

December 2022 Board Meeting

*Meeting Location: District Office and Virtual
Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022*

Members present

Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Lucille Cody

Others present

Superintendent Ron Nielson, Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton, Aaron Brewer, Eva Ewald, Julie Holt, Christy Fitzgerald, Denece Kitto, Laura Palmer, Coerina Fife, Trevor Olsen, Paul Murdock, Jeanna Grover, Jeff Winget, Jennifer Johnson, Spencer Singer; guests: Bayley Hedglin, Doug Rasmussen

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM

A. Approval of Agenda - 3:00 p.m.

1. Agenda Approval

Motion to Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black

B. SJ Quest Update

1. Spotlight Report -SJSD Board of Education- Ron Nielson- 3 min

Superintendent Nielson highlighted the role of the School Board and noted that the decisions, policies and leadership deserve recognition and thanked the board for their efforts. With the board being in a transition due to elections, Superintendent specifically recognized Mr. Yellowman and Ms. Cody for their hard work and all they have accomplished and added to our board. Mr. Yellowman has served 16 years and Ms. Yellowman for four years. Recognition will be sent once the final board decisions have been made. President Maughan voiced her appreciation for the board and her enjoyment working with the board.

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. SJSD FY 22 Audit Report - Doug Rasmussen - 20 min Virtual

The board received a summary of the annual audit report performed by Sumin, Rich & Marsing. The overall report was positive with no findings of noncompliance. Auditors shared their opinion that the district complied with state compliance for the year ending June 30, 2022.

Superintendent Nielson and Board President Lori Maughan voice their gratitude for their professionalism and excellent work done in the business office.

2. Sage Potash Informational Presentation- Bayley Hedglin -15 min

Bayley Hedglin shared information regarding the Sage Potash extraction project near Eastland, Utah. She stated that the project is scheduled to pilot in 6 to 12 months and is predicted to produce employment locally for generations. Ms. Hedglin reported that as the project progresses, she would keep the school district informed.

3. USU Elicit Students' Reasoning Processes Survey- Jeff Winget - 5 min

Jeff Winget and USU representative requested permission to administer the USU Elicit Students' Reasoning Processes Survey to 8 students total. Survey time should take approximately 1 lunch hour, would offer small incentive for participate, and participants are selected by invitation and only allowed to participate with parental permission. Superintendent Nielson noted that he has reviewed the survey and has no concerns with the questions and content of the survey.

4. School Calendar 2023-2024 school year Adoption Discussion- Laura Palmer- 10 min

HR Director Laura Palmer shared 3rd option for school calendar following survey from teachers and school principals, with approximately 143 participants from faculty. The survey showed faculty days be spread thru the year, specifically following long school breaks. Survey results also indicated that the majority of faculty preferred the half-day CCR days. This survey went to principals and school teachers only. Option 2 starts on Wednesday, instead of Thursday.

5. COVID 19 Protocols/ Face Covering Mandate in River Region Schools- Ron Nielson- 5 min

Superintendent Nielson led discussion regarding the survey from Whitehorse High Scholars and their request for removing the current mask mandates. He noted that throughout the entire Covid-19 changes the district has always made great efforts in complying with the Navajo Nation and State of Utah mandates. The request from the students is in direct conflict with the current Navajo Nation mandates, while in compliance with the State of Utah. The board directed Superintendent Nielson submit the request, along with the support of the student's opinion to new Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren once he is sworn into office in January 2023.

6. Secondary Schools Winter Activities Schedule and applicable 150 Mile Forms - Ron Nielson - 5 min

Secondary Activity Schedules and applicable 150 Mile forms for Navajo Mountain High School and updated forms for Whitehorse High School were submitted for board review and are include as an action item for approval.

7. MHS Revised Softball Spend Plan – ½ Public Comment Window – Ron Nielson – 2 min

Spend plan for Monticello High School softball program has been submitted. This is the first of two required formal review and public comment opportunities. The spend plan will be on the agenda next month, along with opportunity potential action.

8. Business Administrator's Contract Renewal Process Discussion- Ron Nielson- 10 min

A formal review of the current Business Administrator is included in the Executive section of the agenda. It is recommended that any contract changes or approvals be presented by the board by the end of January. The board can discuss any further details in Closed Session if needed.

9. Superintendent Search Process Discussion- Ron Nielson- 10 min

Superintendent Nielson discussed the potential action items that would benefit the board in the Superintendent Search, including utilizing the USBA process for advertising and distribution of search publications. His recommendation is to set an application timeline. He noted that his intended resignation date is the end of August, but that the board may find it helpful to hire his replacement to begin July 1, as the contract generally states, and train for the month of July. While this is not standard practice, it has been found beneficial in transitions in different parts of the state.

The board recommended opening the position in-district initially, with advertising beginning as soon as possible. Following the in-house opening, utilizing the USBA team to open the position publicly if the board chooses.

10. Appointment of Board Member to District #2- Ron Nielson- 15 min

Superintendent gave the board directions on the interview and ranking process that would occur during public session later this evening.

Board Members will be given a link to a scoring sheet where each board member will rank candidates, with most preferred candidate #1 and least preferred candidate #5. If the board desires, notes can be taken during the interviews, but will need to be submitted as board record at the end of the proceedings.

The final ranking will show the most preferred candidate down to our least preferred candidate. Board member identity will not be shared during the ranking process. The scoring sheet will only show an overall average score taking all board member's rankings into consideration.

