

November 2024 Board Meeting
Meeting Location: District Office/Virtual
Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Members present

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

Others present

Superintendent Christine Fitzgerald, Assistant Superintendent Derek Begay, Assistant Superintendent Julie Holt, Human Resources Director Laura Palmer, Aaron Brewer, Ryan Carlson, Ryan Palmer, Jonathan English, Brenda Whitehorse, Eva Ewald

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM

A. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve Agenda

Motion to Approve the Agenda

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

B. SJ Quest Update

1. Spotlight Report- Student Advisory Council - Christy Fitzgerald- 3 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald highlighted the value of Student Leadership in the district. She welcomed the Native Youth Council who will be presenting later. She highlighted the first meeting of the Student Advisory Council, which is compiled of one senior and one junior representative from each of the five secondary schools. The Student Advisory Council held their first meeting this week at San Juan High School. They discussed initiatives from the students and collaborated on ideas from the district and student perspective. Students were nominated by school administration and it was recommended that they select students who are good representatives of their school, but not currently on the school elected student council. The team had great participation and they look forward to holding more meetings at other school locations and virtually to minimize out of classroom time.

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. Native Youth Council - Request to attend mid-year UNITY Conference in Phoenix - Brenda Whitehorse - 3 min.

Two representatives from the native youth council introduced themselves in Navajo and presented a request to attend the mid-year unity conference. They noted that the benefits of attending are important and valuable for leadership, social skills, education and outreach.

Board Member Nelson Yellowman encouraged the native youth students and highlighted Native American Month. He commented that there are over 500 different tribes in the country, and any opportunity to learn more about other indigenous tribes is valuable.

The students also noted that they plan to bring curriculum and information from the conference to their respective schools and share with other students. Brenda Whitehorse noted that the funding that will pay for the travel will come from the NYCP grant.

2. Spend Plans 2024-2025 FBLA - SJHS & MHS - 2nd viewing - Jeanna Grover 3 min.

Jeanna Grover (attending virtually) shared the 2nd viewing of the spend plans. She restated that the Utah FBLA organization has dissolved the eastern region in Price, Utah. Therefore, the spend plans required adjustment for the travel distance to UVU in Orem, Utah instead. The currently proposed spend plans reflect the travel change.

3. School Report Cards - Julie Holt & Dr. Derek Begay - 10 min

Assistant Superintendent Julie Holt and Dr. Derek Begay presented the school report cards for SY 23-24.

4. Policy 5260 Instructional Programs – Adult Education – 1st viewing – Laura Palmer – 5 min.

Human Resources Director Laura Palmer presented updates to Policy 5260 noting that all changes were to align our Adult Education Program with the State Auditors recommendations. Areas where changes were significant include: eligible participant, GED testing and graduation requirements for Adult Education diplomas. Deadline for update submitted to the State Office are December 31st.

Board Member Steve 5260.9 Method to Document Credit, item 1 suggested edits in required work hours numbers.

5. Policy 2215 Board of Education – Board Members Conflict of Interest – 1st viewing – Laura Palmer – 5 min.

Laura Palmer stated that the district is required to file Conflict of Interest disclosures for all newly entering School Board Members. These are required to be filed in January of each year.

6. School Calendar 2025-2026 School Year Adoption Discussion – Laura Palmer – 10 min

Laura Palmer shared the current teacher survey responses for the proposed calendars. She noted that Option A was not provided to teachers. She noted that the natural breaks at holidays and Spring Break, while aligning with USU-Eastern for Spring break has been the formula in the past. However, while Option A does not align for concurrent enrollment students, it does allow for Spring Break later in March.

Board Member Merri Shumway commented that she doesn't feel that aligning the calendar with USU is apriority, as it only affects a small number of students.

The board requested that Option 1 and Option A calendars be sent to all teachers and parents, with separate survey results quantified. They further request that the data be presented at the December board meeting for consideration.

7. SJSD October 1, 2024 Enrollment Count – Christy Fitzgerald – 3 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald presented the October 1 Enrollment report. She stated that there has been a district and state decrease in enrollment this year, with decreases of 2.4% and .7% respectively.

Board members noted that possible factors of decreases in enrollment may include relocation due to COVID effects, school vouchers and or more options for parents via homeschool or alternative learning.

8. Out-of-State Student - Christy Fitzgerald - 5 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald presented one student for out of state enrollment request for discussion and possible approval later in the agenda.

