

San Juan Unified School District

Board of Education

3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes
September 24, 2024**

Regular Meeting

Board of Education

6:00 p.m.

Open Session/Call to Order/Announcement of Closed Session Topics (A)

The September 24 regular meeting was called to order by the president, Pam Costa. The board meeting was held in person and was also livestreamed on the district website.

Closed Session Visitor Comments (A-1)

There were no closed session visitor comments.

Closed Session (B)

The meeting was then recessed with the board convening in closed session to consider a student expulsion in one case (Education Code section 48918[f]).

Reconvene Open Session/Pledge of Allegiance (C)

At 6:30 p.m., the meeting was called back to order by the president, Pam Costa. Four members of the Del Campo High School Jr. ROTC led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Costa acknowledged the passing of former San Juan Unified Superintendent Ray Tolleson.

Roll Call

Present:

Pam Costa, president

Saul Hernandez, vice president (*via teleconference*)

Ben Avey, clerk

Paula Villescaz, member

Tanya Kravchuk, member

Manuel Perez, member

Zima Creason, member (*via teleconference*)

Minutes Approved (D)

It was moved by Ms. Kravchuk, seconded by Mr. Perez, that the minutes of the September 10 regular meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None].

High School Student Council Reports (E-1)

High School Student Council representatives Julissa Rivera and Peyton Bonilla from Mesa Verde High School and Brenda Alcaide Navarro and Adriel Landeros Tapia from San Juan High School updated the board on the goals, activities and achievements at their respective schools.

Staff Reports (E-2)

Chief of Staff Trent Allen provided an update on enrollment numbers and the impact of attendance trends resulting from recent social media threats.

Closed Session/Expulsion Actions (E-6)

There were no closed session actions to report.

Visitor Comments (F)

BJ Combs encouraged eligible students to register to vote.

Violeta Caldera, on behalf of World Relief, spoke about the need for transportation for newcomer students.

Consent Calendar Approved (G-1/G-10)

It was moved by Mr. Avey, seconded by Ms. Villescáz, that the consent calendar items G-1 through G-10 be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescáz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None].

Personnel (G-1)

Appointments, leaves of absence, separations and job description/salary range change – approved as submitted.

Purchasing Report (G-2)

Purchase orders, service agreements and contracts; change orders/amendments; and zero dollar contracts – approved as submitted.

Business/Financial Report (G-3)

Warrants and payroll – approved as submitted.

Gifts (G-4)

Acceptance of gifts to Encina High School, Laurel Ruff Transition School and Mesa Verde High School.

Surplus Property (G-5)

Approval to dispose of surplus property pursuant to Board Policy 3270 and Education Code sections 17545 and 17546.

Revisions to Board Bylaws and Exhibits and Retirement of Board Policy (G-6)

Approval of the revisions to Board Bylaw 9270 Conflict of Interest and Exhibit 9270; revisions to Board Bylaw 9320 Meetings and Notices; revisions to Board Bylaw 9323.2 Actions By The Board and adoption of new Exhibit 9323.2; and the retirement of Board Policy 1120 Governing Board Meetings.

Consolidated Application for Funding 2024-2025 (G-7)

Approval to submit the 2024-2025 Consolidated Application for Funding to the California Department of Education (CDE) and State Board of Education (SBE).

Choices Charter School Proposition 28 Annual Report (G-8)

Approval of Choices Charter School Proposition 28 annual report.

Amendment No. 1 to Reimbursement Agreement for the El Camino Avenue at Kent Drive Traffic Signal Project with the County of Sacramento Department of Transportation (G-9)

Approval of amendment No.1 to the reimbursement agreement between the San Juan Unified School District and the County of Sacramento Department of Transportation in order to cover the additional costs for the traffic signal project at El Camino Avenue and Kent Drive to aid in traffic mitigation at the new Katherine Johnson Middle School site (formerly Creekside).

Ratification of Committee Members (G-10)

Ratification of the appointments of David Burbridge and Megan Leschly to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Anna Stellmacher to the Facilities Committee.

Attendance Improvement Initiative Update (I-1)

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Harvey Oaxaca, Ed.D.; Director of Student Support Services, Dominic Covello; and Multi-Tiered System of Supports Administrator on Special Assignment, Katie Knifton-Foley, provided an update on the district's Attendance Improvement Initiative for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Oaxaca introduced the topic and provided background information. Mr. Covello reviewed the district's attendance data, highlighting external factors that impact attendance. Mr. Covello also discussed the district's tier I universal actions and the strategic tier II and intensive tier III strategies which are effectively employed for chronically absent groups and individual students who are most in

need of support. Ms. Knifton-Foley shared information about the Attendance Academy intervention pilot program, which is expanding to additional school sites for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Oaxaca discussed next steps. Board members made comments. Ms. Villescaz spoke about the impact of social media threats on attendance. Ms. Costa commended the Attendance Academy and asked that a list of participating schools be sent to board members.

