

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
October 13, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District was held virtually on October 13, 2020 with a closed session at 5:30 p.m. and an open session immediately following.

Members present: Lopez, Garvin, Karamitsos, Perez, Palera

**OPEN SESSION**

Ms. Lopez called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There were no public comments for closed session. The meeting was immediately adjourned to closed session.

**ANNOUNCE CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS – Antonio Garcia, Superintendent**

Ms. Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and led the Flag Salute.

Mr. Garcia announced the closed session actions. All personnel actions were unanimously approved as submitted.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Distance Learning Update**

Mr. Garcia began the presentation. He shared considerations for reopening: Santa Barbara County data/tier, local data, student learning progress, stakeholder input, COVID-19 testing, risk of an outbreak, transition challenges, and shared information from neighboring K-8 districts.

Mr. Davis discussed the teacher and student survey data. The parent survey is live now and will close on October 19. The focus is their preference of instruction model upon return to in-person and the timeline for the transition.

He discussed the Distance Learning Improvement Plan for Student Support which includes: outreach efforts, grading practices, use of Flex Monday and Office Hours, instructional “Dead Week”, increased focus on tutoring; emphasis on best remote-learning practices, and wellness support.

Other information shared was Small Group Instruction plans, teacher support, and staff wellness support.

Mr. Platt gave information on COVID-19 surveillance testing: Test all staff every two months (50% of staff every month), staff will have the option of testing at home or on site. The at-home testing availability begins this week and on-site testing begins November 2.

Mr. Garcia said considerations include: state tier system, local data, risk of an outbreak, testing capacity and efficiency, transition challenges, neighboring K-8 districts, student learning progress, and staff, student, and parent input.

Next steps are: initiate formal Improvement Plan, launch small group services at all sites, next progress report grades are on October 30, and plan for potential January return in hybrid model.

Administration will continue to bring monthly reports to the Board and the Community.

The Board thanked them for the report. Comments included:

- Recommended that the Marriage and Family Therapist be bilingual.
- Concern about the progress grades.
- Surveys gave great insight.
- Right decision to stay in virtual learning at this time.
- Reset week is a good idea.
- We need to be smart and safe and prepared.
- Amount of stress correlates with the failures.
- Academics are hugely important but we need to address the wellness piece.

### **Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley**

Mr. Davis introduced Edwin Weaver, Executive Director FBSMV. Mr. Weaver showed a presentation and explained how FBSMV serves the Santa Maria Joint Union High School students and the community.

Key strategy points are: Resilience, Restoration, Reduction, Resources, and Relationships. FBSMV uses the Community Resiliency Model that help the impact of trauma and chronic stress on the nervous system. They use the Restorative Approach to provide Conflict Mediation. The focus of the program is to strengthen school safety, reduce daytime juvenile arrests and promote completion of the K-12 education.

FBSMV's Foundations for Success Program assists 96 foster students. The Students in Transition Program provides support to homeless families. They have earned grants to help with several programs including Youth Substance Abuse prevention, DUI Awareness Program, Tobacco Use Prevention, STD Prevention and Education, and Youth Advocacy. They also offer several classes: Parenting classes, Youth Development classes, and Strengthening Families classes. It is all about relationships.

Foster students are identified through databases (CalPads and Foster Focus (CWS and State Education System)). Homeless students are being followed from the feeder districts or FBSMV staff are notified by counselors or teachers. They are getting a lot of referrals.

FBSMV staff are on campuses and have been working with students and staff. They have been assisting administration by doing home visits or checking in with them.

Data from FBSMV is given to the district each month. It will be shared with the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Weaver for the presentation.

## **REPORTS**

### **Student Reports**

Karlee Cullen/ERHS: She shared current senior concerns, reopening concerns, and the events in progress to keep up student morale. Students are missing the personal interaction. They are feeling overwhelmed due to distance learning. Senior class of 2021 is concerned because they are going to be missing out on senior activities (Prom, Gradnite, Grad Week, etc.) and are feeling emotional. They are wondering when school will reopen. ASB is hosting several events to keep up student morale (awards, virtual awareness campaigns, and virtual rallies).

Janeyri Antonio/SMHS: Student Council is holding meetings every Monday at noon and approving fundraising forms. They will be holding a "Virtual Spirit Week" for two weeks so all students can participate. Clubs are becoming more active. Senior counselors hosted a successful drive-through event for college eligible students.