9. Board Handbook Revision – Steve Black – 5 min.

Board Member Steve Black presented potential revisions to the Board Handbook. The committee opted to include a section for participation in various board committees. The board made recommendations for edits and the handbook revisions will be reviewed again in the December board meeting.

10. Capital Follow-up - Tyrel Pemberton - 5 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald stated that the Montezuma Creek playground is completed and in use. A video showing time-lapse and progress on the Blanding Elementary School project was shared, and the project is on schedule.

Board member Nan Barton noted that she has had local contractors comment to her that Westland has been great to work with local contractors and has been positive about the collaboration opportunity and experience.

Board Member Colleen Benally shared that she has had a very positive response from students and staff alike regarding the new playground at Montezuma Creek elementary.

11. Fund Balance Review – Tyrel Pemberton & Christy Fitzgerald – 5 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald noted past discussion regarding potential was to best utilize the balance. She stated that the new building and grounds director, along with the business administrator, spent time in each school assessing needs that the fund balance can potentially be utilized for. She shared that there is also safety legislation that requires upgrades to doors districtwide that may require the fund balance as well. Safety assessments for buildings are due December 31st, which can be considered for potential grant funds from the State as well.

Board Member Merri Shumway recommended the replacement of and cost investment return potential of changing outdoor lighting to LED lights.

12. Closed Session Clarification About Evaluation Process – Lori Maughan – 3 min.

Board President Lori Maughan clarified closed session actions in the November board meeting during the Personnel Closed Session discussion. She noted that the process was approved by Richard Stowell from USBA, and that the format used by the Board was appropriate, however may not have been necessary. Further, that the survey recipients as listed for the Superintendent's evaluation review was also appropriate.

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

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

Principal Ryan Carlson reported on Navajo Mountain High School. He thanked the board for the new HVAC unit that is working great and for the bonus that was approved in the last board meeting, stating both are appreciated by all.

He shared challenges with attendance, declining enrollment and testing data. Celebrations include a 100% graduation rate last year, and all 10 seniors are on track to graduate this year as

well. School goals include a focus on reading, increasing Lexile scores, increase of math and ELA scores and increase engagement.

Some school celebrations are upgrades to physical appearance to the building, with a focus on heritage. Other celebrations are ACT enrollment and scores, PLC meetings formalized and improved, the Robotics team doubled in size, Student Government involvement, and the school has a bus driver this year. Additions to school clubs and extracurriculars, as well as a School Food Pantry have also been celebrations at the school.

2. Report- Technology - Aaron Brewer - 10 min

Department Director Aaron Brewer shared goals, progress towards goals, celebrations and challenges from the Technology team.

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: Brenda Whitehorse

2. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Jared Brown

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

Justin Redd emailed a comment in support of increasing the length of Fall Break.

David Hopkins emailed public comment requesting support and benefits of making eSports available at a Middle School level.

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

1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property

2. Litigation

3. Personnel (6:18 pm – 7:22 pm)

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel.

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

4. Security

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 Steve Black, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

K. Possible Action Items

1. Native Youth Council - Request to attend midyear UNITY Conference in Phoenix

Motion to accept the request by the Native Youth Council to attend the midyear UNITY Conference in Phoenix.

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

2. Spend Plans 2024-25 FBLA - SJHS & MHS

Motion to Approve the Spend Plans for FBLA for SY 2024-25 for SJHS & MHS.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nan Barton.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

3. 2025-2026 School Calendar Adoption

No Motion; item deferred to December Board Meeting upon collection of survey data.

4. Out-of-State Students

Motion to Approve the Out of State Student as presented.

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

5. Board Handbook Revision

No Motion; item deferred to December Board Meeting with suggested edits.

6. Utilization of Fund Balance

No Motion; item deferred to December Board Meeting for further discussion.

7. Real Property

No Motion needed.

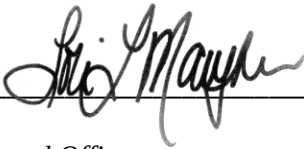
L. Information Items

1. Board Meeting December 11, 2024 @DO/Virtual

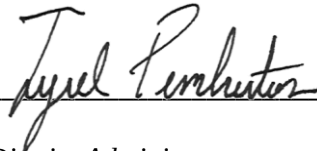
2. Thanksgiving Break, November 27-29, 2024

M. Adjournment

1. Adjournment



Board Officer



District Administrator