



SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016
6:30 p.m.
Minutes

Notice is hereby given that a scheduled Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District will be held on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Maria ISD Board Room, 11119 Military Hwy, Santa Maria, Texas 78592.

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, Receptionist/Clerical Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools at (956) 565-6308 for assistance.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board President called the regular board meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present:

Adolfo Hinojosa, President
Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, Vice-president
Miguel Zavala, Secretary
Noe Aleman, Member
Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Member

Absent:

Consuelo De la Rosa, Member (arrived at 6:55p.m.)
Belinda Lugo, Member

Present from the District:

Maria J. Chavez, Superintendent of Schools
Enrique Cuellar, Business Manager
Alyssa Romero, The Law Offices of Guerra & Farah
Ida Torrez, Clerical Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
Cindy Taylor, High School Principal
Michael Abeyta, Junior High Principal
Rogelio Campa, TGE and Middle School Principal

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN FORUM

Recommend approving the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of November 7, 2016 with any modifications or deletions.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Chavez stated I recommend that we approve the agenda for the regular board meeting for November 7th 2016 with no modifications or deletions. I did consult with the attorney with regards to the posting at 6:30p.m. and I referenced that to the 6p.m and we are clear because the posting was made for 6:30p.m. We had no visitors or anyone other than the individuals present for 6:30p.m.

Motion made by Miguel Zavala, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously

1. Student Attendance/Enrollment

Ms. Chavez stated we were at 95.93% overall attendances at the district level. We are working very closely with the Middle School as well as the Junior High to ensure that we continue showing that high attendance district wide and the same at the Elementary School. The overall enrollment at the district level is 690 students. We are working with the administration to ensure that we are promoting our programs, initiatives, as we have open enrollment district wide and to ensure also the conversation with employees that education at Santa Maria ISD is good enough for my child and we have employees also who have transferred their children to our district.

2. Presentation of 2016-2017 Campus Improvement Plans

Mr. Campa stated one of the main issues that we got this year that we turned into a positive was our Early Literacy Reading Initiative through the new curriculum that we just acquired through the Pre-K Grant. It's called Opening the World of Learning. We did have the Pre-K guidelines knowing that it was the only curriculum we had so the teachers are working close in hand with the DWL which is another curriculum that was meshed together and being worked on as one and now we actually have a set curriculum that's aligned with the stated. What that does is it's designed to develop an oral language and early literacy skills with our students. It offers equitable instruction in English and in Spanish as well and it's a good English language development and we do that every day. We also developed a language in early literacy skills in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. The great thing about that is it's a comprehensive curriculum aligned to the Pre-K guidelines and not just for Pre-K but also College and Career Readiness initiatives that we have going on so it prepares those students to close those gaps between those four core subject areas in an earlier stage and were able to move forward with this initiative. So that is the new initiative that we are looking at the lowest level to align and set that critical foundation that is needed for those students with that early reading.

Ms. Chavez asked can you briefly expand on the learning walks.

Mr. Campa stated we are doing some learning walks with our administrators and teachers. We schedule those in and we also work with our Superintendent coming in to the School District with other campus administrators and what we do is we go and find a specific area we want to target which is Rigor or even accountable talks between the students and right now those were the main focuses in the Elementary and in Middle School because we want to ensure that it was rigor to where we could address that advance in the performance. Our students are learning at this level but we want them to be at the best level possible which will ensure all passing at the State level and that really brings us to the next level.



With the learning walks our teachers have been able to identify what's been missing in the rigor. We did find a lot of information that they might have had misconceptions about but they corrected those misconceptions and now they are on the same page and we will keep moving forward.

