



SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, December 1, 2014
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 will be held on Monday, December 1, 2014 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 meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. for the Regular Board Meeting.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Present:

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

Noe Aleman, Member arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Miguel Zavala, Secretary left at 6:31 p.m.

Absent:

Adolfo Hinojosa, 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
Rogelio Campa, Tony Gonzalez Interim Principal
Cindy Taylor, Secondary Schools Principal

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



1. Reorganization of the Board and Election of Officers

Superintendent of Schools opens the nominations for President of Board of Trustees

Superintendent of Schools calls for nominations

Oralia "Lala" Ortiz nominates Belinda Lugo

Superintendent of Schools calls for nomination

Consuelo De La Rosa nominates Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr.

Superintendent of Schools calls for nomination

Consuelo De La Rosa makes motion to cease nominations, seconded by Belinda Lugo. The motion passed unanimously.

Open for Voting

Motion for President for Belinda Lugo made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr. seconded by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz . The motion passed unanimously.

Open nominations for Board Vice-President

Motion for Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera. Jr. made by Miguel Zavala, seconded by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

Open nominations for Board Secretary

Motion for Miguel Zavala made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., seconded by Consuelo De La Rosa. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

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)]



No requests received to speak at Open Forum.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2. Update on District Status of TGE 5th Grade Wing: Presented by Fulcrum Consulting Services Mr. George Lazaro, Senior Project Engineer

Mr. George Lazaro, Senior Project Engineer opens presentation by introducing Mr. Joey Izaguirre, Junior Architect dedicating his full time efforts to working on the Projects for Santa Maria ISD, Mr. Kurt Morton, Lead Architect for this Project unable to be present today.

New drawings presented for the new Elementary School addition. Started off with picture/rendering that shows you how the proposed facility will look like. This proposed facility will be located on the North/West corner of your existing High School parking lot, vacant area. Mr. Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr. and Ms. Belinda Lugo requested that Mr. George Lazaro turnaround to face and be able to present to the public audience too with picture/rendering. The rendering for the school is actually a 5100 square foot facility addition that will be done. It will represent the type of architectural that will marry into the design of the high school with the school colors being elaborated along with the designated rendering colors and different lines that will be followed for the building. It is going to be a building that is going to be a state of the art. We have had several meetings over the last couple of months in order to try to narrow down the educational program and goals that the school district is attempting to accomplish by this project. Right now your facility it is lacking an adequate laboratory science facility. The one that is going to be in place is going to be one that is going to be state of art and that is going to comply with all TEA requirements. Basically the layout of this addition will have a science lab, three adequately sized classrooms along with restroom facilities and an assembly room to be able to gather students and faculty for different types of activities. At this time plans and specifications for this project are about 95% complete and our firm is ready to go out and solicit bids for the project. The only item that will be necessary for us to bring to the board in the month of January is that Texas Law requires us that the board officially approves the educational plan for this facility. Ms. Chavez has done a great job in working with us to try to elaborate that multi page document, I think we have it all ironed out now. You then have to officially give us the permission to go out and solicit bids. This is going to be a state of art classroom facility that is going to make the school district very proud and offer the children that will be attending the greatest educational opportunities in South Texas. Mr. Noe Aleman inquires if this presentation is only for the Elementary portion. Mr. Lazaro clarifies that this presentation is just for the Elementary portion at this time.

Superintendent of Schools, Maria J. Chavez adds that this is the additional classroom space for 5th grade and looking at currently the science is tested at the 5th grade level. This content is being taught in a regular classroom, so we are proposing a complete compliant outfitted Science Lab for 5th grade. This is also giving us the opportunity to also have a multi-purpose meeting space in this case. Currently if we have any types of meetings the only options that we have are the cafeteria, the gyms and the libraries. We want to move away from shutting down libraries, so that we can conduct any of our professional development meetings or any of the necessary testing orientation for staff and for students as well. This is



one of the areas that we were looking at the limited space capacity that we currently have at the elementary school and outfitting a space that would be more in compliance with the curriculum for the 5th grade, grade level.

