

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

SMBSD Board Room  
708 S. Miller Street  
Santa Maria, CA  
**April 9, 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 5:02 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Linda Cordero, President  
Luz Maria Cabral, Vice President  
Ricky Lara, Board Clerk (Absent)  
John Hollinshead, Board Member  
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**

Government Code section 54956.9, subsections (a) and (d)(1):  
PERB Case No. HO-U-1761

**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 5:03 p.m.

**V. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

## VI. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

## VII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:03 p.m.

### A. Report from Closed Session

For Item A: Dr. McDuffie announced that the Board approved the appointments of the following:

#### **Shelli Hart, Coordinator of Educator Development**

*Ayes: 3 (L. Cordero, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Absent: 2 (R. Lara, R. Valencia). Motion passed.*

#### **Stephanie Lowe, Program Specialist - Library and Curriculum**

*Ayes: 3 (L. Cordero, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Absent: 2 (R. Lara, R. Valencia). Motion passed.*

#### **Linda Leonard, Program Specialist - Special Education**

*Ayes: 4 (L. Cordero, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral, R. Valencia). Absent: 1 (R. Lara). Motion passed.*

#### **Sohrab Movahedi, Program Specialist - Special Education**

*Ayes: 4 (L. Cordero, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral, R. Valencia). Absent: 1 (R. Lara). Motion passed.*

#### **Kevin Baldizon, Assistant Principal - Jimenez**

*Ayes: 4 (L. Cordero, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral, R. Valencia). Absent: 1 (R. Lara). Motion passed.*

#### **Brett Strommen, Elementary Assistant Principal**

*Ayes: 4 (L. Cordero, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Absent: (R. Lara). Motion passed.*

For Items B and C: President Cordero reported that information was shared, and for Item D: it was reported that discussion of the item will continue.

For Item E: Dr. McDuffie noted that an agreement for the settlement was reached by the board. *Ayes: 4 (L. Cordero, R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral). Absent: (R. Lara). Motion passed.*

### B. Introduction of Interpreters

### C. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Battles Elementary.

### D. Inspiration

Battles Elementary

### E. Student Leader Advisory Team

### F. Spring Cheer Showcase Winners

## VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

### Non-Agenda Comments:

**Cheryl Ausan**, regarding the salary included in the posting that was put out yesterday for food service supervisors. She wanted to know how the district can hire 3 new supervisors but cannot afford to give employees a fair raise.

**Krista Kringel**, 5th grade teacher at Miller, offered her support to CSEA members, as they aren't often given the recognition they deserve. She asked that they be given the respect they deserve.

**Sandra Heredia**, Psychologist at Miller, regarding space limitations and needs.

**Jerry Gash**, requested the ability to hold IEP meetings during the school day, supported by consistent substitute coverage and interpreter availability.

**Jennifer Danowitz & Students from Arellanes JHS**, spoke in promotion of AJH's Open House and Community Carnival.

**Agenda Comments:**

None reported.

**IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

Dr. McDuffie requested to pull consent items B.v. and B.vi. It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Valencia to approve the agenda, as amended. Roll call vote. Ayes: 4 (R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral, and L. Cordero). Absent: 1 (R. Lara). Motion passed.

**X. CONSENT ITEMS**

**A. GENERAL CONSENT**

- i. Minutes of the Board of Education

**B. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT**

- i. Payment of Warrants
- ii. Contracts for Approval or Ratification
- iii. Authorization to Purchase Roofing Products and Portable Flooring Products Utilizing California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) Contract #4-20-56-0006B
- iv. Authorization to File Notice of Completion - Central Coast Playgrounds - BID #5362 - Tunnell and Bruce Elementary Installation of District Provided Play and Shade Structures
- v. Award RFP #5366 - Mobile Heated Cabinets
- vi. Award BID #5375 - Electrical Improvements at El Camino Junior High School and Alvin Elementary School
- vii. Award BID #5379 - Portable Roof Replacement at Oakley Elementary School
- viii. Award BID #5380 - Portable Ramp Replacement at Ontiveros Elementary School
- ix. Award BID #5381 - Tree Maintenance at Nine (9) District Sites
- x. Award BID #5382 - Furnish and Install Engineered Wood Fiber at Six (6) Elementary Schools
- xi. Hellas Construction Corporation Furnish and Install Pivot Synthetic Turf at Bonita Elementary School AGREEMENT #5388 - Change Order Number 1
- xii. Authorization to File Notice of Completion - Hellas Construction - Bonita Elementary Synthetic Turf Project
- xiii. Award BID #5392 - Portable Ramp Replacement at Alvin Elementary School

**C. FACILITIES PLANNING CONSENT**

**D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONTENT**

- i. Quarterly Report on Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaints
- ii. Approval for 4th-6th Grade Migrant Students to Participate in the California Mini-Corps Outdoor Education Program at Camp Keep by the Sea, June 23-27, 2025
- iii. Approval for MEP Direct Funded District 22 Migrant Students to Participate in the 11th Annual State Migrant Speech and Debate Tournament, May 2-4, 2025 - Monterey, California
- iv. Out of State and Overnight Approval for Three Students and Three Staff Members to Attend the Robotics World Championship in Dallas, TX, May 10 - May 15, 2025
- v. Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) Plan

**E. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT**

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes

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

**XI. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Public Hearing: Approve the Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) Waiver**

President Cordero opened public comments at 7:10 p.m. With no comments reported, the public hearing was closed at 7:11 p.m.

**B. Approve the Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) Waiver**

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Valencia to approve APPROVE THE SPECIAL EDUCATION EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY) WAIVER, as presented. Ayes: (R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral, and L. Cordero). Absent: 1 (R. Lara). Motion passed.