Carlos Rivas/PVHS: He shared that many peers and students voiced their concerns on how some teachers are putting out too much work. They are seeing campaigns for Stay at Home-coming. Students will be voting on Wednesday and Thursday and winners will be crowned on Friday. They have switched to having royalty instead of queen and king positions.

Ashley Fuerte/Delta: Delta hosted a Zoom Back to School Night. Although distance learning is difficult, our teachers are trying their best. Teachers are making YouTube videos for each lesson so students can watch it as many times as necessary. Independent Study teachers are now located at Delta. Element Church has provided them use of their storage shed to keep supplies. The "Blessing in our Backpack" program provides meals for students. A former student is speaking at the Youth Empowerment Summit this month.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Garcia thanked the student board representatives.

He started with sad news about the passing of a PVHS ninth grade student, Jonathan (Johnny) Barrueta. His name was released by the press after a tragic drowning accident at Lake Nacimiento. Ms. Herrera and her staff have been in contact with the family for support. Mr. Garcia personally spoke with his mother to offer condolences. His regards go out to the community, staff, friends, and acquaintances of Johnny.

He has had the opportunity to visit the school sites several times. He is impressed with staff finding innovative ways to engage students inside and outside of the classroom. He gave a few examples:

- Campus supervisors that have made hundreds of home visits.
- Teachers that have effectively engaged moderate and severely handicapped students.
- Counselors that have coordinated peer-tutoring programs and drive-through events for college bound students.
- Site administrators making phone calls home to students.
- Club and student organization advisors engaging students outside of the classroom.
- Coaches and AD's coordinating conditioning after school every day.
- Food Service workers supplying food on a daily basis.

He is grateful for site and district employees that are continuing to serve our community.

### **Board Member Reports**

Mr. Palera: He thanked the principals for his campus visits. They discussed the progress reports and we will work at doing better. It was nice to see that they are coming up with ideas to see what they can do to get kids engaged. He went into some teacher classrooms. It has to be tiring to be on the computer all day long and trying to engage the students. He spoke about technological challenges. We are getting more hotspots out if necessary. He described a few of how some of the home visits went for staff. The students are dealing with a lot of stress at home. Some sort of leniency has to be given for virtual learning. We can't go by what we used to do but what we are currently doing. These students will continue to be our students and we need to keep them engaged. All of the teachers are trying hard and they want to get the students engaged. Admin and classified staff are working hard, it is a team effort. He went to the Pumpkin Patch, which is ran by students. It is amazing to see the students work and keep safety protocols in place.

Ms. Perez: She echoed what Mr. Garcia said in his report. She appreciates what everyone is doing to make it better for our students. She is scheduled to go out to the school sites and is interested in seeing it for herself. Thanked everyone for their support.

Dr. Karamitsos: She is planning to visit the schools in November. She is missing the physical contact as a board member. She appreciates all the efforts. It is clear to her that people are trying to move forward.

Dr. Garvin: He is experiencing what students experience (unstable Internet). He has been on and off during this meeting and moved around the house and then had to go on his telephone. He appreciates all the school events and the media coverage from Kenny Klein. This is the most difficult thing he has seen since he has been in education (which has been a long time). The district is looking at a Hybrid model. He really wants everyone to try to stay positive with this. Many universities and colleges are doing the same thing we are doing (distance learning). This is going on all over the country. He knows it is hard but we have to try to stay positive. He quoted one of his favorite CBS commentators, "Test negative, stay positive."

Ms. Lopez: She appreciates all the comments from the board members and Mr. Garcia. She also appreciates the feedback from the students. She encouraged parents to complete the survey. She also wants to hear from classified. She would like to see a survey for them. This is not easy. It is clearly unprecedented and is constantly changing. She spoke with lots of parents, including one at work. His students usually do extremely well but they are struggling. He gives the schools an “A”. The school and faculty has been very responsive – it is just the situation his students are in. It is a tough situation to be in. She acknowledged the effort the schools are putting in. It’s not because of a lack of effort. She hopes we continue to focus on overall wellness. A lot of repeat descriptive terms and words are “emotional, overwhelmed, anxious, and stressed-out”. Hearing those words in student reports and within the survey are concerning. The overall mental wellness is a concern we need to properly address. She would like to consider that conversation and get feedback. COVID is its own animal and there are a lot of factors that are contributing. There is still trauma and violence outside of schools. Adding that onto the layers of COVID and distance learning makes it a scary time.

