

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

SMBSD Board Room  
708 S. Miller Street  
Santa Maria, CA  
**October 8, 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 5:16 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Linda Cordero, President

Luz Maria Cabral, Vice President (Absent)

Ricky Lara, Board Clerk

John Hollinshead, Board Member (Absent)

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 Real Property Negotiators**

Government Code § 54956.8

Agency Negotiator: Matthew Beecher; Todd Amspoker, Esq.

Property: 23.1-acre lot: Lot 5, Tract 6,022, APN 117-240-054, Santa Maria,

CA Negotiating parties: Santa Maria-Bonita School District; Blosser Fee

Owner, LLC; Centennial Bank Under negotiation: Price and terms

**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 5:16 p.m.

## **V. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

## **VI. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION**

## **VII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:01 p.m.

### **A. Report from Closed Session**

For Item A: Dr. McDuffie announced the administrative appointment of Karen Sperling, Principal for Bonita Elementary.

For Items B, C, & D: President Cordero reported that information was shared.

### **B. Introduction of Interpreters**

### **C. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **D. Inspiration**

Miller Elementary

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION**

### **Agenda**

Yvonne Duran, regarding current curricula. She is concerned that Benchmark Advance is not culturally responsive.

### **Non-Agenda**

Jessica Ruvalcaba, teacher and parent at Jimenez, regarding class sizes for TK & K. She would like to know how the average is calculated across the district.

Jessica Morris, shared Ontiveros school data that was not reflected in CAASP data.

Katherine Grose, concerned parent and community member, regarding safety in our schools.

Patrick Flatley, regarding safety and transparency in reference to the inclusion policy. His child was involved in an incident. He is asking for some type of reform for these policies. Every child has a right to education and equality.

Jennifer Ellsworth, former SMBSD student, parent of 3 graduated SMBSD students, volunteer, CSEA member, and district employee, asked the Board about the progress of ongoing negotiations.

Cheryl Ausan, feels like the Board is not paying attention to District concerns.

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

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

## **X. CONSENT ITEMS**

### **A. GENERAL CONSENT**

- i. Minutes of the Board of Education
- ii. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Board Bylaw - Exhibit 9270 - Conflict of Interest

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

- i. Contracts for Approval or Ratification
- ii. Payment of Warrants
- iii. J. Bruce Kies Contractor/Consultant Playground Improvements at Rice Elementary School BID #5400 – Change Order Number 1
- iv. Reject All Responses for RSFQ 5368 On-Call Geotechnical and Materials Testing Services
- v. Authorization to File Notice of Completion - J. Bruce Kies Contractor/Consultant - BID #5400 - Playground Improvements at Rice Elementary School

### **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

### **D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONSENT**

- i. Quarterly Report on Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaints
- ii. Approval for Alvin Sixth Graders to attend Overnight Outdoor Science Camp at Rancho Alegre April 14-17, 2026

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

## **XI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Appointment of Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**

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

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mr. Lara to APPROVE THE SLATE OF MEMBERS FOR THE CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, as presented..

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

### **B. Approval of Contract with Renaissance Learning**

*Presented by: Brian Rieke, Chief Technology Officer*

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Valencia to APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH RENAISSANCE LEARNING, as presented.

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

**C. Approval of Contract with ThinkTogether dba California Schools Talent Collaborative for VAPA Specialists Vacancy Needs - 2025-2026 School Year**

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

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mr. Lara to APPROVE THINKTOGETHER DBA CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS TALENT COLLABORATIVE FOR VAPA SPECIALISTS VACANCY NEEDS - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, as presented.

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

**D. Transfer of Extensive Support Needs (ESN) Programs from SBCEO to SMBSD**

*Presented by: Armando J. Uribe, Director of Special Education*

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Valencia APPROVE THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSFER OF EXTENSIVE SUPPORT NEEDS (ESN) PROGRAMS FROM SBCEO TO SMBSD, as presented.

