

March 2023 Board Meeting

Meeting Location: District Office and Virtual

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Members present

Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

Others present

Superintendent Ron Nielson, Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton, Human Resources Director Laura Palmer, Assistant Superintendent Julie Holt, Eva Ewald, Kim Schaefer, Anita Jacobsen, Aaron Brewer

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM

A. Approval of Agenda

1. Approve Agenda

Motion to Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Steve Black.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Colleen Benally

B. SJ Quest Update

1. Spotlight Report-San Juan School District Foundation - Ron Nielson- 3 min

Superintendent Nielson highlighted the San Juan School District Foundation and their contributions to the district. He shared that the foundation is driven by the director and board, who hold approximately six regular meetings a year. He further noted the functions of the foundation, including: provide a grant to all schools in the district for the area of need (approximately \$2k per school), financial support of students who participate in national academic competitions, student scholarships for 2-4 students per year, and assisting the district in recognizing our outstanding staff members. In the spring, the foundation sponsors a banquet to honor nominated staff and faculty from each school (1 faculty, 1 staff) and recognize and announce the Teacher of the Year.

Superintendent recognized and congratulated Christine Rock from Tsebii'nidzizgai Elementary

School (TES) as this year's Teacher of the Year. Christine is the Heritage Language instructor at TES.

Superintendent Nielson thanked the foundation for their continued support and dedication to the students of our district. He noted that donations to the foundation are welcome and there is an employee payroll contribution option if more convenient.

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. Law Suit s. Social Media Platforms – Franz Law Group – Ron Nielson – 10 min

Representatives from Franz Law Group shared a virtual presentation giving the overview of the lawsuit. The legal firm who is taking legal action against social media companies (Facebook, Tik Tok, Snap Chat, etc.) for targeting youth to use their platforms all while knowing the negative effects it will have on them. The board discussed the potential additional workload on staff to gather data should the district choose to participate.

2. Capital Plan Follow-up - Tyrel Pemberton - 20 min

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton stated that the district is researching potential construction management options to streamline the projects the board has approved so far. He will return in April with more information regarding the construction management and updates on outlined projects.

3. Open and Public Meetings Act Training - Tyrel Pemberton - 10 min

Due to having two new board members, this training has been moved up from August to March. This training is required to be done annually for our risk assessment trainings. Certificates upon completion will need to be filed on record. The completion of the training is documented via certificate and in board minutes. The training was conducted at 4:50 pm following the arrival of Colleen Benally (3:50 pm). All board members were present.

4. MZES School Land Trust Amendment - Christy Fitzgerald- 10 min

Montezuma Creek Elementary School (MZES) requests an amendment to their school's land trust plan. There was surplus in the teacher salary portion as a new teacher hired, but for lesser salary as previously budgeted as the new hire had less years of experience. With this overage of \$16,837.00 the school council voted that the additional funding be used to purchase Addition & Subtraction and Multiplication & Division Building Fact Fluency Kits to be used during Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction. These kits have activities that help develop conceptual understanding of the operations and fact fluency at the same time. Part of the funds will be used to purchase Classroom Ready Rich Mathematical Tasks.

5. School Land Trust Final Report Summary 2020-2021 - Julie Holt, Christine Fitzgerald - 10 min

Assistant Superintendents Julie Holt and Christine Fitzgerald shared the summary of the School Land Trust expenditures and carry-overs for the 2021-22 school year. They noted that many of the goals that were partially met were so close and that from those shortcomings, the district is learning how to set rigorous yet attainable goals, while reevaluating the goals not met. The approval of this final report is an Action Item later in the meeting.

6. Proposed 2023-24 Fee Waiver & Spend Plans/Program Sustainability Fees & Policies 6130 Students, Tuition, Fees and Fines & 1145 Relations with the Public and Fundraising and Donations - Discussion- Ron Nielson- 30 min

Spend plans attached have been updated to reflect the new proposed fee amounts listed on the Sustainability Fee schedule, including adjusted amounts eligible for meals and motels to \$13 and \$32, respectively. Spend Plans are presented as an Action Item later in this agenda and will need to be approved by the state deadline of April 1.

A discussion was held regarding the proposed increase of the sustainability fees. Superintendent noted that this increase reflects recent cost of living increases. Tyrel Pemberton reported that we waived \$157,007 in fees for the 2021-22 school year.

7. Board Handbook Overview Discussion – Steve Black – 20 min

Board Member Steve Black led the board in discussion of the Board Handbook. New board members were introduced to procedures and policies and the board was given opportunity to propose revisions as needed.

8. Makeup Days for Missed Instructional Day for Monticello Schools – Ron Nielson – 10 min

Superintendent Nielson suggested that Monticello Schools extend the March 31st Friday, and the April 14th Friday to make up for the missed school day on February 22nd due weather. He noted that if the board liked the suggestion, he would make the recommendation to the State Superintendent, who would ultimately be the one to approve the calendar adjustment. He stated that the State Superintendent would very likely approve the change as it has been done in the past in similar instances.

9. 2023 Legislative Updates – Ron Nielson & Tyrel Pemberton – 10 min

Superintendent Nielson and Tyrel Pemberton shared Legislative Updates with the board and reminded the board that the Regional Board Meeting will be held in Blanding on March 21st and more details and questions can be addressed then.

10. Highly Effective Teachers in Poverty Schools – Ron Nielson – 10 min

Superintendent Nielson shared the list of the teachers who would be receiving the stipend for Highly Effective Teachers in Poverty Schools. He requested any preferences or input on how the board would like the recipients to be presented with their awards.

