

## **April 5, 2023 Board Meeting**

*Meeting Location: District Office and Virtual*

*Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 5, 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 Resource Director Laura Palmer, Assistant Superintendent Julie Holt, Assistant Superintendent Christine Fitzgerald, Aaron Brewer, David Brown, Mason Lyman, Jared Brown, Paul Murdock, Jonathan English, Eva Ewald, Rich Monson

### **Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.**

## **A. Approval of Agenda**

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### **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

## **B. SJ Quest Update**

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### **1. Spotlight Report-Sterling Scholar Highlight Ron Nielson- 3 min**

Superintendent Nielson congratulated the Sterling Scholars who participated in the Regional Event in the past week. He thanked our scholars for representing the district so well. He also thanked the staff and advisors in the school who assisted the scholars in their preparation and accomplishment.

Easton Young, from Monticello High School was the winning scholar in the category of Skilled and Technical Sciences, with 12 Runners Up from the district to follow in the district (SJH 9, MHS 2, WHS 1).

**C. Board Discussion Items** *(Note, discussion items not discussed before 5 p.m. break will be discussed later in the agenda at the board's discretion)*

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**1. USU - Smithsonian Crossroads - Bayley Hedglin - 10 min**

Bayley Hedglin and guest Ellen Williams shared information regarding the Smithsonian Crossroads Traveling Exhibition Service project that will be in our area in August 2024. The exhibit will be on display at the Utah State University Science Lobby. Local communities are invited to be involved via public lecture, literature, art and display content that are specific to their rural area. Ms. Hedglin and Ms. Williams emphasized their desire to have the school district and students as involved as possible in the exhibit, both as contributors and guests.

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

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton shared feedback from districts statewide regarding construction management teams and their role in project coordination. He shared specifics from a company being considered called BDK. He shared the scope and value of what a management team such as BDK could provide for major construction projects similar to projects outlined in the district Capital Plan goals. He recommended utilizing BDK, noting they are already qualified on the State Contracting list, and asked for the Board's support in utilizing the management team.

Board Member Merri Shumway requested seeking local contractor Colby Davis to see if he would be available and willing to act as construction management; Mr. Pemberton noted that that would necessitate the procurement process, if he is willing and/or available.

**3. Annual Fraud Risk Assessment - Tyrel Pemberton - 5 min**

Business Administrator Tyrel Pemberton shared the results of the district's he thanked the board members for completing their Training, as it has a positive impact on the Risk Assessment score. He shared the evaluation scale, the district achieved a score of 350 of 395 points, which is the highest it has been since the scale evaluation has been utilized.

**4. Envision Utah – Student Work Group & Survey – Ron Nielson – 10 min**

Superintendent Nielson shared the survey from Envision Utah, a non-profit organization from Utah. Envision Utah has requested the participation of San Juan School District regarding a survey focused on barriers to education. The group requests permission to distribute the survey to San Juan High School and likely Whitehorse High School. There is an opt-in permission from parents/guardians. Superintendent shared the questions in the survey with the board, noting that he did not see any issues with the questions being asked. As district practice necessitates, this is included as an Action Item later in the agenda for board decision.

Board members voiced support, with caution on adding a survey for students to complete during the busy final month of the school year.

## **5. School Land Trust Plans SY24 – Christine Fitzgerald/Julie Holt – 10 min**

Assistant Superintendents Julie Holt and Christine Fitzgerald shared the SY 2023-24 Trust Plans with the board. Points of interest or change in the Mountain Region include a new pilot program in Blanding Elementary for grades K-5 called Destination Imagination Enrichment Challenge. River Region school plans are very similar to previous plans, with adding enhanced collection and use of data. Goals in River Region secondary schools are focused on capturing credit recovery, with a focus on improving graduation rates.

## **6. Letter from SJSD Administrative Team to SJSD Board Members Regarding Trust and Confidentiality – Ron Nielson – 15 min**

Superintendent Nielson presented a letter addressed to the board members from several principals regarding concerns surrounding confidentiality and trust. The letter specifically addressed personnel issues that were discussed in confidence in closed session, which the letter suggests were not supported during the public session of the February 2023 Board Meeting during Citizens Comments. It inquired as to the confidentiality of information and employee evaluation provided by administrators and shared with Human Resources and discussed by the Board, as well as support from the board in respective evaluations.

Superintendent Nielson expounded on the letter stating that the sentiment is that the difficulties associated with administration, particularly when it pertains to contracts and employee evaluations is very sensitive. Those signing the letter felt that in the Public Comment of the February board meeting, they felt the boundary between privileged discussion and protected information discussed in Closed Session were exposed or, at a minimum, not supported with public comment made by a board member. He further added that the meeting had a huge amount of public opinion and emotion, and may have impacted decisions made.

The board conducted discussion and debate on how or if Public Comment should be open to Board Members along with public, particularly concerning topics that have information previously discussed in Closed Session with confidential Board Member rights. Discussion continued regarding improvements that can be made in clarifying the process for public comment, with emphasis on public impact and impression, and support of administration recommendations. Superintendent Nielson stated his feeling that Public Comment is meant for opportunity to give time for the public to address the board, and not reverse.

