

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

SMBSD Board Room  
708 S. Miller Street  
Santa Maria, CA  
**November 12, 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 5:02 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Linda Cordero, President  
Luz Maria Cabral, Vice President  
Ricky Lara, Board Clerk  
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**  
(Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1))  
Name of case: OAH Case No. 2025080664
- E. Conference with Legal Counsel-Existing Litigation**  
(Government Code section 54956.9, subsections (a) and (d)(1)):  
PERB Case No. HO-U-1761
- F. 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 6:03 p.m.

#### A. Report from Closed Session

For Item A: Superintendent McDuffie reported that the Board of Education approved the Appointment of Gillian Schoenfield as Elementary Principal for Liberty. Moved by Mr. Hollinshead, and seconded by Mr. Lara. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. 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 in the office of administrative hearing case #2025080664. It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Ms. Cabral. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Motion passed.*

For Item E: President Cordero reported that the Board approved a settlement agreement with SMEEA concerning certificated employee #391. The agreement provides for payment to the employee in exchange for the full and complete resolution of the back pay and retirement contribution issues related to the employee in PERB Decision #HOU1761. Moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Lara. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Motion passed.*

For Item F: President Cordero reported that information was shared.

#### B. Introduction of Interpreters

#### C. Pledge of Allegiance

#### D. Inspiration

Sanchez Elementary

#### E. Student Leader Advisory Team

#### F. Recognition

National School Psychology Week. Presented by Armando Uribe and Amber Walz.

### VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

#### Agenda

None

## **Non-Agenda**

Tracy Lipson and Kristen Lachemann, teachers at Ontiveros, regarding class size.

## **Non-Agenda (continued)**

Myra Palmer, instructional assistant, regarding the inclusion model at the junior high level.

Stephanie Wells, 20-year SMBSD employee and librarian at El Camino JHS, regarding the forcing of inclusion.

Kaylah Vauclin (via pre-recorded message), regarding inclusion.

Amanda Corcoran, regarding DLI and screen time.

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

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Ms. Cabral to approve the agenda, as presented.  
*Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Motion passed.*

## **X. CONSENT ITEMS**

### **A. GENERAL CONSENT**

- i. Minutes of the Board of Education

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

- i. Payment of Warrants
- ii. Contracts for Approval or Ratification
- iii. Award of RFSQ #5368(B) On-Call Geotechnical and Materials Testing Services
- iv. Authorization to Utilize Sourcewell Cooperative Contract #011124-VST Awarded to Vestis Services, LLC for Leased Linen Services and Uniforms with Related Products and Services

### **C. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT**

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes
- ii. Second Reading and Approval of Job Description: Community Schools Specialist
- iii. Second Reading and Approval of Job Description: Library Stock Clerk

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

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Motion passed.*

## **XI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Select Date for the Annual Governing Board Organizational Meeting**

*Presented by Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent*

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Ms. Cabral, that the Board of Education SELECT A DAY AND TIME FOR ITS ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, as presented.

*Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero.*

*Motion passed.*

**B. Resolution 25-07: Native American Heritage Month**

*Presented by Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent*

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara to ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-07: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, as presented.

*Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero.*

*Motion passed.*

**C. Resolution 25-08: Approving the Absences of Board Members from Meetings of the Board of Education**

*Presented by Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent*

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-08: APPROVING THE ABSENCES OF BOARD MEMBERS FROM MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, as presented.

*Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero.*

*Motion passed.*

**D. Resolution 25-09: Approving the Absences of Board Members from Meetings of the Board of Education**

*Presented by Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent*

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Ms. Cabral that the Board of Education to ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-10: APPROVING THE ABSENCES OF BOARD MEMBERS FROM MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, as presented.

*Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero.*

*Motion passed.*

**E. Resolution No. 25-10: Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

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

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Ms. Cabral to ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-10, COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA). *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Motion passed.*

**F. Approval of Contract with Hancock Park & DeLong, Inc.**

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

It was moved by Ms. Cabral and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH HANCOCK PARK & DELOONG, INC., as presented. *Ayes: 5.*

*Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Motion passed.*

**G. Authorization to Enter into a Sole-Source Agreement with Hey Tutor!, Inc. to Provide Tutoring Program for Newcomer Students**

*Presented by: Dr. Tammie Castillo-Shiffer, Director of Multilingual Services*

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Ms. Cabral that the Board of Education AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT WITH HEY TUTOR!, INC. TO PROVIDE A TUTORING PROGRAM FOR NEWCOMER STUDENTS, as presented. *Ayes: 5.*

*Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Motion passed.*

**XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Dual Language Immersion Expansion Update**

*Presented by: Tammie Castillo-Shiffer, Ed.D., Director of Multilingual Services and Pati De Robles, Ed.D., Program Specialist for Dual Language Immersion*

The Board of Education ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION EXPANSION UPDATE, as presented.

### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Valencia requested an update on Ethnic Studies, including current challenges and opportunities.

Mr. Hollinshead requested an overview of the Ethnic Studies components currently embedded throughout the district's curriculum - beyond the one or two classes being offered.

Mr. Hollinshead would also like to see either a board report or an agenda item on the subject of social media and screen time while students are in school. What is our plan?

Mrs. Cordero would like an update on the new reading screening for K-2, and possibly 3rd-grade students as well. How is it going, and is the screening providing the information we hope to give our teachers about what they are doing in the classroom? She also requested an update on the subject of AI.

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

#### **Board Member Report - Mr. Valencia**

- Wanted to acknowledge the staff who recently coordinated swim lessons for a group of our 4th graders from Bruce and Ontiveros. Thank you for engaging our students in these wonderful and life-saving activities.
- Mr. Valencia wished our staff a wonderful holiday season and an enjoyable holiday break.

#### **Board Member Report - Mr. Hollinshead**

- Mr. Hollinshead wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Kudos to Mrs. Garcia from TK for a recent field trip she took her students on.

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

- No report.

#### **Board Member Report - Ms. Cabral**

- No report.

#### **Board Member Report - Mrs. Cordero**

- Reported her participation in a number of professional development opportunities in the district regarding UDL.
- Attended a training at El Camino JH for the Bright Futures Project.
- Reported that she helped out at the recent Fall Festival held at Alvin.
- Attended a basketball game at El Camino JH.
- Visited the Lights Out after-school program at some of our school sites.

- Attended the PCPA production of Every Brilliant Thing, which dealt with mental illness. Mrs. Cordero reported that the performance had a huge impact on her.
- Fighting Back SMV presented a symposium at Allan Hancock College, which she attended. It was very good.
- She also attended a Hidden in Plain Sight presentation at Arellanes, adding that there were 6-7 parents in the group. She was disappointed to learn that this was actually the largest group that had attended the presentation at a site.
- The Teachers' Celebration was a very nice event. It was well received, and she extended kudos to everyone who was involved in the celebration.
- She reported her attendance at a recent DELAC meeting.
- Mrs. Cordero also reported on a new parent advisory committee that has been brought back. Their recent meeting was held this past Thursday. It was interesting and covered a variety of things going on across the district.
- She attended the recent Santa Barbara County School Board Association last Thursday. There was lots of conversation about topics appropriate for board members that may need to be offered in the future.
- At the State of the City event, there was a lot of presentation and conversation about the city expanding to the east and south. At the conclusion of the presentations, she made a point to seek out a few different people, as well as some developers that she knew, and reminded them to please remember that, as our city grows, we need to consider the additional schools that will be needed in those new areas.
- Yesterday, she attended a Veterans' Day event at the Freedom Monument by the Maldonado Center. The city and the chamber of commerce held a very touching ceremony there. It was an appropriate time to be thankful and remember the sacrifices that others have made to allow us to have the privileges that we have today.


#### **Superintendent's Report – Dr. McDuffie**

- He acknowledged Veteran's Day and encouraged everyone to visit the SMBSD website, where we are featuring our employees in the military. Dr. McDuffie is proud to be one of the employees being featured.
- Sanchez Elementary will be holding a Veterans' Day event on Friday at 8:30 a.m.
- Dr. McDuffie reported his attendance at a recent ACSA Leadership Conference in San Francisco. He discussed one of the topics at the conference in regards to mental health, reducing the stigma that surrounds it, and how this and mental wellness are often overlooked. He will be talking with cabinet in regards to helping our employees and having resources available to our employees in regards to this as well.
- He added that our school psychologists nurture the whole child, and that it is just as important that our employees feel healthy and mentally well, also.
- Discussed the recent A Salute to Teachers event and the recognition of district staff.

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

President Cordero reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board Meeting and Organizational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m., at which time the Board returned to closed session. The board reported out that information was shared for both Closed Session items B and C. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Signed   
Ricky Lara  
Board Clerk

Signed   
John Hollinshead  
Board Member