

**SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

SMBSD Board Room
708 S. Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA
March 12, 2025

ADOPTED

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

President Cordero called the Regular Board Meeting of the Santa Maria-Bonita School District to order at 5:16 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Linda Cordero, President

Luz Maria Cabral, Vice President - Absent

Ricky Lara, Board Clerk

John Hollinshead, Board Member (Arrived at 5:19 p.m.)

Ricardo Valencia, Board Member

II. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

A. Public Employee Employment/Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Resignation

Government Code § 54957

Agency Representative: Pete Bland, Ed.D.

B. Conference with Labor Negotiators

Government Code § 54957.6

Agency Representative: Pete Bland, Ed.D.

Represented Employees: CSEA

C. Conference with Labor Negotiators

Government Code § 54957.6

Agency Representative: Pete Bland, Ed.D.

Represented Employees: SMEEA

D. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation

(Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1))

Name of case: OAH Case No. 2025010067

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - CLOSED SESSION

No public comments were reported for the Closed Session.

IV. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:17 p.m.

V. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

VI. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

VII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:04 p.m.

A. Report from Closed Session

Dr. McDuffie reported the administrative appointment of Monica Mercer, Elementary Principal. The vote was unanimous.

President Cordero reported that information was shared for Items B and C.

For Item D, it was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board approve the settlement agreement for OAH Case No. 2025010067

Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Motion passed.

B. Introduction of Interpreters

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Tommie Kunst Junior High School

D. Inspiration

Tommie Kunst Junior High School provided informative presentations, including those from WEB students, Mid School Math, and their Robotics Team.

E. Elementary Soccer Champions

The Battles Bears were crowned Elementary Soccer Champions this year after their dominant 9-0 victory.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

There were no public comments reported.

IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Motion passed.

X. CONSENT ITEMS

A. GENERAL CONSENT

- i. Minutes of the Board of Education
- ii. Second Reading and Approval - Board Policies

B. FACILITIES PLANNING CONSENT

C. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT

- i. Payment of Warrants
- ii. Contracts for Approval or Ratification
- iii. Authorization to File a Notice of Completion - Pacific Tide Construction, Inc. - BID #5356 - Installation Of District Provided Shade Shelters at Bonita, Battles, Jiménez, Libbon, Miller, Taylor Elementary Schools, El Camino and Tommie Kunst Junior Highs
- iv. Authorization to File Notice of Completion - Pacific Tide Construction, Inc. - BID

- #5357 - Installation of District Provided Shade Shelters at Adam, Arellanes, Liberty, Oakley, Sanchez Elementary Schools, Arellanes and Fesler Junior Highs
v. Authorization to File Notice of Completion - MD Construction - BID #5365 - Bonita Elementary Playfield Improvements

D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONTENT

E. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes
- ii. First Reading of Job Description Program Specialist of Academic Support

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Valencia to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 4 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead). Absent for roll call: 1. (L. Cabral). Motion passed.*

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Request to Change Date of the Next Scheduled Regular Board Meeting for the Month of April 2025

Presented by Dr. McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE REQUEST TO CHANGE THE NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATE FROM APRIL 16, 2025, TO APRIL 9, 2025, as presented. *Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Motion passed.*

B. 2025 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election

Presented by Dr. McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education CAST ITS VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATES OF ITS CHOICE IN SUBREGION 11-A (SANTA BARBARA COUNTY), as provided. *Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Motion passed.*

C. Appointment of Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

Presented by Matt Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Ms. Cabral that the Board of Education APPROVE THE SLATE OF MEMBERS FOR THE CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, as presented. *Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Motion passed.*

D. Certification of the Second Interim Report for 2024-25

Presented by Matt Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Ms. Cabral that the Board of Education ISSUE A POSITIVE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2024-25 SECOND INTERIM REPORT AND CERTIFY TO THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS THAT THE SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL BE ABLE TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE 2024-25, 2025-26 AND 2026-27 YEARS, as presented.

Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Motion passed.

E. Resolution 24-22: Approving the Absences of Board Members from Meetings of the Board of Education

Presented by Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-22: APPROVING THE ABSENCES OF BOARD MEMBERS FROM MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Motion passed.*

F. Adopt Resolution No. 24-23: Reaffirming the Commitment of Santa Maria-Bonita School District to Protecting the Rights of All Students, Regardless of Immigration Status

Presented by Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-23: REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL STUDENTS, REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Motion passed.