## **7. Board Handbook Overview Discussion – Steve Black – 10 min**

Discussion is deferred to future meeting in the interest of time.

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

### **1. Mountain Region & River Region Report – Julie Holt & Christine Fitzgerald – 20 min**

Assistant Superintendents Julie Holt and Christine Fitzgerald shared the three largest goals for the combined areas including improving learning outcomes for early literacy and early math, improve outcomes for English learners and Special Education populations, and increasing utilization of data cycles, feedback, progress monitoring and data analysis to guide collaborated decision-making.

Ms. Holt shared mid-year data marks in elementary schools, and school report card data for SY2022, including English Learner progress. She shared details and goals related to Secondary Schools Flex time, including intervention supports and enrichment opportunities for students.

Progress statistics for students enrolled in Utah Online School (UOS), At Risk and On Track students, ACT Scores, ELA Benchmark Data, and Graduation Rates were also shared. A list of several summer leaning and training opportunities for all educators are also planned for the upcoming months.

Challenges in both regions included: recruitment and retention in staff, retainment of special education teachers and paraeducators, health and wellness, mental health services, new mandate sand legislation implementation, parent engagement and communication, maintaining competitive salaries for certified and classified employees, and increasing intensity in school-level concerns (i.e. Safety, behavior, conflict, misinformation).

Celebrations districtwide include increased school and district collaboration, continued work on Portrait of a Graduate and QUEST Model, intentional focus on school improvement and 90-day plans, focus on intervention and support for all students, dedicated leadership, relentless educators, unwavering staff committed to students, family & community empowerment.

Superintendent Nielson noted that the increased focus on the White Mesa community has been a great celebration and has shown to be beneficial, and has shown great promise.

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

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

## G. SJ<sup>2</sup> Recognition Awards

**1. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Nicole Black**

**2. San Juan Sweet Job Award: Charlene Poyer**

## H. Citizen Comments

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### 1. Citizens' Comments

The following stakeholders spoke in support of Victoria Yazzie's reinstatement of employment: Dawnae Yazzie, Denoah Yazzie, Jean Holiday, Victoria Yazzie, Anthony Kinney, LaTeyah Stanley, Kiley Scott, Lyneah Israel, Nevaeh Wilson, Noah Yazzie, Dalton Arviso

Students from Monument Valley High School also submitted a petition in support of Victoria Yazzie, requesting her reinstatement.

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

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### 1. Purchase, exchange or lease of real property

### 2. Litigation

*Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Litigation.*

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

### 3. Personnel

*Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel.*

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Colleen Benally.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

## J. Consent Agenda

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### 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 Accept the Consent Agenda.*

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nan Barton

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

## **K. Possible Action Items**

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### **1. Capital Project Recommendations**

*Motion to move forward with seeking local construction manager, and move forward with the recommendation from the Business Administrator if there is no local option.*

Discussion from Business Administrator Pemberton noted that it could potentially extend the timeframe by several weeks due to properly conduct the procurement process. Board Member Shumway commented that she intended to reach out to a specific contractor locally, as he had done previous construction management tasks for the district in the past.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nelson Yellowman

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Yea: Merri B Shumway

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

*It is recommended that the board approve administration to take the next steps needed to move forward with the business administrator's recommendation with the Capital Plan.*

Motion by Nan Barton, second by Colleen Benally.

Motion Carries

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

Nay: Merri B Shumway

## **2. SJSB Board Handbook Revisions**

*No Action.*

## **3. Action on recommendation of impartial hearing officer in connection with employment of Victoria Yazzie, pursuant to Policy 4510.5**

*Motion to approve and adopt the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the impartial hearing officer and uphold the termination of employment of Victoria Yazzie.*

Motion by Steve Black, second by Nan Barton.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

## **4. School Land Trust Plans SY24**

*Motion to approve the school land trust plans for School Year 2023-24.*

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. Envision Utah Student Workgroups and Survey Request**

*Motion to Approve the Envision Utah Student Workgroups and Survey, at Principal's discretion.*

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

*Motion to amend original motion to provide opportunity for principals to decide if they can fit it into the school schedule.*

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Motion Carries

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

L. Information Items

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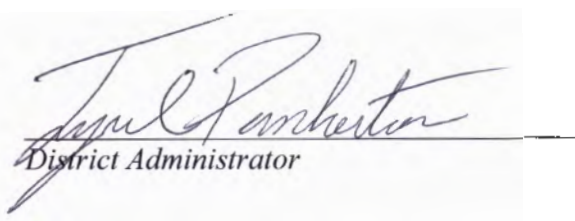
1. No School – April 7 & 10, 2023 – Good Friday & Easter Break
2. Next Board Meeting May 10, 2023 @ DO/Virtual

M. Adjournment

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1. Adjournment

  
Board Officer

  
District Administrator