

April 2026 Board Meeting

Meeting Location: District Office/Virtual

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Members present

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

Others present

Superintendent Dr. Christine Fitzgerald, Business Administrator Jacob Swanson, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Derek Begay, Assistant Superintendent Paul Murdock, Human Resources Director Laura Palmer, Brenda Whitehorse, Eva Ewald, Mason Lyman, LT Erickson, Jeff Winget

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 Lucille Cody, second by Ron Nielson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Don Mose III

Don Mose arrived at 3:05 pm.

B. SJ Quest Update

1. Spotlight Report- School Recovery Plans - Dr. Christy Fitzgerald- 3 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald highlighted the district's Emergency Recovery Plan, required by the USBE. She noted the various emergency plans the district has in place and shared how the State's Recovery Plan outlined applies to SJSD.

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. Unity Club - National Unity Conference - Native Youth Council - Brenda Whitehorse & Dr. Derek Begay - 5 min.

Ms. Whitehorse and Asst. Superintendent Begay requested permission to attend the 2026 National Unity Conference. Request presentation included a student contract for participation and behavior, agenda, and an overview of benefits of conference attendance by students.

2. Letter of Support - Traditional Healing Services through Medicaid - Dr. L.T. Erickson - 5 min.

Mr. Erickson requests a letter of support to support Utah Medicaid Reform pertaining to Native American Health Amendments. The proposed amendment would allow Medicaid reimbursement for traditional healing services provided by traditional healing providers in eligible facilities to Native American enrollees.

3. Elementary Math Curriculum Adoption - Paul Murdock & Jeff Winget - 8 min.

Mr. Murdock and Mr. Winget shared the three curricula reviewed, they included: Accelerate Learning, Amplify and Great Minds. They outlined the evaluation process, surveys included and noted that several teachers around the district also conducted a full-year pilot. Virtual presentations on all three programs were presented on February 6, 2026 and feedback opportunity opened. The adoption committee met on March 18, 2026, including stakeholders from each school. At this meeting the vendors presented live, discussed each programs merits and answered questions from the committee. Following the evaluation process, Desmos Math was the highest ranked curriculum. Desmos Math is presented to the Board for adoption approval as an action item later in the agenda.

4. School Land Trust Plans SY27 - Dr. Derek Begay & Paul Murdock - 15 min.

Dr. Begay and Mr. Murdock shared the School Land Trust plans on behalf of the School Community Councils, for school year 2026-2027.

5. Proposed 2026-27 Fee Waiver & Spend Plans & Policies 6130 Students, Tuition, Fees and Fines & 1145 Relations with the Public and Fundraising and Donations - Discussion- Dr. Derek Begay & Dr. Christy Fitzgerald - 15 min

Dr. Begay and Mr. Murdock shared the Proposed Fee Waiver, Spend Plans, and corresponding policies for a 2nd of two required viewings.

6. SJSJ Policy 8270 - Use of School Facilities: Use of Cellular phone – Dr. Christine Fitzgerald for Laura Palmer - 5 min.

Dr. Fitzgerald noted changes and updates to the district cell hone usage policy.

7. SJSD Policy 4180 - Substitutes – Dr. Christine Fitzgerald for Laura Palmer - 5 min.

Dr. Fitzgerald noted changes to Policy 4180 for Long Term Substitutes, as required from Senate Bill 52.

8. SJSD Policy 3100 - Financial Administrative Procedures - Jacob Swanson - 5 min.

Business Administrator Jacob Swanson shared Policy 3100 for a 2nd reading, with requested updates from the board from the March 2026 board meeting. Noted changes include added definitions, examples and grant application procedure processes.

9. Strategic Planning Collateral - Dr. Christy Fitzgerald - 5 min.

No discussion, awaiting draft document from Ed Elements. Item deferred to May 2026 board meeting.

10. 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.

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

Business Administrator Jacob Swanson provided an update on the Entryway Projects.

12. Annual Fraud Risk Assessment - Jacob Swanson - 5 min

District Administration presented the State-required Fraud Risk Assessment, as required annually from The Office of the State Auditor.

13. Board Training & Development - President Nan Barton - 8 min.

Board President referenced the list of suggested and recommended “board presence” events and asked the board to review the list and make recommendations or comments as needed. She reminded the board to be as transparent as allowed, and also mindfully discerning of how they best support employees and the community as they receive and process informal information via conversation.

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

1. Elementary Assistant Superintendent Report - Paul Murdock - 10 min.

Mr. Murdock shared enrollment statistics, goals, testing progress data, school improvement status, celebrations and challenges from the Elementary Schools.

2. Secondary Assistant Superintendent - Dr. Derek Begay - 10 min.

Dr. Begay shared enrollment statistics, school focus and goals, testing progress data, celebrations and challenges from the Secondary Schools. Highlights include one school who achieved a complete exit of TSI designation.

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: Kayela Bradford

2. San Juan Sweet Job Award: JJ Grover

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

No Citizens Comments.

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 Purchase, exchange or lease of real property.

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. Litigation

3. Personnel

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. Authorizing Business Administrator to Approve Authorized Signers on Zions Accounts

9. Audit Committee Members

10. School Resource Officer Contract Renewal

11. Home School Letters of Intent

12. Student Hearings

13. SJSD Revised School Spend Plans

14. Spring 2026 and Winter 2026 Activity Reports and 150 Mile Forms

15. School Land Trust Amendments

16. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Ron Nielson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

K. Possible Action Items

1. National Unity Conference

Motion to approve the request to attend the 2026 National Unity Conference.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: Lucille Cody

2. Letter of Support - Traditional Healing Services through Medicaid

Motion to approve the letter of support for Traditional Healing Services through Medicaid.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Don Mose III.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: Lucille Cody

3. Elementary Math Curriculum Adoption

Motion to approve Desmos Math for curriculum adoption beginning in the 2026-2027 school year for grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

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. School Land Trust Plans SY27

Motion to approve the 2027 School Land Trust Plans as presented.

Motion by Don Mose III, second by Ron T Nielson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

5. 2026-27 Spend Plans

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 spend plans as presented, and to include the following updated criteria for a Spirit Bus Spend Plan:

The Spirit Bus will be approved:

- 1. When a team qualifies for a championship game in a major sport of Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, or Football.*
- 2. When a team is ranked in the top two teams in RPI in Volleyball, Girls' Basketball, & Boys' Basketball.*
- 3. When a Cheer, Girls' Wrestling, or Boys' Wrestling team takes first in the division.*

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

6. SJSD Policy 8270 - Use of School Facilities: Use of Cellular phone

Motion to approve SJSD Policy 8270, Use of School Facilities: Use of Cellular Phone.

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

7. SJSD Policy 4180 - Substitutes

Motion to approve Policy 4180 – Substitutes.

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

8. SJSD Policy 3100 - Financial Administrative Procedures

Motion to approve SJSD Policy 3100 - Financial Administrative Procedures.

Motion by Don Mose III, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

9. Strategic Planning Collateral

No Action at this time.

10. Advertising for Blanding Elementary

Motion to approve the School District to advertise that it is accepting bids for the purchase of the Old Blanding Elementary School.

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

11. Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Utilities Right-of-Way Agreement

Motion to approve the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Utilities Right-of-Way Agreement.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Don Mose III.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

L. Information Items

1. Next Board Meeting May 12th, 2026 @District Office/Virtual

M. 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, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III



Board Officer



District Administrator