After we see the final overall rankings, we will then have identified a candidate who is favored by the board. It is permissible to have an open discussion (it is illegal to go into closed session) about the candidate if desired; keeping mind discussing the strengths and weaknesses of a person in public can be sensitive and should be very general and very limited. Following the discussion, it is still permissible for board members to revise their rankings.

The interviews will be conducted and published in this board meeting, but motion to appoint and rankings will not be conducted until the new board members take their seats in January, as the current or outgoing board shall not be permitted to appoint the new board member until the elected officials take office on the board in January.

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

1. Tsepii'nidzizgai Elementary School- Denece Kitto- 10 min

Principal Denece Kitto shared goals, challenges and celebrations for Tsepii'nidzizgai Elementary School (TES). She also shared proficiency data for ELA, Math and Science. Major concerns include learning loss, transportation concerns, attendance and need for more SPED personnel. There has been a big focus on mental health in the school among students and staff, and the continued discussions are both cause for celebration and challenge. She also noted and celebrated that TES has been notified they are out of the Turnaround program.

2. Monument Valley High School - Coerina Fife- 10 min

Principal Coerina Fife shared goals, challenges and celebrations for Monument Valley High School (MVHS). She also shared benchmark data for ELA, Math and Science, Graduation Rate statistics and ACT composite scores. Major concerns include utilization of flex-time, substitute shortage, attendance concerns, social-emotional needs of staff, coaching shortages, and need for more SPED personnel. Celebrations include having a social worker on staff, Portrait of a Graduate work in schools, an ACT option for Spring Semester, and many others.

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: Styne Enabulele

2. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Tammy Anderson

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

Kari Bake requested that when the new school board member is appointed, training will be given.

I. Closed Session

1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property

No real property discussion needed.

2. Litigation (5:13 pm – 5:23 pm)

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Litigation.

Motion by Steve Black, second by Merri Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Lucille Cody

Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman

3. Personnel (7:05 pm – 7:43 pm)

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel.

Motion by Merri Shumway, second by Steve Black.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Lucille Cody

Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman

J. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes

2. Revenue Reports

3. Expenditure Reports

4. School Expenditure Reports

- 5. Monthly Checks**
- 6. Board Travel Reports**
- 7. Personnel Report(s) and Information**
- 8. Home School Requests**
- 9. Student Hearings**
- 10. School Land Trust Plan Amendments**
- 11. SJSD Revised School Spend Plans**
- 12. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Steve Black, second by Lucille Cody.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Lucille Cody
Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman

K. SJSD School Board District #2 Interview Section 6:20 PM

- 1. Interview: MeriAnell Barton 6:20 - 6:28**
- 2. Interview: Kari Bake 6:30-6:38**
- 3. Interview: (candidate withdrew) 6:40- 6:48**
- 4. Interview: Kyle Hosler- 6:50- 6:58**
- 5. Interview: Lynnette Johnson 7:00-7:08**

L. Possible Action Items

- 1. SJSD Board's Appointing Board Member for District #2**

No Action.

- 2. SJSD Secondary School Winter Activity Schedules / 150 Mile Form Requests**

Motion to accept Secondary Winter Activity Schedules and applicable 150 Mile Forms as presented.

Motion by Lucille Cody, second by Steve Black.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Lucille Cody
Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman

3. 2023-2024 School Calendar Adoption

Motion to adopt Option 2 as the 2023-24 School Year Calendar.

Motion by Steve Black, second by Lucille Cody.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Lucille Cody
Nay: Merri B Shumway
Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman

4. Sage Potash Mine

No Action.

5. Superintendent Search Next Steps

Motion to explore interest in the position within the District to begin search, then expand to outside the District parameters if necessary and after board review.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Steve Black.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Lucille Cody
Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman

6. Business Administrator's Position Contract Renewal Next Steps

No Action.

7. USU Elicit Students' Reasoning Processes Survey

Motion to allow USU Elicit Student's Reasoning Processes Survey.

Motion by Steve Black, second by Lucille Cody.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Lucille Cody

Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman

8. COVID 19 Protocols River Region

Motion that the district respond to students at WHS indicating our intent to inform the Navajo Nation of their concerns and our support of their concerns voiced in the contract; with correspondence completed before next board meeting.

Motion by Steve Black, second by Lucille Cody.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Lucille Cody

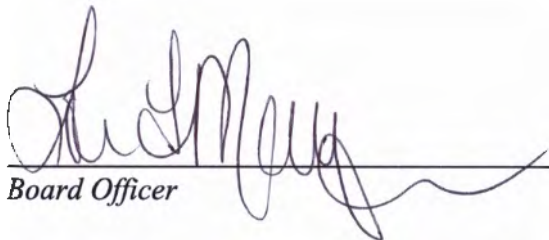
Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman

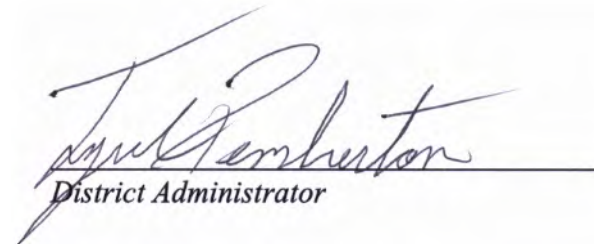
M. Information Items

- 1. Christmas Break- December 22, 2022 - January 2, 2023 for Students**
- 2. January 2, 2023 Teacher Work Day - No School for Students**
- 3. USBA January Annual Conference - January 5-7, 2023**
- 4. Martin Luther King Day - January 16, 2023 - No School**
- 5. Next Board Meeting-Jan 25, 2022 @ DO/Virtual**

N. Adjournment

1. Adjournment


Board Officer


District Administrator