

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

SMBSD Board Room
708 S. Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA
September 9, 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:

Linda Cordero, Board Member

John Hollinshead, Board Clerk

Ricky Lara, Vice President

Luz Maria Cabral, President

Board Members Absent:

Ricardo Valencia, Board Member

II. IDENTIFY CLOSED SESSION TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

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

Government Code Section § 54957

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 Evaluation

Government Code Section § 54957

Title: Superintendent

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 5:02 p.m.

V. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

VI. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

VII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:03 p.m.

A. Report from Closed Session:

For Item A: In closed session, the Board took action to approve a settlement agreement resolving OAH Case No. 2026070551, resulting in the resignation of certificated employee number 3744 in exchange for a waiver of claims and other terms and conditions as included therein. The Board voted unanimously. The Board of Education accepted the administrative assignment of Kelley Haines as Coordinator of Health Services; the vote was unanimous.

For Items B, C, D: Information was shared.

B. Introduction of Interpreters:

Ahime Heredia, Daniel Garcia, and Cesar Ruiz

C. Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by District Student Leader Bladimir Marquez

D. Inspiration:

Bonita Elementary School

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN SESSION

Non-Agenda Items:

- Jennifer Ellsworth, a longtime SMBSD employee, addressed the board about growing discontent and frustration among district staff. She highlighted employee frustration, financial and personal strain, a call to action for the Board, and Leadership Responsibility.

- Alicia Sage submitted a public comment recording after the deadline. It was not played, but it was delivered to the board members.

Agenda Items:

No Comments

IX. COMMENTS FROM ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

- Santa Maria Elementary Education Association (SMEEA)
SMEEA President Kristen Lohr addressed the board regarding the future of district funding. She highlighted the importance of Prop. 3, explaining that it pertains to healthcare and education funding. She noted that the predecessor, Prop 55, successfully generated over \$14.6 billion for CA public schools and community colleges in 2024-25. She cautioned that if this funding is not renewed, it is scheduled to expire in 2030, and urged the board to begin considering its implications.
- California School Employees Association (CSEA)
Jennifer Ellsworth, acting as the secretary for the California School Employees Association (CSEA), addressed the board. She noted that the CSEA president and vice president could not attend, so she delivered remarks on their behalf. Instead of a personal statement, Ellsworth read a letter from CSEA member Netsa Morales. The letter raised concerns regarding district management, leadership, communication, and personal impact and expectations. She concluded by reiterating that she shared this letter because Netsa Morales represents many CSEA employees, emphasizing that the district needs to support the "whole employee" as much as it prioritizes supporting the "whole child" in the classroom.
- Administrators In Management Services (AIMS)
No comments

X. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

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

XI. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Coordinator of Culture and Climate and Counselor on Special Assignment (COSA) Job Descriptions

Presented by Maijue Lochungvu, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, joined by Dr. Mark Palmerston, Director of Student Services

The Board of Education **ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF THE COORDINATOR OF CULTURE AND CLIMATE AND THE COUNSELOR ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT (COSA) JOB DESCRIPTIONS**, as presented.

XII. 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. Pre Con Industries, Inc. Battles Elementary School; New TK-K Building and Site Upgrades BID #5384 – Change Order Number 16
- iv. Pre Con Industries, Inc. Battles Elementary School; New TK-K Building and Site Upgrades BID #5384 – Change Order Number 17
- v. Pre Con Industries, Inc. Battles Elementary School; New TK-K Building and Site Upgrades BID #5384 – Change Order Number 18
- vi. Pre Con Industries, Inc. Battles Elementary School; New TK-K Building and Site Upgrades BID #5384 – Change Order Number 19
- vii. Pre Con Industries, Inc. Battles Elementary School; New TK-K Building and Site Upgrades BID #5384 – Change Order Number 20
- viii. Pacific Rim Painting, Inc., Painting at Alvin Elementary School BID #5422-Change Order 1
- ix. Smith Mechanical-Electrical Plumbing, Installation of District-Provided HVAC Equipment at Fairlawn Elementary School BID #5424 - Change Order 1
- x. Authorization to File Notice of Completion for Smith Mechanical-Electrical Plumbing, BID #5424, District-Provided HVAC Equipment at Fairlawn Elementary School
- xi. Authorization to File Notice of Completion for Pacific Polymers, Inc. DBA American FoamExperts, BID #5426, Roof Replacement at Miller Elementary School

xii. Resolution 26-02: Establish 25-26 Appropriations Limit Pursuant to Article XIII B of The California Constitution

C. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT

- i. Certificated and Classified Personnel Changes
- ii. First Reading of Job Description: Coordinator, Culture and Climate
- iii. First Reading of Job Descriptions: Counselor on Special Assignment

D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONSENT

- i. Approve the 2026-2027 Schedule of Student Arrival, Departure, and Supervision Times

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Contract with People's Self Help Housing Off-Site After School Program Services

Presented by Niccole Wiseman, Director of School Support

It was moved by Mr. Lara and seconded by Mrs. Cordero that the Board of Education **APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH PEOPLE'S SELF HELP HOUSING OFF-SITE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM SERVICES**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote Ayes: 4. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral. Motion Passes.*

B. Certification of the 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals

Presented by Brian King, Director of Fiscal Services

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education **APPROVE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2025-26 UNAUDITED ACTUALS**, as presented, **AND FORWARD A POSITIVE CERTIFICATION TO THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote Ayes: 4. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral. Motion Passes.*

C. Public Hearing: Compliance with Education Code Section 60119 and CCR, Title 5, Section 9531 (C) Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

Public Hearing opened at 7:38 p.m. No public comments. Public Hearing closed at 7:38 p.m.