## **ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION**

### **GENERAL**

#### **Approval of Support for Proposition 15, Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative (The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020) - Resolution Number 7-2020-2021**

Public comments were submitted by the following people from Future Leaders of America in support of Proposition 15: Daniel Alvarez, Jessica Rodriguez, Graciela Lopez, Daniel Gonzalez, Noemy Padron, Maria Mendez, Maria Reyes, Marlen Gonzalez, Alondra Quintanilla, and Angel Lopez. The comments were read before the agenda item.

**Summary of Proposition 15:** Proposition 15 would amend the State Constitution to require commercial and industrial properties, except those zoned as commercial agriculture, to be taxed based on their market value. In California, the proposal to assess taxes on commercial and industrial properties at market value, while continuing to assess taxes on residential properties based on the purchase price, is known as *split roll*. The change from the purchase price to market value would be phased-in beginning in the fiscal year 2022-2023. Properties, such as retail centers, whose occupants are 50 percent or more small businesses would be taxed based on market value beginning in the fiscal year 2025-2026 (or at a later date that the legislature decides on).

The ballot initiative would make an exception for properties whose business owners have \$3.00 million or less in holdings in California; these properties would continue to be taxed based on their purchase price.

A motion was made by Ms. Perez and seconded by Dr. Karamitsos to approve Resolution Number 7-2020-2021 supporting Proposition 15. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-1. Mr. Palera voted no.

A roll call vote was required:

Ms. Lopez	Yes
Dr. Garvin	Yes
Dr. Karamitsos	Yes
Ms. Perez	Yes
Mr. Palera	No

**Recognizing with great appreciation the District Employee Frontline Workers for their extraordinary efforts during this COVID-19 Global Pandemic – Resolution Number 8-2020-2021**

Resolution Number 8-2020-2021 recognizes with great appreciation the District Employee Frontline Workers for their extraordinary efforts during this COVID-19 Global Pandemic. From the food service workers, to the IT staff, to the teachers and more, all those who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to help students, families, and each other in trying to serve the community at the highest level possible.

A motion was made by Dr. Garvin and seconded by Ms. Perez to approve Resolution Number 8-2020-2021 as presented. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.

A roll call vote was required:

Ms. Lopez	Yes
Dr. Garvin	Yes
Dr. Karamitsos	Yes
Ms. Perez	Yes
Mr. Palera	Yes

**INSTRUCTION**

**Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints**

Pursuant to Education Code Section 35186, the governing board of a school district must conduct a public hearing to report the quarterly report that was submitted in October 2020 on the Williams Uniform Complaints for the months of July- September 2020. Each school site has reported that there have been no complaints in the general subject areas of Text-books and Instructional Materials, Teacher Vacancy or Misassignments, Facilities Conditions or Valenzuela/CAHSEE Intensive Instruction and Services.

A public hearing was required. The public hearing was opened. There were no public comments submitted for the item. The public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Dr. Garvin and seconded by Ms. Perez to approve the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints as presented. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.

Roll call vote:

Ms. Lopez	Yes
Dr. Garvin	Yes
Dr. Karamitsos	Yes
Ms. Perez	Yes
Mr. Palera	Yes

**BUSINESS**

**Resolution Supporting the Extension of Union Valley Parkway to the East and Connection to Rodeo Drive to Provide Secondary Access to the new CTE-Ag Farm School Facility – Resolution Number 9-2020-2021**

The County of Santa Barbara has approached the District to support the extension of Union Valley Parkway to the East and connection to Rodeo Drive to provide secondary access to the new Career Technical Education (CTE) and Agriculture Farm Center (Ag Farm) located at 1280 Founders Avenue, Santa Maria, CA 93455.

Resolution Number 9-2020-2021 declares the district’s support of the project.

A motion was made by Dr. Garvin and seconded by Ms. Perez to approve Resolution Number 9-2020-2021 supporting the extension of Union Valley Parkway to the East and connection to Rodeo Drive to provide secondary access to the CTE-Ag Farm School Facility. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.

A roll call vote was required:

Ms. Lopez	Yes
Dr. Garvin	Yes
Dr. Karamitsos	Yes
Ms. Perez	Yes
Mr. Palera	Yes

**CONSENT ITEMS**

A motion was made by Dr. Garvin and seconded by Dr. Karamitsos to approve all consent items as presented. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.

