

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

SMBSD Board Room
708 S. Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA
December 10, 2025

ADOPTED

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

President Cordero called the Organizational Meeting of the Santa Maria-Bonita School District to order at 6:02 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.
Possible Action
- 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. 2025090811

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 5:15 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 Items A, B, and C: Information was shared.

For Item D: The Board approved a settlement agreement in Office of Administrative Hearings Case No. 2025090811. The motion was made by Mr. Valencia, seconded by Ms. Cabral, with 5 votes in favor and 0 against.

B. Introduction of Interpreters

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Inspiration

Arellanes JHS

E. Student Leader Advisory Team Report

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. President (Currently Linda Cordero)

Superintendent McDuffie opened nominations for the position of Board President for the 2026 calendar year. Mr. Valencia made the motion to nominate Ms. Cabral, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Hollinshead seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

B. Vice President (Currently Luz Maria Cabral)

Superintendent McDuffie opened nominations for the position of Vice President for the 2026 calendar year. Mr. Hollinshead made the motion to nominate Mr. Lara, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Valencia seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

C. Clerk (Currently Ricky Lara)

Superintendent McDuffie opened nominations for the position of Board Clerk for the 2026 calendar year. Mr. Lara made the motion to nominate Mr. Hollinshead, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Cabral seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

IX. Turn Meeting Over to New Board President

The meeting was turned over to President Cabral.

X. Motion to Designate Secretary to the Board (currently Superintendent McDuffie)

President Cabral opened nominations for the position of Secretary to the Board for the 2026 calendar year. Mr. Hollinshead made the motion to nominate Dr. McDuffie, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Lara seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

XI. Motion to Set Time and Date of Regular Meetings (currently second and fourth Wednesdays of the month with Closed Session beginning at 5:15 p.m. and Open Session at 6:00 p.m.), and Motion to Set Time and Date of Special Meetings

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Valencia to approve the 2026 time and date of regular meetings of the month with closed session beginning at 5:15 p.m. and open session at 6:00 p.m., and a motion to set time and date of special meetings, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

XII. County Committee on School District Organization - Motion to Appoint Representative

President Cabral opened nominations for a district representative for the County Committee on School District Organization. Mr. Hollinshead made the motion to nominate Mrs. Cordero, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Lara seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

XIII. Resolution 25-11: Resolution to the Board of Education of the Santa Maria-Bonita School District Delegation of Governing Board Powers and Duties

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead to ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-11: RESOLUTION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT DELEGATION OF GOVERNING BOARD POWERS AND DUTIES, AS PRESENTED. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

XIV. Adjourn to Regular Board Meeting: Open Session

Open session was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

A. Comments on Agenda Items and

B. Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- **Katherine Grose** expressed her concerns regarding escalating physical incidents towards her son by another student, and the fact that she was never notified of this.
- **Judith Morris** would like to reinstate clear standards for participation in 8th grade promotion.
- **Lisa Lira** would like to see improved communication and collaboration between teachers and the district office.
- **Gale McNeeley** from Youth Arts Alive, would like to reinstate theater classes at the junior high schools next school year.
- **Dr. Alicia Sage** regarding the district's priorities are not matched to the needs of our students.
- **Jennifer Danowitz** regarding unity and what it truly means to build a unified system.
- **Addison Sage** regarding the importance of our instructional (ELD) coaches and RTI teachers.
- **Kristen Patterson** on behalf of Jonathan Patterson, regarding his concerns surrounding junior high students, specifically those with the highest academic needs; as well as the district's current approach to inclusion in the subjects of English and math.
- **Mario Mendoza** is disappointed and concerned about the status of our current Special Education instructional system.

