

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

SMBSD Board Room  
708 S. Miller Street  
Santa Maria, CA  
**May 14, 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 5:04 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Linda Cordero, President

Luz Maria Cabral, Vice President

Ricky Lara, Board Clerk

John Hollinshead, Board Member (arrived 5:06 p.m.)

Ricardo Valencia, Board Member (arrived 5:10 p.m.)

**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. Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Goals & Objectives**

Government Code § 54957

Title: Superintendent

Possible Action

**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 5:05 p.m.

**V. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

## VI. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

## VII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:05 p.m.

### A. Report from Closed Session

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

**Kathryn Ibarra, Program Specialist, Special Ed**

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

**James Barnett, Area Administrator, Bruce Elementary**

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

**Kathy Serrano, Elementary Principal**

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

**Stephanie Zambo, Elementary Principal**

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

**Victor Velasquez, Elementary Principal**

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

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

**Item D:** President Cordero reported the Board's review of the evaluation of Superintendent McDuffie. The board voted unanimously to issue a positive evaluation, with appreciation for the service he has provided to the District.

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

### B. Introduction of Interpreters

### C. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Council members from Ontiveros Elementary.

### D. Inspiration

Ontiveros Elementary

### E. Recognition

National Speech Pathologist Day, Day of the Teacher, Classified School Employee Appreciation Week, National School Nurse Day

## VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

### Non-Agenda Comments:

**Kaylah A. Vauclin**, Taylor Elementary Physical Education Teacher, via video, regarding the influence of a teacher.

### Agenda Comments:

None reported.

## **IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Valencia to approve the agenda, as presented. Roll call vote. Ayes: 5 (R. Valencia, J. Hollinshead, L. Cabral, and L. Cordero, R. Lara). Motion passed.

## **X. CONSENT ITEMS**

### **A. GENERAL CONSENT**

- i. Minutes of the Board of Education
- ii. First Reading - Board Policies

### **B. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT**

- i. Payment of Warrants
- ii. Contracts for Board Approval or Ratification
- iii. Authorization to Declare Obsolete and/or Surplus Equipment or Materials
- iv. Award RFP #5366 - Mobile Heated Cabinets
- v. Award RFP #5367 - Tilt Skillet Braising Pans (REBID)
- vi. Award BID #5370 - Taylor Elementary School Fire Alarm Replacement
- vii. Reject all Bids for BID #5371 - Rice Elementary School Playground Improvements
- viii. Award BID #5375 - Electrical Improvements at El Camino Junior High School and Alvin Elementary School
- ix. Reject all Bids for BID #5377 - Installation of District-Provided Flooring at Fairlawn Elementary School
- x. Award BID #5378 - Painting at Tunnell Elementary School
- xi. Authorization to File Notice of Completion - Central Coast Playgrounds - BID #5363 - Ontiveros Elementary Installation of District Provided Play and Shade Structures
- xii. Authorization to File Notice of Completion - Central Coast Playgrounds - BID #5364 - Alvin and Fairlawn Elementary Installation of District Provided Play and Shade Structures
- xiii. Appointment of the Directors on the District's Capital Facilities Corporation Board

### **C. FACILITIES PLANNING CONSENT**

### **D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONTENT**

- i. Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSP)

### **E. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT**

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes
- ii. Second Reading and Approval of Job Description: Program Specialist for Academic Support
- iii. First Reading of Job Description: Food Service Supervisor

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

## **XI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Resolution 24-25: National Speech Pathologist Day**

Presented by: Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 24-25: National Speech Pathologist Day, as presented.

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

### **B. Resolution 24-26: National School Nurse Day**

Presented by: Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 24-26: National School Nurse Day, as presented.

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

### **C. Resolution 24-27: Classified School Employee Appreciation Week**

Presented by: Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 24-27: Classified School Employee Appreciation Week, as presented.

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

### **D. Resolution 24-28: Day of the Teacher**

Presented by: Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 24-28: Day of the Teacher, as presented.

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

**E. Resolution 24-29: Resolution of The Board of Education of The Santa Maria-Bonita School District Requesting The Board of Supervisors of The County of Santa Barbara and The Board of San Luis Obispo to Establish a Tax Rate for Bonds of The District Expected to be Sold During Fiscal Year 2025-26; Authorizing The Superintendent or His Designee to Provide Estimated**

**Debt Service for said Bonds to Officials of said Counties; and Authorizing Other Necessary Actions**

Presented by: Matt Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Ms. Cabral that the Board of Education approve Resolution 24-29, as presented.

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

**F. Resolution 24-30: Resolution of The Board of Education of The Santa Maria-Bonita School District Authorizing The Issuance and Sale of Not to Exceed \$15,000,000 Aggregate Principal Amount of Bonds of The District, by Public Sale, Approving The Form of A Continuing Disclosure Certificate, an Official Statement and an Official Notice of Sale for The Bonds, and Authorizing Related Actions**

Presented by: Matt Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education approve Resolution 24-30, and authorize District officers and staff to take the necessary steps to complete the financing, as presented.

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

**G. Resolution 24-31: 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. Lara that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 24-31: Approving the Absences of Board Members from Meetings of the Board of Education, as presented.

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

**H. Resolution 24-32: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

Presented by: Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 24-32: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, as presented.

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

**I. Public Hearing-Fees on Development Projects Pursuant to Government Code Section 65995-Level 2**

President Cordero opened the public hearing at 7:23 p.m. No public comments were received. The public hearing was closed at 7:23 p.m.

**J. Resolution 24-24: Fees on Development Projects Pursuant to Government Code Section 65995 - Level 2**

Presented by: Matt Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 24-24: Fees on Development Projects Pursuant to Government Code Section 65995 - Level 2, as presented.