Roll call vote:

Ms. Lopez	Yes
Dr. Garvin	Yes
Dr. Karamitsos	Yes
Ms. Perez	Yes
Mr. Palera	Yes

A. Approval of Minutes

Regular Board Meeting – September 8, 2020  
 Special Board Meeting – September 15, 2020

B. Approval of Warrants for the Month of September 2020

Payroll	\$8,653,076.81
Warrants	<u>4,994,347.67</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$13,647,424.48</u></b>

C. Facility Report – **Appendix B**

D. Obsolete Equipment – **Appendix C**

E. Approval of Contracts

COMPANY/ VENDOR	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	AMOUNT/ FUNDING	RESOURCE PERSON
Burnham Benefits	ACA Reporting Services Contract for Human Resources Department	\$18,000/ General Fund	Kevin Platt
Clever Prototypes, LLC (DBA Story- board That)	School License for Students	\$53,820/ Cares Act LMFF	John Davis
Formative	Virtual and In-Person Formative Subscription and Training	\$47,427/ Cares Act LMFF	John Davis
Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services	Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Licensed Mar- riage Family Therapist	\$85,000/ Cares Act LLMF	John Davis
Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services	Speech and Language Pathologist	\$105,000/ Special Ed Funding	John Davis



- F. Authorization to Utilize Region 4 ESC/OMNIA Partners – The HON Company, LLC for District-wide Purchases of Furniture, and Installation for the length of the Contract through April 30, 2023

Section 10299 of the Public Contract Code provides an alternative for obtaining supplies, furniture, and equipment, whereby notwithstanding Section 20111 and 20112 of the Public Contract Code, “school districts may, without competitive bidding, utilize contracts, master agreements, multiple award schedules... established by the department [DGS] for the acquisition of information technology, goods, and services.” Section 10299 further authorizes state and local agencies to “contract with suppliers awarded the contracts without further competitive bidding.” The district administration recommends that district-wide purchases of furniture and installation be made utilizing the provisions of the Public Contract Code that allow purchasing from Region 4 ESC/OMNIA Partners Contract – The HON Company, LLC – Contract #R191804 through April 30, 2023.

- G. Notice of Completion

The following project was substantially completed on June 5, 2020. In order to file the necessary Notice of Completion forms with the County of Santa Barbara, the Acceptance of Substantial Completion needs to be formally accepted by the Board of Education.

- 1) CTE/Ag Farm – GSW Water Improvement Installation, Project #11-102.2 with R. Baker, (Contractor)

- H. Purchase Orders

PO #	Vendor	Amount	Description/Funding
PO21-00421	Dell Marketing LP	\$ 207,822.43	Dell 27 USB-C Monitors / Cares Act LLMF

- I. Acceptance of Gifts

<b>Righetti High School</b>		
<u>Donor</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>
California FBLA	FBLA	318.75
<b>Total Righetti High School</b>		<b><u>\$318.75</u></b>
<b>Santa Maria High School</b>		
<u>Donor</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>
California FBLA	FBLA	\$318.75
VIVID Financial Management, Inc	Girls Golf	\$1,500.00
<b>Total Santa Maria High School</b>		<b><u>\$1,818.75</u></b>
<b>Delta High School</b>		
<u>Donor</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Local Marian Physician and Wife	Delta High School	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Delta High School</b>		<b><u>\$5,000.00</u></b>

**REPORTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS**

Matt Provost: He spoke about teaching online, progress reports, student emotional and physical well-being and returning to the classroom. Teachers have made many changes and will take everything into consideration while they continue to do what is best for our students. Other schools are returning to the classroom. He asked about a date for coming back to the classroom.

Tami Contreras: She thanked the board members that acknowledged the concern for classified employees and for wanting to get data from the classified staff. It is very stressful for everyone. Our classified staff has continued to be amazing and has been there since day one.

**OPEN SESSION PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments other than those submitted for agenda item #1. The speaker information is listed under that topic.

**FUTURE ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

- Classified Staff Survey

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Unless otherwise announced, the next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held November 10, 2020. Closed session begins at 5:30 p.m. Open session begins at 6:30 p.m. Meetings will be held via videoconference.

**FUTURE REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2020**

December 15, 2020

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.