

**SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL MEETING
February 25, 2021**

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvP0f03ekQDsiYfv6OFfbfg>
Mixteco: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCviEi9hvcQI96poD0PDiSIA>
English: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvPYs34Im9h0dAwgfi-gDGg>

5:00 p.m. Closed Session/5:45 p.m. General Session

*The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District mission is,
“We prepare all learners to become productive citizens and college/career ready by
providing challenging learning experiences and establishing high expectations for achievement.”*

This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020. Consistent with these orders the Board room will not be open to the public for this meeting. Any or all Board members may attend the meeting by phone or videoconference platform. Archives of meetings are available on the District’s website at www.smjuhsd.k12.ca.us.

The District is committed to swiftly resolving any requests for reasonable modification or accommodation for individuals with disabilities who wish to observe the meeting, please contact Tammy Rhine at (805) 922-4573, extension 4202 by 12:00 p.m. on February 25, 2021.

I. OPEN SESSION

A. Call to Order

II. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Note: The Board will consider and may act upon any of the following items in closed session. They will report any action taken publicly at the end of the closed session as required by law.

- A. Conference with Labor Negotiators** – The Board will be provided a review of negotiations with the Faculty Association (California Teachers Association) and the California School Employees Association (CSEA).
- B. Conference with Legal Counsel regarding Anticipated Litigation** – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2): two matters.
- C. Potential Threat to Public Services or Facilities Pursuant to Government Code §54957(a)** – Consultation with District legal counsel

III. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

A. Call to Order/Flag Salute

IV. ANNOUNCE CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS – Mr. Garcia, Superintendent

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment for a special board meeting is limited to items on the agenda.

1. In writing: Submit your comment via email and list the agenda item page and number or reference if you wish to leave a public comment, **limited to 250 words or less**, to the Assistant to the Superintendent, Tammy Rhine, by 12:00 p.m. on February 25, 2021. The email address is SMJUHSD-Public-Comment@smjuhsd.org.

2. By phone: If you would like to make a comment by phone, please call 805-922-4573, extension 4202 and state your name and phone number. Someone will return your phone call to take your public comment over the phone. Request for addressing the Board by phone must be received by 12:00 p.m. on February 25, 2021. **Please note: The time limit to address the Board may not exceed two minutes.** The Board is not required to respond to the Public Comment.

VI. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

A. GENERAL

- 1. Consideration of Resolution 15-2020-2021 regarding the Temporary Amendment to Board Policies/Administrative Regulations Related to Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement and Graduation Requirements During the 2020-2021 School Year**

Resource Person: Antonio Garcia, Superintendent; John Davis, Assistant Sup't of Curriculum and Instruction

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a once in a generation crisis, unprecedented student and family needs, and responsibilities have changed for many students during these uncertain times. This has created difficulty for some students to focus on distance learning. Tonight's resolution provides some tools to help assist those students by providing some flexibility in grading and graduation requirements.

*** **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT** the Board of Education approve Resolution Number 15-2020-2021 as presented.

Moved _____ **Second** _____

Roll Call Vote:

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

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION 15-2020-2021

**TEMPORARY AMENDMENT TO BOARD
POLICIES/ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS RELATED TO
GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
DURING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a statewide emergency arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, effective March 16, 2020, all District school sites were closed to in-person instruction in order to maintain social distancing in an effort to minimize the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the District commenced providing instruction to students via distance learning, which is defined as instruction in which the student and teacher are in different locations;

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Board adopted Emergency Resolution Number 14-2019-2020 delegating authority to take necessary action to protect students and staff from the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, the District reopened for the 2020-2021 school year in distance learning and has continued to offer distance learning throughout the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a once-in-a-generation crisis, unprecedented student and family needs, and responsibilities have changed for many students during these uncertain times creating difficulty for students trying to focus on

distance learning and resulting in mid-year grades that may not accurately reflect a student's level of mastery of academic content;

WHEREAS, there is a likelihood of inequities being exacerbated during distance learning;

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education, in its guidance documents, has recognized and encouraged flexibility in grading during COVID-19 school closures, including the concepts of: replace grading quantities, like the extent to which students have completed assignments, with grading qualities in student work that reflect students' current achievement level at the time of the report; use of flexibility in timing the collection of evidence for grading decisions so students are graded on the learning they do, not when they do it; use of multiple measures and performance assessments to allow students to show mastery; valuing knowledge over environment or behavior; and supporting a growth mindset;

WHEREAS, the California State University and University of California systems utilize a practice of validating certain courses based on second semester grades earned, for purposes of satisfying A-G requirements for admission, which can serve as a model for the District;

WHEREAS, in light of the extraordinary circumstances and hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board believes that establishing an interim grading policy for the 2020-2021 school year that replaces first semester grades with second semester grades in year-long courses where such grades are higher would (1) further tenets of equity and learning loss mitigation; (2) result in grades that more accurately reflect a student's level of mastery of academic content; and (3) be in the best interests of students and families;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Code section 49066, except in specific circumstances, teachers retain the ability to assign students final grades;

