



SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
Minutes
6:00pm

Notice is hereby given that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:00pm. This meeting was held at the Santa Maria ISD Cafeteria, 11119 Military Road, Santa Maria, TX 78592.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84146389179?pwd=OjlxybYRswHd587AXuqvx5ZQHX0S3q.1>

The Santa Maria Independent School District offers reasonable accommodations for persons accessing its school facilities, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require special accommodations, please contact Ida Torres, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, at (956) 565-6308 for assistance.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Javier Jimenez, Jr. at 6:00pm.

Establish Quorum

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Javier Jimenez, Jr.</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Luis Cantu</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Pablo Ibarra</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Dr. Yvette Cantu</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Andrew De la Rosa</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>Michele Garcia</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Miguel Zavala</i>		<i>X</i>

Pledge of Allegiance

Open Forum

The Board shall allot no more than 30 minutes to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board. However, no one presentation shall exceed three minutes. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall sign up with the presiding officer or designee before the meeting begins and shall indicate the topic about which they wish to speak. At regular Board meetings, a person may speak on any topic, regardless of whether the topic is an item on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting. At all other Board meetings, the topics for discussion are limited to only agenda items. Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or decide regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting. The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether a person addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy.

No one signed up for Open Forum.

Recognition

1. Recognition of Santa Maria ISD Board Members in Honor of School Board Appreciation Month.

Board of Trustees were recognized and received a gift basket from the campuses and a stadium chair from the district.

2. Recognition of SMHS Student Amerie Carrillo for graduating with an Associate of Arts from Texas Southmost College

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Mr. Mariano Escobedo, High School Assistant Principal, introduced Amerie Carrillo with a certificate.

3. Recognition of the UIL Congress State Finalists

Mr. Antonio Valdez, High School teacher introduced Debany Sosa, Giselle Medrano and Julissa Garcia as the UIL Congress State Finalists.

4. Recognition of the SMHS Student Athletes selected to play in the RGV East West All Star Games

Volleyball Coach Sofia Avila presented Daniela Martinez and Zoey Aleman for being selected to participate in the All Star Game and Football Head Coach Roberto Gaytan presented Daniel Martinez and Anthony Martinez for being selected to participate in the RGV East West All Star Game.

5. Recognition of the top Accelerated Readers (AR) at Tony Gonzalez Elementary

Dr. Jacob Camacho presented the top Accelerated Readers(AR).

2nd Grade – German Enriquez and Mia Alfaro

3rd Grade – Enzo Trevino and Alinda Vasquez

4th Grade – Kendra Cerda and Sophia Rios

5th Grade – Jose Rosas and Israel Vazquez

Action Agenda

Every Student, Every Way

1. Discussion and possible action to approve overnight student travel to attend the RGV LEAD Young Leaders Summit in Austin, Texas, from January 29 – January 30, 2026

Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Javier Jimenez, Jr.	X		
Luis Cantu	X		
Pablo Ibarra	X		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	X		
Andrew De la Rosa			
Michele Garcia	X		
Miguel Zavala			

Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. Discussion and possible action to approve purchase of credit by examinations from the University of Texas UT High School

Motion to approve by Michele Garcia, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Javier Jimenez, Jr.	X		
Luis Cantu	X		
Pablo Ibarra	X		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	X		
Andrew De la Rosa			
Michele Garcia	X		
Miguel Zavala			

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Consent Agenda

Financial and Operational Efficiency

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Luis Cantu, second by Dr. Yvette Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<i>Javier Jimenez, Jr.</i>	X		
<i>Luis Cantu</i>	X		
<i>Pablo Ibarra</i>	X		
<i>Dr. Yvette Cantu</i>	X		
<i>Andrew De la Rosa</i>			
<i>Michele Garcia</i>	X		
<i>Miguel Zavala</i>			

1. Approval of Check Payments since last report for December 2025.
2. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of December 2025.
3. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report unaudited ending December 2025.
4. Approval of Tax Collection Report for December 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.
5. Approval of Minutes for Regular Board meeting of December 10, 2025.

Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session by Pablo Ibarra, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 5-0 at 6:35pm.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<i>Javier Jimenez, Jr.</i>	X		
<i>Luis Cantu</i>	X		
<i>Pablo Ibarra</i>	X		
<i>Dr. Yvette Cantu</i>	X		
<i>Andrew De la Rosa</i>			
<i>Michele Garcia</i>	X		
<i>Miguel Zavala</i>			

Discussion under the authority of Section 551, Texas Government Code: If, during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board should determine that a closed session of the Board should be held or is required in relation to any item included in this Notice, then such closed session as authorized by Section 551.001 et. seq. of the Texas Government Code (the Open Government Act) will be held by the Board after the commencement in open session of the meeting covered by this Notice. Such closed session may concern any or all of the subjects and be conducted for any and all purposes permitted by Section 551.071 through and including Section 551.084 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, including, but not limited to, private consultation with the Board’s attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law.

- A. Section 551.071—Consultation with Attorney on Any Permitted Subject Including, But Not Limited
 - 1) Discussion with School Attorney on Item(s) Exempted under Attorney-Client Privilege
- B. Section 551.072—Deliberation Regarding Real Property
- C. Section 551.073—Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift
- D. Section 551.074—Personnel Matters, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code and Attorney consultation

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- pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code
- 1) Resignations, retirements, terminations, proposed terminations, appointments, evaluations, reassignments, duties and discipline of Professional, Paraprofessional and Non-Contract Employees; Teacher Substitutes and Substitutes for Maintenance, Transportation, and Cafeteria Department
 - 2) Discuss all items as appropriate on Superintendent’s personnel recommendations
- E. Section 551.076 - Deliberations on Security Devices or Security Audits
 F. Section 551.082—School Children; School District Employees; Disciplinary Matters or Complaint
 G. Section 551.0821—Personally Identifiable Information about Public School Student
 H. Section 552.0031 - Discussion with legal counsel on matters related to designation of non business days during the calendar year in accordance with Government Code.

Reconvene in Open Session

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session by Luis Cantu, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 5-0 at 7:43pm..

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<i>Javier Jimenez, Jr.</i>	X		
<i>Luis Cantu</i>	X		
<i>Pablo Ibarra</i>	X		
<i>Dr. Yvette Cantu</i>	X		
<i>Andrew De la Rosa</i>			
<i>Michele Garcia</i>	X		
<i>Miguel Zavala</i>			

1. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in Executive Session.
2. Discussion and possible action on recommendations on all items as appropriate on Superintendent's personnel recommendations.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Michele Garcia, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 5-0 at 7:43pm.

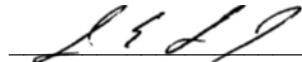
Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<i>Javier Jimenez, Jr.</i>	X		
<i>Luis Cantu</i>	X		
<i>Pablo Ibarra</i>	X		
<i>Dr. Yvette Cantu</i>	X		
<i>Andrew De la Rosa</i>			
<i>Michele Garcia</i>	X		
<i>Miguel Zavala</i>			

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on January 15, 2026 at 5pm.


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Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.
Board President



Pablo Ibarra
Secretary

This notice has been publicly posted at the administrative offices of the Santa Maria Independent School District, 11119 Military Rd., Cameron County, Santa Maria, Texas, at least three (3) business days in advance of the above-mentioned meeting, as required by the following sections of the Texas Government Code: 551.071 through 551.084. During the regular school year, this notice is also posted in all schools in the District. The school district also posts its board meeting agendas on the District's internet web site (www.smisd.net)

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board of Trustees and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired on a specific item(s), that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

Board of Trustees

Javier E. Jimenez, Jr., President
Luis A. Cantu, Vice-President
Pablo Ibarra, Secretary
Dr. Yvette Cantu, Member
Andrew "Andy" De La Rosa, Member
Michele Garcia, Member
Miguel Zavala, Member

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