



**SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, August 9, 2016  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Notice is hereby given that a scheduled Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Maria ISD Board Room, 11119 Military Hwy Santa Maria, Texas 78592.

The Santa Maria Independent School District offers reasonable accommodations for persons accessing its school facilities, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require special accommodations, please contact Ida Torres, Receptionist/Clerical Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools at (956) 565-6308 for assistance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board President called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**ESTABLISH QUORUM**

**Board Members Present:**

Adolfo Hinojosa, Board President  
Oralia Ortiz, Board Vice-President  
Miguel Zavala, Board Secretary  
Noe Aleman, Board Member  
Consuelo De la Rosa, Board Member  
Belinda Lugo, Board Member  
Rambaldo Rivera, Board Member

**Present from School District:**

Maria J. Chavez, Superintendent of Schools  
Enrique Cuellar, Business Office Manager  
Juan Guerra, Law Offices of Guerra and Farrah  
Ida Torres, Receptionist/Clerical Asst. to the Superintendent  
Cindy Taylor, High School Principal  
Michael Abeyta, Jr. High Principal  
Rogelio Campa, TGE and Middle School Principal  
Maria Rodriguez, District Wide Instructional Facilitator

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPEN FORUM**

No one signed up for Open Forum



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Chavez stated she has asked the Principals to give a brief overview of the overall performance; the state will be releasing the State Accountability on the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. And a briefing on the Curriculum training we will be having this week and the focus of those initiatives. The State Accountability, you will have the score required or percentage in terms of performance and the accountability system now allows as of last year allows for index 1, 2, 3 and 4 performance or a combination of index 1, 3, 4 or 2, 3 and 4 to be able to meet the expected accountability performance. As a school district we have met the performance at the state level with index 2. The expected progress and this is measuring the student progress, the state requirement is 22 percent and the state has doubled that progress in this case. Index 1 measures the overall number of students in all assessments administered in the school district including all secondary and all elementary for all the of the assessed grade levels in all the content areas that we assess as a school district end of course and STAAR assessment. An overall score state level standard for passing is 60% and at district level we are at 58%. The principals will elaborate in the one area that the performance is reflected here in terms of the number of students that were not successful in that assessment. For index 3 and that is looking at closing the gap. The state requirement is 28% and the district is at 32%. The college readiness index is at 13% and at district level we are at 25% performance.

### 1. Principals Reports.

Ms. Taylor stated that the preliminary reports show that the high school met standard for this past school year. If you look at index 2 the state is at 17% and were at 21%. Index 3 which is the closing the gap is at 30 and were at that 30. Also on college career readiness the state is at 21% and we are at 32% which will more than likely go up for the high school. On the college and career readiness due to the average percent per graduation rate is about 60% at the state level and we are way above that so the index 4 will increase once the final report comes in due to the percentage. As far as the areas of need for the high school, for this past year will be the Math. We are looking at improving that result and we are also having some progress whit comes to ELA but were not there yet. One of the things that we have talked about with our staff is the commitment on improving our academic scores.

Ms. Chavez asked can you speak specifically to what course because at the High School, when you say Math, that is Junior High courses.

Ms. Taylor stated that it is Algebra I, English I and English II.

Mrs. De la Rosa asked what the score was in Algebra I.

Ms. Taylor responded we were about 22% so we lost about 60 some %.

Ms. Chavez stated that part of that progress, we had a teacher change. If you recall last year we had received state recognition for progress, so if you look at index 1, this is basically the overall number of students. So we needed to have pool all the students in Algebra I.

We were looking at about 15 kids short but every student matters and every test matters so we took a hit there for Algebra I.

Mrs. De la Rosa stated so we went 60% down on Math.



Ms. Taylor replied that it will average to that much due to that fact that the numbers, every student counts. We were fortunate that we will meet standard because we did have success in other areas of English II, US History and also Biology like we do and English I so we have had progress there and then we have some good numbers when it comes to Social Studies and also the Science areas.

Ms. Chavez asked how many teachers taught algebra I.

Ms. Taylor replied it was one which was Mrs. Saldana. Prior to that it had been Mr. Gonzalez and just last year we made that change and he ended up teaching the advanced core course. Also some of the things that we did talk about this morning was that the extended learning as far as afterschool intervention and also Saturday Academy, they have to be more focus as far as the grouping of the students and targeted as far as the student expectations.

