

## **January 2024 Board Meeting**

*Meeting Location: Whitehorse High School/Virtual*

*Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024*

### **Members present**

Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, \*Nan Barton (*\*attended virtually*)

### **Others present**

Superintendent Christine Fitzgerald, Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton, Human Resources Director Laura Palmer, Aaron Brewer, Shannon Dewsnup, Rob Henderson, Julie Holt, Trevor Olsen, Kim Schaefer, Brenda Whitehorse, Derek Begay, IEC Chair Julie Sampson, IEC Vice Chair Don Mose, IEC Secretary Julie Denny, IEC Member Maria Crank, Guest Mary Johnson (SHARP Survey Presenter), Logan Reid, Allyn Mitchell

**Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM**

## **A. Approval of Agenda**

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### **1. Approve Agenda**

#### ***Motion to Approve the Agenda.***

*Discussion: in future Spend Plan additions, separate spend plans for first and second readings*

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

## **B. SJ Quest Update**

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### **1. Spotlight Report- Blended Digital Learning - Christy Fitzgerald- 3 min**

Superintendent Fitzgerald highlighted Blended Digital Learning which occurs every month in schools. She commended the efforts in installation and training of the newly implemented Usonic digital learning boards in instructional spaces, which replaced the Smart Boards in classrooms, has been a big project. Monique McDermott, the technology team and the maintenance installation team are commended in their work on this upgrade. ESSER funds were utilized for this upgrade, and prior to this upgrade it had been approximately 15 years of usage from the Smart Boards; subsequently, the projector mechanism on the Smart Board became a few hundred dollars to replace for each Smart Board. Technology director Aaron Brewer noted

the technology for the Smart Board was fairly exclusive, while the useable programs for the Usonic boards are more versatile.

**C. Board Discussion Items** *(Note, discussion items not discussed before 5PM break will be discussed later in the agenda at the board's discretion)*

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**1. SHARP Survey - Mary Johnston - 15 min**

Trevor Olsen introduced Mary Johnson (project manager for Utah SHARP survey); Ms. Johnson stated that the SHARP survey is funded by Ut Dept of HHS, with the intention to collect proper local-level data to make informed decisions for communities. Surveys are anonymous and are useful for many entities including school district groups associated with student mental and physical health needs. This survey is an "opt-in consent" survey at every level. Last year 377 students took the survey in SJSD, noting Trevor's efforts in encouraging participation from parents and students. 25% of the surveys submitted were from Native American students. SHARP teams prepare and present pertinent data to the Navajo Nation this year as well. Nelson Yellowman inquired regarding Ute Tribal student data. Merri Shumway requests the board receive the consent form from SHARP so they may view what the parents are viewing.

**2. NYCP Youth Leadership - Annual Conference Travel Request - Brenda Whitehorse - 5 min**

Bilingual Education Director Brenda Whitehorse presented the travel request for students to travel to the NYCP Youth Leadership Conference in Phoenix, along with an agenda and travel itinerary. She noted that the leadership students are also scheduled for a presentation on kinship at the conference. Board Member Colleen Benally noted that she attended last year and noticed some students did not fully engage in breakout sessions, and encouraged group chaperones to emphasize the privilege it is to attend and their continued permission relies on their participation at all events.

**3. Spend Plans 2023-24 - MHS Girls' Golf 1st public viewing & MHS Boys' Golf 2nd public viewing; SJH Girls' Golf 2nd public viewing & SJH Boys' Golf 2nd Public Viewing - Julie Holt - 5 min**

Second reading for MHS Girls' Golf, MHS Boys' Golf SJH Girls' Golf, SJH Boys' Golf; Spend plans are included in the Consent Agenda later in this meeting for final approval following this second reading.

**4. Spend Plans 2023-24 - ARL Math Club, 2nd public viewing; - Julie Holt - 5 min**

2nd reading for this spend plan; ARL Math Club is included in the Consent Agenda for final approval later in this meeting following this second reading.



## **5. Targeted School Improvement Update - Shannon Dewsnap - 5 min**

Shannon Dewsnap shared information from the State Office of Education regarding CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement), TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement), and ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement).

Ms. Dewsnap shared that Albert R. Lyman Middle School English Language Learning student group and Blanding Elementary School Students with Disabilities student group both exited from ATSI. Further, Bluff Elementary, Monument Valley High School and Whitehorse High School all entered TSI in various student group in the 2023 school year.