D. Adopt Resolution 26-01: Compliance with Education Code Section 60119 and CCR, Title 5, Section 9531 (C) Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

Presented by Katie Salcido, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mrs. Cordero that the Board of Education **ADOPT RESOLUTION 26-01 COMPLIANCE WITH EDUCATION CODE SECTION 60119 AND CCR, TITLE 5, SECTION 9531(C) SUFFICIENCY OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote Ayes: 4. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral. Motion Passes.*

E. Public Hearing - The Education Protection Account (EPA) 2026-27

Presented by Brian King, Director of Fiscal Services

Public Hearing opened at 7:42 p.m. No public comments. Public Hearing closed at 7:42 p.m.

F. Adopt Resolution 26-03: The Education Protection Account (EPA) 2026-27

Presented by Brian King, Director of Fiscal Services

It was moved by Mrs. Cordero and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education **ADOPT RESOLUTION 26-03: THE EDUCATION PROTECTION ACCOUNT (EPA) 2026-27**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote. Ayes: 4. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral. Motion Passes.*

G. Adopt Resolution 26-04: National Hispanic Heritage Month

Presented by Dr. Darren McDuffie, Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Hollinshead and seconded by Mr. Lara that the Board of Education **ADOPT RESOLUTION 26-04: NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**, as presented. *Roll Call Vote Ayes: 4. Mrs. Cordero, Mr. Hollinshead, Mr. Lara, Ms. Cabral. Motion Passes.*

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

No comments

XV. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Board Member Report - Mrs. Cordero

Mrs. Cordero provided the following updates:

- School Site Visits: She assisted at El Camino on the first day of school and later observed classrooms at Fesler, Arellanes, and El Camino to learn more about "co-teaching" practices and professional development.
- County Board Activities: She attended the first Santa Barbara County School Board meeting, where discussions included the roles of the elected state superintendent versus appointed leadership in public education committees. She also noted an upcoming workshop for school board candidates in the county.
- Parent Advisory Committee: She attended the first district parent advisory committee meeting and noted the high volume of parent outreach messages about school site councils and English learner advisory committees (ELACs).
- Schools/Teachers: She is hopeful our schools and teachers will teach more about American historical events that have had a significant impact.
- Recognition: She recognized Matt Beecher and his team for receiving

recognition.

- **Board Member Report - Mr. Hollinshead**

Mr. John Hollinshead provided the following updates:

- School Year Start: He offered a belated welcome back to the school year, noting that despite concerns from labor groups, both groups are already doing great work on district campuses.
- Parental Outreach: He expressed excitement about seeing administrators actively reaching out to parent groups to form school site councils and English learner advisory committees.
- Staff Concerns: Addressing previous public comments, he emphasized that the notion that board members do not care about staff is untrue.
- Instructional Technology: He asked about current district policies on screen time and device use for instructional purposes, specifically requesting an update on cell phone policies, which the administration agreed to provide.

Board Member Report - Mr. Ricky Lara

No comments

Board Member Report - Ms. Luz Maria Cabral

Ms. Luz Maria Cabral provided the following updates:

- Conference Attendance: She recently attended the California Latino School Boards Association (CLSBA) conference alongside Mr. Valencia and Dr. Darren McDuffie. She highlighted that the organization is rebranding to include colleges and CSUs.
- Professional Development: While at the conference, she participated in courses focused on multilingual services and the development of community schools.
- Community Schools Update: After the conference, she requested an update on the district's community schools and the services they provide. The administration confirmed that a presentation on this topic is already scheduled for later in the year.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Darren McDuffie

Dr. Darren McDuffie provided the following updates:

Dr. Darren McDuffie highlighted that the district recently hosted a validation visit from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) regarding the district's teacher pathways program. The program is a finalist for the Golden Bell Award. The program encompasses both the teacher induction and residency programs to help individuals progress toward becoming successful classroom teachers. He also reported that the district has reached a temporary solution regarding health benefits.

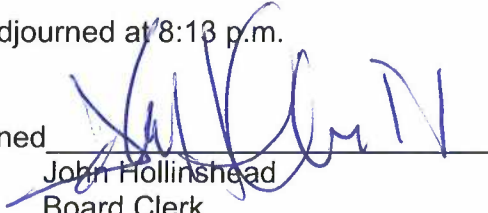
They will continue working collaboratively with labor partners. He is excited about the launch of Common Grounds, a video series in which he will speak directly with employees about what is happening in the district, Bright Futures project inclusion, and other topics. Also, a segment called Incredible Gem, a segment dedicated to incredible things happening around the campuses. He commented that when he first started, he talked about the power of relationships, the power of words, and the power of kindness. He believes this and tries to live it every day. He challenged everyone connected to the district to treat each other with kindness.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

President Cabral reported that the next SMBSD Regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Signed _____


John Hollinshead
Board Clerk

Signed _____


Linda Cordero
Board Member