

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

SMBSD Board Room
708 S. Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA
March 11, 2026

ADOPTED

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

President Cabral called the Regular Board Meeting of the Santa Maria-Bonita School District to order at 5:17 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Luz Maria Cabral, President
Ricky Lara, Vice President (Absent)
John Hollinshead, Board Clerk
Ricardo Valencia, Board Member
Linda Cordero, 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

(Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1))
Name of case: OAH Case No. 2025100184

E. Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Goals & Objectives

Government Code § 54957
Title: Superintendent
Possible Action

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 5:18 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. 2025121067. The motion was made by Board Member Hollinshead, seconded by Board Member Cordero, with 4 votes in favor and 1 absent (Lara). Motion passed.
- B. Introduction of Interpreters**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance**
The Pledge was led by Student Leader Advisory Team Member, Genesis Lozano
- D. Inspiration**
Inspiration this evening was postponed.
- E. Student Leader Advisory Team**
- F. Fall Game Changer Awards**
Presented by Laurie Graack and Maurecia Rea-Clark
- G. Key to the District**
Board President Luz Maria Cabral presented the Key to the District to Cesar Ruiz, District Translator

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

Non-Agenda

Sandra Jay - read concerns about Tunnell School on behalf of an anonymous employee.

Jazmin Trevino - concerns about Tunnell School.

Kathy D'Avis - regarding Tunnell School and concerns about fire drills. Commented on positive changes with new leadership.

Amy Whitford - Shared concerns anonymously from others.

Agenda

No comments were reported.

IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

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

Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 4. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Absent: 1. Mr. Lara.

Motion passed.

X. CONSENT ITEMS

A. GENERAL CONSENT

- i. Minutes of the Board of Education
- ii. Second Reading and Approval of Board Policies

B. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT

- i. Payment of Warrants
- ii. Contracts for Approval or Ratification
- iii. Authorization to Declare Obsolete and/or Surplus Equipment or Materials
- iv. Authorization to Purchase Assessment and Analytics Platform Products Utilizing an Agreement Awarded by Education Technology Joint Powers Authority RFP #23/24-02 to Renaissance Learning, Inc.
- v. Authorization to Purchase Cloud-Based Video Surveillance Systems
- vi. Award of Bid #5420 Portable Building Ramp Replacements at Oakley Elementary School
- vii. Award of BID #5426 Roof Replacement at Miller Elementary School
- viii. Reject All Proposals for RFP #5431 Junior High and Elementary After-School Programs (ASP)

C. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes

D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONSENT

- i. Approval for Overnight Stay for Students to Attend the FCCLA State Leadership Conference
- ii. Approval for MEP Direct Funded District 22 Migrant Students to Participate in the 12TH Annual State Migrant Speech and Debate Tournament, MAY 1-3, 2026-Monterey, California

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Valencia to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 4. Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero. Absent: 1. Mr. Lara. Motion passed.*

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Certification of the Second Interim Report for 2025-26

Presented by Brian King, Director of Fiscal Services

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Valencia, that the Board of Education ISSUE A POSITIVE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2025-26 SECOND 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 YEARS, as presented. *Ayes: 4. Mr. Valencia, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Hollinshead. Absent: 1. (Mr. Lara). Motion passed.*

B. Adopt Resolution #25-21: Reduction or Elimination of Particular Kinds of Services Performed By Certificated Employees

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

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead that the Board of Education ADOPT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION #25-21 AUTHORIZING THE REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF PARTICULAR KINDS OF SERVICES PERFORMED BY CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 4. Mr. Valencia, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Hollinshead. Absent: 1. Mr. Lara. Motion passed.*

C. Transportation Plan for 2026-2027

Presented by: Javier Cavazos, Director of Maintenance and Operations/Transportation Services

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mrs. Cordero that the Board of Education, IN ACCORDANCE WITH EDUCATION CODE 39800.1, APPROVE THE PLAN FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR 2026-2027, as presented. Ayes: 4. Mr. Valencia, Ms. Cabral, Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Hollinshead. Absent: 1. Mr. Lara. Motion passed.

XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Strategic Mid-Year Update

Presented by Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent (along with presentations by Dr. Tammie Castillo-Shiffer, Dr. Pete Bland, Armando Uribe, Noha Lolailah, Dr. Katie Salcido, and Maijue Lochungvu.) The Board of Education ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE STRATEGIC MID-YEAR UPDATE, as presented.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Valencia requested an Annual Staff Diversity Update, agendized preferable sometime in the next few weeks.

Mr. Valencia asked for an agenda item that provides information on how ICE is impacting our staff and students, as well as how we are supporting and equipping our students and their families.