WHEREAS, it is also anticipated that some 12th grade students scheduled to graduate from District schools in 2021 will be unable to complete the number of credits required by District Board Policy 6146.1 as a direct result of COVID-19 and the resulting school closures, stay-at-home orders, and in some cases, illness or other hardship, although State graduation requirements will have been met;

WHEREAS, the current credits required by Board Policy 6141.6 exceed the minimum standards required by the Education Code;

WHEREAS, approval of this Resolution would modify credit requirements for certain 12th grade students of the District determined by the Superintendent or designee to have met State graduation requirements but who are unable to complete the additional District-established credit requirements as a direct result of hardship created by the COVID-19 emergency;

WHEREAS, in its current form Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement narrowly defines how students can receive an incomplete grade and the manner in which they can remove the incomplete;

WHEREAS, the use of the “incomplete” to allow students to use extended time to complete specific learning tasks and “no mark” in courses that are significantly incomplete and will need to be recovered are another additional tool teachers can utilize in helping students to succeed in this difficult environment;

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 14, of the California Constitution declares that “[t]he Legislature may authorize the governing boards of all school districts to initiate and carry on any programs, activities, or to otherwise act in any manner which is not in conflict with the laws and purposes for which school districts are established”;

WHEREAS, Education Code sections 35160 and 35160.1 endow school districts and their governing boards with broad authority and wide discretion in initiating and carrying on programs and activities and otherwise creating unique solutions to meet their diverse needs;

WHEREAS, Education Code section 49067 grants the governing board of school districts authority to set policy relative to student grades, providing that “[t]he governing board of each school district shall prescribe regulations requiring the evaluation of each pupil’s achievement for each marking period....”;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the broad grant of authority under Education Code section 49067, the Board has adopted Board Policy 5121 and Administrative Regulation 5121 to establish the District’s grading system;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Board Bylaws 9000 and 9310, the Board may adopt, evaluate, and update policies, bylaws, and administrative regulations consistent with the law and the District’s visions and goals;

WHEREAS, in accordance with its broad grant of constitutional and statutory authority, and as provided under Board Bylaws 9000 and 9310, the Board is authorized to revise or suspend the current grading system as provided by Board Policy 5121 and Administrative Regulation 5121 and to implement an alternative grading system during school closures caused by COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Superintendent will temporarily modify the standards for the grading and evaluation of student work as follows:

TEMPORARY GRADE VALIDATION POLICY

- A. The Board hereby establishes the following interim grading policy for the 2020-2021 school year for all year-long courses taken by students to fulfill high school graduation requirements:

- i. At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, first semester grades shall be replaced with second semester grades if second semester grades are higher. However, teachers continue to retain the ability to assign students' grades and have the discretion to retain the given first semester grade as determined by the teacher.
- ii. To the extent this interim grading policy conflicts with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5121 on grading, the terms of this interim policy shall control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED

TEMPORARY MODIFICATION OF CREDIT REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS

- A. 12th grade students of the District who have met State graduation requirements, but who are unable to complete the full number of credits required by Board Policy 6146.1 as a direct result of hardship created by the COVID-19 emergency, as specifically determined by the Superintendent or designee, shall be deemed to have satisfied graduation requirements of the District if they have completed the minimum standards required by the Education Code.
- B. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent or designee to determine, on a case-by-case basis, and on recommendation of school site administration, which District students satisfy the specific conditions set forth in this Resolution and therefore qualify for graduation in 2021 based on a modified credit requirement.
- C. To the extent this interim grading policy conflicts with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6146.1 regarding graduation requirements, the terms of this interim policy shall control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED

INCOMPLETE AND NO MARK DESIGNATION

- A. The Board hereby authorizes the use of the "incomplete" to allow students to use extended time to complete specific learning tasks and "no mark" in courses that are significantly incomplete and will need to be recovered, or do not contribute to a student's A-G status and can be applied so as to not affect the student's overall grade point average.
- B. To the extent this interim policy conflicts with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5121 on grading, the terms of this interim policy shall control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board waives the second reading of the above-referenced Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, so as to make the revisions effective immediately upon approval of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Superintendent shall have the authority to take any action in furtherance of the authority delegated herein, including, but not limited to, notifying employees, students, and the community of the revised grading policy and to initiate the procedure to obtain any waiver from the State of California consistent with the intent of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that, should any portion of this Resolution be held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, County of Santa Barbara, State of California on February 25, 2021.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTION:

ABSENT:

Jack Garvin Ed.D, President
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Dr. Carol Karamitsos, Clerk
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
Board of Trustees

VII. FUTURE ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Unless otherwise announced, the next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held March 9, 2021. Closed session begins at 5:30 p.m. Open session begins at 6:30 p.m. Meetings will be held via videoconference.

IX. FUTURE REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2021

April 13, 2021
May 11, 2021
June 8, 2021

June 15, 2021
July 13, 2021
August 3, 2021
September 14, 2021

October 12, 2021
November 9, 2021
December 14, 2021

X. ADJOURN