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

**E. Resolution 25-06: Filipino American History Month**

*Presented by: Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent*

Moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Valencia to ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-06: FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH, as presented.

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

**XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Culturally Responsive Curriculum**

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

The Board ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE DISCUSSION OF CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE CURRICULUM, as presented.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Valencia requested an update on the district's Ethnic Studies program at a future board meeting.

**XIV. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

**Board Member Report – Mr. Valencia**

- **Thank you to Our Custodial Staff**

We recently celebrated National Custodial Day to honor our amazing custodians.

Mr. Valencia shared a moving personal story of how a custodian named Luis made a lasting impact on him when he was a student at El Camino JHS. He would like to give major props to our custodial staff and say thank you for all the work that you do!

- **Grant Award**

Mr. Valencia gave a shout-out to SMBSD band teacher, Jessica Husselstein, for securing a grant from the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation. Thanks to her efforts, our students received 12 new drums valued at approximately \$17,933.00. Thank you, Ms. Husselstein, for bringing these amazing resources to our music program!

### **Board Member Report – Mr. Lara**

- Mr. Lara attended the PIQE graduation at Arellanes yesterday, where 20 parents celebrated their achievement. Margarita Muscio delivered an excellent speech, making it a truly special and memorable event.

### **Board Member Report – President Cordero**

- **BBQ Event at El Camino JH**  
President Cordero and her husband attended the recent BBQ held at El Camino JHS.
- **Back-a-Youth Night Event**  
Reported her attendance at the recent Back-a-Youth night.
- **Community Forum at the Boys and Girls Club**  
President Cordero attended a forum at the Boys and Girls Club. There were many representatives from the community in attendance. They discussed the continuing needs of the children in our community, with child care for our youngest children being a primary topic.
- **Middle School Committee**  
She discussed the middle school committee meeting that took place on September 30th.
- **Professional Learning Process at Fesler JHS and El Camino JHS**  
Participated in learning more about the PL process at both Fesler and El Camino.
- **Santa Barbara School Boards Meeting**  
Reported her attendance at the monthly SB County School Boards meeting. They discussed topics such as housing development in smaller communities such as Solvang and Bulleton and the need for more consideration of new schools that will be needed there.
- **Orenda at SMBSD**  
Orenda was in our district making grade level presentations recently, looking at standards and ELA. She participated in a 4th grade group, and will be staying with that cohort through the entire process.
- **Cruising for Life Event**  
Mrs. Cordero noted that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. The events that occur in our community are special to her as she is also a survivor. She and her husband recently acquired an antique vehicle and participated in the cruise and dinner in the evening. It was well attended and a lot of support within our community..
- **Teacher Induction Advisory**  
She reported that Monday was the teacher induction advisory. Shelli Hart and her team have been preparing for the state review of the program to be certified to continue to support our teacher residents we now have.
- **Altrusa Teacher Grants**  
The Altrusa group Mrs. Cordero belongs to gives teacher grants once a year for the academic year. The committee met last night for several hours to review 112 applications, and narrowed selections down to the 40 grants that are available.

## Superintendent's Report – Dr. McDuffie

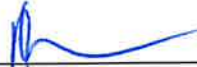
- **New Playgrounds**  
Dr. McDuffie discussed the new playgrounds now open at Rice School.
- **Santa Barbara Bowl Performance**  
Ethnic Studies and Spanish elective students enjoyed a live performance at the Santa Barbara Bowl. 2000 students from across the county attended. The event was put on by SBCEO Children's Creative Network and the Santa Barbara Bowl. We will have some photos to share from the experience on social media soon.
- **LCAP Community Workshop**  
Dr. McDuffie invited everyone to attend the LCAP community workshop on Thursday, October 16, from 6-7:30 p.m.

## XV. ADJOURNMENT

President Cordero reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Signed



Ricky Lara  
Board Clerk

Signed



Ricardo Valencia  
Board Member