Land Acknowledgement Update (I-2)

Dr. Oaxaca introduced the topic and Director of Equity and Student Achievement Omar Field-Ridley who gave a presentation on the steps that have been taken to develop a land acknowledgement for district use at Board of Education meetings and high school graduations. Mr. Field-Ridley shared information about the purpose of the land acknowledgement, the process that has been implemented to collaboratively develop a land acknowledgement in partnership with local tribes and the district's American Indian Education Program Parent Advisory Committee (AIEP PAC), and the land acknowledgement statement that was developed. Dr. Oaxaca presented next steps.

Visitor Comments:

Pyrose Bernasconi expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Yahmonee Hedrick shared his personal experiences as a former student and expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Brianna Rose expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Sequoia Coleman expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Kelly Bencken expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

Kameiko Hostler expressed support for the land acknowledgement.

After public comment, board members engaged in discussion. Ms. Villescaz expressed her support for the land acknowledgement, encouraging genuine implementation rather than simply reciting words. Ms. Kravchuk shared that she researched land acknowledgments and recognizes their importance to the community. Ms. Kravchuk emphasized the need to consider the process, asking about the parameters for such acknowledgments and how decisions are made if other groups make a similar request, and she inquired about how the land acknowledgment could become more of a learning experience. Mr. Avey inquired about the district's current History-Social Science curriculum specifically related to the teaching of Native American history, which Director of Professional Learning and Innovation, Nicole Kukral, addressed. Mr. Avey made comments regarding educating students about America's past. While Mr. Avey expressed support for the land acknowledgment statement, he questioned how it should be implemented, whether it should be included only at the annual organizational meeting or at every board meeting. Ms. Creason expressed support for moving forward with the land acknowledgement, stating that implementing this is a simple, yet meaningful way to restore justice, and she expressed gratitude to the community for their efforts. Mr. Hernandez expressed his support for the land acknowledgment and noted his efforts to recognize the AIEP PAC. Mr. Hernandez wondered if the land acknowledgment might get diluted if it is read too frequently, and he suggested reading it at the first and last meetings of the year, as well as at high school graduations, and printing it in the agenda. Mr. Perez expressed support for the land acknowledgement statement, but shared that he is uncertain whether it should be implemented at every board meeting or just at the first and last meetings, and high school graduations. Superintendent Bassanelli explained how the item was originally agendaized using the process outlined in the Governance Handbook. Ms. Kravchuk reiterated her concerns regarding how future requests from other groups would be handled. Mr. Avey said he believes it is at the discretion of the board to consider each request. Ms. Villescaz concurred that the same process would be repeated for future requests, unless new rules are adopted as part of the Governance Handbook. Ms. Villescaz expressed support for the implementation compromise regarding the cadence of meetings. Ms. Creason requested community feedback on the frequency change. Ms. Villescaz asked a question about the number of tribes listed in the resolution, which Indian Education School Community Worker, Samantha Manriquez, addressed. Ms. Costa thanked the community for its input, expressed support for the land acknowledgement statement and confirmed with Superintendent Bassanelli that enough information had been provided to proceed with fine-tuning the recommendation for further discussion and possible action on October 22.

The board took a recess at 8:25 p.m. due to a medical emergency in the board room. The meeting resumed at 8:52 p.m.

Public Hearing: Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (I-3)

Interim Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Student Support, Amy Slavensky, Ph.D., presented the topic. Ms. Costa declared the topic of sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials a public hearing and invited the public to speak. There being no questions or comments from the public, Ms. Costa declared the public hearing closed. It was moved by Mr.

Avey, seconded by Ms. Kravchuk, to adopt Resolution No. 4151 stating that each pupil in each school in the district has sufficient textbooks and instructional materials in each subject that are consistent with the content and cycles of the curriculum framework adopted by the state board. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None].

New Board Policy 1160 Political Processes (I-4)

Executive Director of Labor Relations and Government Affairs, Daniel Thigpen, presented the proposed revisions to new Board Policy 1160 Political Processes, as discussed at the last board meeting. It was moved by Ms. Villescaz, seconded by Mr. Avey, to adopt new Board Policy 1160 Political Processes as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [AYES: Costa, Hernandez, Avey, Villescaz, Kravchuk, Perez, Creason; NOES: None].

Board Reports (J)

Ms. Costa shared information about her visit to Mr. Waldo's political science class at El Camino Fundamental High School.

Future Agenda (K)

No items were added to the future agenda.

Closed Session Continued (L)

At 9:02 p.m., Ms. Costa announced that the board would return to closed session to continue item B-1, student expulsion in one case.


At 9:18 p.m., Mr. Avey reported that the board voted unanimously to reject as written one stipulated suspended expulsion and voted unanimously to enact a full expulsion in case number S-02.

Adjournment (M)

At 9:19 p.m., there being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



Pam Costa, Board President

 for

Melissa Bassanelli, Secretary

Approved: 10/08/2024
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