



SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, April 6, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a scheduled Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District was held on Wednesday April 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Maria ISD Cafeteria, 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 Dalia Rodriguez, 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 6:09 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Present:

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

Absent

Consuelo De la Rosa, 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
Dalia Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Chavez stated we will begin with our business agenda and we will return and continue with our Parent recognition event.

Board president requested motion to deviate from the agenda



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

1. K-12 Parent Recognition Event
2. Update of TGE 5th Grade Building by Mr. Armando Martinez, Owner, M-5 Texas Enterprise, LLC and Mr. Daniel Gonzalez, Project Superintendent.

Mr. Armando Martinez stated hello good evening Ms. Chaves, Board Members, and members of the community. Were about 88 percent complete. Tomorrow were going to pour the rest of the sidewalks and ramps and we do have an estimated completion within the next week. On Friday you will be seeing the sod going in our grass and everything. It's getting very cleaned up there up in front so things are moving along really well.

Mr. Daniel Gonzalez stated this weekend we did the reroute for the primary. The boys and girls bathrooms, the tiles are being completed 100 percent. Tomorrow we will be putting in the dividers, were going to continue cleaning up outside. This week were going to finish the ceiling system the grid and next week were going to be tile. And were pretty much at 100 percent.

Ms. Belinda Lugo stated on the issue of the name, are we going to fix that.

Mr. Gonzalez stated I have not been updated on the information right now.

Mr. Martinez stated we just go as the plan, whatever we have for plan but we are going to meet with Mr. Lazaro so he can give us the update on the next step.

Mr. Gonzalez stated the only concern that I have is that if we're going to remove the Elementary letters from the, remember were going to have holes in the brick so that's something we need to look at. Maybe just keeping the elementary and adding whatever the board decided if not, we have to replace the brick on the top part. So the quickest the biggest solution would be just to add the name that board decides.

Ms. Belinda Lugo stated that we are Tony Gonzalez Elementary so we would have to match that.

Mr. Miguel Zavala asked that the last time you were here you had said the 8th right Mr. Martinez.

Mr. Martinez stated yes and we did say the 8th but in meeting with Ms. Chavez, we have a tentative of the 20th of April as a walk through for you all so that is the date that we set with Ms. Chavez at our last meeting.

Mr. Zavala stated one more week.

Mr. Martinez stated well were going to be done but you all's walk through will be on the 20th as per Ms. Chavez.



Ms. Belinda Lugo stated and you do have all the plans that you need to complete the project to full completion.

Mr. Martinez stated we are still missing a few that we still need sealed which would be the isomet and that's pretty much it.

Ms. Belinda Lugo stated I think I speak for the board when we really want this project completed already and we were hoping to have the children use it for the second semester but, unfortunately we weren't able to do that. We just want to see it completed.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that Mr. Martinez stated that were pretty much at the very end. Right now were just putting in the final touches. Three of the rooms already have plugs and switches and the covers are already on them so were pretty much wrapping up everything as far as the final completion.

Mr. Martinez stated and just to let you all know and everybody in here that it's in the contract the best interest to finish as well because we do have our bonding tied up so there's other projects that we could use our bonding on or that we have to bid out so every time that we are bidding up a project we are losing out money so it is in our best interest to finish. We are trying to get done as quick as possible. As long as we have the information we need from our engineer, were moving right along and were working to get done.

3. Architect report of TGE 5th Grade Building by Mr. George Lazaro, Fulcrum Consulting Services.

Mr. Lazaro stated I just want to concur that we are in agreement with the percentage that M-5 indicated that 87 or 88 percent. During the last couple of weeks, we have seen a lot of dedicated effort from the contractor. We've also dedicated our forces to ensure that any questions that they have would be answered properly. We have our Junior Architects that they have been assigned basically 100 percent of the time until this project gets done and they are here in the morning and in the evening and in between if their needed. They provide the supplemental information. A lot of work has been completed in that building since the last walk through you all had and we will continue working with the contractor and be ready and will provide a tentative punch list subject to you all's approval. But hopefully we can get all that done by the 20th. So we will continue working just as we have done in the past trying to make this project a reality and have it turned over to you all officially. That's my report for tonight.

