RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11; AMENDED ELECTION ORDER CALLING THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL TRUSTEE ELECTION

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF HARRIS §

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency in the United States, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the outbreak and spread of COVID-19 in the United States a national emergency;

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2020, the Board of Trustees of the La Porte Independent School District ("Board") approved an order calling a general election of trustees to be held on May 2, 2020, for the purpose of electing three trustees for regular terms;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas due to the eminent threat posed by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation suspending Sections 41.0052 (a) and (b), 31.093, 42.0621(c) of the Texas Education Code and Section 49.103 of the Texas Water Code to allow governmental entities utilizing the May 2, 2020 uniform election date to postpone their elections to the November 3, 2020 uniform election date;

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020 the Board adopted an order postponing its election until November, and requiring the Administration to present an amended election order to the Board for adoption on or before August 17, 2020, reflecting any amended timelines, locations, and/or other modifications required for conducting an election on the November 2020 uniform election dates;

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Texas Education and Election Codes, and in accordance with the laws and Constitution of the State of Texas, the Board of Trustees of the La Porte Independent School District ("District" or "School District") in Harris County, Texas, hereby calls and orders a general election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2020, for the purpose of electing three trustees to the Board for regular terms in Position Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and hereby amends its previous February 11, 2020 election order consistent with this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees hereby declares it to be necessary to authorize the giving of Notice of the election, to prescribe the manner in which the election shall be conducted, and to authorize and take all such other actions as are necessary in order to hold the election;

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE DISTRICT THAT:

1. <u>Date and Time of Election</u>. An election shall be held on November 3, 2020, at the polling places designated herein, between 7:00 o'clock a.m. and 7:00 o'clock p.m., for the election of

one person to serve as Trustee for the full term of office in Position Nos. 1, 2 and 3, respectively. The person elected to each Trustee Position shall be that candidate for each Position who receives the majority of the votes cast for that Position. In the event that no candidate receives the majority of the votes cast, the Board shall order a special runoff election in accordance with Sections 2.021 - 2.028 of the Texas Election Code. The candidates in the runoff election shall be the candidates who received the highest and second highest number of votes in the main election unless otherwise specified in the Texas Election Code.

2. <u>Joint Election</u>. This election shall be administered by Harris County and conducted as a joint election with Harris County, the City of La Porte, and other participating entities in precincts that can be served by common polling places pursuant to Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code. All election judges, alternate judges, clerks, members of the early voting ballot board, central counting station officials, and other personnel designated by Harris County to conduct the election in the precincts covered by this Order are hereby appointed and confirmed. Harris County shall furnish all necessary election equipment, programming, ballots, and other election supplies necessary for a lawful election pursuant to the terms of the contract between the County and the District. All voting at the election shall be by the method provided by the Commissioners' Court of Harris County, Texas, for use in elections held in Harris County, Texas, under the conditions provided for by the contract between Harris County and the District.

3. Polling Places.

- a. <u>Opposed Election</u>. The District designates Harris County election precincts as the District's election precincts for the November 3, 2020 election. In the event the election for any Position(s) is opposed, the election shall be held at the regular, countywide Harris County polling places to be determined by Harris County and attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- b. <u>Unopposed Election</u>. The authority responsible for having the official ballot prepared shall certify in writing that a candidate is unopposed for election to office if: (1) only one candidate's name is to be placed on the ballot for that office under Section 52.003 of the Texas Election Code; and (2) no candidate's name is to be placed on a list of write-in candidates for that office under applicable law. On receipt of the certification, the Board of Trustees by order or ordinance may declare each unopposed candidate elected to the office. If each candidate whose name is to appear on the ballot is unopposed, the trustee election shall not be held.
- 4. <u>Filing Procedures</u>. Because this election was postponed from the May 2020 uniform election date to the November 2020 uniform election date, the filing period to request a place on the ballot has closed. Requests for a place on the ballot had to be in writing and submitted to the District, along with any other information required by law, by February 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Following notice to the candidates, the District held a ballot position drawing on February 17, 2020 at 5 p.m. at the La Porte ISD Administration Building, 1002 San Jacinto Street, La Porte, Texas. The ballot order shall be as follows:

