

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 7, 2021**

A special meeting of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Board of Education was held on October 7, 2021. Consistent with AB 361 and Government Code section 54953 this meeting was held remotely.

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

OPEN SESSION

Dr. Karamitsos called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Flag Salute was led by Dr. Karamitsos.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written public comment was submitted by:

NAME	SUBJECT
Erica Fajardo, James Ryan Rothford, Scott Goodman, Jullian, Hillary Reed, April Garcia,	AB 361

It was clarified Dr. Karamitsos is facilitating the meeting this evening as Dr. Garvin is out of town and unable to attend.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

GENERAL

Ms. Olson provided a brief overview of AB 361. Details included modifications under the Brown Act requirements to authorize local agencies to conduct public meetings remotely. Effective October 1st, AB 361 requires local agencies to make specific findings every thirty days to continue to meet under the abbreviated procedures. This law expires January 1, 2024. Several options are available such as in person with teleconferencing as needed, virtual or hybrid. General Brown Act teleconferencing requirements were displayed along with the new virtual board meeting requirements. This includes the opportunity to attend via call-in or internet-based service option and acceptance of comments in real time.

It was clarified this specific resolution is for thirty days and what constitutes a public meeting. Mr. Garcia shared data related to public participation since the district's board meetings started being live streamed in English, Spanish, and Mixteco. The YouTube views indicate public participation has increased in this mode.

Ms. Lopez noted public comment has been submitted at least sixty percent of the time since October 2019. This includes in person, hybrid, and the live-stream option. The district board room capacity has limited capacity versus unlimited if streamed via Zoom.

Mr. Palera stated the board has been as transparent but understands the frustration of people wanting to be in person. He asks the Superintendent look into the logistics of opening the board room while being conscientious of the capacity and safety of attendees.

Public comment is always welcome and appreciated. Having a thirty-day extension is a good time frame to evaluate how to safely gather the community in person or in a hybrid model.

Mr. Palera mentioned an error in the resolution. The noted September 30th date should state 2021, not 2020.

Approval of Resolution 15-2021-2022 Authorizing Use of Remote Teleconferencing Provisions Pursuant to AB 361 and Government Code section 54953 – Appendix A

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 into law, permitting public agencies to continue conducting meetings remotely in the following circumstances:

- A. There is a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or
- B. There is a proclaimed state of emergency, and the local agency’s meeting is for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or
- C. There is a proclaimed state of emergency, and the local agency has determined, by majority vote, that as a result of the emergency meeting in person would present an imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees.

A motion to approve with the correction of date September 30, 2020 to September 30, 2021 was made by Mr. Palera and seconded by Ms. Lopez to recommend the Board of Education adopt Resolution 15-2021-2022, to make a finding that the current circumstances meet the requirements of AB 361 and Government Code section 54953 for the SMJUHSD Board to conduct meetings remotely. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 4-0.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. Garvin	Absent
Dr. Karamitsos	Yes

<p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL MEETING October 7, 2021</p>
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Ms. Perez	Yes
Mr. Palera	Yes
Ms. Lopez	Yes

NEXT MEETING DATE

Unless otherwise announced, the next regular meeting will be held on October 12, 2021. Closed session begins at 5:30 p.m. Open session begins at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.