

May 2026 Board Meeting
Meeting Location: District Office/Virtual
Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Members present

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

Virtual Attendance

Colleen Benally (3:20 – 5:30 pm)

Others present

Superintendent Dr. Christine Fitzgerald, Business Administrator Jacob Swanson, Human Resources Director Laura Palmer, Dr. Derek Begay, Paul Murdock, Jeff Fitzgerald, Jeff Winget, Jacob Rebman, Mason Lyman, Jeanna Grover, LT Erickson, Eva Ewald, Ryan Palmer, Barkley Christensen, Ryan Nielson, Jennifer Johnson, Katilyn Lyman

Meeting called to order at 3:02 PM

A. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve Agenda - 3:00 pm

Motion to Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Don Mose III.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

B. SJ Quest Update

1. Spotlight Report- YouScience - Dr. Christy Fitzgerald- 3 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared the progression of the YouScience program. The program started out as a skills-based certification, and has advanced to become a helpful data and student preparation map for career exploration & readiness, competency and college planning.

It was noted by Superintendent that 71% of students say they would be more engaged and excited if they had a map and guides, knowing their aptitudes/interests/etc. The YouScience program can be a great support for student guidance. The program also incorporates a family/household portal that can be accessed to further boost student support at home.

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. What Works in Schools (WWIS) Demonstration Project - Colleen Murray, Clara Martinez, Dr. Sarah Conklin - 8 min.

The CDC funded grant began with SJSD in 2024. At this time the WWIS team requests permission to conduct the research portion of the grant. The data requested will incorporate School Administrative data, Health Services data, Heritage Language Program data, and SHARP Data. A letter of support and permission to collect the data is included as an Action Item later in the agenda.

2. Secondary Reading Intervention Curriculum Adoption - Jeff Winget - 5 min.

Jeff Winget shared the current programs that are being reviewed by faculty. The curriculum team will come together in the next 30 days, along with public view of the curriculum. Mr. Winget opened the floor for questions as the process begins.

3. Secondary Math Curriculum Adoption & Pilots 2026-2027 - Jeff Winget - 5 min.

SJSD middle and secondary math teachers will be piloting new curriculum materials in the 2026-2027 school year, with a full adoption expected in the 2027-2028 school year. The Utah State Board of Education has not released a decision on integrated math standards, so the adoption may be delayed.

4. Effective Teachers in High Poverty Schools Program - Dr. Christy Fitzgerald - 5 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald updated the Board on teachers who qualify for the "Effective Teachers in High Poverty Schools" bonus. Teachers were contacted by USBE. These teachers receive a \$7,000 dollar bonus for having student achievement scores that fall in the "Highly Effective" range. The program honors teachers achieving a median growth percentile (MGP) of 70 or higher in a course for which a standards assessment is administered and teachers of grades K, 1, 2, or 3 who achieve at least 85% of students whose progress is assessed as typical or better on Acadience Literacy or Math. Please review the attached document for a history of changes in the ETHPS program over time.

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

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared the most current version of the Strategic Planning Collateral for the board review.

6. Employee Compensation & Salary Tables 2026-27 - Laura Palmer- 10 min.

Human Resources Director shared the current year compensation and salary tables. The updated plan includes a 4.3% cost of living stipend for all full-time employees. Employee insurance rates have increased, but the added expense will not be passed on to the employee.

7. Preliminary Fiscal Year 2027 Budget - Christy Fitzgerald & Jacob Swanson - 20 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald and Business Administrator Jacob Swanson presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2027. An official fiscal year 2027 budget will be formally approved in the June 16th Board meeting.

8. Auditing Services RFP - Jacob Swanson - 5 min.

Business Administrator Jacob Swanson presented the results of the Auditing RFP, including the recommendations from the San Juan School District Auditing Committee.

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

The board recommended Ribbon Cutting, Open House Dates and Blessing on the new school for July 28th, 2026.

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

Business Administrator, Jacob Swanson, will provide an update on the Entryway Projects.

11. Delegate Assembly Selection - Nan Barton - 3 min.

The Utah School Boards Association pre-delegate assembly is scheduled for June 5th. The USBA Delegate Assembly is scheduled for June 6th. The Board has one delegate vote at the assembly and it was recommended a minimum of one board member attend. Ron Nielson suggested Nan Barton represent the board, as she will already be attending.