4. Presentation for District Facility Needs Assessment an Bond Plan for May 7, 2016

ACTION AGENDA

Facilities

5. Discussion and possible action to approve payment request for M-5 Texas Enterprises, LLC for 5th Grade Building



Ms. Chavez stated the documents you have before you include the Architect report based on the progress as this project noting an 87 percent purpose. The payment request is included in your documents. We had already implemented half of that payment as per your last board meeting. The summary that you have there still includes the retainage and also a balance of this project of \$71,046.00 after you implement that payment of \$113,175.80.

Ms. Oralia "Lala" Ortiz stated the \$113 thousand, is that the final payment.

Ms. Belinda Lugo satated no ma'am we still have \$71 thousand.

Motion by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the Contract Modification for 45 day Completion with Rio Roofing, INC. on the Santa Maria High School Reroofing Project.

Ms. Chavez stated we have worked very closely our Architect and with the Attorney to be able to review the modification of the contract. We have a representative here to be able to address any of your questions as per the reroofing contract that you awarded. The modification of the contract is a 45 day specification to be able to reroof the High School and the contractor is asking for an additional thirty days and I think Mr. Gonzalez can elaborate as to what those additional days may require.

Mr. Gonzalez stated those thirty additional days are for the paper work to get a warranty to get windstorm insurance so you can get your windstorm certificate. It usually takes a little longer to get them.

Ms. Chavez stated Mr. Gonzales can you elaborate on the start date.

Mr. Gonzalez stated it says in the contract that we've already gotten the bonds so the bonds are here and I think you got the insurance so were ready to start as soon as the contract is signed.

Ms. Chavez stated the Board awarded the bid at the previous meeting and this evening the only thing that is on the agenda is the approval of that modification of that contract.

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

The Board President asked for a motion to deviate back to the original agenda.

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

Board President stated we move back to item number one K-12 Parent Recognition event.

Board President Stated we move on to item number four: Presentation for District Facility Needs Assessment and Bond Plan for May 7, 2016



Mr. De Los Santos stated madam President, members of the board; it is a pleasure to be before you, thank you very much for the opportunity. Members of the community, I'm going to be presenting. Our role as your financial advisors is to present some numbers. I hope the Superintendent developed a little presentation that takes us into that step by step so what I'd like to do is. The school board back in January made a decision to hold a Bonds Election. An Elections Bond means that when we go vote and we vote for, you are giving the School Board Members permission to make a loan to construct a building using those bonds but if you vote against, you are voting taking away the School Boards authority to make a loan to build with bonds. One big responsibility of the School Board is to always be on top of everything that is going on with the students as well as buildings of which the students are being educated in. With that objective, the School Board Members formed a Committee where they have participated along with the Superintendent, other Administrators and teachers, as well as the Architects, have studied the need for these buildings for several years to determine which the most important needs are. The committee concluded that the most important need right now is the construction of the new High School to replace our current High School. We have some pictures of the current High School which shows that it needs work and we also have some renderings of the new High School and if the bonds are approved and pass for the loan, then this would be how the new High School would look. The current High School was built in 1992. It is about 24 years old and renovations for the high school was discussed but it was determined that it would be expensive due to it being old and fragile. When this was being discussed, I was not present but I know the architects, Superintendent, and the Board Members were all present and were looking for options to finance a new school and the Federal Government was willing to lend the school \$8,375,000. This loan will cost the home owners or property owners 100 percent that has to be paid back. There is another option which has to do with the bond. It would cost almost 10 million dollars which is more than what the Federal Government is willing to lend us. The interesting part of this is that through a state program and if it passes, then the state will pay 80 percent and the District will only pay 20 percent. This state assistance that this district has used in the past is called instructional facilities allotment. This helps low income districts that pass election bonds and this program hadn't been approved by the state in about 6-8 years. Now it will be available for the district on September 1, 2016 and that is the reason that the School Board decided to bring up to the community and vote for or against this depending on you as voters. A person who has a house worth \$30,000 paid \$195 in taxes toward the District. This year it was lower, only \$65 was paid to the School District this year. If this bond passes then for the next two years, 2017-2018, the taxes would go up from \$65 to \$83 per year and from 2018 and on it would go back down to \$71 more or less. The difference in the amount from 2018 and on to how it was last year, it would be a savings of \$123. For a new High School, the majority of home owners would be paying less taxes from 2018 and on than what they already paid from 2014-2015. If you are older than 65 years of age you are registered there is an exception. As long as the value of your home does not increase including adding rooms or expanding it, then the taxes will not increase, they will stay the same. This can only be done if the election passes. It is up to you as voters to decide if the election passes or doesn't pass. And that is your right as voters. Early voting begins April 25th till the 3rd of May which will be held at the Santa Maria ISD Board Room. The last day for voting via mail will be Saturday May 7th which is also the last day to vote. Thank you very much for your attention and I will be available in case you have any questions.

