October 2024 Board Meeting

Meeting Location: District Office/Virtual
Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Members present
Nelson Yellowman (virtual), 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, Jeanna Grover, Aaron Brewer, Mason Lyman, Eva Ewald, , Shannon Dewsnup, Paul Murdock, Ryan Palmer, Barbara Silversmith, USU Eastern representatives (virtual)

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 Steve Black.
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- School Leadership Teams (SLT) - Christy Fitzgerald- 3 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald highlighted school leadership teams and the critical role they play in the district. On October 2nd the SLT met and discussed SMART goals and how to make SMART goals for the district. She expressed appreciation for all who participate on the SLT.

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. USU Monument Valley Lease Assignment - Kristian Olsen - 10 min.

USU Eastern Provost Kristian Olsen expressed appreciation to the board and community, as well as excitement for current building project. He introduced the team from USU Eastern who attended virtually to discuss details regarding the lease assignment for the Monument Valley property from the school district. The team opened the discussion with further information regarding the need for a third-party lessee and the detail of liability the district would/would not have within the proposed agreement. The team opened the floor for questions from the school board.

2. Spend Plans 2023-2024 FBLA - SJHS & MHS - 1st viewing - Jeanna Grover 3 min.

Jeanna Grover, CTE Director, presented the SJHS and MHS FBLA Spend Plans for SY24-25 She noted that a couple years ago FBLA started doing on-site testing for preliminary competition testing which requires SJSD to attend the Central Region; the need for spend plan adjustments includes the new travel to Price, Utah and any additional travel expenses to travel to Orem, Utah for competition finals.

3. EMS CTE Interlocal Agreement with San Juan County - Jeanna Grover - 3 min.

Jeanna Grover stated that eight students have signed up to do internships with San Juan County Emergency Medical Services. She shared the approved draft from the county commissioners regarding the partnership. She presented and requests approval from the school board for the student's participation in the internship.

She noted that the internship doesn't automatically qualify them as EMT's but gives students the necessary hours to qualify to take the EMS certification test for First Level EMT.

Board Member Nelson Yellowman inquired if the EMS certification coordinates with Navajo Nation or UNHS requirements. Jeanna Grover was unsure but will find out and report back. She could confirm that it will qualify students in the State of Utah, and she has been in discussions with UNHS. She will discuss the Navajo Nation transfer and get back with Nelson and the board.

This program will be offered district wide, with broadcasting from San Juan High School to all the secondary schools.

4. School Land Trust Training (SLT) for the SJSD Board of Education - Julie Holt - 15 min.

Assistant Superintendent Julie Holt shared the SLT Training with the board, including links to the website for SLT and guidance to resources for SLT responsibilities with the board. She noted that updates on the SLT website is much more user friendly. Mrs. Holt emphasized that is SJSD's year for compliance review, highlighting the importance of completing the training and online requirements for SLT.

5. SJSD Policy 6120 Admissions - General Requirements - 3rd viewing - Laura Palmer- 5 min

Laura Palmer noted 3rd reading addressed the expulsion question from Merri Shumway in the previous reading as well as recommended grammar suggestions made in previous discussions.

6. SJSD Policy 4180 District Employment - Substitute Teachers - 2nd viewing - Laura Palmer- 5 min

Laura Palmer noted that there were minor wording changes made, no changes made from the previous discussion.

7. Out-of-State (OOS) Transfer - Christy Fitzgerald - 5 min.

Superintendent presented one student for TES request for OOS transfer, due to travel distance.

8. Utah Fits All Scholarship (UFA)- Christy Fitzgerald - 10 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared that the funding from the Universal School Choice, including the UFA Scholarship, is taken from the allotted State funding for public education. The original amount was $42.5 million; however, it has been raised to taking $80 million from public education. She noted that the funding going to the voucher program is no longer available for the needs for public education. She noted that the providers list and opportunities include private educational entities, including private lessons and arts. The $8,000.00 can be used for the list of options, with the requirement that the student utilizing the voucher is not enrolled in public education.

She noted that challenges for public entities include, and are not limited to: astringent mandates for public schools, more so than private schools; technology and support systems to coordinate, including Navigate, Canvas, Aspire, etc. Voucher students cannot be included in our current Aspire system, but must also allow communication for systems for learning and safety platforms, which will enlist a great deal of technology programming and time.

She further noted that those who have opted to be a vendor (currently 9 districts) have reported less than 10 students, with the exception of Canyons School District. Some of the logistics to consider are creation of policy for fees and student status, technology blending needs, and mandatory training for vendor sites; all of which at the expense and employee time demand of the district. Superintendent's recommendation remains that it is not the time for SJSD to become a provider this school year, and could consider it for next school year, due to the cost and personnel resources needed to address within the district workload. She noted that only three families within the district have submitted vendor requests, for students varying from elementary to high school.

Board Member Nan Barton noted that she appreciates that while now may not be the time, it is good to have the discussion and that there may be potential to increase enrollment by offering UFA vendor options.

Superintendent noted that there is a trend for parents opting out of public school and opting in to private courses that they can get reimbursed via the voucher and we would likely lose funding and enrollment due to the increase of part time students, which could affect our ability to fund programs such as CTE that are dependent on enrollment.

Board Member Colleen Benally commented regarding our current drop in enrollment, the likelihood of dropping classes and enrollment drops, as well as the current accommodation the district already has adopted of Dual Enrollment. She noted she would like to explore how it would affect the River Region students.

