



## SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024  
6:00 PM

### MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a scheduled Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM. This meeting was held at the Santa Maria Independent School District Board Room, 11119 Military Road, Santa Maria, TX 78592.

**Zoom Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84219550296?pwd=LO7BybXwgFmSo0ijgKmaaO6iKGqqvT.1>

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, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, at (956) 565-6308 for assistance.

### CALL TO ORDER

*Board President, Adolfo Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.*

### ESTABLISH QUORUM

#### **Present:**

Adolfo Hinojosa, President  
Javier Jimenez, Jr., Vice-President  
Casey Espinoza, Secretary  
Michele Garcia, Member  
Marco Aleman, Member  
Miguel Zavala, Member

#### **Present from the District:**

Martin Cuellar, Superintendent of Schools  
Ida Torres, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent  
Arturo Hinojosa Jr., Technology Coordinator  
Eden Ramirez, Attorney

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### OPEN FORUM

At regular meeting the Board shall allot no more than 30 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. The topics for discussion are limited to the topics listed on the posted agenda. 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 designed shall determine whether a person addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy.

*No one signed up for Open Forum.*



## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Motion to go into Executive Session by Michele Garcia, second by Marco Aleman. Motion passed unanimously at 6:01 p.m*

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**

- 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, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code and Attorney consultation pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code**

- 2) 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

- 3) Discuss all items as appropriate on Superintendent's personnel recommendations

- 4) Discussion with Legal Counsel on matters related to Superintendent employment/contract

- 5) Discussion with matters related to Voluntary Separation Agreement with Superintendent

- 6) Discussion on matters related to Superintendent Search

### **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**

*Motion to Reconvene in Open Session by Marco Aleman, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously at 6:45pm.*

1. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in Executive Session
2. Discussion and possible action on recommendations on all items as appropriate on Superintendent's personnel recommendations
3. Discussion and action on matters related to Voluntary Separation Agreement with Superintendent and Superintendent's retirement.



*Mr. Eden Ramirez, District Attorney stated that they sent a Voluntary Separation of Retirement Agreement to Superintendent Cuellar. He has reviewed it. And he is okay with the terms. We're asking if the board approves this Voluntary Separation of Retirement Agreement for him. This means that Mr. Cuellar is officially announcing and the board is officially accepting his resignation as Superintendent at Santa Maria ISD.*

*Motion to approve by Michele Garcia and second by Marco Aleman. Motion passed unanimously.*

4. Discussion and action to approve Search Firm for Superintendent Search

*Motion to approve the O'hanlon Firm to do the search for Superintendent by Marco Aleman and second by Javier Jimenez, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.*

5. Discussion and action to begin Superintendent Search for position of Superintendent

*Motion to approve by Michele Garcia and second by Marco Aleman. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Mr. Eden Ramirez, District Attorney stated for the record, Mr. Cuellar is still the Superintendent and will remain the Superintendent until they find a suitable replacement. In the meantime he is officially retired, separation agreement reflects that he remains Superintendent until a replacement is hired. Thank you Mr. Cuellar for agreeing to stay on for the transition.*

*Mr. Cuellar stated, this moment, this day brings mixed emotions. Santa Maria will always hold a special place in my heart. I made a decision with my wife. I think the time is best now, so we can hand the torch over to a different individual, whom I will support to the fullest. And hopefully the individual that replaces me can take the district to higher and deeper levels and make sure that our students are succeeding at all levels in all areas. So I'm excited for myself and for the district as I will see them flourish as we move forward. Thank you very much.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

(May be reconvened, if necessary)

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn by Miguel Zavala, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously at 6:49 p.m*

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on Friday, March 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m



Adolfo Hinojosa  
Board President



Casey Espinoza  
Board Secretary

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.

**Board of Trustees**

**Adolfo Hinojosa, President**

**Javier E. Jimenez, Jr., Vice-President**

**Casey Espinoza, Secretary**

**Marco Aleman, Member**

**Andrew “Andy” De La Rosa, Member**

**Michele Garcia, Member**

**Miguel Zavala, Member**