## **6. SJSD Policy 6130 Tuition, Fees, Fines, and Charges - 1st viewing - Tyrel Pemberton - 3 min.**

SJSD Policy 6130 was presented to the board for a First Reading. Policy Committee submitted the revised policy, with eliminating duplicate language and some small adjustments, some formatting changes, but no other substantial contents changes.

Board Member Merri Shumway inquired regarding out of state students and funding for students who do not qualify for state funding. She requests numbers, schools attending and demographic data on students who are out of state but attending a SJSD school.

## **7. BES Follow-up - Tyrel Pemberton - 5 min**

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton shared that on January 11, 2023 the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved San Juan School District's application for assistance in funding. The application was submitted as request for one-time funding from HB475; SJSD is scheduled to receive \$20,000,000.00 in funding from USBE to aid in capital projects, specifically Blanding Elementary School. SJSD applied for assistance with three Blanding Elementary construction project, Entry Security projects in three schools, and Transportation upgrades. Mr. Pemberton shared a letter drafted in gratitude to USBE, State Agencies and Legislative Partners with the request of board review and potential approval for submission to applicable parties.

Mr. Pemberton and Superintendent Fitzgerald noted that a Public Information meeting was held at San Juan High School this past week in regard to the construction projects for Blanding Elementary School; they also noted that in the spirit of continuing community input, a survey has been published on the [www.sjds.org](http://www.sjds.org) homepage for further comments to be collected.

## **8. Proposed 2024-25 Fee Waiver & Spend Plans/Program Sustainability Fees & Policies 6130 Students, Tuition, Fees and Fines & 1145 Relations with the Public and Fundraising and Donations - Discussion- Christine Fitzgerald - 5 min**

The board reviewed the proposed spend plan for a first reading. Superintendent Fitzgerald noted two main changes on the Fee Schedule, including National Competitions added and an increased

option for lodging for State Competitions. She also reminded the board that alternative funding such as grants are not calculated into spend plans. Board Member Colleen Benally suggested considering increase in meal allotments due to rising costs in food. Board Member Steve Black noted that inflation in the past year has increased approximately 3%. Board Member Merri Shumway reiterated the need for training regarding door to door fundraising and fundraising proposals from marketing companies. This item will return for discussion for the February and March board meetings before being considered for approval.

## **9. Board Meeting Time Discussion - Christine Fitzgerald - 15 min**

The Board discussed possible meeting time to a later time. Board Member Merri Shumway led the discussion stating that school just releases at 3:00 pm, district employees are generally off at 4:00 pm and many stakeholders work and these constituents may be more apt to attend if the board members would consider starting the meeting later in the evening, her recommendation is 6:00 pm. She suggested a survey be sent out to inquire if this is favorable to the community.

Board member Nelson Yellowman noted that some districts split the work session and board meetings to allow for comment and disclosure prior to action taken. He also noted that since the pandemic schedule, he has needed to travel more to attend in person meetings, and prefers to attend in-person. Finally, he noted that we are also on Zoom and transparent to the public via access anywhere. Board member Colleen Benally discussed the complications regarding safety and later travel, family and school evening activities that may interfere with a later schedule. Board member Nan Barton noted that there are many school activities that families and school representatives attend in the evening that would conflict with a later Board Meeting start time. Board Member Steve Black noted that delaying the start of board meeting would push the meeting much later than favorable. Board member Merri Shumway shared that some board meetings can hold two public comment portions, with one happening prior to Work Session, and one following Work Session prior to Action Items.

Board members shared their decision regarding if this discussion should continue, it was voted that this item will not return for further discussion and the time of board meeting would remain starting at 3:00 pm.

## **10. USBA Annual Conference Share: Christine Fitzgerald - 5 min**

Superintendent Fitzgerald led the discussion opportunity for all board members to share highlights from the Annual USBA Conference held in January.

## **D. School/Director - Board Reflection Opportunity 4:00 p.m.**

### **1. Report- Student Services - Trevor Olsen - 10 min**

Student Services Director Trevor Olsen shared the goals, celebrations and challenges of the Student Services Department. The department goals include increasing access to community resources, despite funding decreases; increasing access to mental health counseling resources,

with stakeholder feedback showing that mental health concerns are a top current issue in San Juan county; and increasing school engagement with communities and families.

Challenges include: increasing needs with decreasing funding, limited space in schools for appropriate servicing, increased concerns with behavior and attendance, increased physical supports to students (food, shelter, etc.), safety concerns, need for increased technology offerings, and increasing numbers in students defined homeless according to McKinney Vento.