Ms. Chavez stated can you speak to the interventions and the High School assistance on the interventions.

Ms. Taylor stated we took on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for the second semester for the spring semester for English I, for Biology, Social Studies we took all 61 students and then also for Algebra I for the second semester and we did have our teachers teaching those courses. So we had to remap our master schedule to accommodate our High School students in the afternoon and then we had the whole morning for the Middle School every day.

Ms. Chavez asked about the curriculum planning.

Ms. Taylor stated it has been very successful. I just mentioned some of the areas that we have addressed. We did talk about the continuous work as far as having those conversations with the students and holding the student accountable when it comes to testing and then their work. We will continue to utilize the individual student plan and this is district wide so we will monitor our students as far as their individual need and make very personal and very descriptive. We will also need to ensure that any staff development and training that we receive, that we bring it back into the classroom and ensure that it gets integrated to ensure that our students are successful. Those are the two main areas for T-Tess which is the pilot program from this last year graduation program. We are fortunate to have that experience and it is a lot of work but its benefit to everybody and the teachers will tell you that. They are required to monitor all their data and their submissions to us year round. They did have to turn in a binder at the end of the year and also they were already required to set goals at the end of the year in May for the fall so they already came in with their goals. Now it's a matter of looking at the big picture to see if I need to change something based on data that may be coming in.

Ms. Chavez can you go back and address the college readiness component and some of the industrial certification that we are adding this coming school year in addition to what we have.

Ms. Taylor stated that this year we are going to integrate a program called ICEV. We have utilized ICEV already with the AG department and it's going to allow us to integrate certifications in business. We will also added another one for food nutrition and its going to allow for students to get their certificate to work at restaurants in different areas as well as food handling certification. We also have to continue with the OSHA Certification, Medical Terminology Certification, Pharmacy Tech, Phlebotomy and were actually adding maybe four



additional programs. Through these programs there's actually a variety of things that we can do with it because the curriculum already has everything that a teacher can teach those courses and the district takes on the expense when it comes to the certification testing part and it's all in the curriculum itself so it is a list of things to get them certified.

Mr. Campa at the elementary level we are predicted through the preliminary index results that were submitted through DMAC and were predicted to meet all four indexes this year. That's an improvement from last year, last year we met index 2, 3 and 4. We were able to get out of the required improvement the first year. This year it was not just a goal to just to meet 1, 3 and 4. It was a goal to meet all four indexes and that was the expectations of all students and all the staff on campus and what we set at the beginning of the year. As you can see in index 1 the state standard was at 60. Last year we were at 55 and this year went up over 9% which is at 64 and that put us above the index 1 state level. Index 2, last year we met index 2 as well, it's 32 at state standard and we actually exceeded with 10% with a 42% and that's the student progress with our ELL's and we made a change with the interventions and Saturday academy and bringing in those kids at those lower levels. The reading levels were implementing a reading type of recovery program that will help them get to that level. We still have a lot of work that we have to go forward with and that is what we're targeting right now in our curriculum planning. Differentiation is the key and if we don't target that LEP population then we will continue to see these low numbers. It actually did improve. It went from 35% to 40% and that was with those changes, 48% of our LEP's passed. We are not content so want more and the teachers are aware of that and they are working on the differentiation instruction. Index 3 is 28% by the state and we were at 35% and that's also an increase from last year. We had 31% and now we are at 35% so we met index 3. Predicted to meet index 3, it's very high above so that's a good thing. Those are our economic dispense students and what we did with those was measure their college. Who scored one exam or two exams above and if they are prepared and are we closing those gaps and that's exactly what's happening here. We still want more numbers; we want to be able to get those distinctions this year coming up and endure that our students are progressing throughout the grade levels and we are creating that systematic approach from Pre-k on to 12th grade and even college. In index 4 my goal was that as a district and as a campus was to hit it at 20%. 12% is the college career readiness factor and we were actually 26% above so we were above that and it's still students scoring at the advanced level which is still what we want our kids to be at but we want more. That was our goal and I want to increase it another 10% for next year and the more students we get at that level we will continue our growth here at Tony Gonzalez Elementary and Santa Maria ISD so that they are prepared for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Ms. Chavez asked can you speak to your kinder class and the readiness

