledge and agree that no legal services shall be performed, nor shall any services be deemed to have been performed, unless and until this Agreement is approved by the Attorney General of Texas as required above.*

Motion made by Paola Candanoza to approve as presented.

Second by Janie Sarmiento

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

VOTING AGAINST: Agapito Perez Jr.

MOTION PASSES

D5 Review and Action on Bus Grant Application

Grant Opportunity to replace district buses. Replacement grant – 4 district buses qualify. Clean School Bus Grant – 6 District buses qualify.

Motion made by Berenice Martinez to authorize superintendent to negotiate.

Second by Juan J Ramos

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

VOTING AGAINST: None

MOTION PASSES

D1 Intruder Detection Audit Report –High School Plan of Action

Mr. Alvarado presents to the board, the Intruder Detection Audit Report for the high school campus, including a review of findings and the administration's proposed plan of action. This item provides the Board of Trustees with an overview of strengths, areas for improvement, and corrective measures to enhance campus safety and security. The plan of action addresses audit recommendations, ensures compliance with state safety requirements, and supports a safe learning environment for students and staff.

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 Jr., Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza

VOTING AGAINST:

MOTION PASSES

D2 Review and Action on 2024-2025 School Financial Audit Report

Mr. Juarez CPA Firm presents to the board 2024-2025 School Financial Audit Report.

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 Jr., Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza

VOTING AGAINST:

MOTION PASSES

D3 Review and Action on Loan Proposal for Equipment and Capital Projects

Mr. Magallan presents to the board, Projects:

Activity Bus / AG Farm canopy / Enclosure of Elem Gym / Roof Improvements.

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 Jr., Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza

VOTING AGAINST:

MOTION PASSES

D4 Review and Action on CD Proposal

Mr. Hernandez presents to the board, in accordance with the District Investment Policy, the investment office requests Board authorization to pursue additional investment options. Lone Star National Bank Certificate of Deposit proposal: 7-month term at 3.50% APY.

Motion made by Juan J Ramos to approve as presented.

Second by Agapito Perez Jr.

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

VOTING AGAINST:

MOTION PASSES

F- Finance:

F1 Cash Disbursements

Mr. Juan Hernandez informs the board September month is \$425,380.29

F2 Investment Report

Mr. Juan Hernandez informs board of trustees of the current earnings for the month is \$30,318 with total Investment of \$9,374,495, total balance \$9,344,177

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 Jr., Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza

VOTING AGAINST:

MOTION PASSES

F3 Tax Collection

Mr. Juan Hernandez informs board collected to date \$1.1 million.

Motion made by Juan J Ramos to approve as presented.

Second by Janie Sarmiento

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

VOTING AGAINST:

MOTION PASSES

F4 Budget Update

Mr. Juan Hernandez presents to the board, total revenue \$8,411,413.01, total expenditures \$6,066,837.05.

H- Executive Session: Closed Meeting under Texas Gov't Code 551.071; 551.072; 551,074; 551.-076; 551,082. 9:33 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

**I- Reconvene in Open Meeting to take action on the following items:
Discuss and take possible action on the following items: 10:09 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

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 Jr., Maria Acosta, Janie Sarmiento and Paola Candanoza

VOTING AGAINST:

MOTION PASSES

J- Adjournment

Motion made by Juan J Ramos to approve as presented.

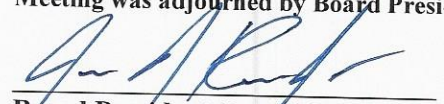
Second by Yadira Flores


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

VOTING AGAINST:

MOTION PASSES

Meeting was adjourned by Board President Juan J. Ramos Jr. at 10:09 P.M. 01-21-2026.


Board President Juan J. Ramos Jr.,


Board Secretary, Yadira Flores