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

**K. Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for 2025-26**

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

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education ratify the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for 2025-26, as presented.

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

**L. Contract for McGraw Hill - StudySync ELA Curriculum**

Presented by: Katie Salcido, Ed.D., Director, Teaching and Learning Core

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Ms. Cabra that the Board of Education approve the contract for McGraw Hill - StudySync ELA Curriculum, as presented.

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

**M. Contract for Benchmark Advanced ELA and Benchmark Adelante SLA Curriculum**

Presented by: Katie Salcido, Ed.D., Director, Teaching and Learning Core

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education approve the contract for Benchmark Advanced ELA and Benchmark Adelante SLA Curriculum, as presented.

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

## **XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Student Services Update**

Presented by: Mark Palmerston, Ed.D.

The Board of Education acknowledged receipt of the Student Services Update, as presented.

## **XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr Valencia appreciated the resolution regarding Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month presented tonight. He would like to know how we are doing with implementing our curriculum for AAPI, Latino, African American, and Native American heritage. He asked that an item be brought to a board meeting sometime in the next several months in regards to the diversity of our curriculum and how we are accomplishing this, including if the curriculum is being incorporated into numerous subjects such as science and physical education.

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

### **Mr. Valencia**

- Spoke regarding graduation sashes and the importance of them. He was first exposed to sashes as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, where he had the privilege of walking on stage with his mother and goddaughter. There are many versions of sashes for many cultures, and they honor academic achievements, the sacrifices of our families, our heritage, as well as promoting the idea of continuing one's education. He encouraged students and families to embrace this wonderful tradition. It is an opportunity for students to be proud of where they come from. He also noted that students at PVHS and SMHS fought for many years to be able to wear these sashes to their high school graduation. He wants to make it clear that this is something students are allowed to do, so there is no confusion.
- Quoted some information shared in a recent weekly board update regarding recent strategic plan information.
- Regarding the Orenda Baseline Study, he commends everyone who has been a part of this study. It is not easy to look at what our gaps are, or admit where things could be much better. He appreciates that we are owning this information so we can improve. He also appreciated the research and statistics that were provided.
- Congratulations to the TK Robotics Team on their recent competition at the world championships. He is proud of our students for competing on a world stage!

- Congratulations to our AVID students and teachers from El Camino, who competed in a Santa Barbara County wide poster competition on air pollution.
- Reported on his recent attendance at the State of Education. He appreciated Dr. McDuffie's summary of the event.
- He discussed the subject of cultural activity workshops and encouraged our staff to participate .
- He would like to bring awareness to California legislation that will make financial literacy a high school requirement. He has been speaking with Dr. McDuffie on what we can do to help prepare our students to prepare for meeting this requirement.
- Thanked our schools and staff for their work in teaching wonderful skills to our students such as gardening and biking.

#### **Mr. Hollinshead**

- Acknowledged Mental Health Awareness month.
- Discussed the recent loss of our district staff, including Phil Leonard, who was a big part of the Miller community. He expressed his gratitude for the love and care he gave our kids at Miller and wishes for peace, warmth, and love for his family.

#### **Mr. Lara**

- Went to Oakley School for their open house.
- He was very affected by the recent loss of an SMBSD teacher. While he didn't know Mrs. Scruggs personally, the kids, staff, and parents have commented on how she touched so many people, even before she became a teacher. The children really appreciated her and loved her. He sends love and condolences to her family and to those who knew her.

#### **Ms. Cabral**

- No report.

#### **Mrs. Cordero**

- Mrs. Cordero sends her condolences to the families of SMBSD staff that our district has recently lost.
- The past several weeks have been busy. She has been trying to learn more about AI, with CSBA being her primary resource.
- She visited Fesler a couple of weeks ago for the presentation from SMPD regarding drug use and signs and gang awareness. It was very well done. She had hoped to see more parents in attendance.
- She attended the recent LCAP meeting. There was good representation and a lot of feedback provided. She sat in with Dr. Palmerston's group on mental health and services provided. There were a few parents in that group that were concerned about bullying. She will be looking into this more.
- She attended the event at Oakley last night. It was coordinated through family outreach for each of our cluster groups. The children were having a lot of fun with the games, and the hot dogs were a hit! It was nice to see parents out with their kids, despite the cold and windy weather.

#### **Dr. McDuffie**

- Dr. McDuffie recently attended this year's SELPAbration event, where two SMBSD administrators were recognized. He extends his congratulations to both Cyndy Duncan and Michelle Aguilar on their recognition at the event.

- Congratulations to our own Board Member Ricardo Valencia, on his honor as Leader of the Year- North County, by the Future Leaders of America at their 10th annual Latino Legacy Awards.
- He noted that next week we will have the Crystal Apple Awards, as well as the Teacher Credentialing Ceremony for our teachers in residency. The event will be held in Thousand Oaks.
- Dr. McDuffie has been passing out anniversary pins at sites. It gives him pleasure to be able to recognize the many years of service our staff has provided. It is a very special occasion and he loves doing this.
- Recognized SMEEA and their upcoming dinner event this year. All of our SMEEA members are valued and appreciated!
- He reported on his recent meeting with our new chief of police, Chris Williams.
- Proud of our Robotics Team, who competed in the world championships in Texas.
- Requested a moment of silence in honor of SMBSD teacher, Darlene Scroggs, who tragically passed away last month.

## XV. ADJOURNMENT

President Cordero reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Signed



Ricky Lara  
Board Clerk

Signed



John Hollinshead  
Board Member