



SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Minutes

6:00pm

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 6:00pm. This meeting was held at the Santa Maria ISD Board Room, 11119 Military Road, Santa Maria, TX 78592.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86537367483?pwd=B46UO6mCmjwOsLa8Zia283KMkZDmd7.1>

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

Special Board Meeting was called to order by Board President, Javier Jimenez, Jr. at 6:17pm. As per Mr. Jimenez a max quorum of five people is needed for this meeting..

ESTABLISH QUORUM

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Javier Jimenez, Jr.</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Luis Cantu</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Pablo Ibarra</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Dr. Yvette Cantu</i>	<i>X – Via Zoom</i>	
<i>Andrew De la Rosa</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>Michele Garcia</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Miguel Zavala</i>		<i>X</i>

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 officer 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.

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“An Equal Opportunity Employer”

ACTION AGENDA

Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution naming a designee to calculate the No New Revenue and Voter Approval Tax Rates for Santa Maria ISD.

Amanda Najar, stated the revised Resolution appoints the Business Manager position as the designated officer responsible for calculating and reporting the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter approved tax rate as determined by state law.

Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

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			

2. Discussion and possible action to approve the Proposed 2026-2027 Tax Rate.

Board Vice-President, Luis Cantu stated, "I move that Santa Maria Independent School District approve the proposal of an interest and sinking rate to pay debt service that exceeds the minimum debt service tax rate as defined by the Texas Tax Code and the Texas Education code. The Board finds that the District's minimum debt service tax rate is \$0.1419 per \$100 valuation, and that the proposed interest and sinking tax rate of \$0.45920 used to pay debt service exceeds the minimum debt service tax rate by \$0.0443 per \$100 valuation. Additional revenue generated by the proposed rate will be used for lawful debt service purposes, including: payment of scheduled or anticipated debt obligations.

Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

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			

Board Vice-President, Luis Cantu stated, "this year's proposed tax rate DOES NOT EXCEED the no-new-revenue tax rate. A motion to adopt the ordinance, resolution or order DOES NOT REQUIRE language about an effective increase in the tax rate.

Motion to approve by Luis Cantu, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

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

<i>Pablo Ibarra</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Dr. Yvette Cantu</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Andrew De la Rosa</i>			
<i>Michele Garcia</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Miguel Zavala</i>			

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session by Pablo Ibarra, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 5-0 at 6:23pm.

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

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) Assistant Principal

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session by Pablo Ibarra, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 5-0 at 6:29pm.

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

1. Discussion and possible action on recommendations on all items as appropriate on Superintendent's personnel recommendations.

Dr. Lara, Interim Superintendent recommending Melissa Guerrero be considered for employment for Santa Maria ISD as Assistant Principal for in between the Elementary and the Middle School. She would be on a 11month Probationary Contract for the remainder of this year.

Motion to approve by Michele Garcia, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

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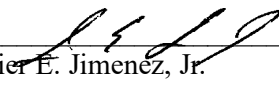
Javier Jimenez, Jr.	X		
Luis Cantu	X		
Pablo Ibarra	X		
Dr. Yvette Cantu	X		
Andrew De la Rosa			
Michele Garcia	X		
Miguel Zavala			

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 5-0 at 6:30pm.

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			

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on Thursday, August 20, 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).

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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