

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

SMBSD Board Room
708 S. Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA
April 15, 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 6:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Luz Maria Cabral, President

Ricky Lara, Vice President

John Hollinshead, Board Clerk (arrived shortly after roll call)

Ricardo Valencia, Board Member

Linda Cordero, Board Member

II. IDENTITY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

A. Public Employee Employment/Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Resignation

Government Code § 54957

Agency Representative: Pete Bland, Ed.D.

B. Conferences with Labor Negotiators

Government Code § 54957.6

Agency Representative: Pete Bland, Ed.D.

Represented Employees: CSEA

C. Conferences with Labor Negotiators

Government Code § 54957.6

Agency Representative: Pete Bland, Ed.D.

Represented Employees: SMEEA

D. Student Discipline Deliberation of Stipulated Expulsion Agreement

Government Code Section 54957 and Education Code

Sections 48918 and 48900 et seq.

#26-01

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 5:07 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 Item A: The Board voted unanimously to immediately suspend a certificated employee (No. 3744) without pay and to issue a notice of dismissal pursuant to Education Code 44934. The Board voted unanimously.

The Board accepted the administrative assignment for Dr. Heather Allen as Elementary Principal at Tunnell Elementary School; the vote was unanimous.

For Items B and C: Information was shared.

For Item D: The Board approved a stipulated Expulsion agreement (No.26-01).

The motion was made by Mrs. Cordero, seconded by Mr. Lara, with a unanimous vote.

For Item E: Information was shared.

B. Introduction of Interpreters

César Ruiz and Benito Flores-Ramírez

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by student Daisy Alcaraz

D. Inspiration

Presented by Principal Heather Paige and students from Fesler Junior High School

E. Recognition

Winter Game Changer Awards: Laurie Graack, Director, Teaching and Learning Supplemental Programs, and Maurecia Rea-Clark, PE-Health TOSA, recognized

student athletes from various district schools.

Campus Beautification and Mural Project: Genevieve Beaird, Arellanes Jr. High School Principal, shared progress on a legacy mural project in collaboration with Leadership Santa Maria Valley Class 2026 and local artists Glenda Stevens and Marcy Ghoulie

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD -OPEN SESSION

Non-Agenda

- Jennifer Danowitz expressed concerns regarding the lack of consultation between the district and the teachers' association (SMEEA) regarding the implementation of site coaches.
- Alma Valle shared concerns regarding the shortage of counselors, nurses, psychologists, and therapists, leading to increased student anxiety during emotional crises. She also raised concerns that existing safety plans are insufficient without adequate human presence and support.

Agenda

- Brianna Lajoe Pena (via Zoom) shared a personal testimony about seeing students who were two grade levels behind eventually meet or exceed grade-level standards through the Think Together program's academic support.
- Joe Dana (Pre-Recorded Message), speaking on behalf of the local YMCA. Asked the board to reconsider awarding 13 schools to a "non-community organization" while leaving only 4 each to the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club.
- Kathy Wallace emphasized that Think Together is a nonprofit organization that focuses on California students and hires locally within the communities it serves.
- Richard Batalla, YMCA Youth Development Director, focused on the "consistency of staff" and on the success of enrichment activities such as Zulu hip hop and folklorico dance in building student confidence.
- Shannon Seifert, CEO of the Santa Maria YMCA, highlighted the YMCA's 30-year partnership with the district and their deep involvement in local committees such as the Arellanes mural project.
- Maria Fabula, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of the Central Coast, appreciates our staff for a thoughtful and thorough RFP process and for recommending our organization to serve students at Bruce, Bonita, Oakley, and Fairlawn schools.

Laurie Graack and Patricia McKnight shared the RFP requirements and the background of the after-school programs.

IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Mr. Hollinshead requested that Consent Item B.viii Award RFP #5444 Junior High and Elementary After-School Programs (ASP) be moved to Action for discussion. After further discussion of the item, it was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead to approve Award FRP #5444 Junior High and Elementary After-School Programs (ASP), as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 4 (Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Ms. Cabral, Mr. Lara). Naves: 1 (Mrs. Cordero). Motion passed.

X. CONSENT ITEMS

A. GENERAL CONSENT

- i. Minutes of the Board Of Education

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 or Lease Copiers, Printers, and Multi-Function Devices with Related Supplies, Accessories, and Services Utilizing a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement Awarded by Sourcewell Contract #112124-CAN to Canon USA
- vi. Award of BID #5422 Painting at Alvin Elementary School
- vii. Award of BID #5423 Painting at Bonita Elementary School
- viii. Award RFP #5444 Junior High and Elementary After-School Programs (ASP)

C. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes

D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONSENT

- i. Quarterly Report on Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaints

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara to approve the consent agenda, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes:5. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Ms. Cabral, Mr. Lara. Motion Passed.*

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Student Discipline: Action on Stipulated Expulsion Agreement Between District and Parent for Expulsion #26- 01.

Presented by Dr. McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Lara, seconded by Mrs. Cordero, with a unanimous vote that the Board of Education approved a stipulated Expulsion agreement (No.26-01) as presented. Ayes:5. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Ms. Cabral,

Mr. Lara. *Motion Passed.*

B. Public Hearing and Proposal for Increasing School Facilities Fees as Authorized by Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 66995-Level 1.

Public Hearing opened at 7:57 p.m. No public comments. Public Hearing closed at 7:57 p.m.

C. Resolution 25-20: Adoption of a Fee Justification Study and the Increase in School Facilities Fees as Authorized by Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 65995-Level 1.

