

September 2026 Board Meeting

Meeting Location: District Office/Virtual

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Members present

Colleen Benally, Ron Nielson (*dismissed for board travel assignment at 5:00 pm*), Nan Barton, Don Mose III, Lucille Cody (*arrived at 3:30 pm*)

Others present

Superintendent Christine Fitzgerald, Business Administrator Jacob Swanson, Human Resources Director Laura Palmer, Assistant Superintendent Paul Murdock, Eva Ewald, Mason Lyman, Jeanna Grover, Ryan Palmer, Amanda Page, Ryan Nielson, Jonathan English

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 Ron T Nielson, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

B. Strategic Plan Update

1. Spotlight Report- Pillar 1 - Educate & Empower -Dr. Christy Fitzgerald- 3 min

Superintendent Fitzgerald shared Pillar 1 of the Educate & Empower section of the Strategic Plan. She highlighted achievements in reading scores from 2024-26 San Juan had the 2nd highest relative increase in rate of growth in the state in 3rd Grade reading levels. Scores indicated growth from 59.4% in 2024 to 68.9% in 2026.

As part of the Unite and Engage pillar, Superintendent noted the efforts of our public communications staffer who has been utilizing our districtwide Facebook page and increasing following from the community. She noted the initiative and process moving forward regarding utilizing the Thrillshare platform for all school communications.

Superintendent Fitzgerald also shared the first of many Listening Tour visits in the schools, beginning with Monticello Elementary most recently.

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. Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYRBS) – Shikera Russell – 5 min.

Representatives from the Navajo Health Education Program shared an overview of the previous NYRBS survey, and the benefits of the survey results to various agencies associated with Navajo youth mental health and wellbeing. They request the survey be administered for the 2026-27 school year.

The board thanked the team for their information and noted the similarities between the SHARP Survey and the NYRBS survey and inquired if, for the purpose of limiting survey time during instruction time, if the surveys couldn't be consolidated or information shared between the two agencies.

The board further noted that the Utah State Board of Education requires all surveys to have an "Opt In" permission format for parents/guardians to review prior to the school year during early registration, as well as all questions available for the parents/guardians and school board to review prior to consideration of participation. The board noted that the NYRBS request does not meet either criteria at this time.

2. NMHS & MVHS Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Substance Use Prevention 2025-2026 Reports - Paul Murdock - 5 min.

Assistant Superintendent Paul Murdock will present the 2025-2026 PBS Substance Use Prevention Reports and 2026-2027 Plans for Navajo Mountain High School and Monument Valley High School, in accordance with Utah Code [53G-10-407](#).

3. Policy 6530 Student Conduct & Discipline: Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities - Laura Palmer - 5 min

Human Resources Director Laura Palmer shared updates to Policy 6530, noting that the revisions have been reviewed by the Policy Committee, Special Education Director Spencer Singer and Assistant Superintendent and former Special Education Director Paul Murdock. She further stated that the Utah State Board Education for Special Education have also updated their rules and the revisions to the SJSD policy are in alignment with the updates. Specific changes include clearly defined shortened school days, as they pertain to student assistance and IEPs. Updates also include language to for adult students who use district SPED services and parent/guardian language for SPED.

4. Policy 6610 Student Activities: Curricular, Cocurricular & Extracurricular - Laura Palmer - 5 min

Removed the line re: requiring the board to have the 150-mile form, per updated UHSAA requirements.

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

Human Resources Director Laura Palmer presented the proposed LEA Specific License(s) and Endorsement(s) request for Board review and potential approval as an Action Item later in the meeting.

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

Business Administrator Jacob Swanson shared an overview of the Monticello High Vestibule, Albert R. Lyman Vestibule, Whitehorse High/Housing Landscape, and Montezuma Creek Flooring updates. He shared a cost proposal for additional costs to install a safe Fire Lane at ARL as needed due to updated construction. The increase of cost for the Fire Lane is proposed at \$401,532.45.

7. Policy 3110 - Accounting - Accounting Method - Jacob Swanson - 5 min

Business Administrator Jacob Swanson shared the recommendation from the State Auditors to increase the equipment maximum purchase threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000. This verbiage is found in Policy 3110. He noted this adjustment would be in alignment with federal guidelines and suggests updating the SJSD policy with verbiage similar to utilizing the threshold of the "lesser of \$10k or at federal guideline" rate.

8. School Board Meeting Date Changes – Superintendent Fitzgerald – 5 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald proposed to the Board Meeting Changes for Tuesday, January 19, 2027, to Wednesday, January 20, 2027 (Martin Luther King holiday on Monday), and Tuesday, April 13, 2027, to Wednesday, April 14, 2027 (conflict with the annual USSA St. George Legislative Update Meeting for the Superintendent and the Business Administrator).

9. State School Closure Process – Superintendent Fitzgerald & Jacob Swanson – 15 min.

Superintendent Fitzgerald and Business Administrator Swanson opened the discussion of possible closure of LaSal Elementary School. They visited concerns such as enrollment decline and building and grounds costs. They shared the requirements, guidelines and hearing requirements for the school closure proposal process. Per the state school closure requirements, a public hearing would be scheduled in LaSal for the October 13th board meeting and the November 10th board meeting, with potential action to be taken at the December 15th board meeting.