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

No content to share.

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

1. Albert R. Lyman (ARL) School Report - Ryan Palmer - 10 min.

Principal Palmer shared celebrations from the year, including; High involvement in CTSO-and growing at 53% participation, 12 Student qualified for FBLA national competition, 3 SkillsUSA State Champions and Nationals qualifiers, 2025 SkillsUSA National Champion, the only Junior High FFA Chapter in Utah, over 70% of students involved in various extracurricular activities, strong showing at Heritage Language Competitions, excitement about entryway construction beginning. He also noted proficiency growth in ELA, Math, Science, Benchmark data and consistently over 92% rate of students on track with progress for the year.

Mr. Palmer shared goals, steps towards goals, and challenges for the year. Challenges include: Increased challenges with chronic absenteeism, need for student specific support for Students with Disabilities and needing to meet the wide-ranging needs of students, a high number of students reading below grade level. (BOY TOSCRF assessments showed 70% of 6th grade students reading below grade level), and hiring and maintaining support staff (Kitchen, custodial, etc.)

2. San Juan High (SJH) School Report - Ryan Nielson - 10 min.

Principal Nielson shared celebrations from the year, including many extracurricular, cocurricular and athletic state and national qualifiers, championships, runners up and state-level successes. He noted the value of Heritage month and attributes the Unity Club for the celebration and growth of Heritage Month celebrations. He noted the cell phone policy as been enforced and has been successful.

Mr. Nielson shared goals, statistics, progress towards goals, efforts to increase involvement and further enhance student engagement. He highlighted the Emotional Support of his school, with efforts including the Behavior Team, Student Advocates, Counselors, community and medical agency mental health resources, and efforts in traditional counseling.

Challenges he noted from SJH include: Providing appropriate support and accommodations for students with disabilities, maintaining a safe and secure learning environment, including addressing issues such as substance abuse, and emergency preparedness, and grade-level reading struggles.

E. Break - @ 5:00 p.m.

F. Welcome and Recognition of Guests - 6:00 p.m.

G. SJ-2 Recognition Awards

1. Texas Instruments Salute to Science/STEM Awards: Jamie Carling - San Juan High School - 2025-2026 Winner

2. Texas Instruments Salute to Science Awards: Christina Boone - Montezuma Creek Elementary School - 2025-2026 Winner

3. Salute to Science/STEM Award Finalists: Julie Bunker, Sharmita Benally, Baylee Spence

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

No comments.

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

1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property (6:33 pm – 6:59 pm).

Motion to go into closed session to discuss Purchase, Exchange or Lease of Real Property.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Colleen Benally

2. Litigation (6:59 pm – 7:06 pm).

Motion to go into closed session to discuss Litigation.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Don Mose III.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Colleen Benally

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. Home School Letters of Intent**
- 9. Student Hearings**
- 10. SJSD Revised School Spend Plans**
- 11. Fall 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 with the removal of the WHS activity report.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Colleen Benally

K. Possible Action Items

1. What Works in Schools Research Proposal

Motion to approve the research proposal of the What Works in Schools demonstration grant.

Motion by Don Mose III, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Colleen Benally

2. Strategic Planning Collateral

Motion to approve the Strategic Planning Collateral with the recommended edits.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Colleen Benally

3. Employee Compensation Package SY2027

Motion to approve the employee compensation package and salary schedules for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Ron T Nielson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Colleen Benally

4. Auditing Services

Motion to adopt the recommendation of the Auditing Committee and award the contract for auditing services for Fiscal Year 26 through Fiscal Year 30 to Smuin, Rich & Marsing.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Colleen Benally

L. Information Items

1. Next Board Meeting June 16, 2026 @District Office/Virtual

2. Last Day of School - May 22, 2026

3. Graduation Schedules

4. Board and Administrative Meeting Schedule 2026-2027

5. Pre-delegate/Delegate Assembly June 5-6, 2026

M. Adjournment

1. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn.

Motion by Ron T Nielson, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Colleen Benally



Board Officer

District Administrator