



San Juan Unified School District Curriculum and Standards Committee

☒ Mariya Babychuk*
☒ Maggie Cooper
☒ Patsy McGavock**
☒ Veronica Schwalbach
☒ Catrayel Wood

☒ Taylor Brown
☒ Kathleen Gately
☒ Mindy McIntyre
☐ Open
☒ Susan Zimmer

☒ Vincenzo Cerruti
☐ Georgia Klostrakis
☐ Open
☐ Open

We believe that:

- Every person is unique and has equal worth.
- Everyone can and will learn.
- People learn in different ways and at varied paces.
- Education is the shared responsibility of students, families, teachers, staff, and community.
- Quality education expands opportunities throughout a person's life.
- Challenging people to meet high expectations leads to exceptional learning and remarkable results.
- Nurturing relationships and healthy environments are necessary for individuals to thrive.
- Diversity is a valuable asset that strengthens and enriches our community.
- Personal development and community well-being depend on individual responsibility.
- Everyone benefits when people willingly contribute to the well-being of others.
- Honesty and integrity are essential to build trusting relationships.

Approved Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2025
District Office Board Room at 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order/Introductions

The September 3 meeting was called to order by the acting chair, Mariya Babychuk. Each committee member introduced themselves and shared a brief summary of their favorite summer activity.

II. Visitors' Comments

Ryan Digman addressed graduation requirements for Special Education (SpEd) students.

III. Business Items:

Brown Act (R)

General Counsel, Phanysha Gaddis, provided an overview of the Brown Act relevant to committee operations. She noted that decisions made by the committee are considered public business and that any discussions about committee jurisdiction outside of official Curriculum & Standards (C&S) meetings may constitute a violation. She also explained the California Public Records Act, which allows for the review of emails, phone calls, and text messages exchanged between two or more committee members regarding committee matters.

C&S Bylaws Review (D)

Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral, reviewed the Curriculum & Standards Bylaws for the committee.

Board Policy BP6146.1 (R)

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education and Programs, Kristan Schnepf, reviewed Board Policy 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements. Ms. Schnepf explained AB 181 and AB 2251, which support alternative graduation pathways for students facing hardships. The committee asked clarifying questions to better understand the correlation between BP6146.1 and the Assembly Bills. Waivers are available to all students and are designed to help those struggling academically, emotionally, or with personal circumstances. Counselors are identifying at-risk juniors and seniors and developing plans to support them. While students using waivers still earn diplomas, they may not meet A-G requirements for university admission. Concerns were raised about equity and potential gaps between student groups; data will continue to be reviewed. The committee also discussed the value of bringing Naviance to future meetings to better understand how students develop their four-year plan.

A = Action; R = Report; D = Discussion

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Board Policies BP6163.4, BP4040, BP5131.9 (R)

Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum Innovation, Nicole Kukral, reviewed the revisions made to Board Policies 6163.4, 4040, and 5131.9. The revisions include specific language regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI), in preparation for the rollout of MagicSchool AI for student use. These updates emphasize academic honesty and the safe, responsible, and ethical use of AI tools. Teachers who suspect misuse may ask students to explain how they arrived at their answers. While there is currently no clear definition distinguishing academic honesty from dishonesty in the context of AI, professional development sessions have been held to help educators guide students in ethical AI use. An Instructional Technology update and report is scheduled for the spring. It was noted that AI detection tools are unreliable and have not been purchased by the district. The San Juan Teachers Association (SJTA) will be informed of the new policies and messaging to ensure consistent understanding across staff.

Election of 2025-2026 Chair and Co-Chair (A)

The committee held nominations for Chair and Co-Chair positions. Ms. Schwalbach nominated Ms. Babiychuk for Chair, with a motion made by Ms. Schwalbach and seconded by Ms. McGavock. The vote was unanimous with 10 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Ms. Babiychuk was elected as Chair.

Ms. Zimmer nominated Ms. McIntyre for Co-Chair, and Mr. Cerruti nominated Ms. McGavock, who expressed interest in the role. Due to scheduling conflicts, Ms. McIntyre declined the nomination. A motion to elect Ms. McGavock as Co-Chair was made by Mr. Cerruti and seconded by Ms. Cooper. The vote was unanimous with 10 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Ms. McGavock was elected as Co-Chair.

Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2025 (A)

Ms. Zimmer requested that her dissatisfaction with the board's decision not to approve all of the proposed courses be formally acknowledged in the minutes. Ms. Kukral approved Ms. Zimmer's request to formally include this in the September 3 minutes. A motion to approve May 7 minutes was made by Ms. McGavock and seconded by Ms. Schwalbach. The motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

IV. Chairperson's Comments/Committee Business (R)

Newly elected Chair, Mariya Babiychuk, thanked everyone for electing her as Chair and looking forward to working with the committee.

V. Reports to be Heard (R)

Board Liaison, Pam Costa, welcomed both new and returning committee members. She appreciates their feedback and is looking forward to hearing their thoughts this year.

Staff Liaison, Nicole Kukral, congratulated Ms. Babiychuk and Ms. McGavock on their newly elected roles and welcomed new and returning committee members. She also thanked Tina for providing dessert for the meeting. Ms. Kukral provided an update on the rollout of mCLASS as the approved reading difficulties screener. The implementation is underway, and while there has been a learning curve, students are actively being screened. Over 400 staff members have been trained to administer the screener, and ongoing support is being provided to administrators to ensure a successful rollout. Despite some challenges, the process has been progressing well. An English Language Arts (ELA) report will be presented at the September 17 meeting. Ms. Kukral also shared an update on the TK-8 math curriculum adoption process, which currently includes over 60 staff members. The team is preparing to pilot curriculum materials, with Report 1 submissions expected in November.

Cabinet Liaison, Amberlee Townsend-Snider, shared that the principal meeting held earlier in the day was highly productive, with strong engagement from all attendees. She expressed pride in the work around Check for Understanding (CFU), noting that both teachers and administrators are focused on identifying what students know and don't know, and using that information to guide instruction. Labor partners are also actively involved in this effort.

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VI. Future Agenda Items (D)

The committee discussed feedback from current and past members regarding meeting frequency. The goal is to hold one meeting per month, with the option to add additional meetings as needed. A second meeting will be added in September to allow members to review key items scheduled for the September 23 board meeting.

The committee emphasized the importance of being strategic with agenda topics to respect members' time, outside commitments, and overall wellness. Members expressed interest in future updates on Science, Career Technical Education (CTE), American Government, and the impact of AI training on students and teachers, which will be included in the Instructional Technology update in the spring. New course proposals are currently scheduled to go to the board in March but may be moved up to February to allow more time for committee review and feedback.

VII. Adjournment

At 8:32 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ms. Babiychuk.

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