

**MINUTES OF THE
PAUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON November 21, 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: School District's Rating On The State's Financial
Accountability Systems - 6:00 pm**

Mr. Hernandez presents to the board, The School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) ensures that districts are held accountable for strong financial management and effective use of resources to support student instruction. Districts are required to submit an annual financial management report that includes their TEA-issued rating, performance on each indicator, and additional disclosures such as the superintendent's contract, reimbursements, consulting fees, gifts, and business transactions. The FIRST system includes 21 indicators, with four critical indicators that automatically result in a failing rating if not met, and several ceiling indicators that limit the maximum possible score. Ratings range from A (Superior) to F (Substandard). For the 2024-2025 rating (based on 2023-2024 data), Progreso ISD scored 96 out of 100, earning a rating of A – Superior Achievement. The district met all critical indicators, complied with financial reporting timelines, maintained strong fund balance, demonstrated responsible spending, met transparency requirements, and showed no material weaknesses or compliance issues in its audit. Required public disclosures for the School FIRST hearing include the superintendent's employment contract, which is posted on the district website.

Adjournment of Public Hearing 6:03 pm

Motion made by Berenice Martinez.

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

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:

A- Call meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

A1 Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Flag

A2 Prayer – **Janie Sarmiento**

A3 Public Audience - NONE

A4 Board Minutes:

- *Regular Board Meeting – October 28, 2025*

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 District Reports:

Mr. Coronado provided an update to the Board on the Feast of Sharing event and announced that Bobby Pulido donated a \$500 check to Progreso ISD. He reminded the Board of the Thanksgiving break scheduled for November 24–28. Mr. Coronado reported on the new three-year contract for district-wide waste services and shared information about Region One's RPEC Program, noting that Progreso ISD will offer Manufacturing while Santa Maria ISD will offer Real Estate. He also announced that the Christmas Parade will take place on December 17 and informed the Board that National Bus visited the district to showcase the Chatter Bus, which could serve as a strong investment opportunity. Coach Raymond donated five turkeys, one for each campus.

B2 High School Volleyball Girls- Bi-District Champions:

AD Mr. Ivan Gonzalez presents to the board, the great season volleyball had.

C- Curriculum & Instruction:

C1 LASO 4: Leadership & Instructional Foundation for Texas

Mrs. Garcia presents to the board, The LIFT Grant is a three-year TEA initiative aimed at strengthening instructional leadership and improving the use of high-quality, grade-level instructional materials. It provides support through coaching, technical assistance, and leadership development. Board approval is required to adopt the selected materials, and teacher support must be documented. Up to 30% of grant funds may be used for discretionary instructional items, while at least 70% must be directed to an approved provider. The administration recommends approving Bluebonnet Learning Mathematics for Grades K–8 and Algebra I, contingent upon receiving the LASO 4 award.

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

D- Support Services/Facilities:

D1 Intruder Detection Audit Report

Mr. Coronado presents to the board, Progreso Elementary intruder audit October 22, 2025 in compliance.

Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented

Second by Agapito Perez Jr.

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 Donation from Weaver & Jacobs Construction Finance

The District has received a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Weaver and Jacobs Construction Company to support the Progreso ISD Baseball Program. The contribution will be used to assist with program needs and expenses that enhance student participation and athletic development.

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

F- Finance:

F1 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Delinquent Tax Collection Report
Not presented.

F2 Cash Disbursements

Mr. Juan Hernandez informs the board for the month of October is \$665,498.26

F3 Investment Report

Mr. Juan Hernandez informs board the current earnings for the month is \$32,647 total balance \$9,313,698

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

VOTING AGAINST: None

MOTION PASSES

F4 Tax Collection

No Report

F5 Budget Amendment
No Item.

F6 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

G- Governance:

G1 policy Update 126

Mr. Coronado and Eden Ramirez present to the board, TASB Update 126 reflects changes primarily from the 89th Legislative Session and updates multiple legal and local policies across governance, accountability, board operations, and district designations. Key revisions include updated educational goals, changes to District of Innovation and Home-Rule district requirements, new accountability rules, and adjustments related to investigations and intervention programs. Several governance policies were revised, including new restrictions on trustee eligibility (such as disqualification for registered sex offenders), the option to change trustee term lengths and election dates, and new rules for conducting elections. Board meeting requirements were significantly updated, including mandatory recording of all meetings, posting agendas for three business days instead of 72 hours, roll-call voting, and updated guidelines for agenda submission. Additional policies address access to information, cybersecurity topics in closed session, and training updates for board members. Overall, Update 126 ensures district policies align with new state laws and administrative rules. Update 126 includes extensive changes across tax, purchasing, safety, contracted services, and facilities policies to align with new state legislation.

Tax & Budget Policies:

Updates reflect new homestead and elderly/disabled exemptions (pending constitutional amendments), changes to split-payment rules, revised economic development statutes, and updated requirements for tax rate propositions, including mandatory "THIS IS A TAX INCREASE" language. Procurement thresholds increase to \$100,000, and new limitations are placed on disaster pennies.

