

April 2024 Board Meeting

Meeting Location: District Office and Virtual

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Members present

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

Others Present

Superintendent Christine Fitzgerald, Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton, Human Resources Director Laura Palmer, Assistant Superintendent Julie Holt, Assistant Superintendent Derek Begay, Paul Murdock, Aaron Brewer, Spencer Singer, Jeanna Grover, Eva Ewald

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM

A. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve Agenda

Motion to Approve the Agenda.

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

B. SJ Quest Update

1. Spotlight Report- - Attendance Initiative - Christy Fitzgerald- 3 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald highlighted the Attendance Initiative developed following the pandemic to assist students in recovery by implementing a multitiered layer of support, focused on attendance. She thanked Julie Holt for organizing the training and implementing it, and thanked those who made the efforts to attend.

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

1. School Based Mental Health Services Grant Program - Spencer Singer - 5 min

Spencer Singer presented on behalf of Trevor Olsen, Student Support Services Director. Board support is requested for the grant application to bolster school based mental health professionals. Average award is about \$700,000 over a 5-year timeline. If the grant is awarded, it would bolster the traditional and modern methods of student mental health services. Funding from ESSER will be going away soon and this grant would pick up some of the financial gaps left when ESSER ends.

Board Member Colleen Benally requests follow-up on application progress. Board Member Nelson Yellowman requested clarification for non-duplication of services, which Mr. Singer confirmed was identified and confirmed non-duplication. Board Merri Shumway requests a copy of the grant application, pending size of document, as well as the potential added responsibilities/reporting of the district should the grant be awarded.

2. Bullying Curriculum and Olweus Survey Results - Paul Murdock & Laura Palmer - 15 min

Paul Murdock shared the revised definition of bullying as determined by legislation. He shared data results from the surveys taken last school year and how the team interprets the data to implement the curriculum based on the survey. He notes the team's commitment to strengthen staff, student and parent approaches to stopping bullying, while reinforcing students' understanding of what constitutes bullying, the importance of reporting bullying, and building confidence in students with the process.

Board Member Nelson Yellowman requested information about if a student feels bullied by an adult. Paul Murdock noted that this would be handled very seriously and would likely involve Human Resources. Board Member Benally noted that there seems to be a common feeling of parents/students feeling helpless or feel that they may not be heard by administration. Mr. Murdock stated that the curriculum would hopefully give both sides an avenue and training to work together to avoid that feeling and encourage communication both ways.

Human Resources Director Laura Palmer noted that the bullying policy has been reviewed by principals over the last two principals' meetings for input and clarification. The policy has been updated to reflect legislative updates.

3. 2023-2024 Volleyball Spend Plan Monument Valley High School (MVHS) - 1st viewing - Derek Begay - 3 min.

Assistant Superintendent Derek Begay shared the updated MVHS Spend Plan to include a volleyball team camp that will occur prior to the next fiscal school year. It was confirmed that because this is a camp, and not a competition, it will not require a 150 Mile form.

4. 2024-2025 Golf Spend Plan & Girls Basketball Spend Plan - Whitehorse High School - 1st viewing - Derek Begay - 3 min.

5. School Land Trust Amendments (2)- Blanding Elementary School - Julie Holt - 3 min.

Assistant Superintendent Julie Holt shared revisions to Blanding Elementary School Land Trust Plan with amendments for Goals 1,2 and 3 to prioritize carryover to provide an additional teacher collaboration day in June to support curriculum development.

6. School Land Trust Amendment - Monticello Elementary School - Julie Holt - 3 min.

Assistant Superintendent Julie Holt shared revisions to Monticello Elementary School Land Trust Plan with amendments to use the funds accrued from the vacant computer lab para salary and benefits over this year to implement the IXL intervention software to support differentiated math lessons focusing on specific standards, and integrated math, science and English Language Arts implementation.

7. School Land Trust Plans SY25 - Julie Holt & Derek Begay - 10 min.

Assistant Superintendents Julie Holt and Derek Begay presented the proposed School Land Trust Plans for the upcoming school year. They detailed the timeline and processes followed, as required by the State Office of Education.