10. Board Training & Development/Board Member Activity Update - President Nan Barton - 8 min.

Board Member Nielson shared updates as the UHSAA 1A Classification representative. He noted the current agenda highlight is the topic of reclassification. He stated there would be two meetings in November and two more meetings in December to address reclassifications. He further noted that the classification selection process has been updated with factors including the October 1st Enrollment Count of 9th and 10th Grades, the At-Risk Student Data, and a formula for competition success in present classification. Board Member Nielson requests to be excused from this meeting early as he will be traveling to attend the UHSAA Summit for Reclassification in Richfield on September 9, 2026.

Board Vice President Benally shared a presentation created for public meetings and for board members to utilize as needed when they attend Chapter, Community and other public events.

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

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

Principal Palmer shared Albert R. Lyman's annual report, including: Strategic Vision Alignment & Celebration, School Report Card scores, Data Overview of School Performance scores in proficiency, Accountability measures, 90-Day Plans and action, Academic Growth, Data Cycles, community engagement, heritage language incorporation and responded to questions from the board.

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

Principal Nielson shared San Juan High School's annual report, including: Strategic Vision Alignment & Celebration, School Report Card scores, Data Overview of School Performance scores in proficiency, Accountability measures, 90-Day Plans and action, Academic Growth, Data Cycles, community engagement, heritage language incorporation and responded to questions from the board.

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: Ryan Mercer – MVHS

2. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Jessica McFarland – ARL

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

TC Garcia, parent from LaSal Elementary School, requests the board consider expanding LaSal Elementary to include 3rd grade. He emphasized educational opportunity as a vital part of the community. He also noted the growth efforts on the community, active efforts to enhance the community, and the proposed addition of the copper mine. He shared the value of small schools, relationships within small schools, and the value it brings to the overall growth to the community.

Mr. Garcia further noted benefits to students should 3rd grade be reincorporated to LaSal Elementary school, including reduction of travel, continuity of education, engagement for families, investment for future and a statement of confidence from the board in the LaSal Community. He stated that teachers, families and administration in LaSal are investing in the school, and asks the board to show their investment.

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

1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property

2. Litigation

Motion to go into closed session to discuss Litigation. (5:05-5:11 pm)

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Don Mose III.

Motion Carries

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

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. Exchange Student**
- 10. Student Hearings**
- 11. SJSD Revised School Spend Plans**
- 12. Fall 2025 Activity Reports and 150 Mile Forms**
- 13. School Land Trust Amendments**
- 14. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items**

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

K. Possible Action Items

1. Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYRBS)

Motion to approve the Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYRBS), following compliance evaluation on the opt-in, opt-out verbiage of the Consent Form.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Don Mose III.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Nay: Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Lucille Cody, Don Mose III

Motion ensure compliance with State Rule and Navajo Nation requirements and discuss the survey and Consent form further at the October board meeting.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Don Mose III.

Motion Carries

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

2. NMHS & MVHS PBS Substance Use Prevention 2025-2026 Reports & 2026-2027 Plans

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 PBS Substance Use Prevention reports and 2026-2027 PBS plans for NMHS & MVHS.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

3. Policy 6530 Student Conduct & Discipline: Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities

Motion to approve policy 6530 Student Conduct & Discipline: Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

4. Policy 6610 Student Activities: Curricular, Cocurricular & Extracurricular

Motion to approve Policy 6610 Student Activities: Curricular, Cocurricular & Extracurricular.

Motion by Don Mose III, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

5. LEA Specific License(s) and Endorsement(s) Request

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

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

6. School Board Meeting Date Changes

Motion to move the following meeting dates: January 19, 2027, to January 20, 2027 and April 13, 2027, to April 14, 2027.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

7. ARL Vestibule Project Budget Increase Request

Motion to approve the recommended budget increase for the ARL Vestibule Project to construct the required fire lane.

Motion by Don Mose III, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

8. Policy 3110 - Accounting - Accounting Method

Motion to approve Policy 3110 Accounting - Accounting Method.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

9. Initiation of Studying School Closure for LaSal Elementary School and to Provide Notice to Parents and Municipal Leaders.

Motion that the Board initiate a study regarding the possible closure of La Sal Elementary school and to give notice to parents and to municipal leadership that the Board is considering closure of La Sal Elementary school, with action on the issue to be taken on or after December 15, 2026, and that the school board meeting for October 13, 2026, and the public hearing on November 10, 2026 to be held at La Sal Elementary School.

Motion by Colleen Benally, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

L. Information Items

1. Board Meeting October 13, 2026 @DO/Virtual

2. USBA Regional Meeting @ Grand School District - September 30, 2026 @

6:00pm

3. CCR Day – half day – September 15, 2026
4. NAFIS Conference – September 20-22, 2026 @ Washington D.C.
5. Civics Day – September 29, 2026 @SJHS
6. Hold the Date – Heritage Language Conference – November 20, 2026 @
Whitehorse High School

M. Adjournment

1. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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



Board Officer



District Administrator