Celebrations include: the first student Hogan in Blanding to be built at Canyonlands Youth Center, Navajo Wellness Model being implemented via coordination with Utah Navajo Health System, increased access to Mental Health Counseling and Wellness, virtual counseling available for educators, traditional Navajo Peacemaking/NYCP, Heritage Language Conference celebrates 30 years and Student Services celebrates 30 years!

## **2. Report- Indian Education Committee (IEC) Director - Brenda Whitehorse - 10 min**

Bilingual Education Director Brenda Whitehorse and the IEC Chair (Julie Sampson), Vice Chair (Don Mose), Secretary (Julie Denny) and member (Mana Crank) shared an overview of the Johnson O'Malley Indian Education Committee responsibilities and purpose. They shared general committee meeting dates and deadlines for funding requests. The team shared the ways that the IEC team supports teachers, students and families.

E. Break - @ 5:00 p.m.

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F. Welcome and Recognition of Guests - 6:00 p.m.

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G. SJ-2 Recognition Awards

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**1. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Valerie Harvey**

**2. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Nellie Tohtsonie**

H. Citizen Comments

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### **1. Citizens' Comments**

Georgiana Simpson (faculty at Whitehorse High School) commented that she is looking forward with assisting cultivating teacher leadership positions and coordinating teacher leadership compensation. She also commented that the school is the center of the community and needs to be upgraded on the exterior to bring pride to the image of the school. Finally, she offered student artwork to be displayed in the District Office.

Rowena Littlehat (parent, staff) further reiterated Ms. Simpson's comments regarding the lack of WHS building exterior appearance. She stated that she has had many comments from other faculty, staff and community stakeholders regarding the building exterior. She also commented regarding need for more cultural needs and opportunities in the school, increased emotional support for students, and increased meal fee to allow for students to eat better when on school trips.

Email from Rene McDonald (parent, staff) requests larger school for proposed Blanding Elementary School. She stated that school environment and adequate space can positively and student mental and physical health, safety and growth.

## **I. Closed Session** *(At Board Discretion, Closed Session may be Moved)*

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### **1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property**

### **2. Litigation**

### **3. Personnel** *(7:15 p.m. – 8:12 p.m.)*

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Steve Black.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shurnway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

## **J. Consent Agenda**

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### **1. Minutes**

### **2. Revenue Reports**

### **3. Expenditure Reports**

### **4. School Expenditure Reports**

### **5. Personnel Report(s) and Information**

### **6. Monthly Checks**

### **7. Board Travel Reports**

### **8. Home School Requests**

### **9. Student Hearings**

### **10. School Land Trust Amendments**

### **11. SJSD Revised School Spend Plans**

### **12. Winter 2023 Activity Reports and 150 Mile Forms**



### **13. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items**

#### *Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.*

Motion by Steve Black, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

### **K. Impact Aid - Native American Policy and Procedures - Public Hearing and Input - 6:15 p.m.**

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#### **1. Impact Aid Overview and Application Review - Tyrel Pemberton/Christine Fitzgerald- 10 min**

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton and Superintendent Fitzgerald shared an overview of the Impact Aid application process, final numbers and anticipated funding. Mr. Pemberton shared the procedures on distribution of received funds within the district budget once received.

#### **2. Native American Policy and Procedures Manual – Christine Fitzgerald – 5 min**

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared the updated Native American Policy and Procedures Manual (NAPP) for the incoming school year. She confirmed that the document has been presented and reviewed at the Tribal Consultations held with the Navajo Nation (November 2023) and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (January 2024) education and government leadership. She noted that it has also been mailed to the tribal chapters within the district.

The policy outlines the district's agreements and efforts regarding educational practices and procedures specifically associated to education for Native American Students, in alignment with Federal Impact Aid funding requirements.

