SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, March 11, 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, March 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM. This meeting was held at the Santa Maria ISD Cafeteria, 11119 Military Road, Santa Maria, TX 78592.
Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84115844071?pwd=yzjzoqGI8JVcbaNutoYOF2Zld1Tmmi.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 6:00pm.
Establish Quorum

Board Members	***Present***	***Absent***
Javier Jimenez, Jr.	*X*	
Luis Cantu	*X*	
Pablo Ibarra	*X - 6:03pm*	
Dr. Yvette Cantu	*X*	
Andrew De la Rosa		*X*
Michele Garcia	*X*	
Miguel Zavala	*X*	

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 office 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

Student Recognitions

1. Tony Gonzalez Elementary UIL District Award Winners

Dr. Camacho recognized TGE UIL District Award Winners
2nd Grade- *Laylani Jacques, Jeshua Javier Aguirre, Katherine Zamorano, Eliab Gonzalez, Josiah Vasquez*
3rd Grade- *Sebastian Romo, Alina Velasquez*
5th Grade- *Isaiah Cavazos, Maximiliano De la Cruz*

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2. Santa Maria Middle School UIL District Award Winners

Dr. Cortez recognized SMMS UIL District Award Winners.

***6th Grade**- Isabella Alcala, Nicholas Huerta, Jaime Salinas, Jayden Salinas, Alma Garza, Joel Villarreal, Carolyn Sarabia, Zoe Almaguer, Eddie Vega*

***7th Grade**- Madelyn Aguirre, Ovidio Hernandez, Diego Cantu, Alejandro Morales*

***8th Grade**- Isabella Mendiola, James Jones, Manuel Gutierrez, Enrique Espinoza, Luis Ramos, Zophia Diaz, Abigail Erebia*

3. 2025-2026 Santa Maria High School Cougar Basketball Bi-District Finalists

Coach Cipriano recognized the 2025-2026 SMHS Cougar Basketball Bi-District Finalists.
Luis Gonzalez, Carlos Hernandez, Ruben Torres, Aro Cantu, Aaron Jimenez, Luis Otero, Andre De la Rosa, Rogelio Guardado, Chris Oviedo, Javier Trejo, Jason Aleman, Miguel Alaniz

Presentations

Every Student, Every Way

1. Workforce Solutions Cameron

Presentation by Mr. Rafael Vela, CEO of Workforce Solutions Cameron.

2. SMHS Career and Technical Education for 2026-2027

Presentation by Erica Alejandro with Region One ESC and Yadira Flores, SMHS Principal.

3. School Safety Update

Presentation by Rene Saldivar, SMISD Chief of Police and Katherine Gonzalez, SMISD Nurse.

4. Spring 2026 Benchmark Results

Presentation by Dr. Yadira Cortez and Dr. Jacob Camacho

Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. 2025-2026 Budget Update

Presentation by Amanda Lopez Najar, SMISD Business Manager

Action Agenda

Travel

1. Discussion and possible action to approve an out-of-valley overnight trip for the HS Powerlifting Boys to the 2026 THSPA Regionals in Kingsville, Texas on March 12-13, 2026.

Motion to approve by Michele Garcia, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

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	*X*		

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Professional Learning and Refinement

2. Discussion and possible action to approve the Teacher Incentive Allotment Renewable Application (5 Years).

Motion to approve by Miguel Zavala, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

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	*X*		

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Luis Cantu, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

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	*X*		

Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. Approval of Check Payments since last report for February 2026.
2. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of February 2026.
3. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report unaudited ending February 2026.
4. Approval of Tax Collection Report for February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026.
5. Approval of Minutes for Special Board meeting of February 25, 2026.

Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session by Miguel Zavala, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 6-0 at 7:51 pm.

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	*X*		

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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 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 Miguel Zavala, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 6-0 at 8:11pm.

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	*X*		

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Adjournment

Motion to adjourn this meeting by Miguel Zavala, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 6-0 at 8:11pm.

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	*X*		

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on Thursday, March 5, 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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