Mr. Campa stated we have been monitoring the kinder class from last year that those students are reading two grade levels above. We are going to target those kids and monitor them as we progress. This is going to be there second grade year coming up and we made a change and moved a stronger teacher into that reading to continue that progress so we are still moving forward. We have 76% of our students showed at least or over a year's growth in the reading. This means that we have monitored I station and all the different programs that we have to ensure that we were on target and on target as to the goal that we set higher expectations but we still want more, we are not satisfied. And of course the Pre-K program we did receive a grant and were bringing in a new curriculum and it's called the OWL and what it does is it's tailored to pre-k reading interventions and its bringing in all those Pre-K guidelines into one cohesive curriculum and that's



what we will be working on with these students coming up. We want them to start reading and writing at those levels so that when they prepare for Pre-K 4 or kinder, they are already reading and that's the goal. One note on Math 5<sup>th</sup> Grade was at 74% passing for the grade level. Fourth grade was at 63% and it was an improvement from last year. They were at 50% and they went up to 63%. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students went from 58% to 71% passing so overall they had a 16% in Math. We improved in Math and in Reading we also had an increase from last year.

Ms. Chavez stated I want to thank the board because I know that you committed resources when we came to you a couple of years back to ask you for funding for full time Pre-K 3 and 4 and then to be able to pick any of the students that were not qualified under Head Start so that we could create a full time program and that was part of our work in building the foundation in terms of school readiness and developing the literacy component which is one of the areas that we quickly assessed and in working with the state as well. That was one of the areas that were very weak in terms of the Reading and Writing program at the district level. It has taken us a while to be able to build that foundation and to build our Reading program and the systems that need to be in place and continuity with all teachers across the district. Mr. Abeyta is looking at the Middle School and then Mrs. Rodriguez will close with curriculum initiative and planning as we have right now.

Mr. Abeyta stated, good evening at the Santa Maria Middle School, now this is last year so this is 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, on index 1 they had 54% on state standard was at 60%. We did meet standard on index 2, 3 and 4. Index we had 47% pass with state standard at 30%. Index 3 was 28% with state standard at 26% and index 4 was 18% with the state standard at 13%. We did make a lot of improvement versus last year scores on these indexes right here. We did meet three of the four indexes so we did qualify for state standards. Now, in the particular areas that we did well in is the Math component. We made progress in English in both Reading and Writing so we made progress in both areas and we still have ways to go in those areas but we've closed that gap and we had a big improvement in closing that gap between where we were in 2014 to the projected 2015. The Math numbers were very good. Whereas the Math standard for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math beat state standard so that number is projected to come in higher than what the state is requiring. Those are the areas that the Middle School is rated on which are Reading, Writing and Math. We did have programs where last year those students were getting target instructions. We were taking them up to the high school and we also had a group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that did take the end of course exams did very well. They had a 93% passing rating in Biology with only one student's results to come in. They did very well in English I and Algebra I as well. Those students did very well and that's a program that we are expanding this year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We have increased the number of students that will be offered Algebra I, English I and Biology to go on with our college and career readiness where these students can walk into 9<sup>th</sup> grade and with those exams already passed and they only have two end of course exams to take. Hopefully the goal by the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade they would have the entire end of course exams cleared and they can focus strictly on their college and career, taking college exams. If we can get them to take Algebra II in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and Algebra I in 7<sup>th</sup> grade that makes them eligible to take the TSI for the Math component so not only can they take the Reading and Writing TSI in 9<sup>th</sup> grade but they can't take the Math component until they take the Algebra II course so if we can get those in the hands of the student earlier, that gets a lot more students who can start taking college classes and we move towards our goal of having students walking across that podium of the stage at graduation getting not only the High School diploma but an associate's degree from one the colleges. This year were looking at about half of our students taking Algebra I, Biology and English I based on the performance.





Mrs. De la Rosa asked how many students are we talking about for last year.

Mr. Abeyta replied that last year we had the average between 12 to 15 students.

