



SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, August 10, 2015
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 Monday, August 10, 2015 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 Nancy E. Vallejo, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools at (956) 565-6308 for assistance.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board President called Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:03p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Present:

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

Present from the District:

Maria J. Chavez, Superintendent of Schools
Enrique Cuellar, Business Manager
Alyssa L. Romero, The Law Offices of Guerra & Farah, PLLC
Nancy E. Vallejo, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN FORUM

President, Belinda Lugo asked if anyone had signed up for Open Forum. Ms. Nancy Vallejo stated Mr. Mark Aguero had signed up for Open Forum.

Ms. Lugo stated, at regular meetings the Board shall allot 15 minutes to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board. However, no one presentation shall exceed three minutes. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall sign up with the presiding officer or designee before the meeting begins and shall indicate the topic about which they wish to speak. Delegations of more than five persons shall appoint one person to present their views before the Board. Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or decide regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting. The presiding officer or designee shall



determine whether a person addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy.

If not, the person shall be directed to the appropriate policy to seek resolution before bringing the matter to the Board at a subsequent meeting. [SMISD Board Policy BED (Local)]

Mark Anthony Aguero – Introduced himself to the School Board of Trustees and explains he has worked for Santa Maria School District for four years and has had different positions in the past four years from Social Studies teacher in Middle School to High School, Student Counsel Sponsor and Varsity football coach this past year. He comes before the board trying to find the means to get released from his contract. Stated he is here before the board regarding a Resignation letter he submitted trying to get released from his contract. Stated he is trying to do it the right way by speaking to someone at the Superintendent's office for the past week. Stated he can assure the board he will only be here if it's the last means. He stated he has the opportunity to go somewhere else to teach only, and it's only for professional and personal reasons. He stated he takes pride in being employed for SMISD for four years and would of never gone this way if he didn't feel he was being pushed into a corner. He stated he loves the kids here, he loves the community and for those who have seen him the past four years, know him and can attest to that. He feels he has gone above and beyond for the school districts needs first and his family second. Mr. Aguero would like for the district to put him first now, for his family's needs. He stated he submitted a letter of resignation to his immediate supervisor Ms. Rodriguez last week. He stated he has not heard from anybody from the Superintendent's office, other than a letter he received at the post office stating that since he did not inform them within 45 days, they could not release me. It stated that they would do everything in their power to find a suitable replacement and then consider releasing him. Mr. Aguero brought a copy of the policy regarding termination, HR form from website and the Letter of Resignation submitted to the office of the Superintendent for each of the school board members. He stated he has been coming by the Superintendent's office every day but has not been able to speak with her.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends the approval of the agenda as presented with no modifications or deletions other than Items # 1 USDA Project and # 2 Update of TGE 5th grade Building will be moved to the upcoming Special Board Meeting pending the attendance of Mr. George Lazaro and Joey Yzaguirre.

1. Presentation update of USDA High School Project design modification by Mr. George Lazaro, Fulcrum Consulting Services

Item moved to upcoming Special Meeting.

2. Update of TGE 5th Grade Building Construction Project by Mr. George Lazaro, Fulcrum Consulting Services

Item moved to upcoming Special Meeting.

3. 2015 District Rating and Accountability Report

Ms. Chavez asked the Principals to make a short presentation. The Report Card had to be submitted on Thursday. District met the standard requirement this year. The Math performance across the State was not going to be adjudicated to the performance this year due to the changes made to the standards and



expectations. Santa Maria High School met the required standards, Santa Maria Middle School is in need of required improvement, TGE met the required standards this year. All the Kindergarten students are reading on grade level and the majority of them are reading two levels above the grade level. Personnel is the key to the improvement.

Ms. Cindy Taylor, Santa Maria High School Principal stated this year we received two recognitions for the High school did meet all four indexes, final score for index one student achievement was 60 for the state and we were at 73, index four student progress 15 for the state we were at 26%, index three closing the performance the state was at 31 we were at 42%, college career and readiness the target score was at 57 and we were at 79%. We did receive two distinctions academic in social studies and in the top 25 % of student progress state wide. Now if the students are TSI ready in compliance, they can qualify for dual enrollment earlier. Legislature changed this summer. It opened the opportunity for freshman students to start the dual enrollment program. Now it's all based on the preparation. Students can graduate earlier from school and go to college or continue high school and take advantage of the dual enrollment at no cost to the parents/students. Students did excellent. As far of the end of course assessments, GPC (Graduation Placement Committee) consist of teachers, principal, counselor and the parents. Two students started dual enrollment and dropped before the class ended. Classes are at a minimum of ten. One student pending from last year, that did not graduate. Twenty eight students (Juniors and Seniors) enrolled in the dual enrollment program.