Mr. Valencia also asked for a report on Ethnic Studies, and how we are supporting students and staff.

Mr. Hollinshead requested an update on TK and Kindergarten enrollment, including the number of students attending both half-day and full-day programs at each site. This update does not need to be a formal agenda item.

XIV. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Board Member Report – Mrs. Cordero

Cheer Session with El Camino Coaches: The event was fun and engaging for students, particularly our youngest cheerleaders, and the parents were very enthusiastic. She commended the coaches for creating a positive, supportive environment.

Scholarship Interviews: She will be participating in the annual scholarship interview training next week via Zoom. This year marks the first time that applicant evaluations will be entirely based on their presentations during the virtual sessions.

Meetings Attended: Participated in the DLI Master Plan meeting with Board Members Hollinshead and Cabral, to stay informed on program developments, as well as a middle school meeting where valuable information was shared.

Read Across America: Participated in Read Across America events at several schools last week, engaging with students and supporting literacy initiatives.

SB County Luncheon: Attended the SB County luncheon, where achievements and grants to other organizations were highlighted. Key initiatives discussed included expanding

daycare opportunities in areas with reduced funding, and Veggie Rescue expanding into SM and SB counties to distribute locally grown produce through community distribution centers.

Board Member Report - Mr. Valencia

American GI Forum Event: Recently attended an American GI Forum event focused on Latino civil rights, highlighting historical injustices faced by veterans during World War II, including denied opportunities such as affordable housing. Mr. Valencia noted the value of hearing directly from individuals whose experiences are often only in textbooks.

Student Leadership and Well-Being: Shared observations about the positive impact of student leadership, noting examples of students lifting each other up. Commended staff and community for supporting these efforts. Also discussed the importance of addressing bullying in a humane manner, emphasizing approaches that do not demonize students.

Campus Facilities and Programs: Highlighted the need for a playground, referencing Robert Bruce, and encouraged staff to explore this further. Praised the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) program and the importance of sustaining it year-round. Acknowledged food services staff for enhancing student engagement and continuing to explore ways to make meals exciting and accessible.

Staff Recognition and Culture: Recognized staff who spoke during public comment, often reading on behalf of others out of fear of retaliation. Emphasized the importance of creating a culture where everyone feels safe to provide critical feedback. Mr. Valencia noted that they take this responsibility seriously and are committed to fostering an environment of trust and support.

Board Member Report – Mr. Hollinshead

Read Across America: Participated in Read Across America events at several sites, reading to students and bringing a few of his own books. Highlighted the work of Paul Lewis, an amazing illustrator, and shared the joy of engaging with inquisitive young minds.

Arts and Culture: Highlighted the production *Measure for Measure* by PCPA, calling it one of the best Shakespeare productions he's seen in recent years and encouraged others to experience it if they haven't already.

Teacher Appreciation: Expressed gratitude to teachers for their willingness to engage in diverse activities and put themselves out there. He also commended the sense of community and dedication they bring to students.

Board Member Report – Mr. Lara

Absent - no report

Board Member Report - Ms. Cabral

Orenda Leadership Conference: Attended the Orenda Leadership Conference for board members, gaining insights and professional development relevant to board responsibilities.

DLI Master Plan Development: Participated alongside Board Members Cordero and Hollinshead in the DLI Master Plan development. The most recent meeting was in March, with the next meeting scheduled for March 18.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. McDuffie

Read Across America: Visited Libbon, Battles, Miller, and Oakley for Reading Across America. He shared a story emphasizing that the most important time is now, the most important person is the one you are with, and the most important thing to do is good. Reflected on his personal journey in learning to read and the importance of lifelong growth. Special thanks to the TK team at Miller for a fun session reading *Green Eggs and Ham*. He added that tomorrow, he will return to Oakley for their Career Day.

Orenda Intensive Workshop: Participated in the Orenda Intensive Workshop, a vital opportunity to enhance board governance skills, make informed decisions, consider diverse viewpoints, and engage with members from other districts.

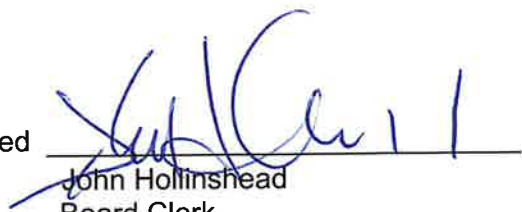
Staff Appreciation: Turned focus to staff, expressing continued admiration for their dedication and hard work. Thanked the Educational Services staff for their presentation and all staff for their tireless efforts to ensure that our students thrive.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

President Cabral reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board Meeting and Organizational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 P.M.

Signed _____


John Hollinshead
Board Clerk

Signed _____


Linda Cordero
Board Member