Mr. Abeyta stated at the Junior High we are working on is in converting all of our classes to a student centered instruction. We are taking away from teacher center to student center which is the key part of TTESS and TPASS that the student is first in the chart. As we do the learning walkthroughs, what we're looking at is making sure that classroom is student centered. Small group instruction, each group may be at different levels so we don't have the teacher just giving a lesson because you may have certain students engaged and other students disengaged because they already got it and they are waiting to move forward. So they are placed in small groups and the teacher is mainly becoming a facilitator and if the students are going forward with the lessons and the teachers are designing the lessons using Google Classroom so there's a lot of technology being used in the classroom as well and it's all around the student. So that's one of our biggest goals and as we look at our learning box, that's what we're looking for, to make sure they are student centered classrooms. We analyze the data and our advanced students weren't scoring as high as we felt they should be so they were not scoring a level three which we should have had more student hitting level three so were trying to stimulate their interest in the classroom by putting them in the center of the instruction and the teacher becomes a facilitator.

Ms. Taylor stated for the High School some of the things we have improved on is the college and career readiness but let me start with our special populations for our LEP. Our teachers receive Cyop training and they also use online resources like Rosetta Stone. This year we integrated Edmentum which is completely district wide. We are seeing improvement. We started doing comparison reports literally from pre-assessment to the first six weeks compared to the second six weeks and you can see that we compared the general population to the SPED, Migrant and LEP and you can see where the LEP is actually doing better than the general population. And it was all that work that was done prior and it continues to be done. For the Migrant, they are receiving assistance in the classroom so the individuals have a schedule where they are not going into the classroom throughout the day. We are all pretty much involved in the pack meetings for the parents as well. For the SPED students our teachers district wide receive accommodations and modifications training because sometimes they have the IEP forms that they have to follow but it assumed that they are doing it but sometimes we find out that we are not doing exactly what were supposed to be doing and it has to do a lot with training so you have to kind of revisit that training to make sure that you're doing it correctly. We have also received training in the ARD process. Also Santa Maria has taken on another initiative which is a student learning objective process and when you hear student you think well the teacher is studying their goal based on the student and that is correct but the process is now the teacher. It used to be that the teacher would set a goal and they still do for the student but now they are setting goals for themselves under this process. They have to see what it is that they have to do to change or move in order to improve on so that I can ensure that my students are being successful. We are doing this district wide and I believe we are the only school district. We are doing this because next year it is going to be a requirement. Also some of the areas as far as one of the things we talked about last year was the State of Texas had said that schools need to offer at least two endorsements of their schools. Considering that were are a small school you would offer at least two areas where your students are going to get certified in or a pathway that they are going to follow which is Business and Industry, Arts and Humanities, Public Services, STEM and also multidisciplinary studies and in



Santa Maria we offer all of them in some way all five. Our certification program is another one. It's all about College and Career readiness district wide and we are already seeing that coming from Elementary, Middle School and Junior High, that they are getting prepared because were moving forward. At the High School last year we had 11 different certification programs and now we added 6 additional so we have a total of 17 areas that students can get certified. That's a lot of areas but it's a possibility if the student is really focused on that they can get it done. So with that being said all the initiatives that are being put in place are going to be very successful and it's been a work in progress and were going to get there.

Ms. Chavez asked can you go over all the certification areas.

Ms. Taylor replied currently it is Dental Assistant, phlebotomy and clinical and medical assistant. The Electrical Apprenticeship, FEMA Certification the Jailors Academy, First Aide Certification, CPR and AED Certification, CAN Certification, the Principals of Livestock Evaluation Certification, Fundamentals of Science, Food and Safety of Science, OSHA Safety, the Southwest Airlines, Cosmetology, and Office and Technology Certification.