Ms. Chavez stated Mr. Lazaro could you expand on the planning coming up to the High School.



Mr. Lazaro stated good evening. Mr. de Los Santos did a good job in explaining to you about the financing of the school. We have been working with the school board and with different construction committees over the past three years in bringing the district a design that will benefit the students with a new High School. Before the plans were made, we had a study done on all the campuses in the district on the needs and those studies indicated that the student population has grown and at the same time, the schools conditions have decreased and so there is a need for the construction of the new High School. In the initial plans when we started this project. When we we're working with the School Board and the construction committee, we did not have many options of being secured financially for a High School like the one that is being proposed. The only option we had, like Mr. De Los Santos stated, it was not a State level but at a Federal level instead. Now with the State initiative, we now have new options for the District. So by working with the District and the School Board, the decision was to evaluate if Santa Maria would qualify for that type of help. And it was determined could possibly help Santa Maria if the voters would permit that. It is a good program because now instead asking for 100 percent for the cost of the High School, the State will pay 80 percent of the cost and the community will only pay 20 percent. By planning ahead with the financing that comes from the State, it gives the district more opportunities. One of the things that has been discussed with the School Board and with fulcrum Consulting Services is the opportunity to make a new High School and a new football field. This is a project that is well planned.

Ms. Chavez stated can you address the new cafeteria and wat it means to that flow of student traffic.

Mr. Lazaro stated at this time all the students have to come to one place to have their breakfast and lunch so with this new High School, it will have its separate facility so that the smaller students will be apart from the older students. They will have a broad space that is designed to fit the States regulations. So this will be a more modern school and it will follow all the recommendations needed to in a new High School.

Finance

7. Discussion and possible action to approve Budget Amendments for April 2016

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

8. Discussion and Possible action to approve the purchase of Computer Laptops for 3rd-12th Grade Teachers.

Motion by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr. second by Adolfo Hinojosa. Motion passed unanimously.

Travel

9. Discussion and possible action to ratify Out of Valley Trip Skills USA Cosmetology State Competition April 1st-3rd, 2016 in Corpus Christi.

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



Governance

10. Discussion and possible action to approve change of Regular Board Meeting for April 11, 2016 to April 20, 2016 at 6:00p.m.

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

The Board President requested motion to go into Executive Session. Motion made by Noe Aleman, second by Oralía “Lala” Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board President announced it is 6:50 p.m. and The Board of Trustees are now 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) 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

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



Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Adolfo Hinojosa. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board President announced it is 7:06 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 of contractual and non-contractual personnel.

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

ADJOURNMENT

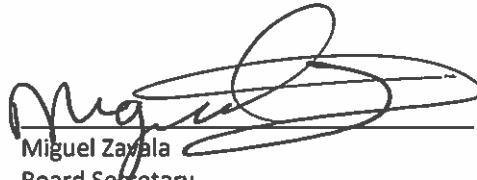
The Board President asked for a motion to adjourn meeting.

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

The Board President announced it is 7:06p.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.smysd.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*
- Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, Member*