#### **3. Public Comment Focused on SJSJ Impact Aid Application/Process**

Tara Benally inquired clarification regarding distribution of funds collected "in lieu of taxes" and how it is distributed within the district budget. Tyrel Pemberton clarified that both property tax and impact aid funds go into the general fund and is distributed equally across the board to support all students in the district. She further inquired about schools (Navajo Mountain) that seem to have limited resources, limited extracurriculars and limited clubs. Superintendent Fitzgerald noted that the limitations are not specifically due to funding, but also to school population and staffing, among other factors. Board President Lori Maughan suggested Ms. Benally view the participation data sheet for more details on the number of participants for each school. Lastly, Ms. Benally inquired as to the impact that funding from Impact Aid has on a

student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Superintendent Fitzgerald clarified that while Impact Aid funds go into the general fund, they are not directly connected to the IEP plan within the Special Ed Department. The IEP is a plan that is created by the teacher, student, parents and special education team; funding is given to the entire special education program. It was recommended that Ms. Benally discuss this concern specifically with the special education team in their school or at the district.

Board Member Nelson Yellowman clarified that the Impact Aid Funds and the Tax Revenue funds are two sources of money to into one pot, then it is combined and distributed to the districtwide needs for all students.

Principal Schaefer shared information regarding after-school bus services for students who wish to participate in afterschool activities, and requests consideration for late busses for students' needs who are not currently met in the current bus schedule. She noted that she appreciates the Zoom technology link for board meeting attendance.

Martina Maryboy (parent) stated that she appreciates the 3:00 pm board meeting start time, as it is more convenient for her; she also supports the increase in fee waiver meal funds to students (suggested \$15-\$20); she supports the need for school upgrades and beautification. Ms. Maryboy expressed a concern regarding teachers being absent and unavailable around midterms or when needing eligibility assistance or grading for sports or clubs. She stated lack of communication from the teacher during that crucial time, and when they are unavailable it keeps the student from participating. Board President Maughan requests that Ms. Schaefer and Superintendent Fitzgerald reach out to Ms. Maryboy regarding this concern.

Ms. Littlehat commented again with a request for increased safety measures in the school. She noted concern regarding law enforcement response times, that they often wait for hours IF they show up at all. She emphasized the need for a School Resource Officer (SRO) and eliminating jurisdiction boundaries which often restrict the closest available LEO's from prompt response.

## L. Possible Action Items

### **1. 2024-2025 SJSJ Impact Aid Application**

***Motion to approve Impact Aid application for SY24-25.***

*Discussion: Nelson Yellowman, requests that the location of the Native American Policies and Procedures (NAPP) be found in the Parent section of the [www.sjsd.org](http://www.sjsd.org) webpage, per the NAPP document.*

Motion by Steve Black, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton



## **2. Native Youth Community Projects Leadership Conference Travel Request**

*Motion to accept the NYCP Youth Leadership Travel request to attend the Conference in Phoenix, AZ.*

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Merri B Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

## **3. SJSD 2024-25 Native American Policy and Procedures Document**

*Motion to accept SJSD 2024-25 Native American Policy and Procedures Document.*

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Steve Black.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

## **4. USBE Thank You Letter**

*Motion to approve USBE Thank You Letter.*

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Merri B Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

## **5. Policy 6130 Tuition, Fees, Fines, and Charges**

*No Motion.*

## **M. Information Items**

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**1. Next Board Meeting February 14, 2024 @DO/Virtual**

**2. SJSD District Spelling Bee – SJHS Auditorium – 10:00 a.m., February 6, 2024**

**3. CCR Day - February 7, 2024 - Early out for students**

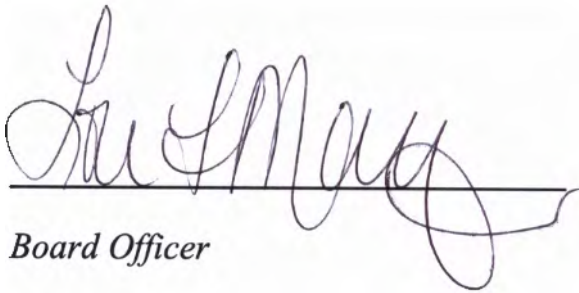
**4. USBA Day on the Hill – Capitol Rotunda – February 8, 2024**

**5. President's Day - No School - February 19, 2024**

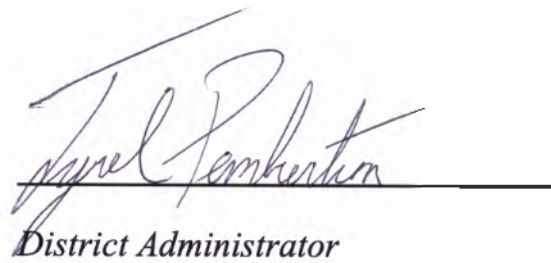
**N. Adjournment**

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**1. Adjournment**



*Board Officer*



*District Administrator*