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

1. Montezuma Creek Elementary School Report - Anita Jacobsen- 10 min

Principal Anita Jacobsen shared goals, challenges and celebrations from Montezuma Creek Elementary School. The board requested data specific to attendance/chronic absenteeism and student grades. One major celebration reported by Principal Jacobsen as that for the first time in 2.5 years she was fully staffed in her school. She noted some challenges including poor student attendance and mental health concerns for students and staff, with not enough counseling services.

2. Whitehorse High School Report- Kim Schaefer- 10 min

Principal Kim Schaefer shared goals, challenges and celebrations from Whitehorse High School. She shared areas for improvement, including efforts to prevent bullying, increase in parent and scholar engagement and more digital learning opportunities. She noted some challenges including increase in major behavior incidences, chronic absenteeism and major increase in mental health needs but no increase in mental health support personnel.

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

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

G. SJ² Recognition Awards

No SJ² awards given at this time.

H. Citizen Comments

1. Citizens' Comments

Mason Lyman spoke as a parent advocate of the construction of new elementary school, instead of remodeling the old school. He noted that a new school is a commitment and investment to the future of our students.

Jamie Harvey, County Commissioner, expressed on behalf of community how wonderful Ms. Schaefer is doing at Whitehorse High School. He reemphasized issues Ms. Schaefer mentioned in her school report - including absenteeism and student behavior – stating that they are important to him as a commissioner. He further requested the Superintendent’s support as he begins efforts to visit with and collahorate with Navajo Nation Law Enforcement teams for better assistance in our schools. He asked for more information regarding the School Resource Officer position that used to be located in the school. Superintendent Nielson confirmed he and Human Resources would follow-up on the information requested.

Carolene Johnson (via email) requests increase in meal amounts for students when on school-sponsored travel. She suggested that with more money, students could purchase healthier options.

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 Merri B Shumway, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Nan Barton, Colleen Benally

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 Amendments

11. SJSJSD Revised School Spend Plans

12. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

K. Possible Action Items

1. Capital Project Recommendations

No motion needed.

2. MZES School Land Trust Amendment

Motion to approve the Montezuma Creek Elementary School Land Trust Amendment.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nan Barton.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

3. Frantz Law Group Social Media Law Suit

Motion to write an engagement letter to move forward with action in Franz Law Group Social Media Law Suit.

Motion by Nan Barton, second by Steve Black.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

Nay: Merri B Shumway

4. School Land Trust Final 2021-22 School Reports

Motion to accept the School Land Trust Final Report for the 2021-22 School Year.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nan Barton.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

5. 2023-24 Fee Waiver Policy 6130, Fundraising Policy 1145, Spend Plans, and Program Sustainability Fee Schedule

Motion to accept the 2023-24 Fee Waiver Policy 6130, Fundraising Policy 1145, Spend Plans, and Program Sustainability Fee Schedule.

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Nan Barton.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

Nay: Merri Shumway

6. Board Handbook Revisions

Motion to make suggested Handbook Revisions, update page numbers, and recommended verbiage from discussion.

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Merri Shumway

Motion to amend the motion to make suggested Handbook Revisions, and revisit the revised document in the April board meeting.

Motion by Steve Black, second by Merri Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton, Merri Shumway

7. Make up Days for Monticello Schools

Motion to adjust Friday March 31st and Friday April 14th as full days on the schedule for Monticello Schools to make up for day of school missed on February 22nd for inclement weather.

Motion by Nan Barton, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

8. Superintendent Contract 2023-2025 Approval

Motion to approve the proposed contract with Christine Fitzgerald for Superintendent for the 2023-2025 School Years.

Motion by Steve Black, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

Motion to amend the motion to change verbiage to be consistent for he/she, his/her, etc. specific to the individual.

Amendment motioned by Steve Black, second Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

9. 2023 Provisional Contract Renewal

Motion to accept the 2023 Provisional Contract Renewal

Motion by Merri Shumway, second by Colleen Benally

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

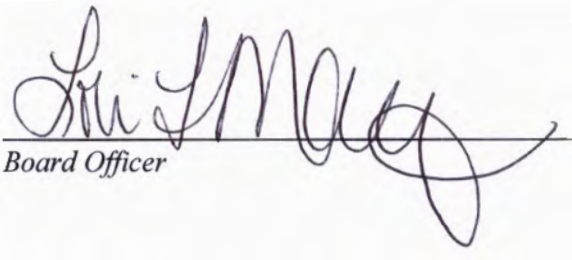
Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Merri B Shumway, Lori Maughan, Steve Black, Colleen Benally, Nan Barton

L. Information Items

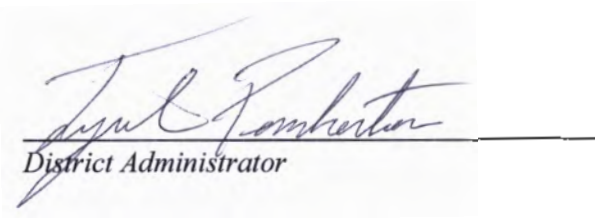
- 1. USBA Regional Board Meeting – March 21, 2023 – 6:00 pm**
- 2. No School – Good Friday & Easter Break Days – April 7 & 10, 2023**
- 3. Next Board Meeting April 5, 2023 @DO/Virtual**

M. Adjournment

1. Adjournment



Board Officer



District Administrator