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June 6, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

Pursuant to the San Juan School District (SJSD) Native American Policies and Procedures, SJSD School Board will hold Public Comment regarding student participation data for all secondary school sponsored activities as well as a public review of any questions submitted to the Superintendent specifically regarding education of Native American students. The questions/answers submitted and participation data for the 2022-23 school year is attached for your information.

We invite you, your chapter members, and all who wish to make comment or attend our board meeting on **June 20, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the School District Office in Blanding, Utah** as the board members review and discuss this data. The meeting will also be broadcast virtually; a link will be available on www.sjsd.org website, 24 hours prior to the meeting. For those attending virtually, public comments may be sent to: eewald@sjsd.org **up to 6:00 pm the evening of the meeting.**

I wish to restate the District's commitment to increasing communication and inviting more input from both Navajo and Ute Tribal leadership and Chapter Officials. It is our highest priority to foster a collaborative partnership with our tribal leaders. Working together, we can better serve our Native American students.

If you are unable to attend, I invite you to reply to me via email at rn Nielson@sjsd.org or contact me via phone at (435) 678-1211 to submit your comments or questions. I am happy to respond as quickly as possible. I value greatly your collaboration and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron T. Nielson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Ron T. Nielson
Superintendent

SY 2022-23

Date	Name & Contact Info	Citizen Questions/Comments	Response
4/5/23	Ophelia Holiday opholiday3@gmail.com	<p><i>"The Utah Department of Education Law R277-328 Educational Equity states, "acknowledging that all students are capable of learning and distributing resources to provide equal opportunities based upon the needs of each individual student. Equitable resources include funding, programs, policies, initiatives and supports that recognize each student's unique background and school context to guarantee that all students have access to high-quality education."</i></p> <p>So what is the explanation of the VERY limited opportunities and skills available to the students of MVHS? San Juan High, Monticello High, and Whitehorse High have more active clubs than Monument Valley High. Monument Valley High does not even have a student body council or class councils. How are the students at MVH supposed to be heard? Students and parents knock and knock on doors of the administration, but they are not answered. How than can students and parents be heard?</p>	<p><i>SJSD approves a list of sports and clubs for schools. San Juan High being a classification larger than Monticello, Monument Valley, or Whitehorse High have a few more programs approved. This is to accomodate the larger student body. Schools can choose from the approved list and sponsor prgrams as they choose based on student desire and support. Often, a program starts and goes for a few years before student support wanes and the program is dropped due to a lack of student desire. If there is sufficient sutdent support, Monument Valley High can sponsor new sports as approved on the approved secondary list.</i></p>
4/5/23	Ophelia Holiday opholiday3@gmail.com	<p>What is the 50/50 Grading policy and when did this start? Not many parents, including myself, are aware of this policy. Can you please elaborate on this 50/50 Policy?</p>	<p><i>Leading Assessment presentors across the county have made a case that the traditonal grading scale used in US schools for years is not fair and equitable for students. They make the argument that basing a A, a B, a C, and a D on a 10% range while basing a F on a 59% range is very unfair to students. When a student does not turn in an assignment and gets a 0, he drops 59% points which has a disaprotionante effect on the grade. The solution is to give a 50% to students who fail to turn in an assignment. 50% is still an F, but does not have such a drastic effect on the overall grade.</i></p>

4/12/23	Shawna Whitehorse Red Mesa swhitehorse@unhsinc.org 435-220-0481	Have more sponsored Native American events, performances or fundraisers. The Bluff Balloon Festival was amazing! The Students are amazing.	<i>Response via email on 4/12/23 from Barbara to S. Whitehorse: As a school we are striving to do more Native American events through our HL programs; for example, we are having an HL assembly next week, our students are performing Native dances, having cultural food and we are having Ms. Navajo Nation come to our school to meet with the students. As far as fund raising, I know as Elem. schools we are limited in doing this. We have one major one that we do during the Balloon Festival in January and that is about all we do. Unless we can be given permission to do a couple more during the year, we could look into that with my SCC parents.</i>
3/8/23	Jamie Harvey, Commissioner jamieharvey@utah.gov	Commissioner Harvey requested the Superintendent's support to collaborate with the Navajo Nation Law Enforcement for better assistance in schools on Navajo Nation jurisdiction. He requested further information regarding the previous School Resource Officer positions that were once located in the schools.	<i>SJSD will work closely with Commissioner Harvey to help secure funding for better law enforcement efforts in schools on the Navajo Nation. It is a high priority of our district.</i>
3/8/23	Carolene Johnson leeno94@yahoo.com	Ms. Johnson requests increase in meal amounts for students on trips so that students may purchase healthier meal options when traveling.	<i>The SJSD Board of Education voted to raise the student fee waiver meal reimbursement amount from \$12 to \$13 dollars for the 2023-24 school year. Presently over \$200,000 dollars are being spent to support fee waiver students in having access to programs and activities.</i>
10/12/2022 & 11/9/2022	Waylon Toledo, Reid Sifford, Izaya Bob, Lyrell Primeaus; submitted via email Petition submitted via email 11/09/22	In the October 2022 School Board Meeting, several citizens comments were submitted, as well as a petition signed by a large number of studentbody and staff (164 signatures), requesting that the district make masks optional at their school.	<i>The SJSD Board of Education appreciates input from stakeholders. Comments and the petition focused on the mandatory mask mandate in schools serving high percentages of Native students were sent to Office of the President of the Navajo Nation since the mandate was initiated by the Navajo Nation President Nez.</i>