Mrs. De la Rosa asked, and this year we have more?

Mr. Abeyta replied, were looking at 20 to 22 students but we are still working on the student population because we still have students enrolling and registering for classes so the exact numbers are a little different right now but we are looking at an increase of about 5 to 7 students per class. We are also offering two class periods. Last year there was only one offered in Algebra I, English I and Biology. This year we are offering two classes of each. We may also get some students that maybe we didn't put into there but they may come in and say that they would like to try and well see if they are ready and we will look at the data because we want the data's support because we don't want to set a student up that isn't ready for it but if we feel that we can get them to there then we will. Mrs. Sierra did very well with Biology. We hired new English I teacher and she will be teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade English and English I. She has previous experience teaching English I. She was working with the Mercedes Academy so she has a lot of experience and success with those students that were struggling so we believe she's going to be a great asset and we have Mr. Guerra picking up another round of the Algebra I. We are also doing the teaching and we talked to them about it that the expectation for all of our students is that from day one it's going to be expected that they pass the class. I have learned that from Mr. Gonzalez at the high school. What he taught his Algebra I class is that day one the expectation was set which was you will pass the class it's how high you're going to pass and one of the expectations is getting you from just passing to a level three. That's the way from day throughout the entire year that's how he taught that class and that's what we're going to do at the Jr. High.

Mrs. Rodriguez stated so as you noticed in the graph, student achievement is where we need to improve and the question is how are we going to get that high student achievement and so I compared other schools and I noticed that three very important factors. The alignment of the curriculum is needed also the knowledge of their standards, your TEKS and your ESSYS that are the state level and then of course effective instructional practices and so that is my goal for curriculum, to make sure that district wide, that we do have those effective instructional practices from pre-k all the way to 12th grade and that our curriculum is also aligned and that our teachers are well aware and have that knowledge and background needed for the standards. How do we go into making sure that our teachers have that knowledge? We scheduled a curriculum planning meeting and for this entire week, Monday thru Thursday, the teachers have been here planning the curriculum for the first six weeks up until the second six weeks so we are hoping to finish the first semester but we will really get in depth looking into the instruction, the student data, we may not get to finish the first semester but definitely up the second six weeks. What I have observed in traveling to the different campuses is that the teachers using the student data, they have pulled the student data so that they are aware of what the areas of need are across the district. The Reading and Writing are the areas of weakness so they are using that data to help plan for their instruction. They are also using the scope and sequence that they are pulling from the TEKS resource and they are using that to align the instruction.



**Facilities**

2. Discussion and possible action to approve final payment for Santa Maria High School Gym Re-roofing Project.

Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends your approval I have visited with Fulcrum Consulting Services as they had the oversight for this project. As you can see from the certificate of compliance with your and looking at also your notice there, these documents were issued to my office yesterday and we went ahead and did a follow up with Fulcrum simply because the communication was that they had received those documents however they were still pending on the signed warranties and we signed those yesterday and we now submit those to the contractors so they can sign and submit to the manufacturer.

Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

**Finance**

3. Discussion and possible action to approve the student insurance proposal.

Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends that we continue with the current service provider, Gilbert J. Ortiz.

Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the Employee Insurance Rate.

Ms. Chavez stated the districts health plan is currently vested with TRS care and that is how we were able to get the benefit of low cost for small school districts.

Motion made by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, second by Consuelo De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously

5. Discussion and possible action to approve the TASB Policy On Line Internet Annual Support/Maintenance

Motion made by Noe Aleman, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

**Travel**

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the travel of the Board members to attend the TASA/TASB Annual Convention September 23-25, Houston.

Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends your approval so that the administration is able to secure a timely registration and arrangements.

Motion made by Noe Aleman, second by Consuelo De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously.



## **Curriculum and Instruction**

7. Discussion and possible action to approve AASA, The School Superintendents Association Membership.

Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends your approval as for the contract the district pays one membership to the organization.

Motion made by Miguel Zavala, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible action to approve ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) membership for 2016-2017.

Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends your approval we get access to journals, professional development online and the latest in terms of curriculum and instruction as another resource for teachers and staff.