Ms. Consuelo De La Rosa says this is all good, but my question to you is did the Building Committee meet to design this buildings or who is designing or who is picking up the design? Has the board met and said this is what we want?

Superintendent of Schools, Maria J. Chavez responds by saying this is one of the discussions that we put through the Building Committee in terms of the facility needs at the elementary school. The initial phase of that project, the presentation that the committee received was the initial review of the existing portables or the buildings that we have in the mall area of Tony Gonzalez Elementary to be able to look at the roof and what it would take to be able to renovate that space and then to able to convert one of the spaces for a science lab. When we came back and looked at the cost of the renovation project and the fact that we were land locked in that space then we looked at what would be most cost efficient and actually gives us the amount of space that we need. Once we began looking at the actual space within those two rooms to be able to tag a science lab then we were already moving into the instructional space we have for the high school in this case. This was one of the options that came out, but we were still one classroom short in this case, because if we converted one to a lab or we added an additional lab it would only give us two instructional spaces and one lab. This came about in terms of the most cost efficient and looking at materials and a design that would mural or blend in with the existing facility at Tony Gonzalez Elementary.

Mr. George Lazaro added that this would also blend with the future facade of the new high school too.

Superintendent of Schools, Maria J. Chavez continues to say that the other area that is being looked at very closely right now with the 5th grade for the parents who are here. The state has already removed the second assessment in the area of math. Student now at the 5th grade level will have one administration of that assessment at the 5th grade level to be promoted to the next level and the same applies to the 8th grade level. Science is tested at the 5th grade level and is tested again at the 8th grade level. The options we had as a school district to retest students three times in the areas of math and reading those options are not going to be available as of this year. It will be the first administration. We know that the facilities impact the instructional process and the curriculum that is ultimately gets taught at the elementary level. If we want our students to be college ready it is important for us to begin looking at the type of instructional facilities and the type of curriculum we are delivering in terms of the instruments the students have to use. In the science curriculum there are approximately twenty eight instruments that the students must not only learn the name, but the application of that instrument. If were teaching science in a regular classroom it is very difficult for a student to assimilate a lab and to show up for that exam and to assume that you have been conducting that level of instructional labs in the classroom.

3. Update on District Status of HS Project and USDA Award presented: Fulcrum Consulting Services Mr. George Lazaro, Senior Project Engineer

High School Project, no renderings tonight. Plans and Specifications are between 85-90% complete, near completion of full set of plans and specifications to be able to go out for bid. At this time all architectural



drawings and renderings done. Working on last minute coordination with some aspects to the structure ensure its integrity it deserves and finishing up in the mechanical, electrical and plumbing. All these aspects are handled internally within our office with the exception of the structure. In order for checks and balances we do have a structure engineer that work with us on that, going very smoothly. We anticipate that by the end of January we should have a full set of plans for that. Next stage for Santa Maria ISD Board and Superintendent of Schools is to continue working with the land owner for good negotiation that will benefit the district, so we can get in line to start working on this project.

4. Student Recognition

Superintendent of Schools, Maria J. Chavez calls for Mr. Rogelio Campa, Interim Principal to present Student Recognition to Tony Gonzalez Elementary Students

Mr. Campa recognizes 1st Grade Top Readers
Mr. Campa recognizes 2nd Grade Top Readers
Mr. Campa recognizes 3rd Grade Top Readers
Mr. Campa recognizes 4th Grade Top Readers
Mr. Campa recognizes 5th Grade Top Readers

Ms. Taylor presents Student Recognition to Middle School Students

Ms. Taylor recognizes most improved students in reading for 6th Grade
Ms. Taylor recognizes most improved students in reading for 7th Grade
Ms. Taylor recognizes most improved students in reading for 8th Grade

Ms. Taylor recognizes the Top Readers for Read 180 for 6th Grade
Ms. Taylor recognizes the Top Readers for Read 180 for 7th Grade
Ms. Taylor recognizes the Top Readers for Read 180 for 8th Grade

