

November 12 Board Meeting

Meeting Location: District Office and Virtual

Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Members present

Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

Others present

Superintendent Dr. Christine Fitzgerald, Business Administrator Jacob Swanson, Asst. Superintendent Paul Murdock, Asst. Superintendent Dr. Derek Begay, Human Resources Director Laura Palmer, LT Erickson, Ryan Palmer, Mason Lyman, Jonathan English, Monique McDermott, Brenda Whitehorse, Jeanna Grover, Jeff Hunt, Eva Ewald, Jared Brown

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM

A. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve Agenda - 3:00 pm

Motion to Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

B. SJ Quest Update

1. Spotlight Report- Tribal Consultation - Christy Fitzgerald- 3 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared an update on Navajo Nation Tribal Consultation and commended the participating administrative team for their efforts to a successful consultation, as well as all the staff and faculty who continuously strive towards requirements outlined in the Tribal Consultation agreements.

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. San Juan Youth Prevention Coalition - Request to attend National Conference & Advocacy - Jeff Hunt - 3 min.

Monticello High School Counselor and Youth Coalition Advisor Jeff Hunt, along with participating students, presented a request to the board to attend the National Conference in Washington D.C. on February 1-7, 2026. The group provided the board with a copy of the permission slip students and guardians are required to sign which outlined the trip general information, eligibility requirements and expectations for participants. This item is presented as a possible action item later in the agenda.

2. Native Youth Council (NYC) - Request to attend mid-year UNITY Conference in Phoenix - Brenda Whitehorse - 5 min.

Heritage Language Director Brenda Whitehorse presented a request, on behalf of the NYC students, to attend the conference in Phoenix. She highlighted the positive impact it has and will have on attendees. The request is for ten students and two chaperones, with funds for the trip provided through the NYCP grant. An agenda and trip itinerary were emailed individually to the board.

3. National Johnson O'Malley Conference Report - Brenda Whitehorse - 3 min.

Brenda Whitehorse shared the award received from the National Johnson O'Malley board, presented to San Juan School District as an Exemplary Program for 2025. She commended her team and the staff and faculty who work tirelessly on behalf of the programs for Native American studies and culture. The board shared gratitude and positive remarks to Mrs. Whitehorse and the team as well.

4. Concurrent Enrollment Data Review - Dr. Derek Begay - 3 min.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Derek Begay shared current enrollment counts, statistical data, and specific data regarding Native American enrollment in concurrent enrollment. He also shared team initiatives to promote and encourage enrollment numbers. Mr. Begay noted that the district has received a grant to assist in concurrent enrollment needs in the district.

5. San Juan County Youth Data Review - Dr. Derek Begay - 5 min.

Dr. Derek Begay shared youth data for San Juan. Highlighted topics of data include services provided, issues and concerns reported, and general information regarding state-wide statistics. Reports also showed a trending decline in national and local data in birth rates, which impacts enrollment.

6. SJSD Policy 6325 Student Welfare - Use of Sex-designated Facilities - Laura Palmer 5 min.

Human Resources Director shared new Policy 6325 regarding Use of Sex-Designated Facilities with the board for a first viewing.

7. SJSD Policy 1130 Relationships with Public and the Schools: Conduct on School Premises - Laura Palmer 5 min.

Laura Palmer shared updates to Policy 1130 Relationships with Public and the Schools: Conduct on School Premises for a first reading.

8. SJSD Policy 6315 Student Welfare: Seclusion and Restraint - Laura Palmer 5 min.

Laura Palmer shared updates to Policy 6315 Student Welfare: Seclusion and Restraint for a first reading.

9. School Calendar 2026-2027 school year adoption discussion- Laura Palmer- 10 min.

Laura Palmer shared two options of the possible SY26-27 school calendar, following a brief overview of the state requirements, standard holiday observations, and attempts to best balance days assigned in each quarter. Upon review of the two options, the board requested a stakeholder survey be sent for consideration on the two options prior to voting. This item will be discussed in the December board meeting, following the collection of data via survey.

10. SJSD Oct 1, 2025 Enrollment Count - Christy Fitzgerald - 3 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared an overview of the October 1 enrollment count, noting a consistent slight decline in overall enrollment over the past several years.

11. Blanding Elementary School Update - Jacob Swanson - 5 min.

Business Administrator Jacob Swanson shared current status on the construction. He noted that projects are on schedule.

12. Capital Follow-up - Jacob Swanson - 5 min

Jacob Swanson shared current status on construction projects for the Montezuma Creek and San Juan High School entry vestibules.

13. Board Training & Development – President Nan Barton – 10 min

Board President Barton led the board in initial training and development, discussing goals, procedures and introduction to ongoing and future training and development.

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

1. BES Elementary School Report - Michael Johnson - 10 min.

Principal Michael Johnson (attending virtually) shared goals and progress towards goals for Blanding Elementary School, including: Utah Rise testing information and score data, 90-Day Plan Goals, Celebrations and Challenges.

2. Technology - Jared Brown - 10 min.

Jared Brown shared celebrations and challenges within the Technology Department, including: expanded responsibilities, infrastructure, security upgrades, and software, data & AI governance. Monique McDermott highlighted the Train-the-Trainer Model which highlights district team selected topics and utilizes the Technology Coaches to train staff.

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: Juanita Becenti, MZC

2. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Fenesia Manygoats, BLF

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

Teacher, stakeholder and parent of students Ashley Lacy shared a public comment via email requesting accommodations for the observance of Veteran's Day when it falls mid-week. She noted disruption in mid-week schedules, along with assemblies around the date off will essentially cost students two mid-week learning days. She suggests Veteran's Day be observed in the schools, but not with taking the day off for observance, while adding the day off of school to the beginning or end of Spring Break, whichever is most effective.

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

1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Real Property (7:06-7:15 pm)

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

2. Litigation

3. Personnel

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel (7:15-7:59 pm)

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

4. Security

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 Letters of Intent

9. Student Hearings

10. SJSD Revised School Spend Plans

11. Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 Activity Reports and 150 Mile Forms

12. School Land Trust Amendments

13. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

K. Possible Action Items

1. National Prevention Conference & Advocacy (San Juan Youth Prevention Coalition)

Motion to approve the San Juan County Youth Coalition student leaders to attend the 34th Annual Prevention Leadership Conference in National Harbor, Maryland.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Don Mose III.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

2. Mid-year UNITY Conference in Phoenix

Motion to approve the Native Youth Leadership to attend the mid-year Unity conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

3. SJSD Policy 6325 Student Welfare - Use of Sex-designated Facilities

Motion to approve SJSD Policy 6325 Student Welfare - Use of Sex-designated Facilities with the addition of "guardian" as advised.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

4. SJSD Policy 1130 Relationships with Public and the Schools: Conduct on School Premises

Motion to approve SJSD Policy 1130 Relationships with Public and the Schools: Conduct on School Premises

Motion by Don Mose III, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

5. SJSD Policy 6315 Student Welfare: Seclusion and Restraint

Motion to approve SJSD Policy 6315 Student Welfare: Seclusion and Restraint

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Ron T Nielson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

6. School Calendar 2026-2027 school year

No motion taken. Deferred to next month with the directive to admin to submit another stakeholder survey and revisit the calendar.

7. Plaque for new Blanding Elementary School

Motion to approve the Blanding Elementary Plaque to include the names of both current and former San Juan School District Board Members and the current and former Business Administrator and the current Superintendent.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

L. Information Items

1. Next Board Meeting December 9, 2025 @DO/Virtual

M. Adjournment

1. Adjournment



Board Officer



District Administrator