Purchasing & Vendor Requirements:

New laws establish criminal penalties for vendors with close ties to trustees, restrict vendor involvement in prohibited instructional or DEI activities, and clarify prompt-payment exceptions for construction disputes.

Contracted Services & Background Checks:

Significant updates require stricter reporting of contractor misconduct, expanded background check requirements, restrictions on severance agreements, and updated provisions for disqualifying convictions.

Safety & Security:

Major revisions reflect new mandates across emergency planning, cybersecurity, school safety meetings, AED inspections, emergency maps, firearm storage notifications, and disability accommodations during emergency planning. Laws expand requirements for armed security personnel, school marshals, police department communication officers, and access to specialized safety equipment.

Facilities & Operations:

Districts must now report facility usage to TEA. Fire safety inspections must include AEDs, and displays such as the Ten Commandments must be posted per new legislation. Additional clarifications are included regarding required displays, equipment management, and instructional materials.

Overall, these revisions update district policies to comply with recent legislative changes, increase safety and oversight requirements, strengthen procurement regulations, and ensure transparency across financial and operational practices.

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

H- Executive Session: Closed Meeting under Texas Gov't Code 551.071; 551.072; 551.074; 551.-076; 551,082. **7:10 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) Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding the Proposed Resolution to Change Trustee Term Length and Establish Transition Schedule.
- (e) Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Proposed Revisions to Board Policy BBB(LOCAL) and BDAA(LOCAL): Board Members – Elections and Terms.

I- Reconvene in Open Meeting to take action on the following items:

Discuss and take possible action on the following items: **8:02 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) Consideration and Possible Action to Adopt Resolution Changing Trustee Term Length and Establishing Transition Schedule changing trustee terms from three (3) years to four (4) years, pursuant to Texas Education Code §11.059(e) and Texas Education Code §11.0581, establishing a biennial election cycle with staggered terms, and approving the transition schedule as outlined in the resolution.
- (e) Consideration and Possible Action to Adopt Revisions to Board Policy BBB(LOCAL) and BDAA(LOCAL): Board Members – Elections and Terms and approve revisions to Board Policy BBB(LOCAL) and BDAA (LOCAL) to implement four-year trustee terms, provide for biennial trustee elections with staggered expirations, and reflect

the by-place election schedule established in the adopted Resolution
changing term length.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the two transition models the District may adopt to move from its current annual election structure into a four-year trustee term framework with biennial elections. These options were developed after consultation with the Texas Legislative Council, a process coordinated for the District through Representative Armando "Mando" Martinez. Their guidance has been instrumental in ensuring the District's transition reflects legislative intent and complies with the statutory framework governing school district elections. Both options presented Option 1 (May Elections) and Option 2 (November Elections) accomplish the same objectives. Each option transitions Progreso ISD to four-year trustee terms, restores a true biennial election cycle, and maintains the required staggering of trustee positions. The difference between the two is solely the choice of uniform election date. Option 1 aligns the District with the May election date commonly used by the local public junior college district. Option 2 aligns the District with the November uniform election date used for state and county general elections. Under either path, the District will be participating in joint elections with another governmental entity, a structure that the Legislative Council interprets as central to how Texas Education Code § 11.0581 is intended to operate. The Legislative Council indicated that, when reading § 11.0581 together with § 11.059 and the amended provisions adopted by the Legislature, school districts are expected to conduct their elections on a uniform election date shared with at least one of the entities listed in §11.0581.

Moving to four-year terms and biennial elections is consistent with this interpretation and provides long-term calendar stability. Both transition models have been designed to ensure that no trustee's current elected term is shortened. Where necessary, trustees may continue serving under the constitutional holdover provision in Article XVI, Section 17 until their successors are elected and qualified. This ensures a smooth and orderly transition without disruption to governance or voter expectations. In addition, by eliminating annual elections and consolidating into a true biennial cycle, the District is projected to save approximately \$200,000 over the next twelve years, based on historical election expenditures. The two attached options provide the Board with a clear, legally supported path forward. Either option brings Progreso IS into alignment with the current statutory landscape, reflects the Legislative Council's interpretation of legislative intent, and enhances fiscal efficiency and long-term planning.

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

J- Adjournment

Motion made by Berenice Martinez to approve as presented

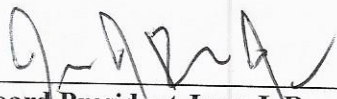
Second by Yadira Flores

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

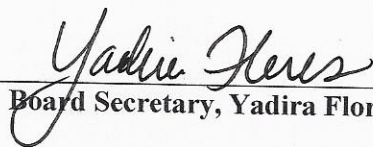
VOTING AGAINST: None

MOTION PASSES

Meeting was adjourned by Board President Juan J. Ramos Jr. at 08:02 P.M. 11-21-2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan J. Ramos Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

Board President Juan J. Ramos Jr.,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yadira Flores', written over a horizontal line.

Board Secretary, Yadira Flores