Ms. Taylor presents Student Recognition to High School Students

Ms. Taylor recognizes for academic performance for 9th Grade
Ms. Taylor recognizes for academic performance for 10th Grade
Ms. Taylor recognizes for academic performance for 11th Grade
Ms. Taylor recognizes for academic performance for 12th Grade

5. Student/Attendance Enrollment

Superintendent of Schools, Maria J. Chavez reviews current student enrollment and overall attendance

Mr. Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera inquires on required percent of student attendance by TEA in order to accept ADA

Ms. Chavez informs that it is 96%

Curriculum and Instruction

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the PBMAS Improvement Plan for Santa Maria Independent School District for 2014-2015

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

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve modifications to the District PDAS Calendar due to change of Spring Break and Administrators for the 2014-2015

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

Human Resources

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2014-15 Annual Survey of Highly Qualified (HQ) Teachers and Paraprofessionals

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

8. Report and Discussion of Statement of District Compliance with Chapter 22 Fingerprinting and Criminal Background Check Requirements, November 21, 2014

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

Finance

9. Discussion and possible action to approve payment for design services for the months of October and November 2014 for Fulcrum Consulting Services

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

10. Review and Discussion of the Retainer Agreement with The Law Offices of Guerra & Farah, PLLC

11. Discussion and possible action to include Mr. R. Campa to authorize signature on TGE Activity Accounts

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

Travel

12. Discussion and possible action to approve Board travel to MASBA 2015 Annual Convention, January 22-25, 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Austin, Texas



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

Governance

13. Report of Board Member training received to date

Review of Board Members Continuing Education Report

CONSENT AGENDA

Finance

14. Approval of Check Payments since last report for November 2014

Consuelo De La Rosa inquired on two checks paid to board members, one for Belinda Lugo and one for Miguel Zavala.

Superintendent of Schools, Maria J. Chavez informs those check issued for Regional and State Cross Country Meet that the board members attended representing the school district

Oralia "Lala" Ortiz inquires on top section of payroll referring to last paid date

Superintendent of Schools, Maria J. Chavez informs that the business office is working with Region One to be able to eliminate data in that field because it serves no purpose, working with service center to remove

Consuelo De La Rosa inquires on the process to inquire on other payables issued that she has questions on

Superintendent of Schools, Maria J. Chavez informs that she may submit her request to the Office of the Superintendent

Oralia "Lala" Ortiz inquires on a check that was issued to her, but she did not attend

Superintendent of Schools, Maria J. Chavez informs that the item was returned and the check was voided

Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., seconded Oralia "Lala" Ortiz

15. Approval of the Tax Collection Report for November 2014

16. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of September 1, 2014 to November 25, 2014

17. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report ending November 30, 2014

Governance

18. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting - November 13, 2014

19. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting – November 20, 2014

Motion to go into Executive session made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., seconded by Noe Aleman.
The motion passed unanimously.

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
 - 2) Update on Threatened or Pending Litigation, *Edwin Barerra d/b/a PHD Vision v. Santa Maria Independent School District*; Cause No. 2013-CCL-98, In the County Court at Law No. 1, Cameron County, Texas
- 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
- 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 announced it is 7:42 p.m. and the Board of Trustees is now in 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 to accept resignations by Noe Aleman, seconded by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera Jr.

The motion passed unanimously.



EXECUTIVE SESSION

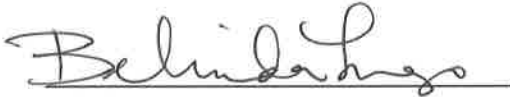
(May be reconvened, if necessary)

ADJOURNMENT

The President asked for a motion to adjourn meeting

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

The Board President announced it is 7:44 p.m. meeting 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, Vice-President
Noe Aleman, Secretary
Consuelo De La Rosa, Member
Adolfo Hinojosa, Member
Oralia Ortiz, Member
Rambaldo Rivera, Jr., Member
Miguel Zavala, Member