Motion made by Noe Aleman, second by Miguel Zavala. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible action on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Neighbors In Need Of Services, Inc (NINOS) and Santa Maria Independent School District for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion made by Noe Aleman, second by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The University of Texas of the Permian Basin and Santa Maria Independent School District for the 2016-2017 school year.

Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends your approval were able to draw down the online course work for the college courses and were able to provide an avenue for the students that may have scheduling conflicts and can also take dual enrollment online.

Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and possible action to approve the Region One ESC Personnel Support Services Cooperative for the 2016-2017 school year.

Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends your approval this is an initiative that we began to be able to establish a comprehensive plan to provide for applicants apply and choose our district through Region One Personnel Services Coop.

Motion made by Miguel Zavala, second by Consuelo De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously.





12. Discussion and possible action to approve the Region One ESC Library Services and Instructional Resources Cooperative District/Charter Commitment Form

Motion made by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, second by Consuelo De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve the University Interscholastic League (UIL) for the 2016-2017

Motion made by Consuelo De La Rosa, second by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### Finance

14. Approval of Check Payments since last report for July 2016
15. Approval of the Tax Collection Report for June 01, 2016 to July 31, 2016
16. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of September 1, 2014 to July 31, 2016
17. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report ending July 31, 2016
18. Approval of Budget Amendments for July 2016

### Governance

19. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting – July 1, 2016
20. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – July 22, 2016

Board President, Adolfo Hinojosa asked if there were any questions on the consent agenda. No questions.

Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera. Second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board President requested a motion to go into executive session.

Motion made by Noe Aleman, second by Consuelo De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board President announced is now 7:06 p.m. and the Board of Trustees will now go into executive session.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion under the authority of Section 551, Texas Government Code: If, during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board should determine that a closed session of the Board should be held or is required in relation to any item included in this Notice, then such closed session as authorized by Section 551.001 *et. seq.* of the Texas Government Code (the Open Government Act) will be held by the Board after the commencement in open session of the meeting covered by this Notice. Such closed session may concern any or all of the subjects and be conducted for any and all purposes permitted by Section 551.071 through and including Section 551.084 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, including, but not limited to, private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law.



- A. Section 551.071—Consultation with Attorney on Any Permitted Subject Including, But Not Limited to:
  - 1) Discussion with School Attorney on Item(s) Exempted under Attorney-Client Privilege
- B. Section 551.072—Deliberation Regarding Real Property
- C. Section 551.073—Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift
- D. Section 551.074—Personnel Matters
  - 1) Discuss all items as appropriate on Superintendent’s personnel recommendations
- E. Section 551.076 – Deliberations on Security Devices or Security Audits
- F. Section 551.082—School Children; School District Employees; Disciplinary Matters or Complaint
- G. Section 551.0821—Personally Identifiable Information about Public School Student

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Board President stated it is 8:03pm asked for a motion to reconvene in open session.

Motion made Oralía “Lala” Ortiz, second by Rambaldo “Ram” Rivera. The motion passed unanimously.

- 1. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in Executive Session
  - a) Discuss all items as appropriate on Superintendent’s personnel recommendations

Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends your approval on Human Resources personnel report as presented in executive session.

Motion made Rambaldo “Ram” Rivera, second by Oralía “Lala” Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board President asked for a motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion made Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Rambaldo “Ram” Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board President announced it is 8:04 p.m. the meeting is now adjourned.





Adolfo Hinojosa  
Board President



Miguel Zavala  
Board Secretary

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This notice has been publicly posted at the administrative offices of the Santa Maria Independent School District, 11119 Military Rd., Cameron County, Santa Maria, Texas, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the above mentioned meeting, as required by the following sections of the Texas Government Code: 551.071 through 551.084. During the regular school year, this notice is also posted in all schools in the District. The school district also posts its board meeting agendas on the District's internet web site ([www.smisd.net](http://www.smisd.net))

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board of Trustees and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired on a specific item(s), that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

*Maria J. Chavez, Superintendent of Schools*

**Board of Trustees**

***Adolfo Hinojosa, President***  
***Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, Vice-President***  
***Miguel Zavala, Secretary***  
***Noe Aleman, Member***  
***Consuelo De La Rosa, Member***  
***Belinda Lugo, Member***  
***Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., Member***

