



SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
Minutes
6:00pm

Notice is hereby given that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 6:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Santa Maria ISD Cafeteria, 11119 Military Road, Santa Maria, TX 78592.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84263443433?pwd=UQTwb4s2xsBOm9k7zOKyb1p5okZSEZ.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., Board President at 6:02pm.

<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 – Arrived at 6:09pm</i>	
<i>Michele Garcia</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Miguel Zavala</i>	<i>X</i>	

Establish Quorum:

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.

Recognitions

Every Student, Every Way

1. Recognition of the SMHS Students Who Participated in the RGV Young Leaders Summit in Austin, TX

Alicia Perez announced and recognized the SMHS Students who participated in the RGV Young Leaders Summit in Austin, Tx

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“An Equal Opportunity Employer”

2. Recognition of the top Accelerated Readers and Beginner Readers at Tony Gonzalez Elementary

Dr. Camacho recognized the top Accelerated Readers and Beginner Readers at Tony Gonzalez Elementary.

- *Kinder and 1st and have the most AR points in their grade level:
Romeo Hinojosa and Ricardo Gonzalez*
- *K-5 for having the most read words in the AR program:
Romeo Hinojosa, Gael Cardenas, German Enriquez, Enzo Trevino, Kendra Cerdaz, Israel Vasquez*
- *PreK Beginner readers being recognized for rapid-letter naming and sound correspondence are:
Regina Ramirez, Gerardo Ponce, Sofia Lopez*

3. Recognition of the Tony Gonzalez Elementary students Nehemiah Gomez and Yahir Sanchez for being named National Math Stars.

Dr. Camacho recognized the Tony Gonzalez Elementary students Nehemiah Gomez and Yahir Sanchez for being named National Math Stars.

Presentation

Every Student, Every Way

1. Winter 2026 NWEA MAP Growth Scores

Dr. Cortez presented the Winter 2026 MWEA MAP Growth Scores.

Action Agenda

Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. Discussion and possible action to approve the submission of a Low Attendance Waiver for Santa Maria ISD to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for Monday, January 26, 2026.

Motion to approve by Michele Garcia, second by Dr. Yvette Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<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>		

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Adopt Period of Prayer and Reading of Bible or other Religious Text Resolution Pursuant to Senate Bill 11 Requirements.

Motion to opt out of adopting a period of prayer by Pablo Ibarra, second by Luis Cantu.

Javier Jimenez, Jr., Board President stated, "At this time, we will have to take an individual recorded vote.

When I call your name, please state yea or nay to not adopting the period of prayer.

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Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<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>		

Motion to opt out of adopting a period of prayer and reading of bible or other religious text passed unanimously 7-0.

Student Travel

Every Student, Every Way

3. Discussion and possible action to approve an out-of-valley trip for SMMS and SMHS ACE girls to Garner State Park from February 27, 2026 - March 1, 2026.

Motion to approve by Michele Garcia, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<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>		

4. Discussion and possible action to approve an out-of-valley trip for SMMS and SMHS ACE boys to Garner State Park from March 27-29, 2026.

Motion to approve by Michele Garcia, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<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>		

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<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>		

Financial and Operational

- 5. Approval of Check Payments since last report for January 2026.
- 6. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of January 2026.
- 7. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report unaudited ending January 2026.
- 8. Approval of Tax Collection Report for January 1, 2026 to , January 31, 2026.
- 9. Approval of Minutes for Regular Board meeting of January 21, 2025.

Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session by Michele Garcia, second by Dr. Yvette Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 at 6:42pm.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<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>		

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

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- 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 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 nonbusiness days during the calendar year in accordance with Government Code.

Reconvene in Open Session

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session by Michele Garcia, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 at 7:15pm.

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>	X		
<i>Michele Garcia</i>	X		
<i>Miguel Zavala</i>	X		

- 10. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in Executive Session.
- 11. Discussion and possible action on recommendations on all items as appropriate on Superintendent's personnel recommendations.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn this meeting by Pablo Ibarra, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 at 7:15pm.

Board Member Vote	Yea	Nay	Abstain
<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>		

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on Wednesday, February 4, 2026.



Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.
Board President



Pablo Ibarra
Board 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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