- **Misty Epperson** RTI teacher at Adam, regarding teachers needs for foundational literacy skills, small group instruction, and meaningful Tier 2 intervention without weakening Tier 3.
- **Sheila Gemignani** RTI teacher at Oakley, regarding the reduction of Tier 3 intervention in order to serve a larger number of students. She would like to see a pause of any implementation.
- **Brandi Ferguson**, RTI teacher, also expressed that the district needs to pause the implementation and let us remain at our sites long term.
- **Amy Burns**, RTI teacher at Bonita, would also like to see a pause of the AST position.
- **Martha Rodriguez** is disappointed with the manner that her position is being dissolved. Why was this done behind closed doors? She would like to see the research and data that support these changes.
- **Kristen Lohr**, SMEEA president & 30-year employee, regarding the district's announcement of the 2 new positions that are included in tonight's board packet. She discussed the district's beliefs and referred to Ed Code 60002. Please pause this implementation until a full consultation process is completed.
- **Judy Montoya**, Sanchez School, regarding the proposed changes to the site coach job description.
- **Kristen Patterson**, RTI teacher at Arellanes JHS, regarding concerns of the changes announced for next school year in a brief Zoom meeting that occurred on November 21st.
- **Mercedes Berraza**, requested that the positions discussed tonight are not merged. Do not approve this consolidation.
- **Rosemary Lopez**, ELD coach at Fesler. Why have our current positions been deemed ineffective? Why are we eliminating the one position that supports EL's?
- **Sarah Herbert**, El Camino JHS, via recorded message. She is greatly concerned about the unilaterally disbanding of these positions mid-year. We need to hire more RTI teachers.
- **Victoria Gibson**, via recorded message, also spoke regarding the recent decisions pertaining to RTI teachers.

XVI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Lara to approve the agenda as presented.

XVII. 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. Resolution 25-12: Annual and Five Year Development Fee Reports for 2024-25 Fiscal Year
- iv. Edwards Construction Group, Inc. Taylor Elementary School Fire Alarm Replacement BID #5370 – Change Order Number 1

- v. Award BID #5404 – Requirements Contract Form Intercom Systems and Components
- vi. Ratification and Re-Award of BID #5405 – Charter Bus Services for Field Trips to Vandenberg Space Force Base 2025-2026
- vii. Authorization to Purchase Flooring Materials with Related Supplies Utilizing a California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) Contract #4-24-06-1007 Awarded to Mohawk Commercial, Inc.

C. FACILITIES PLANNING CONSENT

D. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes

E. INSTRUCTIONAL CONSENT

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mrs. Cordero to approve the Consent Items as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

XVIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2024-25 Audit Report for the Santa Maria-Bonita School District

Presented by: Matt Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services

Moved by: Mrs. Cordero

Seconded by: Mr. Lara

The Board of Education ACCEPTED THE 2024-25 AUDIT REPORT FOR THE SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT, as presented.

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

B. Certification of the First Interim Report for 2025-26

Presented by: Brian King, Director of Fiscal Services

Moved by: Mrs. Cordero

Seconded by: Mr. Valencia

The Board of Education ISSUED A POSITIVE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2025-26 FIRST INTERIM REPORT AND CERTIFY TO THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS THAT THE SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL BE ABLE TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE 2025-26, 2026-27, AND 2027-28 FISCAL YEARS, as presented.

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

C. Approval of Contract with SBCEO Children's Creative Project for Ballet Folklorico and Mexican Culture ELOP EXLP classes- 2025-2026 School Year

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

Moved by: Mr. Valencia

Seconded by: Mr. Hollinshead

The Board of Education APPROVED THE CONTRACT WITH SBCEO CHILDRENS CREATIVE PROJECT FOR BALLET FOLKLORICO AND MEXICAN CULTURE ELOP EXLP CLASSES - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, as presented.

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

D. Approval of Contract with Santa Maria Valley YMCA for Non-School Day Off-Site Program Services

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

Moved by: Mr. Valencia

Seconded by: Mr. Lara

The Board of Education APPROVED THE CONTRACT WITH SANTA MARIA VALLEY YMCA FOR NON-SCHOOL DAY, OFF-SITE PROGRAM SERVICES, as presented. Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

E. Approval of Contract with Boys and Girls Club of Mid Central Coast for Non-School Day Off-Site Program Services

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

Moved by: Mr. Lara

Seconded by: Mr. Valencia

The Board of Education APPROVED THE CONTRACT WITH BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MID CENTRAL COAST FOR NON-SCHOOL DAY, OFF-SITE SERVICES, as presented. Ayes: 5 (L. Cordero, R. Lara, L. Cabral, J. Hollinshead, R. Valencia). Motion passed.