Ms. Maria Rodriguez, Santa Maria Middle School Principal. Stated 2015 Accountability rating is improvement required, campus was able to meet student progress. The performance index report, target score was 28 SMMS was at 28. Index I target score was 60 and SMMS did 40, Index III Closing performance, target score was 27 and SMMS did 25. Index IV Target score for Post Secondary readiness was 13 and SMMS achieved 11. Index III and Index IV were very close to being met. I feel very confident that this year, with the goals that we have set in place with the TAIS, that we will meet standard. One of the goals is that we will increase the overall student achievement. We want a minimum of 40% of ELL students to meet standards at our 2015-2016 assessments. We also want 50% of our ELL students to meet the state standards by 2015-2016 STAAR. And 60% of our economically disadvantaged students to also meet the state standards. A minimum of 60% of our hispanic students to also meet the state standards. I am working with our counselor focusing on the character building of our students, character ed development, and college readiness initiative in developing a course of TSI readiness. An example of Student Achievement is what was set for State standards for our students to achieve and Student Progress measures, measures the progress from one year to the next. We have Mr. Santillan (PSP) working with our students this year.

Ms. De la Rosa is inquiring on PSP and if maybe they are not helping our students.

Ms. Chavez stated we met Improvement require at Middle School (2014) before and stated it's a combination of factors.

Ms. Rodriguez wants to focus on the positive aspects of our students. Putting some programs into place. Mentor/Mentee program and I want to focus more on the instructional coaching, where we develop our teachers. With those effective teaching strategies will definitely make an impact on our students. All the



positions at SMMS have been filled. Mentor/Mentee program is more of a one on one guidance, no more than three students per teacher.

Mr. Campa, Principal at TGE. Stated we have met standards this year in Index II, III and IV. We still progress in Index I, went up from 50% to 55% this year. We are showing some improvement. We are having our teachers wanting to reach above, with higher goals this year. Index II target score was at 30 we are at 38% that is student progress. Index III target score is 28%, we are at 29%. Index IV target score is 12% we are above 8%. We want to make sure we learn all that we need to teach and if we don't know it ask. We want to prepare our students for middle school and high school. We have Ms. Borjas, who has an abundance amount of years of experience as the Curriculum Facilitator, Mr. Palacios as the Instructional Facilitator who we are working on improving the discipline, and we moved some teachers and hired some new teachers and put a professional into the library learning center. We are looking into getting a special education teacher for our campus only, because as of right now we share with the other campus.

Ms. Chavez overall targeted score 60% we fell short by four points at 56%, Index II target score is 20%, we are at 28%, Index III targeted score is 28%, we scored 32% and Index IV targeted score is 57% we are at 96.4% for college readiness. I want to thank you (School Board) for your initiative from three years ago, for the financial support with the college readiness. Ms. Chavez also thanked the maintenance and transportation, the facilitators and the principals as well.

4. Presentation of TAIS School Improvement Plans for 2015-2016

Ms. Chavez stated the TAIS School Improvements Plans for 2015-2016 will address the performance gaps that were discussed and the college readiness.

ACTION AGENDA

Finance

5. Discussion and possible action to ratify payment for High School design services for the month of June 2015 for Fulcrum Consulting Services

Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, seconded by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve payment for High School design services for the month of July 2015 for Fulcrum Consulting Services

Motion made by Miguel Zavala, seconded by Consuelo De la Rosa. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve payment for Santa Maria I.S.D. 5th Grade Building, Project Inspection Services for Fulcrum Consulting Services

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera Jr. The motion passed unanimously.



Curriculum and Instruction

8. Discussion and possible action to approve the TAIS School Improvement Plans for the 2015-2016 school year for Tony Gonzalez Elementary

Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., seconded by Consuelo De la Rosa. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible action to approve the TAIS School Improvement Plans for the 2015-2016 school year for Santa Maria Middle School

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action to approve the Region One 2015-2016 Professional Development Proposal

Motion made by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, seconded by Consuelo De la Rosa. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and possible action to approve the Region One ESC Personnel Support Services Cooperative for the 2015-2016 school year

Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, seconded by Miguel Zavala. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and possible action to approve the Professional Services Provider Consultant Agreements for the 2015-2016 school year

Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera Jr., seconded by Noe Aleman. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2015-2016 Student Handbook

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2015-2016 Student Code of Conduct

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2015-2016 Employee Handbook

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Consuelo De la Rosa. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Discussion and possible action to approve ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) membership for 2015-2016 school year

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera Jr. The motion passed unanimously.