8. Legislative Updates - Christy Fitzgerald - 5 min.

Superintendent Christine Fitzgerald updated the Board on recent legislative updates. Highlights included Policy updates, required additional training, and HB 84 which focuses on new school safety requirements, with collaboration with the Department of Public Safety in partnership with the USBE School Safety Center and Mental Health and Substance Abuse agencies. A link to the full Legislative Bill Book is located in the board agenda.

9. Payroll Distribution - Tyrel Pemberton - 5 min

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton noted there were no changes to the presentation brought to the board last month and opened the floor for follow-up questions from the board. He recommended that should the board choose to implement a new payroll distribution schedule, the change would be deferred to fiscal year starting in July 2025, to allow the necessary adjustments and preparations in the business office.

10. BES Follow-up - Tyrel Pemberton - 10 min

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton shared an update noting that the project has been advertised to bid; a maximum contract price will be presented at the May board meeting. He noted that we have received permission to begin archeologist studies and evaluation on the

building site and will be moving forward with the evaluation. He thanked the school board, maintenance team and stakeholders for their time and input.

11. Capital Projects - Tyrel Pemberton - 10 min

Mr. Pemberton noted the lights in the practice softball fields need repair. He has been working with Blanding City. He noted the plan to reduce the size of transformer, by upgrading to LED lights that will be supportable by a smaller transformer. Energy Fuels has a foundation that provides funding for these types of projects, and an application has been submitted to their foundation. The City of Blanding will also be a funding source for this project.

Board Member Nelson Yellowman inquired about the fiscal impact of Goulding's being owned and operated by the Navajo Nation, and no longer private. Business Administrator Pemberton noted that the tax burden will shift within the County as a whole, but will not impact the amount to the district. Board Member Merri Shumway inquired as to the qualifications that make businesses Centrally Assessed. Mr. Pemberton will follow up with Shumway.

12. Annual Fraud Risk Assessment - Tyrel Pemberton - 5 min

Business Administrator reviewed the Annual Fraud Risk Assessment Ethics Pledge with the board and will ensure the proper signatures, notarization and filing is completed, as required by the State Board of Education.

13. Delegate Assembly Selection - Merri Shumway - 3 min

Board Member Merri Shumway noted that she has normally attended the Delegate Assembly as a representative of the board, and shared the dates for the upcoming pre-delegate assembly (June 7) and USBA Delegate Assembly (June 8). The Board discussed possible attendance and will follow-up on the discussion in May.

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

1. Report- Navajo Mountain High School - Ryan Carlson - 10 min

Principal Carlson presented virtually. He opened the presentation by thanking the board for approving the new HVAC unit upgrades this summer.

Mr. Carlson shared 90-day plan goals, including increasing Lexile Reading Scores, and increasing parental involvement. He shared challenges surrounding attendance, isolation, lack of staff (including transportation), enrollment numbers, and student apathy.

He noted celebrations such as 100% of seniors are set to graduate this year, increased programs, events, and course offerings. He stated that PLC meetings are more formalized and which has improved output and clarified school goals. He also highlighted that the Robotics Team going to

World Championship competition, and that the school welcomes new staff members in the Administrative Assistant and Counselor positions which has been very helpful.

2. Report- Abajo Mountain Region Report- Julie Holt - 10 min

3. Report- San Juan River Region Report - Dr. Derek Begay - 10 min

Assistant Superintendents Julie Holt and Derek Begay shared a collaborative report for the Abajo Mountain Region and San Juan River Region. They opened the presentation with the three main Goals: first, Highly Effective Tier 1 Instruction; second, Early Literacy; and third, School Improvement. Ms. Holt highlighted the District Leadership Team, noting the inclusion of teachers on the team giving added insight. She noted the value of Tier 1 instruction success which impacts Tier 2 and 3.

