



## SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PUBLIC HEARING  
Wednesday, August 30, 2023  
6:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a PUBLIC HEARING of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District was held on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Santa Maria ISD Board Room in the Administration Building, located at 11119 Military Road, Santa Maria, Texas.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83047700475?pwd=d1RLNXM5eWt2THFyOWI3anFSZlFTUT09>

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

*Board President called the Public Hearing to Order at 6:02p.m.*

### ESTABLISH QUORUM

#### **Present**

Adolfo Hinojosa  
Marco Aleman  
Javier Jimenez, Jr.  
Michele Garcia – Via Zoom

#### **Absent**

Andrew De la Rosa  
Miguel Zavala  
Casey Espinoza

#### **Present from the District**

Martin Cuellar, Superintendent  
Ida Torres, Administrative to the Superintendent  
Yliana Gonzalez, Business Manager

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### PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023-2024 BUDGET

A Public Hearing on the 2023-2024 Budget and the proposed Tax Rate was held at the Administration Building located at 11119 Military Hwy, Santa Maria, Texas.

Any taxpayer of the District may be present and participate in the Hearing. [Policy CE (Legal)/CE(Local)]



1. Presentation on the proposed District Budget for the 2023-2024 school year and on the proposed Tax Rate for the 2023-2024 school year.

*Ms. Yliana Gonzalez, Business Manager presented a slideshow presentation on the proposed District Budget and Tax Rate for the 2023-2024 school year. As of August 30, 2023 our ADA is at 513, projection is 522.*

2. Public comments on the proposed District Budget and the proposed Tax Rate for the 2023-2024 school year.

*Ms. Cantu stated that the TAPR Report data from 2021-2022 and back. One of the things she noticed was that on 2018-2019 enrollment on TAPR is six hundred thirty-five students and that progressively declines so the last enrollment on TAPR for 2021-2022 to five hundred forty-three students. Ms. Cantu stated it's a loss of about one hundred forty-eight students during that time period.*

*She was wondering if the number that we project to generate ADA, is that the same number that's calculated to generate whatever budget is or is it a different number because TAPR does states otherwise? Just like she was able to generate the same budget for the past few years that's on the website. I can see that last year from public information. budget came in at eight million five hundred ninety-six thousand six hundred and ninety-two dollars. She was wondering if there was a side by side that you have, where you are saying that that was the budget from last year to what the budget is now. I notice that it was a little bit higher. With declining enrollment, a bigger budget, I was just wondering how that aligns. TAPR also provides information on how many staff members are employed. In looking at the TAPR back in 2018-2019 TAPR says there's six hundred thirty-five students, we had one hundred forty-eight employees. And over the past five years those employees have now gone to one hundred and sixty point six. And that is missing last year's data. So how does our budget increase when the students decrease but our staff members increase? As well as I haven't heard of how much money is in the fund balance. I haven't heard any discussion about the fund balance. I know we should have at least three years-worth of operating cost. So how does this play into how much money are we putting into the fund balance. And then of course every school district has a financial rating, that comes out in August. I know the last rating that I saw was a B. So how does this budget then get distributed to make sure that we are hitting the financial integrity rating of an A?*

*Mr. Eden Ramirez, District Legal Counsel stated that the board can respond but he just wanted to make a quick note, that the state does not use the enrollment for funding. It uses the ADA that's the discrepancy. Superintendent stated that as far as the financial rating TEA issued the preliminary rating of an A ninety-six. Which is the highest we've ever gotten in the past.*

*Ms. Gonzalez addressed some of the questions. We do provide a side by side and it is public record, and it is accessible on the website under the business office. And there was a slight increase on the budget as projected last year. And the reason for that is because last years projections were based on five hundred eight students. And we were able to exceed that last year. We were able to capture more monies. We are still staying conservative but we are projecting five twenty-two. So that's where the increase comes into play. Every child generates so much money. The number of staff members currently that we have is one hundred and forty-two employees. Which is about seventy to seventy-five that eats up the budget. So approximately about five million eight hundred ninety-seven thousand dollars. Even though we have had a loss of enrollment, we are barely a week into the school year, we are at five thirteen, we are projecting five twenty-two. Every day that we recapture new students it's a plus on our side. We look at the PEIMS snapshot which is on the last Friday in October in addition to the summer submission which is the ADA so it's a combination of different data sources.*



*Mr. Ramirez also stated as far as looking at the different years the district has different student populations, so depending on the student population the district has the funding is affecting. So even if you have less enrollment its possible you could have more revenue because the student's needs. Students are awarded different amounts of money depending on their specific needs. Lower enrollment doesn't necessarily mean lower revenue. It depends on the type of students you have. Not only on who enters and who leaves. A small district like yours is heavily affected by the number of students that leave because you have such low numbers of students. The funding will fluctuate.*

*Ms. Gonzalez stated it also depends on program participation. The other thing is the fund balance. So as of the audited amount that we were provided last year. The district is expected to have a fund balance to maintain the district at least three months and we are very fortunate to say that our fund balance is very healthy. And as of the audit ending school year 2022-23 it is at approximately three million five sixty-nine o three. It's a very healthy fund balance, but we try not to make access of those funds we try to save them for a rainy day.*

### 3. Closing of Public Hearing.

*Meeting was closed at 6:30pm*

*No action was taken by the Board of Trustees during this PUBLIC HEARING.*

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act on Friday, August 25, 2023 at 6:00pm