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

Motion made by Miguel Zavala, seconded by Noe Aleman. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Discussion and possible action to approve Agreement between Santa Maria Independent School District and The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, Inc. for the 2015-2016 school year

Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera Jr., seconded by Noe Aleman. The motion passed unanimously.

19. Discussion and possible action to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) between Santa Maria Independent School District and RGV LEAD, Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic and Academic Development

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

20. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2015-2016 Appraisal Calendar and appraisal personnel

No action taken.

Business Office

21. Discussion and possible action to approve Financial Auditor Mr. Raul Hernandez for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Mr. Rivera stated he has some concerns from other districts that Mr. Hernandez has been having some issues. He stated Mr. Hernandez is overwhelmed because he is auditing several small districts and he didn't do a good job last year. He was not satisfied and will not be in agreement to approve him for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. He recommended another CPA out of McAllen, Adrian Web being the second lowest bidder.

Ms. Chavez stated Santa Maria had less re-audits. And it depends on the Business office providing the information for the audits. Recommend will not take action at this time, but will request presentations from the auditors at the next Special Meeting.

22. Discussion and possible action to approve Student Insurance Proposal for the 2015-2016 fiscal year

Ms. Chavez stated, Texas Insurance, Agent Albert Salinas out of Harlingen, Texas is the same vendor from last year (Star Plan). We also have Gilbert J. Ortiz out of Brownsville, Lone Star plan Option #1, and the Lone Star Advantage plan Option #3. He also represents PSJA ISD, Edinburg ISD and Progreso ISD.

Ms. Chavez asked Mr. Edward Gonzalez (Purchasing Supervisor) to explain and summarize the different plans.



Mr. Gonzalez stated all plans offer the customary benefits, with the difference being the cost. Plans have gone up due to high claims submitted.

Ms. Lugo asked Mr. Mark Aguero his opinion on the insurance the school when it came to claims.

Mr. Aguero stated he was very satisfied with the agent being helpful to the parents.

Motion to approve, Gilbert Ortiz, Lone Star Plan Option # 3.

Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, seconded by Miguel Zavala. Mr. Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr. was against. The motion passed unanimously.

23. Discussion and possible action to approve Cameron County Appraisal District 2015 Appraisal Roll pursuant to Tax Code 26.01

Motion made by Noe Aleman seconded by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

Governance

24. Discussion and possible action to approve the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Endorsement Form

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Oralía "Lala" Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Finance

25. Approval of Check Payments since last report for June 2015
26. Approval of the Tax Collection Report for June 02, 2015 to June 30, 2015
27. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of September 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015
28. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report ending June 30, 2015
29. Approval of Check Payments since last report for July 2015
30. Approval of the Tax Collection Report for July 01, 2015 to July 31, 2015
31. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of September 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015
32. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report ending July 31, 2015



Governance

33. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting - June 8, 2015

34. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting - June 29, 2015

The Board President asked for a motion to approve Consent Agenda. Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., seconded by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board President requested motion to go into Executive Session. Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Miguel Zavala. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board President announced it is 8:12 p.m. and Board of Trustees will now be going 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) Resignations, retirements, terminations, proposed terminations, appointments, evaluations, reassignments, duties, and discipline of Professional, Paraprofessional and Non-Contract Employees; Teacher Substitutes and Substitutes for Maintenance, Transportation, and Cafeteria Department
 - 2) Discussion of Head Coach/Athletic Director recommendation
- 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

The Board President asked for a motion to reconvene in open session.

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Consuelo De la Rosa. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board President announced it is 9:20 p.m. and the Board of Trustees is now in open session.

1. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in Executive Session
 - a) Discussion and possible action on recommendations for employment of contractual and non-contractual personnel

Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., second by Consuelo De la Rosa. The motion passed unanimously.

- b) Discussion and possible action on recommendations for Head Coach/Athletic Director.

No Action on this item.

ADJOURNMENT

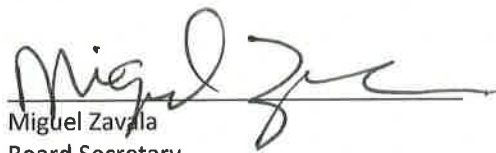
The Board President asked for a motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board President announced it is 9:21 p.m. the meeting is now adjourned.



Belinda Lugo
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)

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

Belinda Lugo, President

Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., Vice-President

Miguel Zavala, Secretary

Noe Aleman, Member

Consuelo De La Rosa, Member

Adolfo Hinojosa, Member

Oralla "Lala" Ortiz, Member

