

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
March 31, 2020**

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District was held on March 31, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. through a webinar on Zoom.com.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

Ms. Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and led the Flag Salute.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
Arnulfo Romero	Item #1/Coronavirus

**ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION**

**Approve Resolution Delegating Authority to Take Necessary Action to Protect Students and Staff from the Spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)– Resolution Number 14-2019-2020**

**Superintendent Report**

Mr. Garcia provided context to the Resolution:

- Based on guidance from the Department of Public Health on the evolving threat of COVID-19
- And in collaboration w SBCEO and local district Superintendents
- On March 16 we closed our schools through April 3
- After the Governor’s recent Executive Order to stay-at-home, we extended the closure date until further notice.

Under the Department of Homeland Security guidelines, schools are included on the list of “critical federal infrastructure sectors.” This sets forth federal expectations for public schools to provide essential services, such as

- school meals
- offering distance learning
- continuing to pay employees
- and ensuring the support needed to maintain these services.

He thanked all staff – classified, certificated, and management – who during this unprecedented, growing health crisis in our country, continue to meet the essential needs of our students, families, and fellow colleagues. He is grateful to our employee union leadership - of Faculty Association and CSEA - for staying focused on the learning and well-being of our students, while rightfully representing the rights of our employees.

He also thanked our students and their families for their adaptability and patience during these challenging times. The entire community has been impacted in many ways.

During this time, while our schools continue to be closed until further notice, it is important to stay connected and informed. To this end, district and site administration, and staff are providing regular communication with students and families:

- in English and Spanish, and in Mixteco when possible.
- through phone calls, all-calls, text, e-mail, website, local TV and radio stations, and now Facebook.

Staff are holding regular internal briefing meetings and also externally with Santa Barbara County Education Office, Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Management, and key City officials.

We continue to provide walk-up and drive-thru pick-up lunch and breakfast meal service to all students from pre-Kinder to 12th grade, from 11 am to 1 pm every day at all three comprehensive high schools – Santa Maria, Pioneer Valley, and Ernest Righetti – as long as they remain closed. Students can also receive food at different schools in Santa Maria-Bonita School District, Orcutt, and Guadalupe, and at different foodbanks in our city.

Teachers are working remotely to provide instructional lessons and assignments for students through Canvas, Aeries, email, etc. Students are and should be checking their email and accounts on a daily basis, responding to their Teachers, and submitting completed assignments.

We are revising a plan for repair services of school-issued devices, including a hotline to address issues that can be resolved remotely. More information will be coming this week, as this is an area of great need in our district.

Low-income families without internet, can contact Xfinity/Comcast for 60 days of free internet service.

The District has agreed to a request from the Emergency Operations Center to share the Santa Maria High School gym as a temporary satellite homeless shelter to ease the impact on a nearby homeless facility. School staff is not involved. County Probation and private security are responsible for 24/7 monitoring of the shelter.

While our district and school offices are closed to the public until further notice, students and parents may still contact us by phone (or email), leave a message, and someone will return the phone call in a timely manner.

As this outbreak continues to unfold, decisions to reopen schools will come from State and County governmental authorities.

In the meantime, the state has cancelled all State Testing and is in discussions to decide on:

- Semester 2 Grades and Credits
- LCAP adoption process

How we will handle graduations is also to be determined locally.

We continue with:

- Hiring processes
- Budget development
- Planning for next year

To close his report, he acknowledged the state Holiday in memory of one of America's great icons and heroes, Mr. Cesar Chavez:

- A national labor leader, community organizer, and civil rights activist
- Born March 31, 1927, passed away April 23, 1993

He shared a fitting quote from Cesar Chavez:

*"From the depth of need and despair, people can work together, can organize themselves to solve their own problems and fill their own needs with dignity and strength."*

Mr. Garcia believes these words can guide us in our community now as much as ever as we work together to overcome our current conditions, and to help keep each other safe.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Mr. Palera said it is important to approve this resolution. We need to show that we back Mr. Garcia and he needs the flexibility to be able to make emergency decisions. He commended Mr. Garcia and the entire staff at the district. We do not know when it'll end. It has been great to see the leadership. He offers his full support.

Dr. Karamitsos agrees with Mr. Palera. She said the superintendent needs the flexibility in such a fluid situation. Mr. Garcia is keeping them informed. She thanked Mr. Palera for his comments.

Ms. Perez supports Mr. Garcia in moving forward for our schools and community. She is confident in the leaders and thanked everyone. She mentioned that her daughter is a student in the district and is receiving communication from her teachers and is receiving her home-work.

Ms. Lopez said we are in trying times and people are scared. It is good to know we have a district and staff that is committed to our students. She commended Mr. Garcia and his staff. She knows that Mr. Garcia is working daily with the Office of Emergency Management, area districts and local agencies.

Resolution Number 14-2019-2020 gives the Superintendent authorization to take any and all actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public education and the health and safety of District students and staff, including the authority to make decisions concerning the internal operations of the District and to close District programs and facilities in consultation with or at the direction of the county office of education and/or public health officials.

A motion was made by Mr. Palera and seconded by Dr. Karamitsos to approve Resolution Number 14-2019-2020. 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

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Unless otherwise announced, the next regular meeting will be held on April 7, 2020. Closed session begins at 5:30 p.m. Open session begins at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held via videoconference platform. The agenda will be posted on the district's website at [www.smjuhsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.smjuhsd.k12.ca.us).

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.