SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, September 16, 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, September 16, 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/86729957517?pwd=UA2fyJPOqRPLWWw8Fazvp5IBk96aYA.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

Regular Board meeting was called to order by Board President, Javier Jimenez, Jr. at 6:04pm.

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- Arrived at 6:07pm*	
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

It is the policy of Santa Maria ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap, in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973, as amended.

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Action Agenda

Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. Consideration of and possible action to approve the 2026-2027 Compensation Plan – Amendment

Motion to approve the UIL changes by Dr. Yvette Cantu, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

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

Professional Learning and Refinement

1. Consideration and possible action to approve Santa Maria Independent's School District's application to the Texas Education Agency for a 2026-2027 Bilingual Education Exception, including the related alternative methods, action plan, and comprehensive professional development plan, and to authorize the Interim Superintendent or designee to finalize and submit the application and take all necessary related action.

Motion to approve by Michele Garcia, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

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

2. Consideration of and possible action to approve the District's annual certification of compliance as required by Texas Education Code § 39.008, and to authorize the Superintendent to submit the certification and supporting documentation to the Texas Education Agency.

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Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

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

Consent Agenda

Dr. Yvette Cantu made the motion to take item #1 into Executive Session because she had questions. Legal Counsil, Mrs. Andrea Vela stated that questions on open agenda needed to be asked in Open Session. A Motion to table Item # 1 in Consent Agenda by Pablo Ibarra, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

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

A Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Pablo Ibarra, second by Luis Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

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

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

Financial and Operational Efficiency

1. ~~Approval of Check Payments since last report for August 2026.~~
2. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of August 2026.
3. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report unaudited ending August 2026.
4. Approval of Tax Collection Report for August 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026.
5. Approval of Region One ESC Library Services and Instructional Resources Department - Certified School Librarian Support
6. Approval of Minutes for Regular Board meeting of August 19, 2026.
7. Approval of Minutes for Special Board meeting of August 26, 2026.

Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session by Luis Cantu, second by Dr. Yvette Cantu. Motion passed unanimously 6-0 at 6:31pm.

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

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

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1) Discussion with School Attorney on Item(s) Exempted under Attorney-Client Privilege

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) 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) Discussion regarding finalization of mid-year termination of Chapter 21 employment contract of E.C.

E. Section 551.076 - Deliberations on Security Devices or Security Audits

F. Section 551.082—School Children; School District Employees; Disciplinary Matters or Complaint

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 Michele Garcia, second by Pablo Ibarra. Motion passed unanimously 6-0 at 7:42pm.

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

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.
3. Discussion and possible action to finalize mid-year termination of Chapter 21 employment contract of E.C.

Motion to approve by Pablo Ibarra, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

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

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn this meeting by Pablo Ibarra, second by Michele Garcia. Motion passed unanimously 6-0 at 7:44pm.

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

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

Javier E. Jimenez, Jr.
Board President

Pablo Ibarra
Board Secretary

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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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