3. Texas Consolidated School Rating- 2016 Community Engagement Report

Ms. Chavez stated this is the document for you and this is the new reporting that also adds the additional report which is the community engagement piece and within that document it also gives you a historical of the rating for that particular campus and you have the district rating and it gives you a historical from 2013 to 2016 so as a school district we have met the standard for 2013 thru 2016. At Santa Maria High School we have met the standard from 2013 to 2016 and of course you have the DEAP which is not rated and the same thing with Santa Maria JJAEP not rated and then you have Santa Maria Middle School historical from 2013 to 2016. This past year we met the standard. Last year it was an improvement require. 2014 it met the standard and in 2013 it was an improvement require and Tony Gonzalez Elementary met the standard for the last two years and this was a campus that was in an improvement require in 2014 and 2013 in improvement require. The critical areas that you have there is also the distinctions or designations and one of the areas at the secondary level, the progress, the closing of that gap, the high percentage of students that are reaching as Mr. Campa mentioned. Many of the students who were not reading at grade level and also at the secondary who maybe in 7th or 8th grade and as they are seeing, the student may still be reading at 5th, 6th, 7th and so on. That particular distinction focuses on how many students are moving up to grade level performance in closing the gap. And then the remainder of that report gives you the areas that rated for that community engagement and were conservative as a school district because much of that is determined based on that review but you have the overall performance for that community engagement. You have Fine Arts recognition there for SMISD and then you have the wellness physical education and that is data that is submitted though the PEIMS system. The community parent engagement is based on the number and type of activities that the school district conducts and the 21st Century Workforce connection that includes the industry certifications as a school district as we continue adding and improving in those areas. In second language acquisition as you're looking at the implementation of Bilingual and ESL programs as a school district and then the digital learning environment and how we implement that initiative as a school district. Dropout prevention as well and then the Gifted and Talented programs and then the last of that is the Statutory Compliance with all Federal Programs regulations in this case.

Ms. Ortiz asked if the tutorial program was also for students that did not pass a class the previous six weeks.



Mr. Abeyta replied yes we reevaluate every six weeks and if we have to add some students on to it then yes. If we have students that weren't successful in their classes they are automatically put into the tutorial program so that they are going to be successful the next six weeks.

4. Presentation of TAIS School Improvement Plans for 2016-2017

MS. Chavez stated as a school district we are not required to submit and of the plans because our school is already passed the required improvement but we are required to develop the plan and to continue working to ensure that we maintain and sustain the academic progress so we go through the process and working with the PSP to continue with the focus. Can I have the Middle School and Junior High speak to that process and what the highlight was?

Mr. Abeyta started by saying we have been working with Mr. Santillan and Ms. Moreno. They come down to work with us from Region One to help us develop a plan. We sat down with the campus improvement team and campus leadership team, myself and some teachers and Mrs. Monreal. We go through each question that is asked in the test and we develop a plan. The key part of this is they want to know what the root cause behind a particular result on the test is. Once you get to the core we develop a plan based on that and we set some goals based on each quarter. There's a quarterly goal that we have to meet and then we have to identify if we achieved the goal or not but we set goals for every quarter and then we meet every quarter to review and to see if we have to update. They also come and do walkthroughs with us for the TAIS on campus and then based on what we put down we then do observations in the classrooms.

Mr. Campa stated it's pretty much the same thing with ours at TGE and also for the Middle School. Our plans are mainly for each one of the campuses and we use root cause analysis to break down what exactly is for example if we only have 45% of our students passing we want to know why. We ask those five questions and follow that pool process. The five whys and then continue to the root cause. Once we determine how to set our new goals based on that and like he said, we monitor every quarter and then within that goal we find out what data we are going to collect and if there were any changes for that first quarter then how do we make that change. It also asked if we're on track or not on track to meet that goal and if were not on track then what do we have to do to different get to that next level. So we have certain goals within each quarter but we have a final goal at the end of the year. So that's how we monitor that all the way through July so we have worked with the TAIS improvement plan and that's a process we've been following out since I started here which is about five years.

Mr. Abeyta stated the goals will start with training. The first quarter goals are usually training. How are you going to train your teachers to get them ready? then you progress from there. So after the training you take the next step and usually by the third quarter or the fourth your actually measuring the gap. So first quarter is training the teacher, second quarter is usually implementation into the classroom so it's very guided step by step.