Board Member Nelson Yellowman expressed concern for River Region students and their internet issue. He stated that there as there are no "extra" in person options for them there, and how would this program be an opportunity for the very rural parts of the state?

Board Vice President Steve Black stated that he is a proponent of fine arts in the community and some things within the UFA platform would be beneficial for fine arts, and his feeling is that the district should implement becoming a vendor.

Board Member Merri Shumway commented that there are some parents who have asked to work with the district regarding the UFA scholarship, and she would like to work with the parents who have reached out.

Board President Lori Maughan requests more information, including a draft of a fee schedule and/or policy be presented next month.

9. Capital Follow-up - Tyrel Pemberton - 10 min

Tyrel Pemberton shared drone footage of the current progress of Blanding Elementary School noting that construction is on schedule. Superintendent requested that the footage be added to district website for ease of public access. Board Member Steve Black recommended a time-lapse video for the public to view as well. Mr. Pemberton noted he would request time-lapse footage from MHTN.

10. ARP ESSER Funding Overview- Tyrel Pemberton - 10 min

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton shared a review of the spending from the COVID Relief Funding. The funding had a deadline for expenditure of September 30, 2024.

11. Fund Balance Review - Tyrel Pemberton - 10 min.

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton shared an update on the Fund Balance targets and designations. He noted Building Reserve, General Reserve, and Capital Projects Fund balances as the main discussion items. He noted the remaining balance for designation or use is $8,602,399.00. His recommendation to the board is to consider needs for the district, and he also proposed a one-time payout to employees of the greater of 2% or $750 per employee in the November payroll, which is estimated to cost $850,000.00 This has been a practice in the past with overages.

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared some safety needs for the district to consider that the legislature has mandated for the future that the funds can be considered for. There may be grant funding available, but not secured as of yet. Her recommendation is to implement a needs assessment survey.

Board Member Merri Shumway suggested converting football lighting to LED bulbs which can be a cost savings implementation for the district, and would increase crowd lighting and safety concerns surrounding outdoor fields. She also recommended there may be grant funds available for such energy saving projects as well. She added that there may be gymnasium seating that is not currently safe and may be a consideration for upgrade with these funds.

Board Vice President Steve Black suggests considering future large Capital Project needs and the possibility of saving, instead of spending, the earmarked remaining funds, as well as including the School Principals in a discussion regarding needs.

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton shared plans to organize a discussion with the newly hired Buildings and Grounds Director, maintenance personnel and principals at each school to get a more in-depth snapshot of each school's needs and potential uses for the funding; he also gave a detailed review of the recommendation for the one-time employee payout per the request of Board Member Shumway.

12. NAFIS Report - Christy Fitzgerald - 3 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald and Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton shared updates from meetings with Congressman Curtis as well as Congressman Malloy regarding Impact Aid and concerns specifically regarding education in San Juan County.

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

1. Report- Bluff Elementary School, Principal Barbara Silversmith - 10 min

Nelson inquired about what the district can do to help with issues in Attendance.

2. Report- Assessment, Shannon Dewsnup - 10 min

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: Rebecca Stoneman-Washee

2. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Nicole Wallis

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

Citizens Cortney Shumway, Zuri Shumway, and Stetler Shumway spoke in support of the district considering becoming a vendor for the Utah Fits All Scholarship which Zuri is a recipient of.

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

1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property (6:41-6:58 pm)

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss purchase, exchange or lease of Real Property.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Steve Black.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

2. Litigation (7:01-7:04 pm)

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Litigation.

Motion by Steve Black, second by Nan Barton.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

3. Personnel (7:05-7:14 pm)

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel.

Motion by Nan Barton, second by Colleen Benally.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

4. Security

No Closed Session needed.

J. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes

2. Revenue Reports

3. Expenditure Reports

4. Personnel Report(s) and Information

5. School Expenditure Reports

6. Monthly Checks

7. Board Travel Reports

8. Home School Requests

9. Student Hearings

10. Winter 2025 Activity Reports and 150 Mile Forms

11. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Nan Barton, second by Colleen Benally.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

K. Possible Action Items

1. USU Monument Valley Building Lease Assignment

Motion to approve the USU Monument Valley Building Lease Assignment.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nan Barton.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

2. EMS CTE Interlocal Agreement with San Juan County

Motion to approve the EMS CTE Interlocal Agreement with San Juan County.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Colleen Benally.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

3. School Land Trust Final Report & Plans/Signature Forms Due Dates

Motion to approve School Land Trust Final Report and Plans/Signature Forms Due Dates.

Motion by Nan Barton, second by Merri B Shumway.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

4. SJSD Policy 4180 District Employment - Substitute Teachers

Motion to approve Policy 4180.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Steve Black.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

5. SJSD Policy 6120 Admissions - General Requirements

Motion to approve the changes to Policy 6120.

Motion by Steve Black, second by Nan Barton.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

6. Out-of-State Transfer Students

Motion to approve Out of State Transfer Student.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Merri B Shumway.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

7. Utilization of Fund Balance

Motion to approve the utilization of the Fund Balance to go to the Employee Payout.

Motion by Nan Barton, second by Colleen Benally.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton
Absent at vote: Nelson Yellowman

8. Real Property

No Action.

L. Information Items

1. Board Meeting November 13, 2024 @DO/Virtual

2. Fall Break, October 11, 2024

3. Teacher Work Day, October 14, 2024 - School is not in session

4. Veteran's Day, November 11, 2024 - No School

M. Adjournment

1. Adjournment

Board Officer

District Administrator