

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

SMBSD Board Room
708 S. Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA
September 24, 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 5:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Linda Cordero, President
Luz Maria Cabral, Vice President
Ricky Lara, Board Clerk
John Hollinshead, Board Member
Ricaño 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

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 5:30 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

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

B. Introduction of Interpreters

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Recognition

The Key to the District was presented to Francisco Lozano by Board Member Hollinshead.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

No comments reported.

IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Superintendent McDuffie requested that Consent Items X.C.ii and X.C.iii be pulled. It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara to approve the agenda, as amended.

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

X. CONSENT ITEMS

A. GENERAL CONSENT

- i. Minutes of the Board of Education

B. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT

- i. Contracts for Board Approval or Ratification
- ii. Smith Mechanical-Electrical-Plumbing Electrical Improvements at El Camino Junior High School and Alvin Elementary School BID #5375 – Change Order Number 1
- iii. Pre Con Industries, Inc. Battles Elementary School New TK-K Building and Site Upgrades BID #5384 – Change Order Number 1
- iv. Pre Con Industries, Inc. Battles Elementary School New TK-K Building and Site Upgrades BID #5384 – Change Order Number 2
- v. Authorization to Purchase Furniture, Installation, and Related Services Utilizing a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement Awarded By Omnia Partners Contract #R-240111

C. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes
- ii. First Reading of Job Description: Library Stock Clerk
- iii. First Reading of Job Description: Community School Specialist
- iv. Second Reading and Approval of Job Description: Director of Maintenance, Operations, Facilities, and Transportation
- v. Second Reading and Approval of Job Description: Director of Fiscal Services
- vi. Second Reading and Approval of Job Description: Director of Contracts and Procurement
- vii. Second Reading and Approval of Job Description: Director of Nutrition Services

D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONTENT

- i. Approval for Taylor School Sixth Graders to attend Overnight Outdoor Science Camp at Camp Whittier-May 12-15th, 2026

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Ms. Cabral to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

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

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Resolution 25-05: Approving the Absences of Board Members from Meetings of the Board of Education

Presented by: Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead that the Board of Education APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-05: 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, R. Lara, L. Cordero). Motion passed.

XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2025 CAASPP and ELPAC Data

Presented by: Laurie Graack, Director of Teaching & Learning Supplemental

The Board of Education ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE TEACHING AND LEARNING, SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS CAASPP AND ELPAC DATA, as presented.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

No report provided.

XIV. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Board Member Report – Mr. Valencia

- **Acknowledgment of Staff Efforts:**
Mr. Valencia commended district staff for the work highlighted in recent weekly board updates, particularly the school performances in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Women's History Month.
- **Chumash Cultural Center Visit:**
He recently attended a training at the Chumash Cultural Center and highly encouraged others to visit. While there is currently a long waitlist for classes, he expressed hope that our students will have the opportunity to experience the Center in the near future.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month Event:**
Mr. Valencia praised the organizers of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at

Santa Maria High School. He acknowledged the fear felt by many in the community and emphasized that events like this demonstrate that the district continues to be a supportive and inclusive presence.

- **Multilingual Services and Cal Poly Collaboration:**

He thanked the Multilingual Services Department for hosting Cal Poly students at El Camino Junior High School recently. He noted the importance of connecting these visits to programs such as AVID and Long-Term English Learner support, and emphasized the value of linking cultural relevance to this work, recognizing how the importance of culture supports positive academic outcomes for our students.

Board Member Report – Mr. Hollinshead

- No report provided.

Board Member Report – Mr. Lara

- No report provided.

Board Member Report – Ms. Cabral

- **CLSBA Unity Conference Attendance:**

Ms. Cabral recently attended the California Latino School Boards Association (CLSBA) Unity Conference in San Diego, where the district was honored with the LEAD Award for its work on the *Bright Futures Project*. She thanked Dr. McDuffie for his leadership and the positive direction the district is heading in. She also highlighted some of the important topics discussed at the conference, including immigration issues.

- **Hispanic Heritage Celebration at SMHS:**

Ms. Cabral attended the Hispanic Heritage celebration at Santa Maria High School last Friday. She shared that the event was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. She especially appreciated seeing everyone dancing at the end of the program, which created a joyful and festive atmosphere.

Board Member Report – President Cordero

- **Board Policy Committee Meeting:**

President Cordero reported her participation in a recent District Board Policy Committee meeting.

- **Athletic Events Attendance:**

She attended both a girls' and a boys' volleyball game at El Camino and Fesler Junior High Schools, respectively, and expressed her interest in attending more games. She also noted that flag football teams have recently started their season.

- **School Site Visits – PLC Observations:**

President Cordero visited El Camino and Fesler to observe Professional Learning Community (PLC) sessions. She found it extremely engaging to witness the high level of participation and expertise of the presenters. She expressed optimism that PLCs will

become a foundational practice across the district, helping to implement many of the strategies discussed that evening.

- **Cultural Event at SMHS:**
She also attended the recent cultural celebration at Santa Maria High School, and reported that it was a very nice event.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - El Camino Junior High School will be hosting a BBQ fundraiser tomorrow, featuring tri-tip sandwiches.
 - Back a Youth Night in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club is also scheduled for tomorrow.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. McDuffie

- **LEAD Award Recognition:**
Dr. McDuffie proudly presented the LEAD Award that the district received at the recent CLSBA Unity Conference. He noted that the award will be displayed in the boardroom.
- **CLSBA Unity Conference Highlights:**
Superintendent McDuffie shared that the district team had a great experience at the CLSBA Unity Conference. He extended his gratitude to Maijue Lochungvu, Board Member Valencia, and Board Member Cabral for joining him. The workshop, presented by the team, highlighted the *Bright Futures Project* at SMBSD, and was well attended. Dr. McDuffie emphasized that it was a meaningful opportunity to share the district's shared vision with a wide audience and that it was encouraging to see these efforts being recognized and celebrated.
- **Visit from SBCEO:**
Dr. McDuffie reported that the district welcomed Dr. Susan Salcido and her team from the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) last Friday. They toured Sanchez Elementary and Tommie Kunst Junior High School, witnessing firsthand the outstanding work being done by teachers. A video of the tour is available on the district's Instagram page.
- **Cultural Celebration at SMHS:**
Dr. McDuffie also attended a recent cultural celebration at Santa Maria High School. He described the event as a wonderful evening filled with vibrant music and valuable resources for families and the community.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

President Cordero reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Signed  _____
Ricky Lara
Board Clerk

Signed  _____
Ricardo Valencia
Board Member