

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

SMBSD Board Room
708 S. Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA
May 27, 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 5:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Luz Maria Cabral, President

Ricky Lara, Vice President

John Hollinshead, Board Clerk

Ricardo Valencia, Board Member

Linda Cordero, Board Member

II. IDENTITY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

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

Specific Complaints or Charges—Specific complaints or charges brought against a public employee, followed by deliberations and action on the discipline, dismissal, or release of a public employee. Government Code Section (b)(1)

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. Public Employee Performance Evaluations, 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 5:03 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 of Education accepted the administrative appointment of Dr. Eusebio Martinez as Coordinator of Community and Engagement. The vote was unanimous. The Board of Education accepted the administrative appointment of Tricia Robertson, Coordinator of Special Education. The vote was unanimous.

For Items B and C: Information was shared.

For Item D: The Board also conducted and completed the Superintendent's evaluation. Dr. McDuffie received a unanimous positive evaluation in recognition of his leadership and service to the district.

B. Introduction of Interpreters:

Susana Pineda and Manuel Rios

C. Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by the Student Leadership Advisory Team

D. Student Leader Advisory Team

E. Recognition:

Spring Game Changer Awards; Presented by: Laurie Graack

Administrators in Management Services (AIMS), Presented by: Heather Paige

SELPA Award; Presented by: Armando Uribe

F. Key to the District

Presented to Feliciano Aguilar, School Psychologist at Liberty Elementary School

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

Non-Agenda Items:

- Kayla Vauclin commented on class sizes and staffing concerns.
- Tiffany Marquez addressed the Board regarding her service as a Resource Specialist and her upcoming departure from the District. She expressed appreciation for her years with SMBSD and advocated for continued support of special education programs, including the recruitment and retention of qualified special education teachers.
- Amy Dolan thanked Ms. Marquez for her years of service to students, staff, and the District. She also shared comments regarding the District's inclusion program and the role of special education teachers in supporting student success.
- Jonathan Patterson commented that the Education Specialist position is stressful and spoke about the responsibilities and challenges associated with serving as an Education Specialist, and discussed the demands of providing special education services.
- Audrey Ruiz commented on the role of confidence at Miller Elementary School and the importance of building it and supporting student success.
- Pablo Avila-Estevez expressed concerns about mold issues at Miller Elementary School.
- Jennifer Ellsworth commented regarding the Ace week (Appreciation Classified Employees) Program.
- Jonathan Beyea commented on SMBSD budget priorities and resource allocation.
- Lauren Castellanos commented on the potential changes to teachers' healthcare plans.
- Jennifer Danowits commented on keeping employee benefit costs low.
- Eric Peterson commented on Insurance premiums.

Agenda Items:

No Comments were reported

IX. COMMENTS FROM ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

- Santa Maria Elementary Education Association (SMEEA)
SMEEA President Kristen Lohr provided an update on the association's activities, ongoing collaboration with the District, and matters of interest to certificated employees.
- California School Employees Association (CSEA)
CSEA President Melissa Gutierrez shared information regarding the ACE (Appreciating Classified Employees) Program and the upcoming CSEA Strawberry Social. She also discussed priorities for the 2026–27 school year, including continued efforts to foster appreciation, respect, and

collaboration among employee groups. Additionally, she addressed concerns regarding anticipated increases in employee insurance costs and expressed the association's interest in discussing the matter through the collective bargaining process.

- Administrators In Management Services (AIMS)

AIMS President Dr. Mark Palmerston acknowledged the recognition of the AIMS award recipients earlier in the meeting. He expressed appreciation to the Board for its support and recognition and indicated that he would forgo additional comments to allow the meeting agenda to proceed.

X. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

The President shared that Item XIII was being pulled from the agenda. It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead to approve the agenda, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. *Motion passed.*

XI. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Bright Futures Project End of Year Update:

Presented by Maijue Lonchungvu, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services.

District staff presented an end-of-year update on the Bright Futures Project. The presentation highlighted progress made toward curriculum alignment, instructional consistency, and the district's long-term vision for student learning. Staff reviewed accomplishments, implementation efforts, and future goals designed to improve student achievement and educational outcomes.

XII. CONSENT ITEMS

A. GENERAL CONSENT

- i. Minutes of the Board Of Education

B. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT

- i. Contract for Approval or Ratification
- ii. Pre Con Industries, Inc. Battles Elementary School; New TK-K Building and Site Upgrades BID #5384 – Change Order Number 14

C. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes

D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONSENT

- i. Approval for 4th - 6th Grade Migrant Students to Participate in the California Mini-Corps Outdoor Education Program at Camp Keep By The Sea
- ii. Approval for Middle School Migrant Students to Participate in the Summer Algebra Academy at the University of California, Santa Barbara

- iii. Approval for Migrant Students to Participate in the Engineering Possibilities in College (EPIC) Summer Residential Program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- iv. Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSP)
- v. Expanded Learning Opportunities Plan (ELOP)

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

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

E. Agreement with Santa Barbara County Office of Education to Provide Alternative Education Services through Fitzgerald Community School

Presented by Dr. Mark Palmerston, Director of Student Services

It was moved by Mr. Lara, and seconded by Mrs. Cordero, that the Board of Education **APPROVED THE AGREEMENT WITH SBCEO TO PROVIDE THE DISTRICT WITH ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AT FITZGERALD COMMUNITY SCHOOL**, as presented. Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. *Motion Passed.*