G. Transportation Plan for 2025-2026

Presented by Matt Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education IN ACCORDANCE WITH EDUCATION CODE 39800.1 APPROVE THE PLAN FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR 2025-2026, as presented.

XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Community Schools Update

Presented by Tammie Castillo-Shiffer, Ed.D., Director of Multilingual Services

The Board of Education acknowledged receipt of the Update for Community Schools, as presented.

B. Special Education Inclusion Update

Presented by Armando J. Uribe, Director of Special Education

The Board of Education acknowledged receipt of the Special Education Inclusion Update, as presented.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business presented.

XIV. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Mr. Valencia

Mr. Valencia commended staff on the recent Gala that took place this past Thursday. He reported that it was a great celebration where he witnessed staff dancing, taking pictures, and eating delicious meals. He thanked staff for creating such a potentially wonderful tradition.

Mr. Hollinshead

Mr. Hollinshead highlighted an article from a recent CSBA quarterly publication titled *The Growing Opportunity Gap* by Vernon Billy and encouraged others to read it, noting that it is also available online. He found the study's insights unique and profound, and that it reflected upon correlations. It was not necessarily about what happens in the classroom, but the opportunities for enrichment and the time spent outside of the classroom. He also added that one of the things we can gain with community schools is that we will be able to give our kids more opportunities to be exposed to these types of experiences.

Mr. Lara

He praised the recent Gala event, highlighting the stunning decorations that added to the event's elegance. Alongside Mrs. Cordero, he had the honor of presenting awards, celebrating the achievements of colleagues from both the district office and school sites. He described the evening as a truly remarkable celebration of peers and gave a special shout-out to Table 34!

Mr. Lara also added that there were 4 board members (Cordero, Valencia, Hollinshead, and himself), along with Superintendent McDuffie, who are all celebrating birthdays during the month of March. He wished everyone celebrating this month a very happy birthday.

Ms. Cabral

No report.

Mrs. Cordero

Mrs. Cordero noted the gratitude and feelings of joy she witnessed at the recent Gala. The event included staff from every aspect of our district. She thanked everyone who had any part in organizing and helping at the event. She hopes it can become a new SMBSD tradition.

She visited multiple school sites to read in classrooms for Read Across America Day. She appreciated that sites scheduled the activity on different days, allowing for more opportunities to engage with students and celebrate the joy of reading.

Mrs. Cordero shared the joy and gratitude she witnessed at the recent Gala, where staff from every part of the district came together to celebrate. She expressed her heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed to organizing and supporting the event. She also hopes this memorable gathering will become a new SMBSD tradition.

Reported that the monthly School Board Association meeting was held last Thursday evening. There were different activities from various districts shared, including a review and discussion of the recent letter written by Lompoc USD.

Announced that there are some upcoming job fairs - one in south county and another here on March 13 at the Santa Maria Public Library at 5 p.m.

The State of Education that was postponed has been rescheduled for April 30.

She mentioned that a CSBA representative recently announced a development in California that was new to her: 32 different union groups have united to negotiate collectively.

Last night, Fesler held their last basketball game. There was a rally ahead of time with pizza, popcorn, candy, and sodas. It was a fun event with a lot of students and parents participating.

She shared that the latest issue of *California Schools* featured an article on human trafficking among young students (ages 10 and up) and strategies for addressing the issue. This is another critical area where we can support students who may be at risk.

Dr. McDuffie

He discussed the recent Excellence in Education Gala. It was a great event, headed by Andrea Alvarez, Director of Human Resources, and a host of other staff including Patricia McKnight, Purchasing Coordinator, and Elisabeth Flores, Executive Liaison to the Superintendent. He wants to thank everyone from the bottom of his heart who helped with this event. He also thanked Sasha Hernandez, Digital Media Specialist, for putting together the video showcasing the Honorees, which can be watched on both Facebook and YouTube. Dr. McDuffie congratulated all of the 31 Top Honorees, and the three Distinguished Honorees: Angel Leyva, Custodian, Robert Bruce Elementary School, Esperanza Ruiz, English Language Development (ELD) teacher, El Camino Junior High School, and Alex Jauregui, Principal, El Camino Junior High School.

Dr. McDuffie shared that he had the privilege of participating in Read Across America Day, reading to multiple classrooms at Oakley and Ontiveros. He selected *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* by Dr. Seuss—a book especially meaningful to him, as it was a gift he received when he first began student teaching.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

President Cordero reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Signed 
~~Ricky Lara~~ Linda Cordero, President
Board Clerk

Signed 
John Hollinshead
Board Member