SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, August 13, 2025
MINUTES
6:30 PM

Notice is hereby given that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District was held on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM. This meeting was held at the Santa Maria ISD Board Room, 11119 Military Road, Santa Maria, TX 78592.

Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82080760088?pwd=TVjJ7M8o3DBIruuPESBvi05xaQ4A2D.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

This meeting was called to order by Javier Jimenez, Jr., Board President at 6:34pm.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Present:
Javier Jimenez, Jr., President
Luis A. Cantu, Vice-President
Pablo Ibarra, Secretary
Dr. Yvette Cantu, Member
Michele Garcia, Member
Miguel Zavala, Member

Absent:
Andrew De la Rosa, Member

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN FORUM

At Regular and Special meetings 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 agenda and non-agenda items. 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 designee 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.

ACTION AGENDA

Finance

1. Discussion and possible action to adopt Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate Exceeding Voter -Approval Threshold.

Motion to approve by Miguel Zavala, second by Pablo Ibarra. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		

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Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

2. Discussion and possible action to approve the Proposed 2025-2026 Budget.

Motion to approve by Miguel Zavala, second by Luis Cantu. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

3. Discussion and possible action to approve the Proposed 2025-2026 Tax Rate.

Motion to approve by Michele Garcia, second by Pablo Ibarra. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

4. Discussion and possible action to include the addition of windstorm coverage insurance to our existing property insurance policy.

Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Miguel Zavala. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

Human Resources

1. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2025-2026 Compensation Plan.

Motion to move agenda item into Executive Session by Pablo Ibarra, second by Dr. Yvette Cantu. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

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Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

Curriculum and Instruction

1. Discussion and possible action to approve the Appraisal Timelines and Appraisers for 2025-2026 School Year.

Motion to approve by Dr. Yvette Cantu, second by Luis Cantu. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

2. Discussion and possible action to approve the MOU with South Texas Training Center.

Motion to approve by Dr Yvette Cantu, second by Pablo Ibarra. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

3. Discussion and possible action to approve the MOU with Cameron County JJAEP.

Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Dr. Yvette Cantu. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the MOU with Buckner Children and Family Services.

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Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Pablo Ibarra. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

Student Services

1. Discussion and possible action to approve the Student Code of Conduct for 2025-2026 School Year.

Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Miguel Zavala. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

Governance

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Policy Update 125.

Motion to approve by Miguel Zavala, second by Dr. Yvette Cantu. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

Policy

1. Discussion and possible action to approve the Local Policy-DEC Compensation and Benefits: Leaves and Absences.

Motion to approve by Miguel Zavala, second by Pablo Ibarra. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

2. Discussion and possible action to approve the Local Policy-FM Student Activities.

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Motion to approve by Michele Garcia, second by Miguel Zavala. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

3. *Discussion and possible action to approve Local Policy-FD Admissions.*

Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Dr. Yvette Cantu. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the Local Policy-EFB Instructional Resources: Library Materials.

Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Dr. Yvette Cantu. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Miguel Zavala, second by Pablo Ibarra. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

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Finance

1. Approval of Check Payments since last report for July 2025.
2. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of July 2025.
3. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report unaudited ending July 2025.
4. Approval of Tax Collection Report for July 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025.
5. Approval of Budget Amendment for 2024-2025.

Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes for Regular Board meeting of June 17, 2025.
2. Approval of Minutes for Special Board meeting of July 3, 2025.
3. Approval of Minutes for Regular Board meeting of July 21, 2025.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session by Dr. Yvette Cantu, second by Miguel Zavala. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously at 7:03pm.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

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
   1) 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
   2) Discuss all items as appropriate on Superintendent's personnel recommendations

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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
H. Section 552.0031 - Discussion with legal counsel on matters related to designation of non business days during the calendar year in accordance with Government Code.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session by Pablo Ibarra, second by Luis Cantu. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously at 8:51pm.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

1. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in Executive Session.

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Compensation Plan by Luis Cantu, second by Miguel Zavala. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

2. Discussion and possible action on recommendations on all items as appropriate on Superintendent's personnel recommendations.

Motion to approve recommendations on all items as appropriate on Superintendent's personnel recommendations by Luis Cantu, second by Pablo Ibarra. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

ADJOURNMENT

It is the policy of Santa Maria ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap, in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973, as amended.

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Motion to adjourn this meeting by Pablo Ibarra, second by Miguel Zavala. (6-Yea, 0-Nay) Motion passed unanimously at 8:52pm.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	*Abstain*
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra	*X*		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*		
Michele Garcia	*X*		
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on Saturday, August 9, 2025.

Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.
Board President

Pablo Ibarra
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)

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
Javier E. Jimenez, Jr., President
Luis A. Cantu, Vice-President
Pablo Ibarra, Secretary
Dr. Yvette Cantu, Member
Andrew "Andy" De La Rosa, Member
Michele Garcia, Member
Miguel Zavala, Member

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