Ms. Chavez stated can you elaborate on the depth of knowledge with this new assessment. What does that mean for the teacher in delivery?



Mr. Abeyta replied the depth of knowledge or DOK level 1 is basically rote memorization because you will pick up just remembering of vocabulary words and definitions and its actually asking you to explain, elaborate and describe using different types of vocabulary words that students have to ask that takes us to the depth of knowledge levels two and three where you often have to explain why something happens and explain your answer. That's what they want the students to do because that's what is going to continue to take them to their level three success in their STAAR exams. Depth of Knowledge four is usually like if you're going to design lab experiments or design some type of program. Depth of knowledge levels two and three is where were moving our students right now is to explain and elaborate.

Mr. Campa continued and we cover the PLD which is the Performance Level Descriptors for each one so we noticed that it also goes back to teachers. If there reaching at that level one they are getting those questions on the test and that's what you're seeing a lot of those questions being answered at that level. So performance level two, PLD 3 that goes back to the DOK's. With that in mind the teachers have to now figure out well I'm asking this question so how do I make it a two or a three because the rigor of the test is tougher now and that's why we target the rigor a lot.

Ms. Chavez stated we are basically reviewing the questions to ensure that the assessments are balanced in terms of the levels of those questions. If see level one and two and that is pretty much the whole assessment and we know the rigor is not going to be there and the kids may score high but when they face the actual assessment which is questions three and four then they're going to perform poorly on those types of assessments so it's all about providing the experiences and it starts with the regress delivery and the types of questions they are asked.

Mr. Abeyta stated they were consistent in class curriculum too. They asked those questions those verbal questions in English so the students are seeing the same level of questions in Math, Science, and Social Studies. We are looking at several packages of test generators that do that for us so all teachers are on the same sheet of music basically when they are creating a test and it makes them bring their lessons up to that depth of knowledge.

ACTION AGENDA

Curriculum and Instruction

5. Discussion and possible action to approve the TAIS School Improvement Plans for the 2016-2017 school year for Tony Gonzalez Elementary and Middle School
Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Discussion and possible action to approve the TAIS School Improvement Plans for the 2016-2017 school year for Santa Maria Jr. High School
Motion by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, second by Noe Aleman. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2016-2017 TGE Campus Improvement Plan
Motion made by Noe Aleman, second by Consuelo De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously.
8. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2016-2017 SMJH Campus Improvement Plan
Motion made by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, second by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.



9. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2016-2017 SMHS Campus Improvement Plan
Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Noe Aleman. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action to approve the Bilingual Program Evaluation
Ms. Chavez stated the administration tables this item. Ms. Rodriguez could not be here and this is an area that pertains to her.
Motion to table item made by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, second by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.
Item Tabled

11. Discussion and possible action to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Santa Maria Independent School District and Condensed Curriculum International, Inc. (CCI)
Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and possible action to approve the Inter-local Cooperation Contract with the 2016-2017 UTRGV Mother-Daughter Program
Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve the Edmentum K-12 Software Solution Study Island to support blended learning for TEKS/EOC/STAAR intervention, Credit Recovery, CTE, TSI/SAT-ACT, Reading, ESL Reading Smart/Reading Mate.
Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, second by Noe Aleman. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and possible action to approve revised 2016-2017 Gifted and Talented Program Handbook
Ms. Chavez stated the administration tables this item. Motion to table item made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, second by Noe Aleman. Motion passed unanimously.
Item Tabled

Finance

15. Discussion and possible action to approve payment to Fulcrum Consulting Services for Architectural services for New High School.
Ms. Chavez stated the administration recommends your approval as per the contract service agreement approved by the board for architectural services.
Mr. Hinojosa asked what payment is this.
Ms. Chavez replied it is a draw down of fees that were approved and basically you are looking at what the district had already paid, the previous payments, and then the balance of fees based on the contract that was signed for all fees.
Mrs. De la Rosa stated so this is payment for option two.
Ms. Chavez replied yes.
Mr. Aleman asked whatever we still owed or did we pay them off or no.
Ms. Chavez stated that includes in terms of payments. If you look at item 1 it is option two and in option 2 you have a subtotal and then the other cost was option 1 and 3 related cost and you have the fees there for an overall balance of \$473,590 and that combines what the district had already paid previously and



the balance that you are paying. The \$239,000 that you have there, the payments are going to reduce that \$239,000 balance.

Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources

16. Discuss and report the 2016-2017 Annual Fingerprinting Certification and Statement of Compliance due November 25, 2016.

Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

Travel

17. Discussion and possible action to approve Student Out of Valley Travel Request to State Championship Cross Country Meet, on Friday, November 11-13, 2016 Round Rock, Texas

Motion made by Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously

18. Discussion and possible action to approve travel of the Board members to attend the TASB Fall Governance and Legal Seminar-Friday, November 11-13, 2016 South Padre Island, Texas

Motion made by Consuelo De la Rosa, second by Oralia "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA

Finance

19. Approval of Check Payments since last report for October 2016
20. Approval of the Tax Collection Report for October 01, 2016 to October 31, 2016
21. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for the period of October 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016
22. Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Report ending October 31, 2016

Governance

23. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting - August 9, 2016
24. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting - August 22, 2016
25. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting - August 29, 2016
26. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – September 12, 2016
27. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting – September 19, 2016
28. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting – September 29, 2016

29. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Workshop – December 10, 2015
30. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – December 14, 2015
31. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting – December 17, 2015
32. Approval of the Minutes for the Finance Facility Committee/Regular Board Meeting – January 11, 2016



33. Approval of the Minutes for the Finance Facility Committee/Special Board Meeting – January 25, 2016
34. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting – February 1, 2016
35. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – February 16, 2016
36. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – March 7, 2016
37. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting – May 16, 2016

Mr. Rivera stated I motion to approve all items under consent agenda if there are no questions.

Motion made by Rambaldo “Ram” Rivera, second by Consuelo De la Rosa. Motion passed unanimously.

The board president asked for a motion to go into executive session.

Motion made by Noe Aleman, second by Oralia “Lala” Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

Board President announced it is now 7:24p.m. the board of trustees are now in executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 to:
 - 1) Discussion with School Attorney on Item(s) Exempted under Attorney-Client Privilege
- B. Section 551.072—Deliberation Regarding Real Property
- C. Section 551.073—Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift
- D. Section 551.074—Personnel Matters
 - 1) Discuss all items as appropriate on Superintendent’s personnel recommendations
- E. Section 551.076 – Deliberations on Security Devices or Security Audits
- F. Section 551.082—School Children; School District Employees; Disciplinary Matters or Complaint
- G. Section 551.0821—Personally Identifiable Information about Public School Student



RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

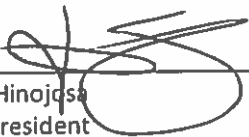
The regular board meeting was reconvened at 7:43p.m.

1. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in Executive Session
 - a) Discussion and possible action on recommendations on all items as appropriate on Superintendent's recommendations

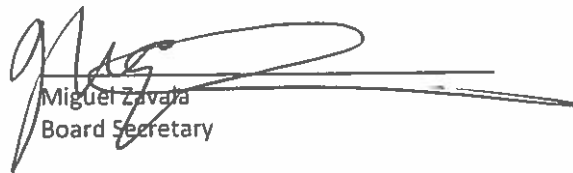
ADJOURNMENT

The regular board meeting was adjourned at 7:44p.m.

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on Friday, November 4, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.



Adolfo Hinojosa
Board President



Miguel Zavala
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 seventy-two (72) hours 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.

Maria J. Chavez, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Adolfo Hinojosa, President

Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, Vice-President

Miguel Zavala, Secretary

Noé Alemán, Member

Consuelo De La Rosa, Member

Belinda Lugo, Member

Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., Member

