

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANNEXATION AND DETACHMENT OF POINT ISABEL
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TERRITORY**

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

WHEREAS, without consultation with the Point Isabel independent School District, (“Point Isabel ISD” or the “District”), Brownsville Independent School District (“BISD” or “neighboring district”), posted an agenda item for its December 11, 2018 board meeting which stated: “Discussion, consideration and possible action for approval of a Resolution requesting that the Legislators, through Senator Eddie Lucio and Alex Dominguez make the limits of BISD match the city limits of Brownsville, and that the area of Cameron County south of the Port of Brownsville up to the gulf become part of BISD territory as well.”; and

WHEREAS, the BISD Board of Trustees at its December 11, 2018 board meeting unanimously voted to adopt a board resolution directing “the Superintendent to work with state legislators and surrounding district superintendents, whose boundaries overlap with the City of Brownsville, so that we can discuss feasibility plan to either exchange or collapse boundaries to better serve Brownsville students.”

WHEREAS, if a forced taking of District territory is allowed, three school districts’ territories would be affected, including Point Isabel ISD; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of the Point Isabel ISD have existed for at least seven decades; and

WHEREAS, families have intentionally purchased homes in the city limits of Brownsville because their land was located within Point Isabel ISD territories; and

WHEREAS, the Texas legislation previously adopted laws in 1995 that provide for a detachment and annexation of territory in Chapter 13 of the Texas Education Code; and

WHEREAS, the current laws found in Chapter 13 of the Texas Education Code provide for annexation and detachment of school district territory, but only after petitions filed by a majority of registered voters of the territory in question or by the surface owners of the taxable property in the territory or through collaboration between the neighboring districts, and only with the approval of all elected boards of trustees of the affected territory; and

WHEREAS, none of the requirements outlined in Texas Education Code, Sections 13.051 or 13.231 have been met by the neighboring school district to allow for any legal detachment or annexation of Point Isabel ISD territory; and

WHEREAS, Point Isabel ISD has been recognized as an educational leader in the State of Texas with three of the seven current Board members elected as the Region One ESC 2011 Outstanding School Board of Trustees. The District has shown that the quality of education provided by Point Isabel ISD surpasses that of the education provided by Brownsville ISD:

- Point Isabel ISD received the District of Innovation Designation in 2016 from the Texas Education Agency;
- Point Isabel ISD has sustained a steady number of AP scholars throughout the years

- Point Isabel ISD has no academically unacceptable schools in the District and has not had any academically unacceptable schools for at least the past three years;
- Point Isabel ISD has increased completion rates for the past five years;
- Point Isabel ISD has never exceeded 1.5% dropout rate;
- Point Isabel for the past three years has had above 40% of the graduating students attain a minimum of 9 college credit hours and above;
- Point Isabel ISD is one of five Raise Your Hand Texas Blended Learning Demonstration sites highlighting innovative teaching and learning practices.

WHEREAS, the District's vision to provide innovative teaching methods and create a district-wide culture where students can select and pursue career pathways and develop the needed skills to prepare them for post-secondary education and the world of work would be compromised by the legislation stripping the District of real property, students and resources; and

WHEREAS, such proposed legislation evidences no consideration as to the impact or wellbeing of the resources, citizens, parents and education of students of the District; and

WHEREAS, any such legislation of this nature would set a precedent to strip Districts of territory; and

WHEREAS, numerous other school districts throughout the state of Texas also have territory that was annexed by cities that have school districts and these districts could suffer similar unwarranted and unprecedented taking of District property and resources if such legislation was adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees on behalf of its students, employees, community members and stakeholders and on behalf of its taxpayers and citizens must vehemently oppose any such attempt by a neighboring school district to force the taking of District territory.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Point Isabel ISD Board of Trustees on behalf of the Point Isabel ISD school district, its students and parents, object and oppose Brownsville ISD's attempt to secure any legislative action that would circumvent Chapter 13 of the Texas Education Code, and would redraw Point Isabel ISD school district attendance zones and property and to prevent a taking of Point Isabel ISD territory. Chapter 13 of the Texas Education Code has set out the legal means to detach and annex territory;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Point Isabel ISD authorized the Superintendent to engage state legislators, including Senator Lucio and Representative Dominguez, to lodge the District's opposition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop and organize political action committees and to take such action necessary on behalf of the Board of Trustees to object and nullify any such proposed legislation or attempt to unlawfully take Point Isabel ISD territory.

SIGNED this _____ day of _____, 2019.

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Vice President, Board of Trustees

Member, Board of Trustees