SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Minutes
6:00 pm

Notice is hereby given that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District was held on Wednesday, April 8, 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/82741464160?pwd=FgXI4pZDxQNHWeXx615T2yfLrdTiyV.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 6:01pm.

Establish Quorum

Board Members	***Present***	***Absent***
Javier Jimenez, Jr.	***X***	
Luis Cantu	***X***	
Pablo Ibarra		***X***
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.

Recognitions

Every Student, Every Way

1. THSPA Class 2A State Champion Priscilla Almazan and 2nd Place Finisher Daniela Martinez

Coach Robert Gaytan recognized the THSPA Class 2A State Champion and 2nd Place Finisher.

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2. THSPA Class 2A Girls and Boys Regional Qualifiers

Coach Robert Gaytan recognized the THSPA Class 2A Girls and Boys Regional Qualifiers.

3. Class 2A Bi-District Finalist - Santa Maria High School UIL One Act Play

Not presented.

4. Class 4A Area Finalist - Santa Maria High School Soccer Team

Coach Carlos Vela presented the Class 4A Area Finalist

5. Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show Winners

Mr. Juan Cavazos presented the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show Winners.

Presentation

Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. 2026-2027 Budget Planning

Mrs. Amanda Najar, Business Manager presented the 2026-2027 Budget Planning.

Action Agenda

Every Student, Every Way

1. Discussion and possible action to approve the adoption of the Bluebonnet English Language Arts curriculum.

Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Miguel Zavala. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

2. Discussion and possible action to approve the Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification for 2026-2027 school year.

Motion to approve by Miguel Zavala, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

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3. Discussion and possible action to approve an out-of-valley overnight trip for the HS Track team to the 2026 Area Regional Track Meet in Kingsville, Texas on Thursday, April 30, 2026 -May 2, 2026.

Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Miguel Zavala. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. Discussion and possible action to approve payment to Region One ESC for Ascender Business in the amount of $45,395.26 for services from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026.

Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Andrew De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Miguel Zavala, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

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Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. Approval of Check Payments since last report for March, 2026.
2. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of March 2026.
3. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report unaudited ending March 2026.
4. Approval of Tax Collection Report for March 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026.
5. Approval of Minutes for Regular Board meeting of March 11, 2026.

Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session by Luis Cantu, second by Miguel Zavala. Motion passed unanimously 4-0 at 6:37pm.

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

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 551.07 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
   3) Discussion on recommendation(s) of proposed probationary contract personnel for 2026-2027
   4) Discussion on recommendation(s) of proposed term contract personnel for 2026-2027
   5) Discussion on recommendation(s) of proposed term contract for administrator(s)

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personnel for 2026-2027.

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 Andrew De la Rosa, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 4-0 at 7:09pm.

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

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.

Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Andrew De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

3. Discussion and possible action on recommendation(s) of probationary contract personnel for 2026-2027.

Motion to approve by Andrew De la Rosa, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Board Member Vote	***Yea***	***Nay***	***Abstain***
Javier Jimenez, Jr.	*X*		
Luis Cantu	*X*		
Pablo Ibarra			

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Dr. Yvette Cantu			
Andrew De la Rosa	*X*		
Michele Garcia			
Miguel Zavala	*X*		

4. Discussion and possible action on recommendation(s) of proposed term contract personnel for 2026-2027.

Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Miguel Zavala. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

5. Discussion and possible action on recommendation(s) of proposed term contract for administrator(s) personnel for 2026-2027.

Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Andrew De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Luis Cantu, second by Andrew De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously 4-0 at 7:11pm.

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

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This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on Tuesday, March 31, 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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