The team also highlighted Systems of Support and Collaboration within the district, Family and Community Engagement efforts, School Report Card Data for 2023, English Learner Progress, Graduation Rates, Benchmark Data, updates on School Improvement Designations and ACT scores.

Ms. Holt and Mr. Begay also shared challenges districtwide, including: Recruitment and Retention, Retainment of Special Education Teachers and Paraeducators, Health and Wellness of Staff – Self Care, New Mandates and Legislation Implementation, ESSER Funding Expiring, and New Legislation and Programs affecting WPU.

Districtwide celebrations include: Schools exiting TSI status, school-level collaboration to support initiatives, student data tracking designed to support goals and action steps, parent engagement and communication, SJSD QUEST Model focus, intentional focus and alignment of school improvement goals with measurements and action steps implemented, and the hard work of dedicated leadership and relentless educators.

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

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

G. SJ-2 Recognition Awards

1. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Mason Lyman

2. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Kerry Sallee

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

SJEA representative Rich Monson suggests sending a survey to the employees to research the climate of the employees regarding this suggestion. His preference is to offer the opportunity to gain input from all employees the decision would impact.

Megan Butler (Teacher, BES) shared her preference to keep the payroll to once a month. Stating that as a sole-earner for her household, the one lump sum payroll at the beginning of the month is preferred as most bills are due at the beginning of the month and splitting the pay to the second half of the month would make the first part of the month very tight. Regarding retention and morale, she suggests increasing the pay of subs and part time employees, instead of disbursing those funds to hire more personnel at the district level. She also noted that the topic is not widely known, and employees should be given ample notification.

Bailey Herring, Trent Herring, Kessia Herring (not present, read letter) and Laici Ivins (not present, read letter) discussed concerns and/or support regarding the Drill Team Coach applicant (s).

I. Closed Session *(At Board discretion, Closed Session may be moved)*

1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property

2. Litigation 6:45 - 6:54 PM

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Litigation.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Nan Barton.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

3. Personnel 6:56 - 7:32 PM

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Steve Black.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

J. Consent Agenda

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. SJSJSD Revised School Spend Plans**
- 12. Spring 2024 Activity Reports and 150 Mile Forms**
- 13. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items**

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

K. Possible Action Items

1. School Based Mental Health Service Grant

Motion to accept the Letter of Support for the School Based Mental Health Service Grant.

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

Motion amended to move forward with the grant application writing process, with the ability for the Board to revise the Letter of Support if necessary at the May 8th Board Meeting.

Motion by Nan Barton, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

2. School Land Trust Amendment - Blanding Elementary School

Motion to approve the two (2) Blanding Elementary School Land Trust Amendments.

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Nan Barton.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

3. School Land Trust Amendment - Monticello Elementary School

Motion to approve the School Land Trust Amendment for Monticello Elementary School.

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

4. School Land Trust Plans SY25

Motion to approve School Land Trust Plans for SY24-25.

Motion by Nan Barton, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

5. Payroll Distribution

Motion to send a survey to gather information regarding employee preferences regarding the payroll schedule.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Steve Black.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6. BES Project

No Motion.

7. Capital Projects

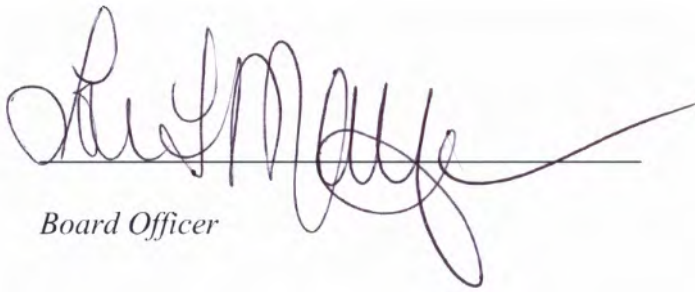
No Motion.

L. Information Items

- 1. Next Board Meeting May 8, 2024 @ DO/Virtual**
- 2. Snow Day Make Up - No School - April 19, 2024**

M. Adjournment

1. Adjournment



Board Officer



District Administrator