H. Contract for CalPoly State University-Engineering Possibilities In College (EPIC)

Presented by Eduardo Panting, Director of Migrant Education Program

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero, and seconded by Mr. Lara, that the Board of Education **APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR CALPOLY-EPIC PROGRAM**, as presented. Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. *Motion Passed.*

I. Contract for Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Presented by Eduardo Panting, Director of Migrant Education Program

It was moved by Mr. Lara, and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead, that the Board of Education **APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR KERN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**, as presented. Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. *Motion Passed.*

A. Resolution 25-29: Mental Health Awareness Month

Presented by Dr. McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mrs. Cordero that the Board of Education **ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-29: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote.* Ayes: 4 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara (absent), and Ms. Cabral. *Motion Passed.*

B. Resolution 25-30: Order of Election

Presented by Dr. McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead that the Board of Education **ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-30: ORDER OF ELECTION**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote.* Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. *Motion Passed.*

C. Resolution 25-31: Candidate Statements of Qualifications

Presented by Dr. McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education **ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-31: CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. Motion Passed.*

D. Notice of Elective Offices to be Filled

Presented by Dr. McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mrs. Cordero that the Board of Education **APPROVE NOTICE OF ELECTIVE OFFICES TO BE FILLED**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. Motion Passed.*

F. Approval of Contract for IXL - Supplemental Math Program

Presented by Dr. Katie Salcido, Director of Teaching and Learning Core

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Hollinshead that the Board of Education **APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR IXL**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. Motion Passed.*

G. Approval of Contract with Santa Maria Valley YMCA for Camp Elevate Summer 2026 Program Services

Presented by Laurie Graack, Director of Teaching and Learning Supplemental

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Valencia that the Board of Education **APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH SANTA MARIA VALLEY YMCA CAMP ELEVATE SUMMER 2026 PROGRAM SERVICES**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. Motion Passed.*

J. Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for 2026-27

Presented by Dr. Pete Bland, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

It was moved by Mr. Valencia and seconded by Mrs. Cordero that the Board of Education **RATIFY THE DECLARATION OF NEED FOR FULLY QUALIFIED EDUCATORS FOR 2026-27**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 5 Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Valencia, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, and Ms. Cabral. Motion Passed.*

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hollinshead requested a future update regarding the implementation, use, and potential misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) in educational settings. He expressed interest in learning more about how AI may impact students, teachers, and classroom instruction, as well as any district guidelines, practices, or considerations related to screen time, technology use, and emerging AI tools. He suggested that this topic be included in a future Board report or presentation to help the Board better understand opportunities and challenges associated with AI in education.

XV. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Board Member Report - Mrs. Cordero

Mrs. Cordero reported attending a track meet and expressed appreciation for the students' athletic achievements and sportsmanship. She also attended a school Open House and mural unveiling at Arellanes Junior High, describing both events as outstanding examples of student creativity, community involvement, and school pride. Her attendance at the Seussical event was noted, and appreciation was expressed for the opportunity to bring together students from the district's four junior high schools in a positive and engaging environment. She attended the graduation ceremony at California Lutheran University and congratulated the graduates. Additional activities included participation in the ACE (Appreciating Classified Employees) Program, recognizing the valuable contributions of classified staff throughout the district. She visited the Bruce Library, where a book fair was taking place, and commented on the enthusiasm and community engagement surrounding the event. Finally, she attended a Teacher Colloquium that recognized educators who have continued their professional growth by completing credential requirements and working toward tenure. The Board member thanked district staff, students, and families for their continued contributions and support throughout the school year.

Board Member Report - Mr. Valencia

Mr. Valencia reported on recent school and district events he attended. He extended appreciation to Arellanes Elementary School for a successful Open House event, noting the positive involvement of students, staff, and families. He also recognized the school's mural project and expressed appreciation for the creativity and student engagement reflected in the artwork. He commented positively on the District's Dual Language Immersion Program and encouraged its continued expansion.

He also reported attending the Teacher Colloquium held at the Santa Maria Inn, as well as SMEEA and CSEA social events. He acknowledged former student Ricardo Leon and noted the positive impact of community financial assistance on him and his family. In closing, Mr. Valencia expressed appreciation to district staff, students, and families for their ongoing efforts throughout the school year and wished everyone a restful summer.

Board Member Report - Ms. Luz Maria Cabral

Ms. Luz Maria Cabral attended the Santa Barbara County Education program and the CSEA Strawberry Social, both of which were a lot of fun. She congratulated all the nominees.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. McDuffie

Dr. Darren McDuffie highlighted several recent district celebrations and activities, noting the creativity and accomplishments of students across school sites. He referenced the district's continued focus on the Bright Futures vision and the positive momentum reflected in student engagement and achievement as the school year approaches its conclusion.

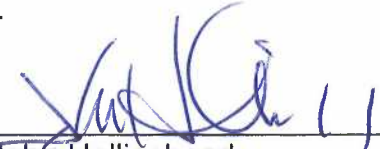
Dr. McDuffie also reported attending the CSEA annual event, noting it was a meaningful opportunity to engage with colleagues.

He acknowledged the many end-of-year activities taking place throughout the District, including student recognition events, celebrations, and upcoming promotion ceremonies. The Superintendent extended congratulations to all students, including eighth-grade students preparing for promotion, and commended staff and families for their support in making these milestones possible.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

President Cabral reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Signed _____


John Hollinshead
Board Clerk

Signed _____


Linda Cordero
Board Member