

February 2026 Board Meeting

Meeting Location: District Office and Virtual

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Members present

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

Members absent

Lucille Cody

Others present

Superintendent Christine Fitzgerald, Business Administrator Jacob Swanson, Assistant Superintendent Derek Begay, Assistant Superintendent Paul Murdock, Human Resources Director Laura Palmer, LT Erickson Jacob Rebman, Mason Lyman, Barbara Silversmith, Eva Ewald, Jeanna Grover, JJ Grover, Jonathan English

Meeting called to order at 3:01 PM

A. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve Agenda - 3:00 pm

Motion to Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Ron T Nielson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

B. SJ Quest Update

1. Spotlight Report- Paraeducator Support & Teaching Pipeline- Dr. Christy Fitzgerald- 3 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared ongoing work for Paraeducator Support. She noted new grants received to further assist the Paraprofessional advancement programs that can assist with training, career advancement and employee retention.

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 Land Trust Final Reports 2024-2025 – Dr. Derek Begay & Paul Murdock – 10 min.

Assistant Superintendents Begay and Murdock shared Goals and funding information for the final School Land Trust accounts for SY2024-25. Approval of this information is added as an Action item later in the agenda.

2. School Improvement Designations & School Report Cards – Dr. Christy Fitzgerald – 5 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared School Report Cards and School Improvement Designations from the district. She noted that TES and WHS both made target to exit ATSI designation.

3. Indian Policy & Procedures 2026-2027 Feedback – Dr. Christy Fitzgerald & Dr. Derek Begay – 5 min.

The board discussed feedback from the Impact Aid Public hearing held in January at Whitehorse High School. Specific cultural sensitivities regarding the use of the word “Indian” in the policy were addressed and Dr. Begay proposed explanation and alternative wording for the policy, while still keeping in the federal requirements of the policy. This item is added as an Action item later in the agenda.

4. 2026 SJSJ School Graduation Dates- Dr. Christy Fitzgerald - 3 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared Graduation and promotion dates for 2026. Bluff Elementary date is pending. Retirement notifications and events will also be added in forthcoming meetings.

5. Proposed 2026-27 SJSJ Board of Education Meeting Schedule- Dr. Christy Fitzgerald- 5 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared the proposed 2026-27 Board, Directors and Principals Meeting schedule for board review. This item is added as an Action item later in the agenda.

6. Strategic Planning Discussion – Dr. Christy Fitzgerald – 5 min.

Superintendent shared a draft of the Strategic Planning Script depicting pillars, commitments and goals in the plan. She gave a brief overview of the collaboration process for the Plan. She noted that the verbiage, if approved, would be submitted to a graphic design team to create a infographic and public document for district use.

7. Enrollment Projections – Dr. Christy Fitzgerald – 5 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared five-year enrollment projections using current feeder patterns and Kindergarten registration data from the 2025-2026 school year. She noted that while these figures offer a valuable roadmap for long-term planning, they are subject to change based on shifting demographic and community factors. She emphasized that the data to promote transparency and community awareness; however, these figures should be viewed as adaptable estimates rather than fixed outcomes

8. LEA Specific License(s) and Endorsement(s) Request - Laura Palmer - 5min.

Laura Palmer shared an updated list of LEA Specific Licenses and Endorsements. Specifics can be discussed in closed session should the board choose. This item is added as an Action item later in the agenda.

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

Business Administrator, Jacob Swanson, provided a brief update on the progress of the Blanding Elementary School construction project.

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

Business Administrator, Jacob Swanson, will provided updates on the Entryway Projects at Montezuma Creek Elementary and San Juan High School.

11. USBA Day on the Hill Report - President Nan Barton - 3 min

Board members shared highlights from the USBA Day on the Hill event, noting the value of representing our district’s needs and concerns in a unified platform. Board President Barton noted the efforts and impact specifically of the legislative advocacy work of Superintendent Fitzgerald.

12. Board Training & Development – President Nan Barton – 8 min.

Board President Barton shared a developing plan for Board Accountability and recognition of efforts of board members. Board Vice President Benally shared that documenting and recognizing efforts from the board would be helpful to track and could be an encouraging morale booster.

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

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

Bluff Principal Barbara Silversmith shared Celebrations, Challenges, School Goals and Statistics from the school. She highlighted the efforts school-wide on increasing student reading time at home and she celebrated her staff and expressed appreciation for her team.

2. Career & Technical Education (CTE) - Jeanna Grover - 10 min.

CTE team Jeanna Grover and JJ Grover shared highlights of the CTE programs districtwide. They shared enrollment statistics, program additions, awards and celebrations, and expressed appreciation for their CTE faculty who make these accomplishments possible. The presentation included information on recent grant awards that will benefit CTE, accomplishments at district, state and national levels of CTSO and SkillsUSA competitions. A most recent CTSO competition for the district included 265 students from all secondary schools. Ms. Grover also shared Goals and Challenges for the department.

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: Katilyn Lyman - Special Education

2. Utah Presidential Scholar Nominee: Wachaykeah Martin - WHS

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

Sheriff Lehi Lacy presented a Certificate of Citizen Award for assisting in a student activity busing incident that occurred for a Colorado school where San Juan School District transportation team was called to assist. He thanked the district for their services to citizens and students, including those they serve outside the district on emergent occasions such as this.

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

1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property

2. Litigation

3. Personnel

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, 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. Spring 2026 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 Don Mose III.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

K. Possible Action Items

1. 2024-25 School Land Trust Final School Reports

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 School Land Trust Final School Reports.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Ron T Nielson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

2. LEA Specific License(s) and Endorsement(s)

Motion to approve the LEA Specific License(s) and Endorsement(s) as proposed.

Motion by Don Mose III, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

3. Indian Policy & Procedures 2026-2027

Motion to approve the Indian Policy & Procedures 2026-2027 with the proposed language from Dr. Begay, ending with "We acknowledge these terms and their historical place" and adding Teec nos pos Chapter.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

4. 2026-27 SJSB Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve the proposed 2026-2027 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

Motion by Don Mose III, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

5. Strategic Planning Pillars & Initiatives

Motion to approve the proposed strategic plan pillars, descriptions, and initiatives.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Ron T Nielson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

L. Information Items

1. Next Board Meeting March 10, 2026 @District Office/Virtual
2. SJSD Family Literacy Night - Tse'bii'nidzizgai Elementary School - February 11, 2026, 5:00-6:30 pm
3. President's Day - No School - February 16, 2026

M. Adjournment

1. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Don Mose III.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Don Mose III

N. Adjournment

1. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Colleen Benally.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Ron T Nielson, Don Mose III



Board Officer



District Administrator