

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

SMBSD Board Room  
708 S. Miller Street  
Santa Maria, CA  
**January 14, 2026**

**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 5:14 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**

Government Code section 54956.9, subsections (a) and (d)(1)  
PERB Case No. HO-U-1761

**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 6:02 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 with SMEEA concerning certificated employees #310 and #2542. The agreement provides for payment to the employee in exchange for the full and complete resolution of the backpay and retirement contribution issues related to the employee in PERB Decision No. HO-U-1761. It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mrs. Cordero. The vote was unanimous.

### B. Introduction of Interpreters

### C. Pledge of Allegiance

### D. Recognition

#### 1. Community Friends of Santa Barbara Check Presentation

Jose Segura, Coordinator of Community Schools, thanked the representatives in attendance from the Community Friends of Santa Barbara, who made a cash donation of \$20k for meals to over 500 SMBSD families over the holidays.

#### 2. The International AVID Staff Developer of the Year Award

El Camino Junior High School Principal Alex Jáuregui introduced Robin Ilac, instructional coach and AVID Site Coordinator at El Camino JHS, in recognition of her being named the worldwide recipient of the International AVID Staff Developer of the Year Award. President Cabral presented Ms. Ilac with a certificate on behalf of the Board in recognition of her outstanding accomplishment.

## VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

### Agenda

None

### Non-Agenda

**Sonya Morris** - Regarding concerns about the District's ERIP program.

**Jennifer Evans** - Regarding RTI needing to be supported as Tier III. Tier I and II cannot replace the support we provide to our students.

## IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Valencia 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

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

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

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead 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. 2026-27 and 2027-28 School Calendar/Scheduled Holidays**

Presented by Pete Bland, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Valencia, that the Board of Education APPROVE THE 2026-27 and 2027-28 SCHOOL CALENDARS AND SCHEDULED HOLIDAYS, as presented. *Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero.*

*Noes: 1. Mr. Hollinshead. Motion passed.*

### **B. Resolution 25-14: Black History Month**

Presented by Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mrs. Cordero to ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-14: BLACK HISTORY MONTH, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Motion passed.*

## **XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. New School Design Update**

Presented by: Matt Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services

The Board of Education ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE OF NEW SCHOOL DESIGN, as presented.

## **XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Valencia requested a presentation focused on understanding the impact of increased ICE activity on our students and outlining how we are supporting both students and staff during this time.

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

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

- Mrs. Cordero wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

- She reported on her attendance at last week's County School Board Association meeting. A presentation regarding AI by Tiffany Carson provided a very informative overview of things that need to be considered when we are looking at what is available in terms of AI, and what our students might be able to access and utilize.
- Discussed the new budget proposal released by Governor Newsom, adding that it is always in our best interest to be aware of things that are going on across the state.
- Mrs. Cordero will be speaking to our student leadership group on Friday about the responsibilities of a school board member. She will also share examples of what board members review and explain the how and why behind the decisions a board member makes.

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

- He wishes everyone a Happy New Year and welcome back to the school year.
- Mr. Valencia reported his heart is heavy about the ICE activity in the community and along the central coast.
- He attended the recent swearing-in ceremony for Monique Limón, the California Senate's first Latina leader. He shared his appreciation for her message of hope and noted that the ceremony was administered by Kamala Harris, former Vice President of the United States. He expressed feeling fortunate to be part of such a meaningful event and proud of the work we are doing on behalf of our young people.

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

- There is a planning session being held on 1/22/26 at the Santa Maria Public Library in Shephard Hall regarding the Amazon fulfillment center on W. Stowell. Traffic in this location is already heavily impacted. They are going to have to do extensive work to support the 74 Amazon vans that will be going down Stowell every 24 minutes. It will significantly affect SMHS and Miller. It will also impact Sanchez and Adam Schools. He encourages everyone to attend this planning session. This is not a subject that he takes lightly as it will affect the safety of our children.
- Mr. Hollinshead reflected on Black History Month, and discussed in particular the book *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley. It reflects the dramatic change we can all go through in regards to hope, love, and kindness.

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

- Mr. Lara wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- He sends his condolences to Niccole Wiseman's family on the passing of her father.

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

- No report.

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

- He welcomed everyone back to the new year.

- The upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. holiday is Sunday, January 18th. Allan Hancock College will be holding a MLK celebration at Boyd Concert Hall from 12-4 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers III will be the speaker at the event.
- Dr. McDuffie appreciated the comments Board Member Hollinshead made in regards to the autobiography of Malcom X.
- In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Dr. McDuffie reflected on Dr. King's powerful words as we continue to engage with and support our community. He emphasized the importance of recognizing the courage Dr. King demonstrated during the civil rights movement. Dr. McDuffie also affirmed that every student and family deserves an equitable learning environment, and that this holiday is an opportunity to honor and uphold that commitment. He thanked staff, students, and families for embodying Dr. King's courage and collaboration.
- Dr. McDuffie closed with a quote from Dr. King.

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

President Cabral reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board Meeting and Organizational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
John Hollinshead  
Board Clerk

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Cordero  
Board Member