**C. Approval of Letter Supporting Safe Spaces for Students on K-12 School Campuses**

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Valencia to APPROVE THE SUPPORT OF THE ATTACHED LETTER AND AUTHORIZE ITS SUBMISSION TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, as presented. Ayes: (R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral, and L. Cordero). Absent: 1 (R. Lara). Motion passed.

**XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Discussion and Consideration of Upcoming General Obligation Bond Sale and Related Documentation**

*Presented by Matt Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services*

The Board of Education ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE UPCOMING GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND SALE AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION, as presented.

### **B. Summer Expanded Learning Programs Update**

Presented by Laurie Graack, Director of Teaching and Learning Supplemental

That the Board of Education ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING, SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS SUMMER EXLP UPDATE, as presented.

### **C. Residency and Teacher Induction Program Update**

Presented by Katie Salcido, Ed.D., Director of Teaching and Learning Core and Shellie Hart, Program Specialist in Educator Development

The Board of Education ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE RESIDENCY AND INDUCTION PROGRAM UPDATE, as presented.

### **D. Santa Maria-Bonita School District Staff Diversity Report**

Presented by Pete Bland, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

The Board of Education ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE SMBSD STAFFING DIVERSITY REPORT, as presented.

## **XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business reported.

## **XIV. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

### **Mr. Valencia**

-Reported his attendance at the recent CABE Conference (it was also their 50 year anniversary), including highlights from a session he attended with the Indigenous Language Institute. He discussed the topic of dual immersion programs, and was inspired to see what other schools are doing in this area. He would like to continue to advocate for the expansion of dual immersion programs in our own schools and would like for us to be a leader in this area. Additionally, he gave props to our district staff who were also at this event recruiting for teachers.

-He reminded everyone that April 4th was National School Librarians Day. He wanted to give a special shout out to our librarians, noting the critical work they provide in exposing our young people to diverse literature. He also discussed the topic of book banning.

-Mr. Valencia discussed his point of view regarding board member behavior from a previous board meeting.

### **Mr. Hollinshead**

-Extended kudos to all librarians in recognition of National School Librarians Day..

-He shared a recent visit to a 3rd grade class at Miller School.

-Mr. Hollinshead went to Bonita's field opening. He noted that Richard Medina deserves a huge compliment for the work that has been done there.

### **Mr. Lara**

Absent-no report.

### **Ms. Cabral**

-Ms. Cabral really appreciated the presentations this evening. She enjoyed hearing about the new teachers cohort and the discussion held on diversity, and extended her thanks to those who prepared the items.

### **Mrs. Cordero**

-She reported attending several recent district volleyball games and highlighted the teams' notable progress since the season's start. She observed significant improvements in performance and teamwork, reflecting the athletes' dedication and growth. Additionally, she mentioned that the playoffs are approaching, generating excitement for the upcoming competitions.

-Mrs. Cordero really enjoyed seeing the cheerleaders this evening, adding that it is such a great opportunity for our elementary-aged students.

-The Altrusa group she belongs to was able to work with the principal at Libbon to sponsor the Battle of the Books. There were 16 teams, with a total of 8 schools, who participated. She added that Dr. McDuffie stopped by for the final round. It was amazing to watch - the students were incredibly smart and there was a lot of enthusiasm-it gave her hope that kids really do still like to read!

- She also noted that the Altrusa group is giving out scholarships to FFA students from SMHS, adding that the group is very proud of their ability to do this. It was very impressive to look at the applicants' grades and to see all the AP and Hancock classes that students are taking.

-Mrs. Cordero also reported her attendance at the monthly School Board Association meeting. She appreciates that we are not dealing with some of the financial shortfalls or teacher layoffs that other districts are facing.

### **Dr. McDuffie**

- He encouraged everyone to come out to Tommie Kunst Junior High School for the robotics competition being held on Saturday, April 12th from 8:00-3:30 p.m.

-There will be a Keeping Our Kids Safe/Understanding Gangs and Drugs presentation put on by the Santa Maria Police Department at each of our junior high schools beginning April 15th at El Camino from 6-8 p.m., followed by presentations at Tommie Kunst on April 30th from 6-8 p.m., Fesler on May 1st from 6-8 p.m., and Arellanes JHS on May 6th from 6-8 p.m.

-Dr. McDuffie noted the positive presence that Samantha Scroggin, District Public Information Officer, has had on our district's Facebook page. She has posted some great reels and interviews with some of our school librarians in celebration of School Librarian Week. He added that we want to continue to appreciate and recognize our employees in this way. He also noted that it is Assistant Principals Week as well!

-Dr. McDuffie reported his attendance at the recent CAAASA conference. He gave a shout out to SMBSD Assistant Principal Dana McMullen, who successfully completed the CAAASA Aspiring Administrators Academy through the organization. Congratulations to Dana!

-He reported that the Educational Services team is wrapping up the data review process with sites that participated in the recent deep dives. We are carefully taking a look at the feedback and outcomes which will guide our next steps. One key focus as we move forward will be in building the leadership capacity of the principals over the coming months. We have received feedback and internal reflection on what systems are working and which are not fully aligned with our strategic priorities. We are developing a comprehensive approach called the *Bright Futures Project*. It will be launched this fall and the initiative will help us better align our interests across the District and ensure that we are focused on what matters most for our students.

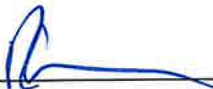
-He wished everyone a relaxing and well deserved break, and hopes everyone finds time to relax and recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends.


-Dr. McDuffie also wanted to thank everyone for their continued dedication and energy - it really makes a difference.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

President Cordero reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. Ayes: (R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral, and L. Cordero). Absent: 1 (R. Lara). Motion passed.

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_  
Ricky Lara  
Board Clerk

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_  
John Hollinshead  
Board Member