Trustee, Position #1

Place 1: Lois E. Rogerson Place 2: Russell Schoppe

Trustee, Position #2

Place 1: Kathy Green Place 2: Mason Peres

Trustee, Position #3

Place 1: Chris Murdock Place 2: Dennis L. Slate

Early Voting. Early voting by mail and by personal appearance shall be conducted jointly with Harris County. The Harris County Law Library – Conference Center, 1019 Congress Avenue, Houston, Texas 77002 is designated as the main early voting place, and Mr. Chris Hollins, Harris County Clerk, is hereby appointed clerk for early voting in the election. Mr. Hollins' physical address is 201 Caroline St., 4th Floor, Room 460, Houston, Texas 77002. Applications for ballots by mail should be directed in writing to Mr. Chris Hollins, Harris County Clerk, Attn: Elections Division, P.O. Box 1148, Houston, Texas 77251-1148 by regular mail, by common or contract carrier, by telephonic facsimile machine at 713-755-4983 or 713-437-8683, or by electronic transmission of a scanned application containing an original signature to the following email address: BBM@cco.hctx.net. The application form may be downloaded from the County's website at http://harrisvotes.com/VotingInfo/BallotByMail.aspx. An application must be received by the Clerk for Early Voting by 5:00 o'clock p.m. on October 23, 2020. Additionally, if an application for ballot by mail (ABBM) is faxed or mailed, or if a federal postcard application (FPCA) is faxed, then the applicant must submit the original application to the Early Voting Clerk by mail so that the Clerk receives the original not later than the fourth (4th) business day after receiving the emailed or faxed ABBM or faxed FPCA. If the Early Voting Clerk does not receive the original ABBM or FPCA by this deadline, then the emailed or faxed ABBM or faxed FPCA is incomplete, and the Clerk cannot send the applicant a ballot.

Early voting by personal appearance will be held Tuesday, October 13, 2020, through Friday, October 30, 2020. Dates and times for early voting by personal appearance shall be as follows: October 13 – October 17, 2020, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; October 18, 2020 10 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; October 19, 2020 – October 24, 2020, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; October 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; October 26, 2020 – October 29, 2020, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; October 30, 2020, 7 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Early voting will be conducted at the established Harris County early voting locations. These locations shall be identified below once they have been determined and finalized by Harris County.

6. <u>Eligible Candidates</u>. Only qualified voters of the District may serve as Trustees. Candidates must also meet the eligibility requirements for public office as provided in the Texas Election Code § 141.001, as amended.

- 7. <u>Eligible Voters</u>. All qualified voters of the District shall be entitled to vote at the election.
- 8. <u>Applicable Law</u>. The election shall be held and conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Texas Election Code, as amended, and in accordance with the terms of this Order.
- 9. Returns and Canvass. The Board of Trustees shall canvass the returns and declare the results not earlier than the later of the following: (1) the third (3rd) day after the election (November 6, 2020); (2) the date on which the early voting ballot board has verified and counted all provisional ballots, if a provisional ballot has been cast in the election; or (3) the date on which all timely received ballots cast from addresses outside the United States are counted, if a ballot to be voted by mail in the election was provided to a person outside of the United States. The Board of Trustees shall canvass the returns and declare the results not later than the fourteenth (14th) day after the election-day (November 17, 2020).
- 10. Notice. The President of the Board of Trustees, or his/her designee, shall cause to be posted a Notice of Election, stating in substance the content of this Order, the time and place of such election, the places where the polls shall be open, and all other matters which are required by law to be stated in the Notice of Election. The Notice of Election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code, as amended, the Texas Education Code, as amended, and any other applicable laws, state or federal. Such posting is to be done at least one time not more than thirty (30) days (October 4, 2020) or less than ten (10) (October 24, 2020) days before the day of the election in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and posted not later than the 21st day (October 13, 2020) before the election and remain posted continuously through election day on the bulletin board used for notices of meetings of the Board of Education, and also on the District's website. Additionally, the President of the Board of Trustees, or his/her designee, shall deliver notice of this election to the Harris County Clerk not later than the 60th day before the election (September 4, 2020). The President of the Board of Trustees, or his/her designee, may cause the publication of notice of this election in such other places as he/she deems necessary and advisable.
- 11. <u>Officers' Duties</u>. The President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees are hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to evidence adoption of this Resolution/Order and to do any and all things legal and necessary in connection with the holding and consummation of such election and to give effect to the intent and purpose of this Order. Mrs. Candace Olivares, in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, is hereby authorized to serve as the District's representative to coordinate with Harris County and the other entities to the Joint Election in accordance with the laws of this State.
- 12. <u>Election Materials</u>. All election materials including the notice of election, ballots, instruction cards, affidavits, and other forms which the voter may be requested to sign, and all early voting materials, shall be printed in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese, or Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese translations thereof shall be made available in the circumstances permitted and the manner required by law.

- 13. <u>Voters with Disabilities</u>. Pursuant to Section 63.0013 of the Texas Election Code, an election officer may give voting order priority to individuals with a mobility problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to move around. A person assisting an individual with a mobility problem may also, at the individual's request, be given voting order priority. Disabilities and conditions that may qualify for voting order priority include paralysis, lung disease, the use of portable oxygen, cardiac deficiency, severe limitation in the ability to walk due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition, wheelchair confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a brace, cane, crutch, or other assistive device.
- 14. <u>Effective Date</u>. This Resolution and Order shall be in effect immediately upon its passage and approval. The Board of Trustees officially finds, determines, recites, and declares that a sufficient written notice of the date, hour, place and subject of this meeting of the Board of Trustees was posted at a place convenient to the public at the Administration Building and for the time required by the open meetings law, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code; and that this meeting was open to the public as required by law at all times during which this resolution/order and the subject matter thereof was discussed, considered and formally acted on.

This Resolution and Order was passed, adopted and approved on this the 11th day of August, 2020.

Lee Wallace, President Board of Trustees of La Porte Independent

School District

Lois Rogerson, Sccretary Board of Trustees of

La Porte Independent

School District