

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

SMBSD Board Room
708 S. Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA
July 9, 2025

ADOPTED

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

President Cordero called the Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:21 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Linda Cordero, President
Luz Maria Cabral, Vice President
Ricky Lara, Board Clerk

Board Members 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 § 54956.98, 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 5:23 p.m.

V. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

VI. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

VII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:02 p.m.

A. Report from Closed Session

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

Jamie Fontes, Elementary Assistant Principal

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

Motion passed.

Dr. Norma DeRobles, DLI Program Specialist

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

Motion passed.

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

For Item D, President Cordero reported that the Board approved a settlement agreement with SMEEA. Ayes: 3 (R. Lara, L. Cabral, L. Cordero.) Absent: 2 (J Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

B. Introduction of Interpreters

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Cordero.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

Agenda Comments:

No comments

Non-Agenda Comments:

No comments

IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Ms. Cabral to approve the Agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: 3 (R. Lara, L. Cabral, L. Cordero.) Absent: 2 (J Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

X. CONSENT ITEMS

A. GENERAL CONSENT

- i. First Reading of Board Policy - BP-5131.8 Mobile Communication Devices

B. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT

- i. Payment of Warrants
- ii. Contracts for Approval or Ratification

C. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes

D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONSENT

- i. Quarterly Report on Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaints

Ms. Cabral moved to approve the Consent Items, as presented, seconded by Mr. Lara. Roll call vote: Ayes: 3 (R. Lara, L. Cabral, L. Cordero.) Absent: 2 (J Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Contract with Orenda Education for Teach Lead Counsel(TLC) Systems Support - 2025-26 School Year

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Lara to APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH ORENDA EDUCATION FOR TEACH LEAD COUNSEL (TLC) SYSTEMS SUPPORT - 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR, as presented. Ayes: 3 (R. Lara, L. Cabral, L. Cordero.) Absent: 2 (J Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

No reports.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

No reports.

XIV. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

- **Mr. Lara**

No comment

- **Ms. Cabral**

No comment

- **Mrs. Cordero**

Mrs. Cordero reported that she visited all six summer school sites. She noted that the programs were well-organized and that support staff were present in strong numbers, at times nearly exceeding the number of students in attendance. She expressed disappointment that more invited students did not attend, a concern she also raised last summer. Mrs. Cordero suggested the district

consider ways to increase participation, particularly in light of the financial investment made in the summer programs. She emphasized that even small group instruction (10 students) can be impactful and rewarding. She praised the staff for being knowledgeable and welcoming.


- **Dr. McDuffie**

Dr. McDuffie shared that the recent Job Expo at the Souza Center was highly successful, with over 130 attendees. He recognized and thanked the HR team, especially Patricia Zepeda, for their work in organizing the event.

- He provided an update on the summer meals program, which is operating at six sites and has served 1,003 breakfasts and 2,500 lunches to date. The program is still ongoing.
- Dr. McDuffie also reported on his participation in the CALSA Summer Institute, where he co-led a workshop with Dr. Rebecca Pianta. The session focused on Dr. Martin Luther King's "Drum Major Instinct" and its relevance to empathy interviews, emphasizing the importance of amplifying student and staff voices. He noted this aligns with the district's core belief that "Everyone belongs, has a voice, and can contribute," and stated this will be a focus in the upcoming school year.
- He extended thanks to Laurie Graack, along with Sharon, Lisa, Jennifer, and the entire supplemental team, for the successful completion of Camp Ellevate.
- Dr. McDuffie concluded with his enthusiasm for the launch of the new Bright Futures program, which is designed to remove systemic barriers and support students in reaching their full potential. He also thanked the Educational Services team and acknowledged Ms. Lochungvu for her continued efforts.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

President Cordero adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Signed 
Ricky Lara
Board Clerk

Signed 
Luz Maria Cabral
Vice President