Presented by Matthew E. Beecher, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara to approve the attached Resolution 25-20 Authorizing the Adoption of a Fee Justification Study and the Increase in School Facilities Fees as Authorized by Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 65995 - Level 1, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes:5. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Ms. Cabral, Mr. Lara. Motion Passed.*

D. Resolution 25-22: Approving the Absences of Board Members from Meetings of the Board of Education.

Presented by Dr. McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead to approve the attached Resolution 25-22 Approving the Absences of Board Members from Meeting of the Board of Education, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes:5. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Ms. Cabral, Mr. Lara. Motion Passed.*

E. Resolution 25-23: Release and Reassignment of Certificated Administrator(s).

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

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead to approve the attached Resolution 25-23 Release and Reassignment of Certificated Administrator(s), as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes:5. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Ms. Cabral, Mr. Lara. Motion Passed.*

F. Public Hearing on the Santa Maria-Bonita School District Sunshine Proposal for the Successor to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Classified Bargaining Unit members Expiring on June 30, 2026.

The Public Hearing was opened at 8:17 p.m. There were no public comments received. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:18 p.m.

G. Discuss and Approve the Santa Maria-Bonita School District (SMBSD) Sunshine Proposal for the Successor to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Classified Bargaining Unit Members.

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

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead to approve the Santa Maria-Bonita School District (SMBSD) Sunshine Proposal for the Successor to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Classified Bargaining Unit Members, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes:5. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Ms. Cabral, Mr. Lara. Motion Passed.*

XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) Parent Survey Results and Annual Update

Presented by Armando Uribe, Director of Special Education, Mr. Uribe shared the results of a parent survey conducted by the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC), as well as areas of improvement and next steps. The Board of Education acknowledged the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) parent survey results and annual update, as presented.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Cordero asked for an update on the status of the district's Community Schools initiative and also called for a formal ELD report.

Mr. Valencia inquired about the DLI report focusing on the growth and performance of students enrolled in the district's bilingual programs.

Mr. Hollinshead asked for a report on how Science is being delivered across the district.

XIV. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Board Member Report - Mrs. Cordero

Meetings Attended: Quarterly Schools meeting at Santa Maria High School. Discussed growth and how to address it for both Elementary and High School districts, and the many changes occurring and their impact on our schools. Santa Barbara School Board Association. There were 9 people in attendance. One subject: "How to get a representative from the 20 school districts." Attended a Special Ed Preschool meeting. Chamber of Commerce-League of Women Voters, a forum made up of 5 people discussing the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, legal topics, and immigration.

Excellence in Education Gala 2026: It was a well-attended and fun event. She thanked all who made the Gala a big success. She congratulated everyone who received awards.

Battles of the Books at Fesler Jr. High: The event was a lot of fun. There was a difference between junior high and elementary, and both were enjoyable. She also signed up to volunteer for the County Battle of the Books at the Maldonado Center.

Board Member Report - Mr. Valencia

Phoenix Rising Scholars: Mr. Valencia discussed the Phoenix Rising Scholars program at Allan Hancock College, which supports justice-impacted students (currently or formerly incarcerated) by providing

educational opportunities, career services, and support through the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS). The program also aims to help students achieve educational goals and transition from incarceration.

Board Member Report - Mr. Hollinshead

Video Presentation: Mr. Hollinshead discussed how he grew up in Florida and that his father worked for NASA and was part of the Apollo Space program. The Artemis II Crew going around the moon was an impactful event for him as well as others. He shared a video titled "What Makes a Crew" with Astronaut Christina Hammock Koch.

Board Member Report - Mr. Lara

Special Birthday Recognition: His grandson, Miles, is turning 7.

Board Member Report - Ms. Cabral

2026 Excellence in Education Gala: Ms. Cabral shared her attendance at the event and reported that it was a lot of fun. She appreciated all the nominees and congratulated all the award winners.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. McDuffie

2026 Excellence in Education Gala: Shared that he also celebrated at the Gala, which included teachers, custodians, and counselors, who were recognized for their contributions to the district. Thanked Andrea Alvarez, Director of Human Resources, and the volunteers who made the venue look fantastic. There were 29 outstanding employees, including Maria Mota, his Executive Liaison, and 4 other distinguished honorees: Lucy Castaneda, Pamela Morris, Katie Ybarra, and Ann McDaniel. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who came out. Everyone had a great time.

School site visits: Dr. McDuffie recently visited Miller and Alvin Elementary schools. Everyone seemed happy to return from spring break and was happy to see each other. He encouraged everyone to hang in there for the final sprint of the 2025-26 school year.

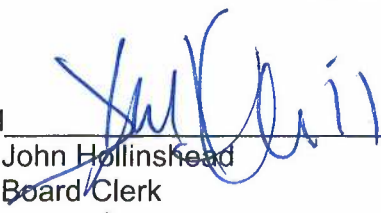
Staff Appreciation: He thanked Laurie Graack and Patricia McKnight for introducing and presenting the after-school programs on short notice. He added a special thanks to Armando Uribe and Matthew Beecher for their presentations. Continually moved by our commitment to our students and remain focused on our mission. We show up every day to do the good work. He thanked everyone for all that was done to help.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

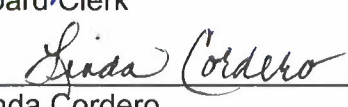
President Cabral reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Signed _____


John Hollinshead
Board Clerk

Signed _____


Linda Cordero
Board Member