XIX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. First Reading of the Site Coach and Academic Support Teacher Job Descriptions

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

Tammie Castillo-Shiffer, Ed.D, Director of Multilingual Services

The Board of Education ACKNOWLEDGED THE FIRST READING OF THE SITE COACH AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT TEACHER JOB DESCRIPTIONS, as presented.

XX. NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Cordero requested information in regards to the tracking of our new students in regards to the requirement that monitoring must continue for 4 years. She would like to know how these students are performing academically.

XXI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Board Member Report - Mrs. Cordero

- Mrs. Cordero provided a report from her attendance at the CSBA AEC Conference.
- She noted that our teacher induction program was recently reviewed by the state, and was unconditionally accredited. She gave a shout out to all of those who are involved with this program, along with our support teachers.
- Mrs. Cordero attended the Quarterly Schools Meeting this morning. There was discussion of how much the city is going to be expanding in the next 20 years in terms of population

growth as well as the land being annexed to the city. She hopes that space for new schools will be designated as part of that growth.

- The Altrusa group is currently hosting their annual *Magical Christmas Trees* fundraiser at Kia in Santa Maria. She noted that there have been a lot of schools visiting the event and it has been a lot of fun to watch. The last day of ticket sales is Saturday at 3:30 p.m. She appreciates the support from our schools, noting that we have at least 10 trees sponsored by our school sites this year. She added that the creativity and support from our school staff continue to support this wonderful cause. Additionally, she noted that every child in attendance from visiting school sites receives a free book.
- She wished everyone an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. May you all be blessed.

Board Member Report - Mr. Valencia

- Mr. Valencia reported on his attendance at the AEC Conference. He shared insights on the topic of modeling ongoing learning and highlighted the importance of asking thoughtful questions of board members, a key subject discussed during a workshop he attended. He expressed appreciation for the questions teachers are asking and encouraged that such questions continue to be asked respectfully, with the spirit of such questions coming from a loving place.
- He wished all staff a wonderful holiday.

Board Member Report - Mr. Hollinshead

- He thanked the teachers who came to speak during public comment this evening, and appreciates them letting the board know of their concerns.
- He reported his attendance at the AEC Conference.
- Mr. Hollinshead also spoke on the subject of the job descriptions that were discussed this evening.
- He reviewed a session that he attended at AEC with Mrs. Cordero, which noted that there is a requirement that if there are 20 student speakers of a language, the district must provide services for that language. This raises the question: what is the district doing to create literacy opportunities?

Board Member Report - Mr. Lara

- Thanked everyone that came and spoke this evening. He appreciates the concerns raised for our kids and the district.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He encouraged everyone to make phone calls and give hugs to your loved ones this holiday season.

Board Member Report - Ms. Cabral

- Thank you to all of our speakers this evening during public comment. It is helpful to hear your concerns.
- She reported on her attendance at AEC. One of the trainings she attended there was the Board President’s Workshop. She also added that one of her favorite workshops was on the subject of CET, and how Fresno has developed their CET program.
- Enjoy your holidays!


Superintendent Report - Dr. McDuffie

- Reported his attendance at AEC last week.
- Thanked Shelli Hart and her team for the fantastic job they do with our teachers and our new induction program. They all do an incredible job.
- Tommie Kunst JHS is hosting 65 robotic teams this Saturday. The event will be held from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Dr. McDuffie noted that the district website has resources available to assist our students and their families. Our family resource centers are open and available to help.
- He thanked district staff for their input this evening. The passion and the love for our students shows in everyone that works here. He thanked everyone for the amazing work that is done here at the district.
- Discussed the subject of change, and the intent we have for each student to develop skills to meet their fullest potential.
- He wished a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays to everyone.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular SMBSD board meeting will be held on January 14, 2026.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hollinshead at 10:36 p.m.

Signed 
Ricky Lara
Board Clerk

Signed 
John Hollinshead
Board Member